

Editorial Opinion

High Average Requisites Pose Problems for SGA

The freshman class president Robert Carson has been inflicted with "averagitis," an ailment which has been fatal to the presidents of the past three freshman classes.

Carson's case is a different strain of the disease, however, for his scholastic standing makes him ineligible to sit on the SGA Assembly where a 2.4 All-University average is required, but is not low enough to place him on academic probation which has been the fate of his predecessors.

But, although he is barred from the Assembly, he will still remain the official head of his class since "class" is an autonomous body outside the structure of the Student Government Association. The only jurisdiction SGA has regarding class presidents is in relation to their capacities to sit on the Assembly.

Each class advisory board can arbitrarily set the academic standards for its own membership as long as it does not conflict with University regulations regarding probation

And this is exactly what the freshman advisory board did when it lowered the requirement for its executive council members from the traditional 2.4 to a 2.2 All-University.

The Assembly might do well to follow this precedent. The academic requirement of 2.4 for Assembly members is a rather unrealistic one.

Political parties right now are scouring the campus for good, qualified student leaders for the coming spring elections. Because we are operating under the more representative SGA system, their job is even more difficult because they must produce more than twice as many candidates as were called for under the old Cabinet system.

All too often, they find a student who has the proper background and experience, so necessary to represent his fellow classmates properly, but who does not have a 2.4 All-University average.

More often than not this student's academic record, like Carson's, is just on this side of the line which separates a "qualified" from an "unqualified" representative, but still he must be stamped as unfit for Assembly membership.

When the academic requirement for Assembly membership was set up by last year's Cabinet, their desire was to populate the Assembly with capable students. But the 2.4 average minimum was arrived at as much by tradition and following set patterns as by anything else, since most of the Cabinet members, who previously had Assembly's duties, were required to maintain this scholastic standing.

This idealism, of sorts, worked when a smaller number was involved, but even then it posed problems. With a governing body more than twice Cabinet's size the problems are even greater.

A 2.2 All-U is certainly a respectable one. The University requires only a 2.0 for graduation. It's time that the Assembly re-evaluated its academic requirements to make room for some of the more qualified student leaders.

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So What

Complacency Has Got To Go

by Marty Scherr

Are we afraid of innovation? Are we afraid to gamble or take a chance? Are we afraid to stick our necks out for fear that we will always be wrong? Many people have ideas that they hold inside because of the social pressure opposing them. They fear a break in tradition because tradition is the traditional thing to live by.

On the base of a statue in front of the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C. is the statement: "What is past is Prologue." This is quite true, let us study the past BUT let us profit from it.

Let us work ahead for newer and better things. Innovation should be a by-word, along with progressive change, of the college student. One of his major aims should be a contribution to the betterment and advancement of society.

Here on campus there have been some recent changes and wonderful openings for innovation—and it's not too late yet.

The Senior Ball is coming up during the spring month of May, the same dance as it has always been; a good name band, a well planned affair, and worth attending. But think of the new life that could be

injected into it if it was held in a place besides Recreation Hall, for example, the skating rink.

Perhaps the dance is big and a poor showing could put a few people on the spot but it is an innovation that should be looked into and the gamble might be worth the benefits reaped.

The sophomores also have a dance and according to reliable reports are having trouble locating a place to hold it. Will they have the nerve to carry out the block party they have spoken about—or why not the skating rink for this late spring dance? One or the other should be a refreshing change.



SCHERR

Neither has as much to lose as it might have to gain—again the MIGHT is the word to be wary of. If it fails it will have at least been tried and judged rather than have been judged a failure without a trial.

Dean of Women Dorothy J. Lipp, has taken the opportunity to show the young Penn

State blood that the idea of change must be made daringly, yet not without cause. She has effected many new policies, all welcomed after their appraisal—and she's not finished yet. Dean Lipp's major complaint is that the young people she has to work with are afraid to come out too heartily in favor of the change, because they are afraid of what a change might entail.

Last year the Sunday afternoon jam session was banned. Some rather feeble reasons were given and the ban went into immediate affect. What happened to all of the students that like those Sunday jammers? They sat back and grumbled to each other about it. Why didn't they do something? Why didn't anyone take the initiative to find out more about it or reverse the decision?

Don't go off half cocked with an idea. Don't run wild with silly changes in policy or ridiculous antics that are supposed to show mature strength of character.

But, if you have an idea that has been thought out and worked upon, if you have an idea that contributes towards progress and the creation of new interests don't hold it inside. Bring it out! By all means, try it!

