

Editorial Opinion

Chance for SGA Action

New members of the Student Government Association might begin their consideration of current issues by discussing the Senate's tentative approval of a plan to eliminate the Thanksgiving vacation.

No final action has been taken on the proposal which was made up in order to get in 15 full weeks of classes.

Four solutions to this problem, which were proposed by the Senate Committee on Calendar and Class Schedule, might be considered by the SGA or it might devise a solution of its own; but some student opinions should be presented.

We called one of the student representatives on the calendar committee but he said he hadn't been at the last meeting and "didn't know anything about it."

It would be "nice" if some area of student government did know something about an issue which affects the whole student body.

The first proposed solution which was defeated by the Senate would eliminate the break between semesters.

This plan on the surface would perhaps be the most feasible if a way could be found to speed up the processing of grades so that students could register knowing their last semester's average.

The second plan would begin the fall semester a week earlier and might inconvenience those students who have summer jobs.

The third plan, which involves changing the scheduled classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday during the week of examinations to those scheduled on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, unfortunately eliminates the free day before the tests begin.

It might be pointed out here that this free day was written on to the calendar at the student government's request.

The last alternative, and the one most favored by the Senate is the elimination of the Thanksgiving recess.

Under this proposal, as it was presented to the Senate yesterday, Thanksgiving itself would still be a holiday and no classes would be held.

This plan is convenient for those who live in State College or can drive home in an hour; but many students would just have to forget about going home for Thanksgiving dinner.

In the past, SGA members have complained because they only found out about changes or new policies after they had been made. Here is a pre-statement about a possible change in the calendar, not a post-statement. The Senate doesn't meet again for a month.

Pro-Rule Enforced?

Pi Beta Phi was disqualified last night for the IFC sing women's quartet trophy which it won Wednesday because one of the singers is on academic probation for the spring semester.

A quick check revealed that every other winning group, with the possible exception of one, also had members singing who are on academic probation. In light of this fact, the disqualification can hardly be upheld.

Senate Regulations Q-1 explicitly states that a student on probation (academic or disciplinary) shall not participate in any extracurricular activity of the University, or hold any office or committee membership or take any active part in the activities of an organization.

Apparently the fraternities and sororities in the IFC sing completely overlooked this regulation and many no doubt would claim they were unaware it was applicable in this case. Probably the rule has not been enforced in previous sing contests.

Evidently there are several areas in which it is not enforced. The fraternity intramural handball champion this year won his crown while on academic probation.

If there is reason for this regulation to be on the books, there is reason for it to be enforced.

Student Community

Hungarian students continue to risk their lives by defying communist encroachment upon their thought, Hong Kong students suffer the ravages of tuberculosis, African students lead the drive for recognition of basic human dignity. These students thirst so passionately for knowledge and justice that they are willing to make great sacrifices for it.

Many communities may be said to exist in the world today and a very important one of these is the world student community. Students spread around the globe can unite in mutual aid to this community. World University Service exists for this purpose.

You can help other members of this community by such a simple act as making a donation and voting in the WUS-sponsored Prof Snarf contest today and tomorrow in the HUB.

Without Malice

College Paper Relies on Readers

by denny malick

A college newspaper differs from its professional counterpart only in that its staff is not salaried.

This is one "definition" we have seen describing a student newspaper. And for the most part it is correct, especially in relation to a non-salaried staff.

Concerning our own situation, publication is daily, reporters cover their beats, ad men service their accounts, editors take their stands and deadlines are met.

However, in accepting this close identity with professional newspapers, a student staff must also accept the more serious responsibilities.

A college newspaper is responsible to its readers to present as unbiased an account of the news as possible. Facts obtained must be rechecked and both sides of a controversy must be presented.

Editorial interpretation and comment is the newspaper's other responsibility, whether professional or student. The newspaper

has not only the right but the duty to interpret the facts and present an "educated" comment on them. This right to comment especially on public officials and affairs has been upheld many times in courts. It extends to Froth editor, also.

However, a newspaper's biggest fault often lies not in its staff, but in its readers and news sources.

Readers don't mince words in criticizing a newspaper for inaccuracy, but fail to consider that in most cases inaccurate information given to reporters is the cause of the mistake.

The potential news source with a tightly shut mouth cheats readers out of many important stories. "I do not care to comment" answers often lead to incomplete and misleading stories.

One prime example is the University Senate committees. It is administration policy that these

groups keep proceedings absolutely secret until action is taken. The result is obvious. Students wake up one morning to discover that Thanksgiving vacation has been dropped and they had no previous inkling that this was even being considered.

Penn State is fortunate in having a student newspaper completely free of administration censorship—except for such instances mentioned in the previous paragraph.

