

News From University Park

*My Column
Or Something Like That*
By: Joe College

FACULTY SENATE

At the University Faculty Senate's latest meeting in March, among the topics discussed was the approval of two motions from the Senate Academic Affairs Committee concerning final examinations. One motion reaffirmed a 1969 Senate policy that requires an instructor to use the final examination period in which to give a full course comprehensive examination. Other examinations given during the last week of the term will be restricted to a more limited scope.

Scheduling Finals

Also approved was a motion that requests, "for any calendar

system in force beginning with Fall, 1976, sufficient time be made available in the calendar for an examination period of total length to allow scheduling a final examination on each course except laboratory or procticum courses."

Thomas E. Daubert, chairman of the Academic Affairs Committee, feels that the current system "effectively limits" student instruction to only eight weeks of the term. He and his committee are presently deliberating on this problem but notes that Senate action on the just-approved motions is preliminary to any further considerations.

Grade Inflation

The Senate, also, approved

four recommendations from the Academic Affairs Committee, which made an extensive study of grade distributions. The study revealed that grade inflation is a problem that needs further investigation. A study of the impact of grade inflation on graduation honors and Dean's List and the development of an effective statistical reporting system on grade distribution within the University were approved by the committee. Other recommendations call on the faculty to study appropriate standards on which grades are to be assigned. Lastly, the establishment of a subcommittee to study the relationship between grades and the educational system was also proposed and approved.

Future Topics

Future discussion at the April meeting of the Senate, will be on the proposed promotion and tenure policies, which is of especial interest to faculty members.

Student Questions

Bookstore's Policy

On Returnable Books

By: Debbie Nicotra

What do they mean I can't return a book I bought this morning if I am not dropping the course? "Policy", the man says. The policy as read to me states that under no circumstances, besides dropping the course, can you return a book bought at the school book store. No even exchanges and no refunds with or without the receipt!

Your only consolation to this policy is a witty suggestion from the manager advising you to shop around and be positive you have explored all possibilities before buying a book at the book store. This view point is obviously one taken by a non-student, since the mere fact that reading assignments are due for the next class time excludes the possibility of bargain book hunting!

The problem with this policy is that you might buy a book in the morning and meet a friend in the afternoon who can lend you the \$9.00 book you just bought and have not even opened. What do you do? The policy does not cover such human experiences, but rather is a narrowly written document asking for revision.

The point seems absurdly unclear to me as to why this policy even exists, since my understanding of the school store is one of serving the students and not profit making in the form of accepting only sales and nothing more. Maybe the purpose of it all is to keep paper work down. Only, in this whole blind setup the students come up the losers. College contains enough hassles for students without letting costly, petty and unreasonable clauses go on existing for no one's apparent benefit.

My final plea then is how can it be changed? Call on SGA? See a dean? Incite a riot? Boycott? Picket? Petition? The policy was written in a moment of thoughtlessness. By our allowing its presence to remain we are hindering ourselves financially and stunting P.S.U.'s generally well organized system. Since the designators of the policy haven't seen the need for its revision, don't we the students?

I can't believe the taste some people have in literature. There are actually people who liked MY COLUMN! But, alas, I can't rest on my laurels any more - THE COLUMN MUST GO ON!

I really hate to dedicate columns, but I'll do it anyway. For no other reason, (except for maybe a 'thanks' for their great music), I dedicate this column to The Beatles.

Out of all the people who actually complimented me on my column, I was particularly shocked to hear a certain student pay his compliment. Honestly, Cos, I thought you had better taste in literature.

A recent P.S.U. DelCo survey was taken to answer the question, "What are student rights?" Out of the students polled, 35% said that student rights was the opposite of student lefts.

Good Morning, all you lounge people. What's new beside the G.W.M. personals in the Daily Planet? Admit it. . . the first thing everybody looks for in the paper is a kinky personal ad. Ever wonder who writes those things? Just for kicks, I'll write an ad and see who answers it. It'll go like this:

W.F. needed to answer ad.
Reply send name, photo, etc.
P.O. Box 164
Swarthmore, Pa. 19081

If I DO get an answer, I'll put it in MY COLUMN. Well lounge people, you can lull yourselves back to nicotine and nirvana.

Is it my imagination, or are the machines in the lounge eating more of our hard-earned money than usual?

Wouldn't it be great if they served rum with the Coke in the lounge?

Next time there's a soft pretzel sale in school, put the pretzel in the micro-wave oven for a few seconds. It improves the flavor 100%.

Is nothing sacred in MY COLUMN? NO! But a lot is to our editor. That's why I can't print words like ----- . And speaking of -----, weren't finals a -----?

Wasn't winter term a drag? I guess time flies when you're having fun.

There was so much anti-freeze used to help mix the concrete foundations of the new buildings, the entire state of California could have been protected from freezing over.

Yes. . . It IS very hard to keep the water lit in a water pipe.

Wouldn't it be a nice idea if the students could publish some sort of pamphlet to give freshmen when they enter P.S.U.? Not the old "Welcome to P.S.U!" type schmeer, but a pamphlet on teacher ratings, ace courses, and of course, pinball.

