

Published Tuesday through Saturday mornings inclusive during the University year by the staff of The Daily Collegian of the Pennsylvania State University.

The Daily Collegian

Successor to THE FREE LANCE, est. 1887

Collegian editorials represent the viewpoint of the writers, not necessarily the policy of the newspaper. Unsigned editorials are by the editor.

Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1934 at the State College, Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879.

DAVE JONES, Editor

VINCE DRAYNE, Business Mgr.

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Night editor, Len Goodman; Copy editors, Jack Reid, Peggy McClain; Assistants, Bob Dunn, Marilyn Ambler, Louise Glud, Joe Beau Seigneur, Ron Leik. Ad staff, Linda Holmes, Enie Wolfgang.

II. Fraternity Housemothers: The Answer

(The last of two editorials on the fraternity housemother controversy.)

Interfraternity Council last week took a realistic stand in the fraternity housemother question. It considered three courses of action and came up with the only possible solution.

The council considered the housemother question from three points of view: accepting housemothers, accepting a more restricted unchaperoned dating code, or offering resistance to both. The council chose the third course.

The gradual constriction of the unchaperoned dating code could eventually reach a point where chaperones would be required almost constantly. It would be both impossible and undesirable for fraternities to secure chaperones in this situation. Thus, this would not be an alternative to the housemother plan, since fraternities would virtually be forced to employ housemothers. The IFC has rejected such an alternative.

Similarly, IFC rejected any idea of having housemothers in the near future. Employment of a resident housemother in most fraternities is, at this time, physically and financially impractical. Many houses cannot afford housemothers without undue cost to members. Aside from this is the contention that housemothers are undesirable, anyway.

Rejection of the first two courses left IFC no choice but to accept the third: resistance. This could be anything from refusal to enforce University regulations to merely declaring the newly-defined unchaperoned dating code "impossible." The council has already done the latter.

If the University asks for housemothers, it must provide some alternative. The majority of fraternities have said they cannot employ housemothers at this time. Therefore, failure to provide an alternative could be disastrous.

Interpretation of the unchaperoned dating code, to require chaperones almost constantly, is no alternative. One good alternative might be strict enforcement of the unchaperoned dating code in effect last semester. Houses would then be given the chance to live by regulations

hitherto acceptable to the University, or employ housemothers.

It does not seem logical the University would force housemothers on houses willing to abide by University regulations. Providing strict enforcement of the unchaperoned dating code—by IFC or the University—would be a realistic approach, and a realistic alternative. Those houses willing to live by an enforced unchaperoned dating code would not need housemothers. Those unwilling to live by the code would have housemothers. Either way, University regulations would be in effect.

The only problem with this plan is enforcement. Will the IFC or the University enforce the code? The IFC should be given a chance to strictly enforce the code. If it fails, the University should assume the burden. If the University sets acceptable regulations, the University must be responsible to have them enforced. This would not necessarily make a spy team of the administration, as some would believe. It would merely be University acceptance of this responsibility.

Many are wondering how IFC got in this mess. It is obviously from failure to enforce the unchaperoned dating code, as in effect last year. This code was probably the University's attempt to meet the IFC half-way. Many IFC members, however, do not believe it was a fair attempt.

The basic difference here is almost irreconcilable. Fraternities see drinking as tantamount to social success. The University sees drinking tearing down its prestige. The answer, somewhere in between, is hard to reach. The unchaperoned dating code, one attempt, has apparently failed. It is hard to say whether IFC was at fault in not enforcing a logical code, or whether the University was at fault for creating an impossible code.

The Interfraternity Council now surely realized that if the University wants housemothers, there is little IFC can do about it. The only hope is to press for a good alternative to housemothers. A restricted unchaperoned dating code is no alternative. Enforcement of last semester's unchaperoned dating code may well be the only plausible alternative.

Participation, Not Abstention, Is Needed

Town independents tonight will have the opportunity to again choose their ward representative, or in one case representatives. Frequently the question is asked as to what good it does to bother voting at all. The good can be seen in every phase of student government. The good is seen in the existing good government, or if good government does not exist, the good can be seen in the opportunity to change government policies.

Town Council has been beset with two major problems in its elections. One is the matter of candidates. There usually are not enough. It was recognition of this factor that led the executive committee of the council to take an illegal method to secure the number of representatives necessary to conduct government. It was an equal recognition of this factor that led the elections committee of the Association of Independent Men to try to form a method of legalizing the method of elections.

