

Editorial Opinion

One More Step

The new honors program, originated by the Senate Committee on Educational Policy and recently authorized by the Board of Trustees, could be one more step up the ladder toward academic excellence.

This new program does not necessarily grant distinction to those who graduate with high all-University averages but recognizes outstanding work in special fields of study.

For example, a student who has a 4.0 in his major field of study but only a 2.5 all-University average may participate in the new program.

The Honor's Diploma, in addition to the degree, will be awarded to a student who has done excellent work in a special field of study. The students who have high averages but have not participated in the new honors program still receive degrees indicating they have been graduated with distinction, high distinction or highest distinction.

When the new plan is operating in all colleges, it should provide more stimulus for those students who have not found their work at the University particularly challenging.

The program should also provide a little incentive for those who do well in their major field but whose averages are lowered by the courses they take outside their special fields.

The possibilities of the new honors should be recognized and it should be fully utilized by colleges and the students within them.

Beat Syracuse!

We would like to move that this week be henceforth known as "Beat Syracuse" Week.

In order to celebrate this week in style, we would also like to move that the entire student population recognize the importance of pep rallies, bonfires, etc.

We also hope that the Nittany Lion, which received a coat of orange paint from some subversive element last year, is guarded a little more adequately this week.

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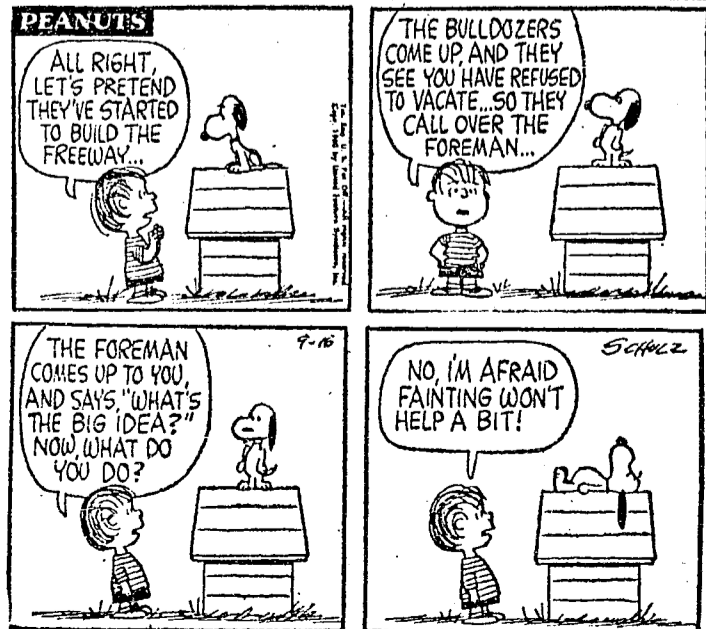
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Letters

Orchestra's Encore Identified

TO THE EDITOR: Your readers might like to know about the encore played last night in Rec Hall by the National Symphony Orchestra with Howard Mitchell conducting.

It was the final movement of a ballet suite entitled "Estancia" (ranch) composed by Alberto Ginastero of Argentina whose music North Americans rarely have an opportunity to hear.

It was based rhythmically on an old gaucho (cowboy) dance, the Malambo, a rhythm frequently recurring in Ginastero's music.

Ginastero has won highest honors not only in Argentina but in the U.S.A. He has been a Guggenheim Fellow and has had commissions from the Elizabeth Spague Coolidge Foundation and the Louisville Orchestra.

Latin American music was requested as a possible encore Friday afternoon by phoning Washington. The "Estancia" score is available only by renting from the publisher. A quick phone call to New York informed the National Symphony manager that the score was in Boston being used by Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops Orchestra.

Boston was reached, the music was put on a Washington airplane and received at the National Airport by a member of the orchestra's staff and so brought to State College in one of the buses.

And thus Penn State students had a brief contact with a great living composer and his artistic expression of Argentinian ranch and cowboy life.

—Georgia K. Selsam, Assistant in Music

Letters

Frosh Urges School Spirit

TO THE EDITOR: This Saturday proved to be an exciting day on the Penn State campus. It cannot be said by most students that the victory over Army wasn't a surprise.

By its spectacular victory, our football team proved to us and the nation that it is truly a championship team — one of the best in the nation, if not the best. On Saturday, our team will face the nation's top-rated team, Syracuse.

If we want to see a victory, we've got to show the team that the entire student body is behind them all the way. We've got to eat, think, and sleep with the idea of beating Syracuse. We've got to display a type of spirit that has never been equaled by any campus in the country.

In these days preceding this crucial game of the season, we must let loose with our spirit by having pep rallies and bonfires — not only planned rallies, but spontaneous ones.

When pep rallies are planned, the majority of the student body should attend, not just a scant few hundred like those who were present at Rec Hall to welcome the team back from Army.

If for this week we can work as a unit with the main purpose of defeating the Orangemen, and forget for awhile our intra-university disputes and differences such as the University political disputes which have been given so much publicity, and put the coming football game foremost in our minds, Syracuse won't know what hit them after they are beaten by us.

The team will do its best. We've got to do our best in supporting it. And when it's all over, the team will walk off the field proud and with heads high, and this campus will experience a celebration like it has never seen before.

LICK 'EM, LIONS! —David W. Curry, '64

Cheering Bill Defended

TO THE EDITOR: "In order to promote the welfare of the student body and the university as a whole..." — this is the preamble of the SGA constitution.

