

Editorial Opinion

# Lion's Paw and Secrecy

The Senate Committee on Student Affairs has called for Lion's Paw to make an intensive review of its organizational structure, procedure for selecting members, time and place of meetings, functions, publicity for activities and the use of the name of the organization.

The results of this review and any changes are to be reported to the Senate Sub-committee on Organizational Control by Feb. 1, 1961.

A report on three of the categories mentioned should be made to the general student body and the whole controversy over Lion's Paw might be cleared up.

Most students know that the members are selected according to their position on campus and supposedly their devotion to Penn State.

Most students know that LP's meeting place is 419 Old Main, although they don't know the time. And most students connect the actions of any member to the actions of the organization.

But the three key categories that the students should know about but don't because of LP's veil of secrecy are organizational structure, functions and publicity for activities.

And it is chiefly this veil of secrecy that gives rise to most of the criticism of Lion's Paw.

We do not deny their right to secrecy of ritual. And we do not deny their right to assemble.

But we do deny their right to secretly function and act on matters that affect the student body and its government.

The organizational structure and officers, if any, should be known to the student body just as are those of all other organizations on campus.

The functions of Lion's Paw should be expressed in more specific terms than a nebulous "what's best for Penn State" motto.

Finally, the activities of the organiza-

tion should be known. This is the area in which the veil of secrecy is most lethal to the interests of the students.

By the very fact that Lion's Paw is composed of the top student leaders, any action they decide to take is news. As student leaders they have every right to take action they deem in the best interests of the students but they also must take the responsibility—be it credit or blame—for their actions.

We do not doubt that Lion's Paw has done many things that have benefited the student body. They should take credit for them the same as any other organization. Likewise, if they do anything to the detriment of the student body, they should take the blame for it just as any other organization.

But its benefits or detriments to the student body cannot be known if its actions are not known.

There is no reason that Lion's Paw should have any immunity that no other organization has.

Lion's Paw says its actions are kept secret because they do not want credit or glory for the good things they do. Humility is a laudable virtue, to be sure.

But secrecy can veil detrimental actions as well as good actions, and so long as the students don't know, they cannot judge.

In this case Lion's Paw's humility must be sacrificed for the best interests of the student body.

We do not contend their right to secret ritual. We do not contend their right to brotherhood in the service of their University. We do not contend their right to meet as student leaders and determine action that they deem in the best interests of the student body. But we do contend their right to perform this action in secret thus escaping either credit or blame as the case may be.

# To Better the System

Student leaders from 13 Commonwealth campuses and the University Park campus will meet here today and tomorrow to explore the possibilities of forming an Organization of Student Government Associations.

Such an organization has been proposed as one move toward the overall objective of drawing all campuses of the University closer together into a better coordinated University system.

One of the requirements for accomplishing this objective is to get the students of all commonwealth campuses to feel a unity with each other and with students

on the University Park campus.

We feel that an Organization of Student Government Association can help accomplish this feeling of unity. We also feel that the exchange of ideas that would come through such an organization would be mutually beneficial.

This gathering of student leaders will have to decide whether this organization is to become a reality this weekend, and, if so, what its structure, policy and objectives will be.

We urge them to establish an inter-campus student organization that will overcome the separation of miles by the unity of spirit and action.

small talk

# Ancient History

by nicki wolford

One of the most unusual political clashes in ancient history occurred in Etatsnnep in 500 B.C.

The clash was between an interested, if noisy, group of citizens and a secret society known as Wap Snoil. (These strange alphabets lose something in translation.)

Now, Wap Snoil was composed of most of the leading influential men in Etatsnnep. Just what Wap Snoil did could not be ascertained by historians because its first bylaw was "Secrecy above all." (The citizens who stole the bylaws from the secret society's secret room was later beheaded secretly.)

Evidently the Wap Snoilers felt that whatever they decided to do for Etatsnnep was automatically best and they could not possibly benefit from any comment by non-Wap Snoilers.

However, Wap Snoilers did not realize that secrecy breeds fear and fear breeds unusual phenomena whose main purpose is proving that where there is secrecy there is evil.

So the Wap Snoilers were plagued by people who were just trying to find out what its purpose was and with people who just liked to make accusations.

The battle dragged on for years, until the latter group finally brought the situation to the attention of the gods.

Several of the gods led by one Nam-Wen decided to use

their superior power to settle this controversy. None of the accusations against the Wap Snoilers could be properly evaluated by the gods because the secret society was so secret that even they were not allowed to learn of its activities.

So, the wise gods decided to ask the Wap Snoilers to raise the curtain of secrecy a few feet or so in order to relieve the minds of those who felt secrecy was evil.