It is said that the mess that developed has discouraged even those who advanced themselves previously from participating. Some of the previous candidates feel they were caught in the middle. We cannot see how. They did only as instructed. Unless they had knowledge that an illegal action was taking place, their present reluctance is something that cannot be determined by their conscience.

Safety Valve—Fraternity Problems

TO THE EDITOR: . . . If I may, I would like to express the opinion of the majority of fraternity men of Penn State (concerning fraternity social problems) as I interpret it.

Jones has indicated in his editorial (Tuesday) that the IFC is outwardly defying the University administration. No group . . . would ever exhibit such a "lack of intelligence" to openly defy the very thing to which it owes its being. In no way has the IFC implied that it has the desire to defy the University administration, or has it refused to obey University rules and regulations.

The existing rules and regulations governing the use of alcoholic beverages are unenforceable. This theory is supported not only by the IFC but the administration as well. The (present) IFC Board of Control . . . has never refused to enforce the section of the unchaperoned dating code regarding the use of alcoholic beverages. Our policy has been one of punishment for the misuse of alcoholic beverages rather than the mere use.

We cannot punish one fraternity when 51 member fraternities . . . are guilty of the same offense . . . The lack of ability to enforce this section of the unchaperoned dating code is no reflection on the Board of Control as the (University) administration will readily admit. There is a great deal of difference between "refusing" and not having the power to do something.

If in the opinion of town independents the situation in town government is one that should be improved, then there is all the more reason to participate.

Participation in any student government is very seldom restricted to those who have a big idea every hour on the hour. It is done largely by those who have only an interest in doing something other than eating or sleeping. The sure-fire idea is not as necessary as the ability to work with others in piecing many small ideas together into a workable plan.

The other major problem is the matter of voters. They have outnumbered only the number of candidates. Probably the reason most men move into town is the same reason that so few of them bother to come near the polls—they do not wish to be bothered by the mundane duties of government.

Yet how many of them are so satisfied with their own existence that they feel it cannot be improved? Taking time to vote will not automatically provide them with everything they could want, but taking an interest in selecting those who may be able to improve their situation is the only way open to town independents.

Government by abstention will not produce anything but a vacuum. But government participation can help any situation. —Dick Rau

. . . there is complete agreement that these existing laws are unenforceable when all the factors are considered . . . The final outcome of the recent IFC meetings . . . was the feeling that the new interpretation of the dating code was impractical and virtually impossible to adhere to . . . No motion was made concerning any "outright defiance" as Jones has indicated.

It was stated that the IFC has refused to enforce the "new" interpretation of the dating code. This is . . . misconstruing the facts . . . The grievances were taken to the Dean of Men's office . . . It was decided that the interpretation of the code was not and still is not clear either to the administration or the IFC. It was then proposed that the "old" code be followed until a more workable solution could be evolved. Does this sound like an outward refusal to obey?

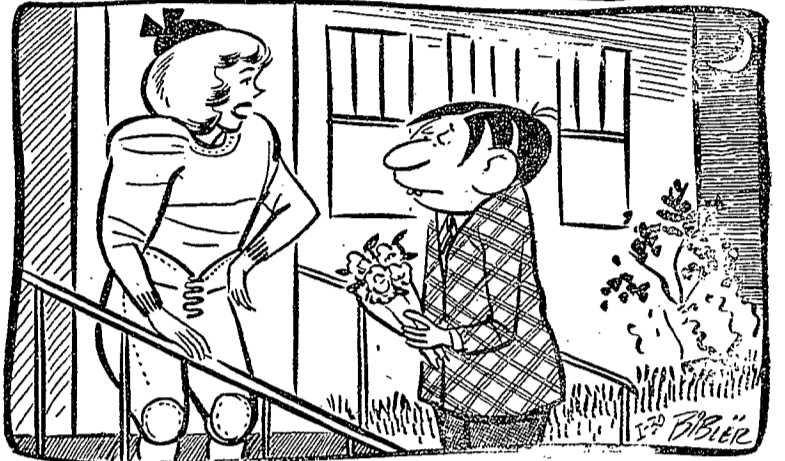
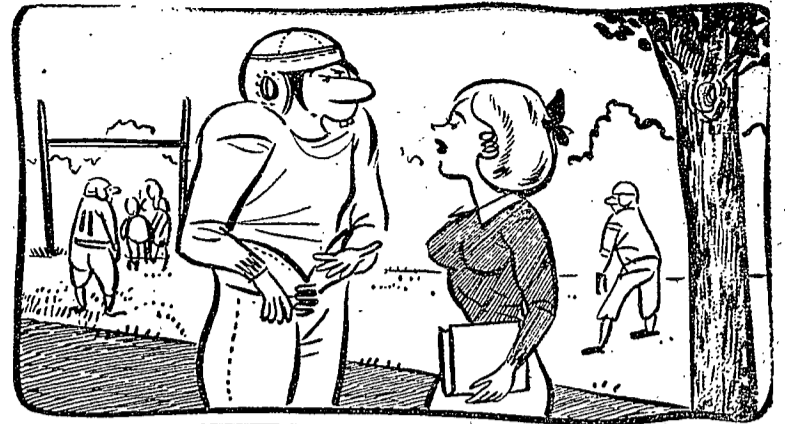
The purpose of this letter is to refute any beliefs that have been fostered that the IFC considers itself on such a plane that it can dictate administrative policy . . .