Letters

Sr. Questions IFC Ability As Moralists

TO THE EDITOR: It was interesting and rather amusing to read of the moralistic judgment which the IFC checkers feel authorized to make (in reference to The Daily Collegian's story yesterday about Delta Tau Delta and the IFC checkers).

IFC probably thinks it has found many practical reasons for the existence of such a disciplinary body, but I do not see what basis it has for establishing itself as a "morals court" for individuals.

It would seem that having such agencies encourages moral irresponsibility. Students are not asked to decide their own standards but are given mimeographed regulations by the University, residence halls and now by IFC checkers.

Aren't college students old enough to formulate their own personal standards of behavior? Can't ethical and moral standards come from within rather than be imposed? Even if one's standards do not conform to someone else's or to the University's standards, who is to say that the non-conformists are wrong. Perhaps their standards are even higher than those of the people judging.

This great concern with moral judgments seems to be reflected in American society as a whole as well as at Penn State.

Courses in foreign affairs suggest that no other peoples of the world are as concerned about moralistic matters as we are. While we are busy applying vague and obscure standards to the conduct of our fellow citizens, many Europeans have found such matters irrelevant in a more mature approach to evaluating the conduct of others.

Until the IFC checkers become paragons of virtue and until they have a better justification for their actions, let them not "cast the first stone."

—Katie Davis, '60

Frosh Customs Board Applications Available

Applications for Freshman Customs Board are now available at the Hetzel Union desk. The applications must be filled out and returned by Monday. Only present second and third semester students are eligible.

GAZETTE

TODAY

- Air Force Glee Club, 3 p.m., HUB assembly room; American Chemical Society, 7:30 p.m., 119 Osmond; Bridge Club, 6:30 p.m., HUB cardroom; Christian Fellowship, 2:45 p.m., 218 HUB; Convocation, College of Physical Education, 11 a.m., HUB assembly room; Faculty meeting, Home Economics, 1:15 p.m., 14 Home Economics; Junior Panhellenic Council, 8 p.m., 212 HUB; Mineral Industries Student Council, 7:30 p.m., 212 HUB; Newman Club, 7 p.m., HUB assembly room; Panhel Council, 7 p.m., 213 HUB; Rod and Coccus Club, 7 p.m., 206 Patterson; SGA Ecumenical Strategy Commission, 6:40 p.m., United Church of Christ, second floor lounge; Sigma Tau, 7 p.m., 217 HUB; Slavic Club, 3 p.m., 7 p.m., 10 Sparks; University Party, 6:30 p.m., 212 HUB; WSGA Publicity Committee, 5 p.m., 212 HUB

Weekly Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS: 1 Insect in its final state; 6 Collision; 11 Whines; 13 Less clear; 15 Supplements to writings; 16 Period in history of man; 2 words; 17 Cover; 18 Puts in order; 20 Ringer marble; 21 High; 23 Teheran coins; 24 Charter; 25 Well-known golfer; 27 One of the Lowells; 28 French historian; 29 Semites' Aphrodite; 31 "Many that are first shall ..."; 2 words; 32 Lead; 33 Fasten; 34 Rotating part in an ice-cream freezer; 37 Auction zealots; 40 Musical instruments; 41 Faint or feeble; 42 "___ Arden"; 44 Young Cratchit's namesakes; 45 Moroccan city; 47 Raison d'___; 48 High note; 49 Musical compositions; 51 Stevenson's monogram; 52 Deliverance; 54 Recounts; 56 Showed disdain; 57 Not passe; 58 ___ Park, Colorado resort; 59 Provokes (with "up"); DOWN: 1 Where French Lick is; 2 Waists; 3 Prayer; 4 Clan of ancient Rome; 5 More practiced; 6 Is concerned; 7 Spanish streams; 8 Massachusetts cape; 9 Endurance; 10 Exoduses; 11 Seafarers; 12 Glut; 13 Young animal; 14 Temporary ruler; 19 Subdue; 22 Window fastenings; 24 Greek; 26 Valleys; 28 English novelist; 30 Play about robots; 31 Four-poster; 33 Frank ___ actor; 34 Excessively fond ones; 35 City in Kansas; 36 African tribesmen; 37 Turkish title; 38 Important muscle; 39 Long, tiresome speeches; 41 Approached the end; 43 German state; 45 Hybrid tea ___; 46 Tientsin money; 49 Vault; 50 Strip of wood; 53 Small lizard; 55 Mon ___ Pierrot.

