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Activity Law Would Sacrifice Quality

Women's Student Government Association, in its attempt to create better distribution of women's activities, has come up with a proposal that could harm rather than help Penn State coeds.

The plan will be discussed further at the WSGA Senate meeting tonight. Under the proposal, each woman's activity would be given a separate point value. There would then be a limit to the number of activities points any woman could accumulate at any one time. Supporters of the plan say it would limit the number of activities in which any woman may take part, thus increasing the number of women who may take part in activities.

Although the aim of the proposal may be noble, the means to the end is not justified or even desirable. Activities point plans are in use at other colleges; this does not mean they are good.

In attempting to spread out women's activities, a point system, such as the one proposed, can easily become a damper on coed leaders and women with outstanding abilities. No two coeds can be justly restricted in their activities by a standard number of points. No two coeds have similar abilities. And although the legal point total any woman could accumulate might be broad enough for many, it would still restrict the activities of Penn State's most outstanding coeds. Such a restriction is not justified.

Although many coeds have voiced informal disapproval of the activities plan, few have openly voiced opposition to it. This is unfortunate. Many women do not realize the implications such a plan could have in restricting them in their campus activities.

Such a plan would not only limit individual women in their activities, but it could also restrict the role women play in Penn State activities. Each coed would be limited by the point system, but male students would still be able to engage in as many activities as they wished. This would work only to the detriment of women in activities.

But more important than either of these reasons is a third: such a plan would harm Penn State activities in general. Outstanding women would be forced to limit their talents to certain fields, and could not contribute to other activities. For example, an outstanding woman debater is also often a good political scientist, politician, and newspaperwoman. She may also be a sorority officer. But because her talents are so varied, she would be forced to set some of her talents aside to fall within the legal point limit.

As a result, many activities would lose their prominent coeds. These activities would suffer. It would be hard, for example, for the Daily Collegian to turn away a good reporter because she had already accumulated the specified number of activity points.

An activities point system would definitely spread out activities among more coeds. The point limit would create vacancies in many activities. And although efficient coeds might arise to fill the empty places, it is doubtful applicants would all be of the quality desired.

An activities point system would probably place many inept coeds in positions of responsibility merely because better qualified coeds had fulfilled their limits. Most Penn State women reach positions of importance through able display of their talents. Positions reached without such qualifications are not usually worthwhile.

Defenders of the proposal say it gives the coed experience in selecting her activities wisely. True, in fact, it forces the coed to select her activities wisely. This is bad. A coed should be allowed to engage in as many activities as she sees fit. She should not be governed in her choice. She must be mature enough to make her own choice.

Activities offer wide opportunities in human relations and human experience. For any group to limit their availability is to close those opportunities. Those opportunities must remain open.

Many coeds are not in activities through their own choice. True, a point system would arouse many of the more ambitious. But unless a person is self-inspired toward accomplishing an activity, his actions in accomplishing that activity may be inefficient. For those who are willing and able to engage in activities, the field must be left wide open. For those who do not wish to engage in activities, no activities plan is needed.

To put a point limit on women's activities is to penalize those coeds who have the drive and ability to engage in many activities. In attempting to open activities to more women, WSGA must not restrict Penn State's coed leaders. In striving for quantity, we must not sacrifice quality.

Choir Concert

The Chapel Choir, accompanied by the College Symphony Orchestra, will present the "St. Cecilia Mass" at 8 tonight in Schwab Auditorium. This is only the second time the "St. Cecilia Mass," by Haydn, has been presented in the United States. The mass was presented for the first time in Boston about a year ago.

This will be probably the first and only time many students will be able to hear this unpublished work. The opportunity should not be overlooked, but should be supported. Attendance at the choir's annual spring concert may also induce the choir to bring more outstanding musical selections to the College.

—Dick Rau

Safety Valve—*Backs Anti-Discrimination Action*

TO THE EDITOR: Your editorial on fraternity discrimination had many good and valid points, but at one point seems to defeat its own purpose.

You say "if a fraternity does not want one class of friends, it has the right to discriminate against that group." You also state that "every man has the right to freely select his friends." This is all well and good, but at the very beginning of your article you point out that one fraternity had its national charter suspended because it accepted a student who was outside the bounds of a discriminatory clause in the charter. Is this being able to "freely select" one's friends?

I contend that all discriminatory clauses of any organization's constitution or charter should be removed. Otherwise, no group is free to pick and choose its members as it sees fit. What actual good are these restrictions? Ultimately the choice of members depends on the members already in a group. If those members do not want to accept a person because of his race or color that is up to them. But why should any group, fraternity or otherwise, be penalized by its national organization for accepting a person who it was felt would be a worthy addition to the group?

—Dave Pellnitz

Gazette . . .

Wednesday, May 20, 1953

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERS, 7 p.m., 105 Ag Eng.

CHESS CLUB, 7 p.m., 3 Sparks.

FROTH AD STAFF, 6:30 p.m., Froth office.

COLLEGE HOSPITAL

Albert Benning, Ralph Brooks, Joseph Gower, Glen Grove, Lee Kummer, Ralph Laudenslayer, Richard Lednak, Ruth Oram, Wilheim Reudenbach, Gerald Robinson, Robert Roessler, Alan Schriesheim, Walter Segl and Wendell Toland.