Remember the Belly Dancer? She was recently in a local gift shop. "Great!" you say? Not really. . . Her children were with her.

Well, I'm gonna go camp out for some concert ticket somewhere. Remember, LOVE THY NEIGHBOR - but don't get caught; in case of headache take two doctors and call an aspirin; and also a word of warning - CAUTION! Here's mud in your eye (or wherever it goes when the sun does down).
Peace.

You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet!

By: Freeloading Freddy

The first "Freddy the Free-loader Award" goes to all those members of the Constructional Forces of Tokyo, a rather large organization imported for the sole purpose of building the modular units. Their motto: "You ain't seen nothin' yet!" How true.

At full capacity, these men in one day could cement two cinder

blocks together, a phenomenal feat in itself.

In our most recent article, the exact year of completion wasn't stated, but the builders feverishly work to meet the March 1st deadline before they retire.

My compliments to you men of the modular units, for a half-assed job well done!

Lion's Eye

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EDITOR:

Lynn Signora

BUSINESS MANAGER:

Jon Temple

CONTRIBUTORS:

Gen Belfiglio, Cosmo Cianci, Kate Connell, Joe Lanciano, Janet Malin Anita McKelvey, Debbie Nicotra, Susan Siciliano, Terri Smith, Richard Squadrito, Kathy White.

ADVISOR

Ms. Lynn M. Haskins

KICK THIS HABIT

By: Cosmo Cianci

Time: Spring, 1970

Place: USA (Delaware County Campus of Penn State, Chester, Pa)

- Events: - The continuing war in Vietnam
- Nixon's announcement of the bombing of the Ho Chi Minh Trail in Cambodia
- Student strike and Moritorium at this campus and other colleges against the bombings in Cambodia and Vietnam
- Rally at Independence Mall, Philadelphia
- Marches on the capital, half a million strong

Time: Spring Term Break, 1975

Place: USA

Events: Ford announces USA involvement in Cambodia not on a military but a humanitarian level. The man who ascended the throne wants to send \$222 million in arms and cash, along with "advisors," to help our "allies" in Cambodia.

The struggle between the U.S. and the Vietcong of North and South Vietnam was taken into Cambodia in an effort to end the conflict in Vietnam, so our government said. Make any sense to you?

The Vietcong were using the Ho Chi Minh Trail through Cambodia to replenish their troops in S. Vietnam. They weren't hassling the Cambodians, just trespassing, and the Cambodians (the government included) were looking the other way. A good arrangement of "live and let live." When the U.S. government persuaded their "mission of ending the Vietnam war sooner" on the Cambodians, it forced the eventual retaliation of the Vietcong on the Cambodian government.

Mr. Ford seems to be wanting to replace "Remember the Alamo" and "Remember the Maine" with "Remember Vietnam." Mr. Ford, WE DO REMEMBER.

Most people would agree, "Well, if it's our fault the Cambodians are being overrun, then we should help them."

Like we helped the villagers in Vietnam?

Mr. Ford says, "Our boys won't fight in Cambodia."

He's got a good point there. They won't. The American people won't be fooled again. So how do we help our friends?

Remember how our government got Lan Nol's permission to bomb the Vietcong in 1970? Well, they'll get it again and blast the Cong off the face of the earth--and any Cambodians, if they get in the way. . .and any children, if THEY'RE dumb enough to get in the way. . .what the hell. . .

Morally, the U.S. government has an obligation to the people of Cambodia if they are in any danger. . .but the government and officials are the only ones in danger, and then only in danger of losing power (most likely by assassination). Face it. The higher the rewards, the higher the stakes.

Ask any veteran home from Vietnam if they want others to fight in Cambodia as they fought in 'Nam, or how they feel knowing that napalm and other types of bombs are going to be used on "overrun" Cambodian villages just to save a few government officials. The news media recently reported 13 people killed by the rebels in the take-over of a village.

Is it morally right to save a few lives by destroying many?

Was it morally right to act in such a manner as to put those few lives in danger in the first place?

Mr. Ford, why not let the Cambodian government fall and be replaced by a rebel government? After all, isn't that how the Colonies were transformed into the States? What the hell makes your ancestor's cause more righteous than any one else's cause?

Take heed to our nation's needs. If our people are healthy, well-educated, and free in body, mind, and spirit, this country will repel any threat, real or imaginary, from without or within. Don't allow the U.S. to become involved in other's affairs. Let's prove to ourselves that we are capable of managing our own affairs before we attempt to give (sometimes unasked for) aid to others.

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free. . ." can be found inscribed on the Statue of Liberty. Here we are, Mr. Ascender to the Throne. We, the people of the United States, are tired of wars; poor in wealth, health, and spirit because of the drain imposed upon us; huddled from the cold of alienation of winter. And we yearn to be free from tyranny in whatever supposedly benevolent guise it appears.

I wish to thank all the people who read my "Letter. . ." and I also wish to express special thanks to the editor of the Lion's Eye for inviting me to be a contributing editorialist.