

## SPECIAL FORUM

On Tuesday, April 9 members of the Hazleton Campus Faculty will be available downstairs in the SUB, periods 2-6 to discuss with all interested Baccalaureate students the requirements, job opportunities, professional future, etc. For the majority of the undergraduate majors, faculty will represent almost all of the Colleges of University Park and many of the individual departments. This will be an excellent opportunity to learn about and compare the different fields prior to the time you will be required to indicate your choice of major department. Also available will be descriptive literature from many of the departments in addition to the cassettes, prepared at University Park, which contain information on the different colleges and majors.

If you have not yet decided on a major, this program is for YOU!

## Sorority activities

Nancy Meiser, president of the Theta Sigma Pi has announced the Sorority's events for the Spring Term. The girls have assisted at the Walk-a-Thon and served at the Veteran's Spaghetti Dinner. They will serve as hostesses for the Highacres Dramatic Reading Festival on April 5 and the Tri-County Reading Festival on April 26. An Easter party will be planned for the children at St. Joseph's Hospital. On May 9, Theta Sigma Pi will sponsor a dance after the Awards Banquet in the Pennsylvania Room at Stan Genetti's. A Mother-Daughter tea will be held May 12. Any girl interested in joining the Sorority may attend the meetings held Sunday evenings at 6:00 in the SUB.

# Whale of a quota

By HAROLD SCARLETT  
Post Environment Writer

Connoisseurs of bumper stickers may soon see a new one riding the roads: "Stop the Whale Killers. Boycott Japanese Goods."

How's that again?

Well, it seems Japan recently announced that it would ignore the catch quotas set on several endangered species of whales by the 14-nation International Whaling Commission last June in London.

The Japanese said they would set their own quotas on Antarctic fin, minke and sperm whales in line with Japanese "interests."

So an alliance of conservation and humane organizations has declared a trade war on Japan. The declaration was accompanied by some of the harshest words hurled at the Land of the Rising Sun since Pearl Harbor days.

Accusing the Japanese government of "bowing to the blind greed of the major Japanese whaling companies," the U.S. conservation groups continued:

"Japan has pursued a policy of unrestrained rapacity, not only toward whales but toward dolphins, porpoises, endangered sea turtles and other marine creatures. In contemptuous disregard for international opinion."

The "don't buy Japanese" groups include Friends of the Earth, Animal Welfare Institute, Fund for Animals, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Policy Center, Animal Protection Institute, Let Live, Inc., and the Society for Animal Protective Legislation.

They are urging their members and other concerned citizens not to buy Japanese radios, TVs, auto, motorcycles, cameras and so on—and to write to dealers explaining why they are not buying Japanese goods.

Conservation aside, the all-out Japanese pursuit of whales does seem pretty stupid

from the standpoint of economics and common sense.

It's like killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. Or like a rancher pole-axing his prize breeding bull for a midnight snack, and the heck with tomorrow.

The Japanese, in rejecting the quotas, argue that the careful scientific studies of the international commission are all wet—that they can kill more fins, minkes and sperms without wiping them out completely.

But the Japanese in years past were saying the same thing about the mighty blue and humpback whales. And they are now virtually extinct.

The blue whale is the largest creature that has ever lived on earth. The humpback is best known for its mysterious "song" that has inspired symphonies and been made into a record album.

There is now a total, worldwide ban on the killing of blues and humpbacks, as well as gray, bowhead and right whales.

At the commission's June meeting in London, the U.S. delegation for the second year in a row pressed for a 10-year moratorium on all commercial whaling.

But it failed by an 8-5 vote, short of the required three-fourths majority.

The Soviet Union is refusing to observe the new quotas along with Japan. But, of course, there are few Soviet goods in this country to boycott.

The Japanese claim they need the whale meat to feed their people. However, the conservation groups say whale meat provides less than 1 per cent of the total Japanese protein intake—and the quota whales only a fraction of that.

They also point out that in early 1971, before they were stopped by new endangered species and marine mammal laws, the Japanese exported 12 million pounds of whale meat to the U.S. for pet food.

Are we really that desperate? With substitutes aplenty, do we really have to slaughter these great leviathans of the deep for pet food and lipstick oil?

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