

The Daily Collegian

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Sorority Report Clarifies Issues

Although Marilyn Levitt, Panhellenic Council president, did not reveal any startling information in her report to All-College Cabinet on the sorority house situation, she at least cleared the air of a lot of misinformation and revealed just exactly what College policy is on the issue.

Miss Levitt reported that the College Board of Trustees is "not unfriendly" toward the construction of sorority houses, but that the construction of any sorority houses would of necessity be a long-range project.

A sorority house will cost anywhere from \$100,000 to \$160,000, so that any group planning to build a house will have to do a lot of financing before construction can begin. If and when any of the local sororities are able to build, the College will provide the plots.

Before then, however, as Miss Levitt pointed out, many questions will have to be answered. One of the most ticklish is the relationship between those sororities which will be able to finance construction and those which will be unable to go into such a venture. Naturally the sororities with houses will fare much better than those without, so those unable to build may very well oppose the construction of any houses until all campus sororities are able to build.

This and other problems will have to be settled, as they will be. Until then, it is good to know exactly where we stand on the sorority house question.

Offers Are Cause Of Over-emphasis

The special sports committee of college presidents, formed to study the wrongs of inter-collegiate athletics this week drew up a list of proposals that are impracticable to the point of being silly.

The presidents are extremely serious in their efforts to curb over-emphasis of sports, but in their excitement over finally having started on the road to reform, they have been seemingly blinded by their own power.

They have gone all out to cut down on the length of the various sports seasons, and in doing so have advised that football practice and games be limited to the period from Sept. 1 to the first Saturday in December, that basketball practice and games be confined to the period between Dec. 1 and March 15, and that baseball games and practice be confined to the period between March 1 and commencement.

In regards to football, a large majority of colleges open the grid season about the second week of September, which would mean that under the proposed setup they would have only two weeks in which to master intricate plays and formations, drill in the fundamentals of proper blocking and tackling, get acquainted with and learn to know teammates and coaches with whom they will be working all season, and above all to get into the proper physical condition for the coming campaign.

The importance of time in these matters can easily be seen. Even high schools under the strict direction of the PIAA begin football drills as early as Aug. 18, and their situation doesn't appear to be getting out of hand.

In the case of basketball, the same situation arises. Many schools, especially those which have no football teams, begin their regular seasons before Dec. 1, and though not as much time is needed in whipping a basketball team into shape as is in football, still a sufficient practice period is necessary.

The proposals concerning collegiate baseball have already brought howls of protest from the American Association of College Baseball Coaches. The coaches stated their belief that college baseball has been de-emphasized rather than over-emphasized, and that it deserves special consideration because of its recreational value and the opportunities it offers the players preparing to go into the professional game.

The presidents' committee would probably counter these objections by saying that colleges which schedule early games should hold off on their starting contests and start at a later date thus cutting down the number of games.

However, the major causes of over-emphasis of sports do not lie in the number of games played or the length of the practice seasons. Excessive scholarships and big crowds are the main reasons sports have gotten out of hand. It is here that the presidents should concentrate, for here they will most quickly find the solutions to their problems.

—Bob Vosburg

Senate Book Plan Should Be Used

Although the book plan approved by the College Senate is not quite what students have been asking for, the plan can put a stop to text book abuses which have been the subject of student complaints for many years now.

The plan finally approved by the Senate differs from the one originally proposed to the Council of Administration in that it eliminates the committee of five faculty members and two students which would approve all changes in textbooks.

Under the plan now in effect, the instructor still has the right to choose the text to be used, but in courses of more than one section, the members of the department shall select the text which shall be used in all sections. When new editions of the same text, with no essential changes or additions, are published, the instructor is required to inform the students of the differences in the texts and allow the students to make their own choice.

The mechanism for curbing textbook abuses is now available. One of the best ways to see that the means provided to stop these abuses are used is through the various student councils. Students victimized by textbook changes contrary to the established regulations should take their complaints to the student councils. Students would do well to learn the new regulations and guard against violations.

The student councils themselves would be wise to create special and permanent textbook committees to conduct spot checks on textbooks used within their schools.

We now have a program governing changes in textbooks. Let's use it.

Plan Offers Good Mid-Year Customs

It should be quite evident that with a small February class of freshmen, a complete customs program would be difficult to enforce.

On the other hand, no matter how difficult, it is not fair to men and women who have undergone customs to excuse mid-year entrants from them.

Approximately 100 men will enter as freshmen next month—and promptly begin to lose themselves in the crowd. Once again the customs program for February will go on the rocks.

It would seem that a general overhaul of the off-semester customs program is needed. With that in mind, we would like to suggest this plan of action.

Carry on the regular customs program during the day, and enforce it as much as possible. But, in addition, require frosh to meet with hatmen and interested upperclassmen two or three nights a week. At that time, the frosh will be required to sing school songs, undergo verbal quizzes on things they are expected to know, and generally carry on as complete a customs program as possible.

To aid in enforcing the customs, Tribunal should consider absence from any meeting by any frosh as a violation of customs, and treat the offender accordingly.