—Thomas Schott
IFC President

●Letter cut
Editor's note—Information concerning the conference between Schott and the Dean's office was withheld from the Daily Collegian, and as a result this newspaper could not report the previous code interpretation would be followed until a new one could be evolved.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"It's designed for maximum protection."

Glancing Around

At Weeks

By DICK RAU

I dropped around at All-College Cabinet Thursday night. I don't ordinarily spend my time among our august legislators, but this time my presence was requested. And in these days of subpoenas, I decided to go peacefully. There wasn't any legislation going on. They were just nosy.

Having had a little to do with this year's Student Handbook, I was requested to present a report on the state of affairs. Cabinet wasn't as particularly concerned with suggestions for furthering the ethereal quality of the literature as they were with the filthy question of money.

For the past few years cabinet has been picking up the tab on the cost, not covered by advertising. This year there was a change—the handbook paid dividends.

Having taken care of this little chore, I was ready to sit back and enjoy the deliberations on other, more worthy, subjects.

One of these subjects concerned the possible formation of an Outing Club. It seems the Ski Club has been performing the functions of the Outing Club so an Outing Club is needed so the Ski Club can get back to things concerning things the Ski Club should be concerned with. Follow me?

But another subject brought before cabinet promises an even greater future for Penn State than the trials to be encountered in getting Penn Staters into the open air oftener than necessary.

There was a suggestion that cabinet sponsor a "Beat Pitt" week. The idea of special weeks has long intrigued me.

The idea for the formation of special weeks was probably thought up by someone who noticed that all the months of the year have names.

Everyone could gather around the Cathedral of Learning for a Panther roast. Something no football game should be without. It might even replace the featuring of western bar-b-cues in eastern cities.

Other possibilities perhaps would suggest wearing blue and white by everyone on campus such as, I believe, was tried last year. I understand the Army ROTC wouldn't go along with it—die-hards.

The idea of special weeks has not only been harbored by those with a disregard for the Panthers' well being. The junior class held a Junior Week. The committee came up with something of an unseasonal stretch of idyllic weather.

Snow reminds me of a situation that presented itself in State College last summer. The residents might hold an annual snow-job week in honor of one of the better known itinerants. Snow Week might also be cele-

brated by the students on any one of the big weekends when it would be most inconvenient.

But to get away from the sordid side of life, Penn Staters might inaugurate an annual "Hold Your Breath While You're Walking from Rec Hall to Temp Week," to be held during the manure spreading season. This might lead to a "Who Has the Bluest Face Week."

A "Let's All Go to the Library Week" might be held in conjunction with a "Let's All Go to the Movies Week." The best time for these weeks would probably be during finals.

The selection of a "Let's honor the Nocturnal Hort Woods Census Takers' Week" would probably have to be limited to one of the warmer months, if it could be held at all. State laws on lynching might have a tendency to curtail the highlights of the week.

The successful completion of a "Let's All Walk Through Pollock Dorms Week" could be followed by a "Let's Put Pollock Back Together Again Week."

All in all the idea of having special weeks at Penn State has wonderful possibilities. It might even lead to a special cabinet committee on the scheduling of special weeks. The cabinet committee could, of course, be honored by a week of its own. The future would be bright, not a week in the school year would be left unscathed.

The scheduling of weeks might be undertaken in a campus political party platform, which of course could lead to a . . .

Former MI Dean Heads Mine Board

Edward Steidel, former dean of the Mineral Industries school, was sworn in recently as chairman of the Federal Coal Mine Safety Board of Review.

Steidel succeeds Alex U. Muller of Vincennes, Ind., for a term to expire July 15, 1955. His appointment by President Eisenhower is subject to confirmation when Congress reconvenes.

The board of review hears appeals from orders issued by the Bureau of Mines under the federal coal mine law enacted in 1952. Its three members serve on a part-time basis.