Saturday's "Collegian" made an issue of the fact that SGA should not waste its time on such menial matters as cheer contests. We really don't need to justify the position of SGA on this matter.

School spirit certainly adds to the "welfare of the student body" as SGA's constitution states. Isn't it then very natural for SGA to sponsor a cheer contest for the promotion of school spirit and for the provision of new cheers which are undoubtedly needed?

Not only is this a natural function of SGA, it is part of SGA's responsibility to the students. SGA represents the student body and its wishes; SGA is interested in bettering Penn State's school spirit and in turn improving Penn State! Therefore, SGA is more than justified in sponsoring a cheer contest.

There are several things which have been overlooked by the Collegian article that should be made known to the students.

Contrary to what the article

said, SGA members are not "writing cheers." SGA is coordinating a committee composed of representatives from the Block 'S' Club, cheerleaders, music department, and SGA. This committee is setting up the rules, the judging, and the procedure for the contest.

The Block 'S' Club is a very new campus organization. At present the club is in the process of getting on its feet and establishing itself. In this condition the Block 'S' Club could not be expected to finance and coordinate a cheer contest.

The cheerleaders too have given their wholehearted support to the contest. But, as a group they do not have the financial means with which to sponsor a contest as the article suggested it should.

It is unfair to the student body to put a damper on school spirit through a discussion about whose job the sponsorship of a cheer contest should be. The point is that at last something is being done to remedy our lack of good cheers — a cheer contest is underway NOW!

—Barb Hackman, Joan Cavanagh, Becky Hadden, SGA Assembly Members

Boy, That Comp 1 is Tough

TO THE EDITOR: To err is human, but to do so in an English composition course at P.S.U. is suicide. Having only been on campus for a month, it may sound trivial that I am complaining. I should have waited at least a semester before I started my remonstrations.

No doubt the majority of students and alumni of Penn State have taken the course, "English Composition 1." I am sure that the major portion of these students have received no higher than a C in the course.

I asked myself why? Why is the grading system so strict that one must be either an Ernest Hemmingway or a William Faulkner in order to get an A or B in the course? I have not yet found the answer, and I doubt if I ever will.

The incident which occurred, and tempted me to write this, was one which happened to a friend of mine, Mister X, as I shall call him, is a transfer student from Ogontz. It seems that he had failed in this course two years in a row. By this time Mister X, I thought, surely was disgusted, and lacking the self-confidence to write.

When I first met him, I was surprised when he said that he was going to pass the course if he had to "spend eight hours writing a theme." I thought he would be so despaired as to give up all hope.

Last week he wrote his first theme. After he had completed his "masterpiece," he asked me if I would read the paper and

see if I could find any mistakes that he had overlooked.

I thought the theme was one of the best I have ever read. The grammar was seemingly perfect and the idea was subtle and conveyed great thought. I told him that I thought it was great; with a gleam in his eye, and a smile on his face, he was off to English class.

On Saturday I went to his room and asked him if he had gotten his theme back. He gazed at me with a look that signified defeat. He had received an F in the theme. He showed me the paper which was sadistically slashed in every paragraph.

What is the teacher's purpose? I defy any English teacher to write a theme which is flawless. Had this student received a C or even a D in the paper, it would have inspired him to do better and work harder.

I say that there is no point in this nonsense of ridiculously strict grading, and if nothing is done about it, we students ain't gonna learn no more about the English language.

—Myron Kalina, '64

Applaud Only After Final Section, Please

TO THE EDITOR: In regard to the audience behavior at the concert presented at Rec Hall on Sunday night by the National Symphony Orchestra, I hope that the following criticism of those concerned will be accepted constructively.

For the many who seem to be unaware, it is not appropriate for the audience to applaud when the orchestra completes a movement other than the final one while performing a symphony.

It is rude to the artist concerned when the audience begins leaving the hall while he is taking a bow.

The impression we make on visiting artists should be consistent with our status as students at a university. We owe it to ourselves as well as the performing artists to follow the rules of common courtesy.

•Letter cut —John Theon, Graduate Student

Gazette

- Advertising Committee, 4 p.m., 212-213 HUB
Ag Student Council, 7 p.m., 211-215 HUB
Block 'S' Club, 8 p.m., 217-218 HUB
I. V. Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB
LA Student Council, 6:30 p.m., 217-218 HUB
Leonides, 7 p.m., 212-213 HUB
Mock Elections Committee, 7 p.m., 218 HUB
Newman Club, 8 p.m., 212 HUB
Pan-Hel, 6:30 p.m., 203 HUB
Pollock Halls AIM Board of Governors Elections, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Pollock Circle
Riding Club Trip Committee, 8 p.m., 213 HUB
SGA Public Relations Committee, 3 p.m., 214-215 HUB
SGA Stone Valley Committee, 6 p.m., 212 HUB
UCS Forum Committee, 3 p.m., 216 HUB
UCS Politics Series, 4:15 p.m., 218 HUB
Varsity 'S' Club, showing of Army game films, 7:30 p.m., 119 Osmond
Young Democrats, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., HUB ground floor
Young Republicans, 7 p.m., 110 EE Bldg.

WDFM Schedule

- 5:00 p.m. Three at Five
6:00 p.m. Studio X
6:35 p.m. WeatherScope
7:00 p.m. Children's Corner
7:30 p.m. Guest Lecture
7:55 p.m. News Roundup
8:00 p.m. Accent on Sound
9:00 p.m. Drama Showcase
9:30 p.m. Focus
9:45 p.m. News, Sports, Weather
10:00 p.m. Contemporary Classics
12:00 p.m. Sign-Off