Tribunal should try the offender, and decide upon a punishment, or let the violator go, completely exonerating him. There should be no halfway measure such as warning a violator, or giving out a suspended sentence, since the only way to insure 100 per cent attendance at a night meeting is to make it unprofitable to stay away.

A similar program should be worked out for women's customs, or better yet, a joint customs program put into effect once and for all.

Unless customs—both men's and women's—are enforced, there is no sense in carrying out the program.

It is time to decide whether a plan that is considered workable and practical should be put into effect for February freshmen, or the idea of mid-semester customs should be abandoned forever.

It may mean a lot of changing and work, but if the desired effect is produced, it should be worthwhile.

—George Glazer

Hat Groups Loafing

When are Penn State hat societies going to wake up and do something? Too many hatmen seem to have the idea that they have "arrived" once a black hat sits on the desk at home.

In truth, their job should be just beginning. They are supposed to be "leaders of the campus," and yet only one of the senior hat societies has had even one meeting this semester—and nothing came out of that.

Each hat society is assigned a day to wear its hats on campus. That custom, too, has gone by the boards—the only time you see a hat on campus is when it rains.

As one student government leader put it, "It's about time the hat societies started doing something instead of just bragging that they're hatmen."

Hats and spirit are in evidence during customs period, but after that, activities of hat societies dwindle.

It's about time something was done.

—G. G.

The Atlantic Seamen, the world's largest tanker, has a capacity of 10,794,000 gallons and flies the American flag.

Little Man On Campus

By Bibler



"He'll be the only guy in history to laugh himself to a college degree."



A Bonn Mot

By RON BONN

We're now taking a fairly new course at Penn State, and one that eventually seems destined to rank with basket-weaving and fly-tying in student appeal.

The course is press photography, Journalism 60. All the work involved is in lugging around 20 pounds and \$350 worth of camera equipment, opening shutters therein for almost incredibly small fractions of a second, and then attempting, with little or no success, to process the resulting films through various corrosive chemicals without entirely dissolving the pictures.

In the use of complex photographic equipment there is a really startling number of ways to avoid taking any desired picture. Push every button but one, slid all but one of the infinite slides, do not adjust one stud, lever, or arm alone among the many many protruding about the immense camera, and you can virtually assure yourself of a negative either all white or all black (depending on whether you want your print all black or all white).

Should you desire to use a flashbulb in taking any shot, you multiply by a factor of eight or ten your possibilities of preventing a photograph from resulting. There is a way for you to set off the flashbulb right in your face, simply by plugging a certain cord into the wrong socket among six-choices. Four of the other choices are wrong too, of course, but they just guarantee that the bulb will explode at some time when the shutter is not open. Fantastically complex timing devices are thrown into lightning-fast operation to insure that the shutter will fail to operate when you flash the bulb, provided you adjust the camera in any but one certain, improbable manner.

Open the door to the darkroom, and you open up vast new fields for averting photographs. First of all, in opening that door, you

almost certainly forgot to make sure that the one behind you was closed, and thus aided five or six fellow students in their struggle for destruction of their pictures. As yet, though, you've taken no steps toward destroying your own film, except in entering the darkroom and thus making it eight to five that someone else will open the door while you're working.

In the unlikely event that all this should fail to eradicate the latent image (and in the even more unlikely event that there is a latent image to eradicate), there are still a number of opportunities open to you. There are three trays of chemicals in which the film must be processed; you will almost unquestionably not have them in the proper order. If you have them in the proper order, it is doubtful that you will leave your film in each one for the proper length of time, although you may, if the temperature of the fluids is far enough off to destroy the film anyway.

Improper printing of any negatives that by some quirk actually do appear as a separate art. To save time, you may turn on the darkroom lights while your box of paper is open, thus destroying an entire semester's worth of material at once. The real sportsman will prefer the more challenging, if more tedious, slower methods, involving the wrecking of one sheet at a time.

Or you can be a coward and do it all right, thus setting a nasty precedent for classes to follow.

Gazette . . .

Friday, January 11
NEWMAN CLUB informal dance, refreshments, Theta Kappa Phi, 8 p.m.

PENN STATE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP, 405 Old Main, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, January 14
INTERCOLLEGIATE CONFERENCE ON GOVERNMENT, Dr. Ruth Silva speaker, 214 Willard Hall, 7 p.m.

ELECTRONIC WARFARE UNIT 4-3, 200 Engineering, E, 7 p.m.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Married man for janitor work. Women for office work. Typing and dictation necessary.

Seventh and eighth semester aeronautical engineers and mechanical engineers for part-time government work.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT

New Holland Machine Co. will interview January graduates in I.E. If interested, leave your name in 112 Old Main before Monday.

Eli Lilly and Co. will interview 1952 candidates in Organic Chem. at the Ph.D. level Monday, Jan. 14.

New Holland Machine Co. will interview January graduates in M.E. with farm background for the design of farm machinery Thursday, Jan. 10.

Sylvania Electric will interview January graduates in accounting Friday, Jan. 18.