Little Man on Campus By Bibler

"He's flunkin' th' course anyway."

Short 'Change

By GUS VOLLMER

A magazine article entitled "How to Handle Women" was published recently, parts of which might be of interest to some of the men.

"It's a waste of time," says the article, "to tell a woman she's being illogical. The average woman starts off on the premise that the way she feels about something is in itself a most compelling argument. No matter how strange and wonderful her conclusion, to her it's 'perfectly logical'."

As one gentleman once said, "I don't know how my girl figures things out; I've only been going with her a couple of years." She figured out how to land him, didn't she?

When you don't provide women with something to talk about, it won't stop them from dredging up a subject, warns the article. It doesn't mention, however, how girls can fire the verbal ammunition when they choose to be catty to one another.

Another stable young man has said, "I'd rather go 15 rounds with Chuck Davey than get mixed up in a word war between two coeds.

"Keep in mind the fact that some women use tears as a deliberate weapon. Don't yield," cautions the article.

In a review of the article, a critic for the **Michigan State News** said, "I'm glad I read it. Now I know all there is to know about how to handle women. Except . . . well, there's one thing that makes me suspicious.

"The article was written by a woman." Is she cutting her own throat? Am I?

* * *

Doctors have advised that one should not only remove his shoes often, but also bathe the feet twice a day.

Most of us here don't have time for daily footbaths, but deep puddles and sudden spring showers help us keep our feet washed—and our shoes and socks, too.

This changing shoes several times daily! That's a tough one to follow. It's a little awkward to carry a couple of extra pairs of shoes with you. And what about the fellow who wears a size 13. As a matter of fact most instructors frown on keeping a spare pair of shoes in the lab table drawer.

* * *

Faculty members at **Millsaps College** recently donned white aprons to act as waiters in the campus cafeteria, with all tips going to the World Student Service Fund.

A singing quartet of professors entertained the slightly dazed students while others pulled out chairs, brought water, opened doors and cleared tables.

The sole complaint came from one instructor who indignantly protested when he was tipped only three pennies.

An enterprising **Cornell University** student recently found out that it isn't the color of automobile licenses that's so important, but rather the date.

The student didn't want to pay for new license plates for his car, so he merely painted his old ones over in the color of the new plates.

He was fined $25 for his "work of art."

* * *

A new way to classify American colleges, reports the newspaper at the **Georgia Institute of Technology**, is "Those that wish they had fired their football coaches, and those that wish they hadn't."

* * *

Several Princeton students cut classes the other day and turned in excuses that they had been ill. A newspaper photograph of a home run sailing over the fence at Yankee Stadium showed all of them in the stands. Better luck next time.

* * *

A student at **New York University** catches on quickly. He returned three books to the library. They were "Stop Forgetting," "Use Your Head" and "How to Remember."

The books were a week overdue. When asked about it, the student replied, "Gee, it completely slipped my mind."

* * *

The water fountain on the center square at **Lafayette University** was donated by the WCTU. The sentiment is admirable, if just a little idealistic.

* * *

The newspaper at **Cambridge University** in England reports that blood donations by students are being encouraged by a local brewer, who has offered a pint of ale free for every pint of blood donated.

* * *

Push button learning has come to the **University of Tennessee.** An electronic device now being used experimentally enables a student to register an immediate protest without interrupting his professor if he fails to grasp a point in a lecture.

The push button learning aid has a meter which faces the lecturer and shows him how many students don't understand the presentation.

Each student has an individual push button on his desk and can register his understanding.

Interpreting the News

By J. M. Roberts Jr.
Associated Press News Analyst

The Allied request for a further six-day recess in the Panmunjom truce talks means that the Western Allies have not yet fully agreed on their new approach to a Korean armistice.

Reports among delegates to the United Nations in New York, that the United States would revise its proposals to bring them more into line with last fall's UN Assembly resolution, seemed to have some basis in fact, although indictions at the State Department were that things were by no means "set."

The report was that the U.S. might agree to a political conference to take up the disposition of prisoners unwilling to accept repatriation to Communist-held terirtory, provided some sort of limit was set for the conference to reach agreement.

The Americans at Panmunjom had accepted a Communist proposal for re-screening of prisoners under the supervision of a five-power neutral commission, but demanded definite time limits.

Prime Minister Nehru of India, whose country would be a member of the neutral commission, brought the Allied dispute into the open last week with an announcement that he considered the Communist proposals nearer to what the UN had intended than were the counterproposals of the American negotiators at Panmunjom. Canada, France, and Great Britain were inclined to agree, with the Canadians the most active in expressing British Commonwealth sentiments.

The tendency seems to be that, after re-screening, the disposition of prisoners who still refuse to go home should become a problem not for the neutral supervisors, nor for the Americans or Communists, but for the United Nations itself.

Reports that the U.S. had agreed were classified in Washington as premature. There were still gaps between the U.S. and her allies, and conferences to be held in an effort to close them.

There was no assurance that, regardless of how the United States might amend its proposals, the Communists would agree to a truce. They had roundly denounced the UN resolution at the time of its adoption. Even successful conferences at Washington among the Allies might produce no more than better agreement among themselves.