

PENN STATE COLLEGIAN

Successor to The Free Lance, established 1887

Published semi-weekly during the college year, except on holidays...

REPRESENTED FOR NATIONAL ADVERTISING BY National Advertising Service, Inc.

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1936 Member 1937 Associated Collegiate Press Distributors of Collegiate Digest

THE RIGHT OF FREE SPEECH

REFUSAL OF THE Senate Committee on Student Welfare to recognize the Penn State chapter of the American Student Union comes as a distinct surprise.

It was thought that the ASU would be duly recognized as any other undergraduate organization of similar character.

There are two possible explanations for the Senate's action. Either the ASU was given the "run-around," or there was an evident lack of understanding of what the ASU represents.

The Senate Committee minutes say that the ASU is a promotion group and the College cannot by police permit the use of its facilities for the support of partisan ideas.

The statement further reads, "In keeping with this purpose (function of College is to enable its members to benefit by searching, impartial inquiry and instruction) and to maintain its position of academic freedom, its facilities should not be readily available for partisan campaigns, no matter how legitimate might be the objectives of such campaigns."

It would appear that the Senate Committee has sanctioned free speech and expression of ideas for academic advancement, and then in the next breath shut it off.

In expressing the views of not only this paper but many campus leaders' opinions that appear elsewhere in this issue, there is no promulgating of the aims of the ASU, but there is a definite belief that free speech should be no discrimination.

It must be presumed that the Senate Committee has misunderstood the ASU. It must be presumed that the Senate Committee has viewed this organization as radical instead of liberal.

In refusing the recognition of the ASU, the Senate Committee has set a precedent more than it has followed a "tradition." If followed this precedent would shut off free speech to every undergraduate organization; it would close down practically every campus activity.

In refusing sanction to a group that is promotional and that gives partisan viewpoints, it has touched upon many groups. The Peace Action Council promotes peace and is partisan; the P. S. C. A. promotes Christian living and is partisan in that respect; Seaboard promotes better military training and thus becomes partisan; the Collegian promotes free speech and is partisan in this respect; the Young Democrats Club promotes ideas of the Democratic Party and is partisan; Student Board promotes better student government and is partisan; the Penn State Club promotes the rights of the non-fraternity man and is partisan to him as Philotes is partisan to non-fraternity women.

Surely the Senate Committee does not propose to muzzle these activities. Yet that is what it has said in its statement of reason for refusing ASU recognition.

Organizations that oppose ASU principles exist here. There is no reason why they should not. Logically there is no reason why the ASU cannot be recognized. No one has or will be forced to join its ranks. Those who wish to may.

The Senate Committee has misunderstood the ASU petition, and in doing so has jeopardized the rights of all undergraduate activities.

The ASU, it is understood, will petition the Senate Committee again. Surely a thought to the right of free speech and expression for everyone, students included, will gain rightful recognition.

Etaoin and Shrdlu

Sane Sex Life, The Password Of Royalty

THIS IS the week for coronation fuss, what with the guy with the sane sex life making out in England and our own May Dunaway grabbing off the local honors.

I feel that too many people are making too much of a fuss over the crowning of King George and not enough over the local proceedings. Surely the costumes for both events are equally fetching. It appears to me that humans go out of their way to make their fellow-beings feel silly. A good many of them look silly naturally. Why aggravate it?

At that the local Venuses have less to moan about than do the little stooges that will be running all over London tomorrow in silk panties. It will be quite a show-down on the shapeliness of the male leg, which is not a very sexy organ to begin with.

When the English settle down to keeping sex out of it, they do a good job. They make it so revolting that probably there will not be an evil thought in the whole coronation.

As customary with such proceedings, there will be dancing afterwards.

Chemistry In Sex:

Up in chemistry laboratories where they created artificial sex hormones last summer and where they did right about the male of the species this spring, the chem students are getting kind of tired of the whole idea. They can't get any work done.

One of their labs had to knock off the other day to catch the Women's Building babes in a sun bath peek-fest. In view of how they do things in the labs up there, I am kind of skeered to think about what the boys will see on the roof next week.

M. D. M. W.:

There has been a tradition around here of picking from time to time the M.D.D.O.W. Which means the most disgusting drunk of the week. Inasmuch as all traditions are great things, I have an idea that a few more abbreviations might become traditionalized. I submit M. D. N. W. This means most disgusting neck of the week.

