

Editorial Opinion

Sorority, Rushees Gain in Open Bids

A look at the figures showing how many coeds were ribboned Friday night indicates that something is amiss in the sorority system.

Only one-third of Penn State women are members of sororities. And only 58 per cent of the coeds who registered for spring rushing were issued bids. Obviously the other 42 per cent were at least interested in joining a sorority but in the end, several of them probably received only heartache and disappointment for their efforts of the past two weeks.

One of the best ways to correct this situation and at the same time to revive a slowly weakening sorority system is through the new open bidding system.

There are now more than 150 vacancies in the sororities as a whole. If these vacancies could be filled, many coeds would have the chance to overcome the disappointments realized during formal rush.

The open bid system initiated last year permits sororities to bid any coed who registered for rush and either could not attend open houses or did not pledge a sorority after having gone through rush. Previously, sororities had to bid eligible coeds within a certain period of time.

Now, under the new bidding system, both sororities and rushees have a free hand to decide whether to pledge or to be pledged throughout the remainder of the semester.

The open bid was created to give sororities who did not get all the pledges that they wanted a opportunity to fill their quotas, thereby strengthening sororities that are weak in numbers.

If the percentage of Greek women decreases too much the sorority system will begin to falter. It will appear too selective and undesirable to most people. Interest will be lost in what could be and has been a healthy organization for college women.

Thus, sorority women who wish to strengthen their position on campus would do well to take advantage of open bidding. This feature of rushing could be very advantageous to coeds on both sides of the fence, and may serve to patch up the bad feelings held by many disappointed rushees

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tongue in cheek

Rushing Boo-Boo's Yours?

by bobbi levine

Things are finally getting back to normal. Sorority pledges are talking about sisters; sisters are talking about pledges; and independents, still eligible for open bidding, are talking about sisters and pledges.

Perhaps they are wondering if they will be invited to accept one of these bids. How will the sisters of Sigma Phi Friendship decide the chosen ones?

She won't be bid if:

- She practically climbed into the sister's lap while exclaiming in her most soulful voice, "Oh, you're a BWOC, aren't you? You're my favorite campus personality — my very favorite. What are my chances for getting into a hat society?" (The rushee probably meant her words in all sincerity, but to the sister in question it undoubtedly looked like the rushee was interested in the sorority as a means to bigger and better things.)
- She demanded a cigaret before the startled sister had a

chance to offer her one. (It is understandable that the rushee might have been quite nervous, but the chances are that the sister was just as nervous and considered the remark forward and rude.)

- She gushed through the suite in the best Sarah Bernhardt tradition. (The one thing that really scares a sorority is the possibility that the rushee might be putting on an act.)

Sororities, too, might be interested in measuring their chances to pick up desirable girls in the open bidding system. Here, then, is the way the remaining rushees view the situation.

She won't answer the bid if:

- The sorority seemed more interested in their own accomplishments than in finding out what the rushee was interested in. (It's only natural for soror-

ities to feel they have to sell themselves on the basis of their contributions to the University, but rushees are looking for a group of friendly, sympathetic girls with whom to share their interests.

- The sorority continuously played the "do-you-know" game in rushing conversations. (Too much of this type of thing leads the rushee to believe she must know the "right" people and have the "right" activities. She begins to wonder if the sorority's values aren't a bit mixed up.)

- The sorority seemed to place unusual emphasis on physical appearance. (A neat, attractive appearance is a laudable attribute, but if a rushee is inadvertently made to feel she must be a fashion plate at all times, the question of values again begins to bother her.)

We can only hope that this year's women — both sorority and rushees — will show the maturity to stop and consider the handicap they faced during rushing and reconsider each other's attributes.



MISS LEVINE

Former Editor Blasts ICCB, Cabinet Record

TO THE EDITOR: The Intercollegiate Council Board thinks its members — the student council presidents — should automatically sit on the SGA Assembly. They seem to believe Assembly can never work right without an "informed intelligentia" — namely themselves.

Let's set the record straight. ICCB's proposal would be a return to the All-University Cabinet system of misrepresentation. It would take student government back to 1939.

In its 20 years of existence, Cabinet toppled from a shining ideal to become Penn State's symbol of irresponsibility and apathy. Following a trend over the years, Cabinet hit an all-time low in 1957-58 when it produced a truly amazing record of influence, corruption and failure to follow student wishes.

The insincere and the incompetent all but wrecked student government that year. They also dramatized the need for the reforms which are embodied in the new SGA Constitution.

ICCB President David Epstein says he was "awed" by Cabinet debates. So was I. For instance, can you picture the Assembly voting for compulsory ROTC? Cabinet did it. Can you imagine the Assembly condoning a two-day binge in New York City by the SGA President — at the students' expense? Cabinet condoned it.

Could you stomach a large, organized group of Assembly members voting against an extra 24 hours of Christmas vacation designed to save some students from driving on New Year's Day? Epstein is a member of the group that once did it on Cabinet.