The gods also might have thought that if the Wap Snoilers really were working for Etatsnnep, then there could be no real objection to allowing the beneficiaries of this work to see the workers.

Unfortunately, the records on Etatsnnep were partially destroyed by a fire in 600 A.D. so historians do not know the outcome of the controversy. This event was really a shame because Etatsnnepians had kept very careful records even noting the theme song of the anti-Wap Snoilers which went something like "Fairy Tales Can Come True, It Can Happen to You."

Letters

# Senior's La Vie Pictures

TO THE EDITOR: The advertisements in the Collegian concerning photographs for the La Vie state that pictures are to be taken at the Penn State Photo Shop.

A number of seniors have expressed a desire to have their senior pictures taken at a studio either in their hometown or some other location where they feel the quality of their pictures might be better than that obtained at the local photo shop.

As long as pictures are submitted on time to the La Vie office, is it possible for a student to have his picture taken

at some other studio? If not, would someone issue a statement clarifying the position of the La Vie and the Penn State Photo Shop?

—Don Burcin '61

(Editor's Note: La Vie has a contract with Penn State Photo Shop which requires that all senior pictures appearing in the annual be taken there. In exchange, the Penn State Photo Shop takes other pictures for La Vie free of charge. The problem of matching backgrounds and sizes in layouts would be greater if the senior pictures were taken by different studios.)

# Job Interviews

NOV. 1, 2, 3  
General Electric Co. for Jan BS & 1961 MS grads in AERO E (Airborne Systems Opt.) CEH T EE MECH ENG SCI IE ME PHYS for opportunities in Mfg. Technical MKTG. ENG & SCI. A group meeting will be held Oct. 31 at 7:30 p.m. in 112 Buckhout

NOV. 2  
American Smelting & Refining Co. for Jan BS grads in CH E CHEM. Also 1961 MS & PHD grads in CHEM (physical) & MS in CHEM (analyt) American Smelting & Refining Co. for Jan BS grads in CH E, CHEM. Also 1961 MS and PHD grads in CHEM (Physical) & MS in CHEM (Analytical).  
GENERAL DYNAMICS CORP., CONVAIR, DIV. for Jan BS & 1961 MS PHD grads in AERO E EE ENG MECH METAL ME; BS in ENG SCI & MS PHD in PHYS.  
MEAD CORP. for Jan BS grads in CH E EE IE ME for direct assignment or training assignment. Also EE for R & D—instrumentation,

automation work, 1961 MS & PHD grads in CHEM for R & D.  
PITTSBURGH CHEMICAL CO., Subsidiary of Pittsburgh Coke & Chem Co. for Jan BS grads in CHEM CH E & 1961 MS PHD grads in CHEM (Organic, Physical) FUEL T.  
NOV. 2, 3 & 4  
BOEING AIRPLANE CO. for Jan BA BS & 1961 MA MS PHD grads in AERO E CE (with structures interest) EE GEOPHYS ME PHYS. Also Jan BS grads in ENG SCI (U.S. Citizenship required).  
GENERAL ELECTRIC CO. for 1961 PHD grads in CHEM CER T CH E FUEL T EE ENG MECH METAL MATH PHYS.  
NOV. 3  
GULF OIL CORP., Houston Production Dept. for Jan BS & 1961 MS grads in PNG E for production  
GULF OIL CORP., Research & Development Co. for Jan BA BS & 1961 MA MS PHD grads in CHEM (Analytical, Inorganic, Organic, Physical) CH E GEOPHYS MATH PHYS. Also PHD in GEOL for various positions in R & D, Production, computer work, engineering.

# Gazette

- Today
- Accounting Club, 4 p.m., HUB main lounge
- Accounting Club Lecture, 3:15 p.m., HUB assembly room
- Ag Economics, 1 p.m., HUB assembly room
- AIMS Square Dance, 11:30 p.m., HUB ballroom
- Chess Club, 7 p.m., HUB cardroom
- Commonwealth Campus, 7 p.m., 214-218 HUB
- Commonwealth Campuses, 7 p.m., HUB assembly room
- Cosmopolitan Club, 7 p.m., Helen Eisenhower Chapel Lounge, "The French-Algerian War": Debate between an Arab and a French student
- Home Ec Extension, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., 212 HUB
- Interlandia Folk Dance and Workshop, 7:30 p.m., 100 Weaver
- Inter-Varsity Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB
- Inter-Varsity Fellowship, 7:30 p.m., 111 Boucke
- Lutheran Student Association, Bowling Party, 7:30 p.m., L.S.A. Center
- OSGA Registration, 4 p.m., HUB reading room
- Rho Tau Sigma, 10 a.m., 216-218 HUB
- Young Democrats, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., HUB ground floor

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56 Years of Editorial Freedom

# The Daily Collegian

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