The only trouble with this idea is that there are so many applicants this week that it will be necessary to start things off with a bang and name a couple, or three.

Number 1 on the hit parade this week is the combination of Hazel "Body Beautiful" Woods and Chuck Glennon, pink elephant. Ask any beta sig, ask any theta xi, ask anybody in the corner room, ask anybody on the campus, ask anybody.

In fact, I hear and see that they are so frequent that they rival the all-time endurance pair of Libby McKeon and Bill McEwan, who scored a lot of goals for the soccer team, too.

Number 3 are the Mac Hall endurance champions, Rhoda Koch and Clyde Rinker. Being champion of Mac Hall, I hear, is indeed an accomplishment in the face of so much competition.

Miss Marie Haidt, who teaches phys ed to the girls, is well acquainted with this combination, as she interrupted the entanglements one night some time ago long enough to demand friend Rinker's exodus. Her indignant storming up the Mac Hall staircase produced results. The entanglement resumed where it left off.

Incidentally it is now spring, I learn, and Miss Haidt's advice for Mac Hallers to seek the bleachers is well in order since they were increased in size last fall.

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Campus Leaders Give Views On ASU Action

Letters To The Editor Voice Protest

(The following statements have been received by the Collegian concerning the Senate Committee's recent refusal to recognize the American Student Union. None of the writers have ever been members of the ASU.—Ed note.)

To the Editor: Denial of recognition of the ASU is equally a denial of the rights which every active student organization has enjoyed here in the past. If the same line of reasoning were to be applied to the Collegian, for example, its charter could be revoked for advocating voluntary ROTC, a reduction of the comp list, or that students study more and attend fewer dances.

Johnson Brenneman, Collegian editor, 1936-37

To the Editor: I don't see why useless campus organizations just awarding keys and racketeering with high membership fees should be allowed to exist while the American Student Union is denied the right of recognition. The ASU has conducted worthwhile activity during the past year—I think its aims are admirable. There is no reason why it should not be recognized.

George Hacker '37, Ex-Chairman, IF Council

To the Editor: To a journalist, the lack of recognition of the ASU is a flagrant encroachment on every organizational right of free speech. The matter should be reconsidered more carefully.

William D. Fish '38, Editor-elect, La Vie

To the Editor: I am wholeheartedly in favor of ASU recognition. It is one of the few organizations really of service to the student body. The right of any student organization to express itself on this campus should not be denied.

Robert Baxter '38, Chairman, Independent Party

To the Editor: For an institution that has long prided itself on its progressive and constructive body in the field of education, failure to recognize the ASU is tantamount to denying those aims. Every student organization, attempting to fulfill whatever aims it may have, is threatened by this arbitrary decision.

Alvin Newmeyer '37, IFC Board of Control, Manager of Soccer '36

OSTERLUND GIVES STUD. BOARD'S OPINION

Frank Osterlund '37, president of the senior class, last night made public the minutes of Student Board covering the meeting of several weeks ago while ASU recognition was still undecided. Dean Warnock appeared before the board as secretary of the Senate Committee on Student Welfare to ask if there were any objections to recognition from Student Board.

"Dean Warnock brought up the question of recognition of the American Student Union as a chartered student organization. In the discussion of various results of recognition the problem of a possible conflict between the ASU and the prerogatives of Student Government came up. Student Board felt that they should have supervision over student government changes and they also stated that they anticipated no conflict between the two organizations; rather, they expected support and cooperation from the American Student Union. The Board therefore has no objection to recognition."

Osterlund also made a personal statement on the matter. "One of the shortcomings of the ASU," he said, "has been its small membership. The organization should be given a fair chance to bring its ideas before the student body, for while it is denied the right to come before the student body, giving other students a chance to express their opinion, it obviously cannot maintain a healthy existence. Under full recognition it would have this chance to tell students of its program."