Collegian is continually seeking to improve its news coverage, give its editorials more weight and present a better overall publication for its readers.

Student government in order to be effective needs student support, and cooperation. A student newspaper in order to do likewise needs the support and cooperation of its readers. The end result would be a more accurate account of news and a more solid, strong presentation of the students' views.

—30—



MALICK

Letters

Elms Defends Editorial Rights Of Froth Head

TO THE EDITOR: Since the shooting has stopped, I think I should make some clear statements concerning the editorial policy of FROTH and of myself as editor.

The views stated in a letter in Wednesday's Collegian were those of my associate editor, Dale Peters, and not of any "FROTH senior board of editors." The phraseology was unfortunate, but I do not believe Dale wished to imply that his statement was that of the staff as a whole.

The content of FROTH as a whole shall remain nonpartisan, as it has been in the past. However, the editorial pages of the magazine have been traditionally reserved for the opinion of the editor himself. It is my prerogative as editor to determine what will be stated editorially in FROTH. When Dale becomes editor this fall, it will be his privilege to do the same, and I am sure he will use the privilege wisely. Of course the FROTH business managers do not determine editorial policy, any more than the business managers of the Collegian determine Collegian editorial policy.

The editorial in Wednesday's FROTH was read and approved for publication by FROTH's faculty adviser over a week ago. He did not express any pro or con opinion of the editorial's content, but he clearly agreed with my right to publish it in FROTH.

After I had acted personally to publish the editorial independent of the magazine on Monday, there followed an explosion of hatred, malice, and—I hope most of all—misunderstanding. After again consulting with the faculty adviser, I decided to go ahead with publication of the editorial unchanged in the pages of FROTH. Despite personal attacks upon myself, I felt it my duty to say something that needed badly to be said. I am happy that many people agreed with me, and I think it is even more obvious now that the editorial was necessary.

No member of the Administration has taken action against me or against FROTH, despite their certain disagreement with many of my views. The suppression even of criticism would be a final and terrible step. I am glad it has not been taken.

—Alan C. Elms
Editor, FROTH

Gray to Attend Meeting

Dr. William H. Gray, director of International Student Affairs, and Rebecca Doerner, administrative assistant in the Office of International Student Affairs, will represent the University at the annual meeting of the National Association of Foreign Student Advisors to be held April 19 in Denver, Colo.

Pickers Backed

TO THE EDITOR: I believe that it is quite unfortunate that such a high economic, social, and cultural community as State College, Pa., possesses such ignorant and un-called-for feelings of racial prejudice.

At this time people are picketing one of the barbershops downtown. Who wins this cold war is not important. The important point is that this barbershop (incidentally, the only barbershop in State College which refuses to cut a Negro's hair) has been set before us as being run by a person who refuses to obey and follow the written laws of our land (United States Constitution) and our Supreme Court rulings on segregation.

Is this barbershop capable of such actions? Some say yes; some

say no. Personally, I am glad that this picketing is going on at this barbershop, and I feel this way because we, as American citizens, are entitled to know of anyone, anytime, anywhere, who does not respect our national heritage. We are all Americans. The color of our skin does not make anyone more American than anyone else.

It is quite evident that even such a cultural community as State College contains some people who are ignorant about a well-known phrase "That all men are created equal, and are endowed by their creator" and probably would have a hard time searching for the remainder of this insert.

—Dennis Johnson, '61
Sr. Class Representative
PhysEd and Athletics Council

Gazette

- TODAY
- Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB
 - Economics Faculty Seminar, noon, HUB dining room 'A'
 - Freshman-Sophomore Dance, 9-12 p.m., HUB ballroom
 - Greek's Variety Show, 5-9:30 p.m., HUB ballroom
 - Home Ec Spring Weekend, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., HUB assembly room, 3 a.m.-5 p.m., HUB cardroom
 - Mineral Industries Colloquium, 4:15 p.m., Mineral Industries Auditorium

- Prof Snarf Contest, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., first floor HUB
- WRA Aquacade, 8 p.m., White Hall pool HOSPITAL
- Stephen Blum, Elmer Brown, Timothy Cuckley, Mahala Cohen, Sally Diehl, William Duender, James Ebert, Francine Garkinkle, Bruce Ginder, Linda Hunt, Mary Isaacs, John Janetta, Robert Kinble, John Lindley, James Nehls, Sheron Rowles, Mary Ann Sabolsice, Sandra Schrenker, Morton Schweiger, Ellen Sulki, Edward Surgalski, Bernard Tandrich, Martha Weller, Harry Wilford, Kinzo Yamamoto, Frances Zengerle, Gretchen Zukas

A Student-Operated Newspaper
55 Years of Editorial Freedom

The Daily Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance, est. 1887

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