As one who debated on Cabinet to have my automatic seat removed, I believed students should bitterly resent any attempt to send their government back to the dark ages when small groups (such as councils) controlled most seats and when it was fashionable for the "informed intelligentia" to collaborate with some administration leaders to thwart student welfare.

If the council presidents really believe they have the time, ability and guts to fight for the general student welfare, then let them submit their case to popular election — like the rest of the Assembly members.

—Robert Franklin,
Editor, 1958-59,
The Daily Collegian

HOSPITAL
Stephen Ammerman, Judith Bogar, Ruth Carlson, Lee Hammarstrom, Mary Kahle, Jack Miller, Robert Rabenold, Nancy Rothwell, Margaret Schminsky, Jerome Scott, Jo Ann Scott, Susan Simon, Helen Stewart, Elaine Sweeney, Marilyn Wiley, Russell Yaw, Fayenola Zalmon, Joan Zimmerman

Letters

Epstein Presents ICCB Stand

TO THE EDITOR: As president of ICCB I would like to clear up a few of the misconceptions concerning our discussion to have the student council presidents seated in the SGA Assembly. There are four reasons why we think this is necessary:

1. The student councils present one of the few excellent training grounds where a student can learn a great deal about and "work himself up" in student government. The people who run for the councils are genuinely interested in student government and interested in devoting time to student affairs. The nine presidents, therefore, are well-informed leaders, totally acquainted with student government and willing to work for student affairs.

2. The student councils represent the best means of communications available between the student and their government. Each president is directly responsible to approximately 40 people with whom he meets every two weeks. These 40 members are also interested and responsible and from these people the president is able to get a good cross-section of student opinion on all subjects. These students also represent an excellent way of "spreading the word" among the students. The council members get a direct report on all proceedings in student government and can relay this report to others. Therefore the councils represent the best link between student government and every student on this campus.

3. The student councils have been called "small interest groups." This is ridiculous. The councils represent a good cross-

section of the students within each college and the nine college councils combined represent EVERY student at the university. If the councils are "small interest groups," then every other representative body must be designated the same.

4. Some people have said that the student councils should administer to their own affairs and keep out of student government. The councils, however, occupy a unique position in student affairs. They have a dual responsibility, part to their own college, and part to a higher body, All-University government. The councils have always handled both and this has been a source of attraction for students to run for councils.

They have always formed a major link between the students and their government and students interested in government could start by running for a council. Now, however, this link has been broken and the councils are only one-half as effective as they might be. By putting the council presidents back in a responsible position in SGA, this link would be re-established.

The council presidents all realize that this move would change the balance of representation in the Assembly. They also realize, however, that SGA is not as effective as it might be and feel that it is lacking in leadership and communications. This small change might alter that situation and we feel it is worth while to make the change. A small change in the system is a good investment against a weakening student government.

—David M. Epstein, '60
President, ICCB

GAZETTE

TODAY
Agriculture Student Council, 7-9 p.m., 212-13 HUB
Alpha Kappa Psi, business meeting and rushing smoker at Delta Upsilon fraternity, 7 p.m., 229 Locust Lane
Angel Flight, drill in Armory, 6:45 p.m., meet in HUB parking lot, 7:30 p.m.
Christian Fellowship, 12:45-1:15 p.m., 218 HUB
Collegian Promotion Staff, 7 p.m., Collegian Office
Delta Sigma Pi, business meeting, 7 p.m., Delta Chi Alpha, 351 E. Fairmount
Education Council, 6:30-7 p.m., 217-18 HUB
Father Hovanic Discussion, 7-8 p.m., 203 HUB
Five O'Clock Theatre, 5 p.m., Little Theatre, Old Main
Froth Circulation Staff, 7 p.m., Froth Office, HUB Basement
Geophysics and Geochemistry Seminar, Christopher Crowe, "Motions in the Earth's Core," 8:15 p.m., 121 Mineral Industries

ICG, 8:15 p.m., 203 HUB
IFC, 8 p.m., 216 HUB
Liberal Arts Council, 6:30 p.m., 214-15 HUB
Lecture Series, 10 p.m., HUB main lounge
Mineral Industries Student Council, 7 p.m., 216 HUB
Mixed Choir, 7 p.m., HUB assembly room
Mixed Chorus rehearsal, 7 p.m., HUB assembly room
Nittany Grotto, 7 p.m., 121 Mineral Industries
Placement, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 203, 218, 219, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218 HUB
Schuhplattler Dance Club, New members only, 7:15 p.m., 2 White
SGA Academic Affairs, 7 p.m., 317 Boucke
Sigma Tau Delta, 8:15 p.m., 218 HUB
Sociology Club, Dr. George Theodorson, open meeting, 7:30 p.m., 214 HUB
UCA, 6:15 p.m., 214 HUB
University Lecture Series, Dr. Cyril Northcote Parkinson, "Parkinson's Law," 8 p.m., Schwab