ZERN, ASU CHAIRMAN, PLANS NEW PETITION

Gordon K. Zern '40, newly elected chairman of the Penn State Chapter of the American Student Union, announced last night that a committee is preparing a new petition to be presented immediately to the Senate Committee on Student Welfare, asking a reconsideration of the recognition question. Zern said that the description in the Senate Committee minutes of the ASU as a "promotion" organization was correct. He further

We Women

Looking over the results of the Bell survey of current events which was given recently, we find that the total average of the women's questionnaire was 40 per cent, compared to the men's 60 per cent. Names of seven men were listed to be identified in terms of their prominence in the news. Eight questions required definitions of political parties and labor organizations.

In spite of this poor showing, the feminine cry is for equal status with men in the business world. How can we expect to be accepted on the same plane with them when our rating in important activities is 20 per cent lower than the men's zip average?

It would have been excusable if the Bell had selected names of obscure men to trap us, but it deliberately picked out men who have been featured in the news lately. Francisco Franco was identified incorrectly in over half the papers.

Such boners as Leon Blum, French cabinet maker; Chang Kai Shek, recently killed leader of royalist forces in Spain; Leon Trotzky, conductor of a symphony orchestra; Mitchell Hepburn, father of Katherine, proved we must be devoting our reading to the comic strips.

A communist to one co-ed was a "person who is very narrow-minded," to another, "Someone born 150 years too soon." A Republican was defined as a cross between a Democrat and a communist; a socialist, Norman Thomas and Prof. Wyand.

The Bell is to be congratulated for bringing us face to face with our ignorance. We pass it off with the old "no time" alibi. It's funny though that we find the minutes to read the latest hometown gossip in the Punctatavney Spirit. If we are genuinely pressed for time like one of our 17-year-old chemistry students who made 96 per cent in the test, we can follow her example and read the news magazines. —S. R. H.

M. I. Student Group Sees Quarry Blast

A group of Mineral Industries students accompanied by Dr. Helmut Landsberg, assistant professor of geophysics, and other faculty members attended a large blast at the Bethlehem Steel Company quarry near Millroy last Wednesday, April 28.

The blast which dislodged 100,000 tons of limestone in one blast was accurately recorded by the college seismograph on the campus, at a distance of 20 miles. Fifteen tons of dynamite were set off in 41 holes which left a quarry space of 550 feet wide by 100 feet high.

Dr. Landsberg took with him a portable seismograph from the college, but the more distinct record was gotten from the stationary apparatus on the campus.

stated that the petition will list other campus organizations already recognized which also are "promotion" groups.

"The Union," said Zern, "will contend that 'academic freedom' used as an argument by the committee to support the ban, is the best argument we have for full recognition." The petition will also show that the ASU has been accorded full recognition in most of the 133 other colleges with chapters.

Pointing out that the local chapter asks no more privileges than any other undergraduate organization, Zern called attention to the action of Student Board, which on two previous occasions stated to the Senate Committee that the American Student Union conflicted in no way with Student Board's conception of a legitimate campus activity.

I.M. Tennis Tourney Enters Second Round

The Intramural tennis tournament started last week, 21 teams having entered. There were 11 first round byes; and the teams of Beta Sigma Rho and Phi Delta Theta have won their second round matches. The results:

Bill Haigh and Henry Yingst, Delta Theta Sigma, won from Dave Ramsey and Bob Dewalt, Sigma Phi Epsilon, 6-4, 9-7. Bill Potter and Bob Casselberry, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, beat Camilo Porras and Bonner Robinson, Triangle, 6-1, 6-3. Walt Painter and Dick James, Sigma Phi Alpha, won by forfeit from John Pearce and Carl Arberg, Kappa Sigma.

George Faber and Ted Winkler, Delta Chi, licked Bob Bond and Ken Kern, Beaver House, 6-2, 6-1. Jerry Goodman and Norm Germanow, Beta Sigma Rho, beat Charlie Huyck and Bob Sangston, Sigma Nu, 6-3, 6-1. Charlie Prosser and Ken Appleby won a close one from Haigh and Yingst, Delta Theta Sigma, 7-5, 6-4.

Bacteriology Course Offered To Students

A short course in bacteriology, designed for persons interested in becoming laboratory directors in the bacteriological control of milk, will be given by the college from June 7 to 26, Dr. Michael A. Farrell, of the department of dairy husbandry, announced today.

At least 10 students must register to make the course possible. Dr. Farrell stated. Certification is necessary for directors of dairy control laboratories in Pennsylvania wherever grade A milk is produced.

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