

Editorial Opinion

# First Step Toward Action

"Our right to officially express a group opinion through our highest student governing body on any subject even though we cannot offer full answers because of a lack of experience, time and funds cannot be denied or ignored."

Thus reads one of the clauses in a most important resolution which will be introduced by Walter Darran for Assembly consideration Thursday night. The resolution itself states that "effective immediately the SGA Assembly consider and express its opinion on issues of University, local, state, national and international importance."

The resolution essentially calls for a change in the attitudes of our present assemblymen and SGA officers.

In the past, SGA has been limited because it feels somehow that it represents not just the students but the University as a whole.

Presumptuous though it may sound, this has often been precisely the justification given by many student leaders for backing down on such things as compulsory ROTC—because the administration might not agree.

These "leaders" are not sitting in 203 HUB every Thursday to present an image of the whole University to the world, they are sitting there to represent students and they have not yet begun to do their jobs.

Whether or not student "leaders" realize it, their constituency is interested in things other than cheer contests and infirmiry complaints. The mock election, which turned out many more people than the recent SGA fiasco proved that students might be interested in some of the more important issues with which they will live and perhaps handle upon their graduation to the world.

SGA must give students some cause for interest. Why couldn't it take a stand—based upon research and student opinion—on racial discrimination in the South. It should have taken a stand against local housing discrimination long before it established its non-discriminatory list.

The only thing of national interest that SGA took a stand on last year was the non-communist affidavit in the National Defense Education Act. But this was only after President Eric A. Walker actively gave support to the widespread (everywhere but here) objections to it.

At the University of California at

Berkeley we find the student Committee to Abolish the House Un-American Activities Committee (SAC for short) and the Fair Play for Cuba Committee. Here we ignore such issues.

This is not because all students at the Pennsylvania State University are unaware of the world around them but because our student leaders think they are.

DARE was a student organized response against discrimination and it provided an outlet for opinions on the issue. SGA did not provide any such outlet. It spent all its time on its constitution and parliamentary procedure.

Of course, these are easy things to deal with and there is little likelihood that one will think and/or be labeled a "leftist." (Both presumably horrible fates in the eyes of our student leaders.)

On the local level SGA could protest, loudly and actively—compulsory ROTC, the lack of an auditorium, AM radio station and many other things. To go on record as believing that the Pattee Library is inadequate to fill the needs of 16,000 Penn State students, does not mean SGA would have to find ways to make it adequate. This is the job of the administration.

Infirmiry committees and the like should only be considered a minor part of SGA's job; but, so far, these things have taken up a major portion of its time.

No wonder apathy reigns and our "leaders" decry a lack of student support. There is really nothing being done to interest the student.

Hence the serious students often have a tendency to laugh off SGA as something about which they "couldn't care less." Political parties literally have to dig up candidates when they ought to be competing for the honor of responsibly representing their fellow students.

The change in student government (which might be stimulated by Darran's resolution) might mean more student interest and student interest might mean better qualified leaders. The whole level of discussion in the Assembly might eventually be raised to the point where it should be in any University.

The present Assembly has done little to evoke this interest and the weak executive branch has made a bad situation worse. This resolution might be a turning point in the present downhill trend.



Letters

## Suspect Reason for Drill

**TO THE EDITOR:** The fire-drills held in the women's dormitories from 2:30 to 3 a.m. Saturday have led us to question the reasons for after-hour fire drills in general. First let it be stated that fire drills are an important safety measure as well as a legal requirement. The manner in which they are held and the time at which they are held do bear some examination, however.

After-hours fire drills necessitate the use of extra campus cops, extra hours of work by senior residents, and loss of sleep by students who have classes in the morning. The ostensible reason for holding drills after sign-in time is to ensure that all residents of a dorm participate.

Is this 100 per cent participation actually so desirable that it overbalances the real disadvantages and inconveniences of after-hours fire drills? We think not; a fire drill held at 7:30 p.m. for example, might not "catch" all the people living in a dorm, but would certainly be preferable from a standpoint of efficiency and economy.

Perhaps the word "catch" is the crux of the whole matter.

There is a strong feeling among students, perhaps not without basis in fact, that after-hours fire drills are a disguised form of bed check, since absence from a fire drill is grounds for disciplinary action.

Since the official policy of the dean of women's office is "no bed checks," this perversion of the intent of fire drills should come to the attention of Dean Lipp. We are sure she would not knowingly be a party to such duplicity as using disguised bed checks (fire drills) as a means for disciplining students.

In addition, as a question which affects dormitory living, shouldn't policy on after-hours fire drills be considered by AWS?

As a closing remark, we should like to state that fire drills should be concerned with "getting everybody out" rather than "getting everybody in."

- Rhoda Segur, '61
- Mary Ann Tripp, '61
- Pat Scott, '61
- Camilla Dunegan, '61
- Felicenne Houston, '61
- Mara Markova, '62
- Patricia Akmal, '62
- Karen Shallcross, '61

## Drill Exceeds Patience

**TO THE EDITOR:** Through the course of our college career here, we have experienced many changes. And most of them we have accepted in our stride.

For instance, we didn't mind when freshmen were placed in upperclass dormitories. This was for a better Penn State. Nor did we mind the extension of hours for freshmen women. This was supposedly for a better Penn State. Nor do we mind waiting in line for the cook to prepare another "big batch" of Western omelet.

We're even willing to fight for one of the few copies of The Daily Collegian in circulation when we've legally paid for a copy in our student fees.

However, when on the evening of the Mil Ball at approximately 3 a.m. some individual decides to amuse himself by having a fire drill, we've reached the outer limits of our patience. We tend to believe that this opinion is held throughout the campus.

Granted we legally must have fire drills each month. Although they sometimes have inconvenienced us, they were not too unreasonable. But undoubtedly last Friday night's performance was nothing but insane.

This isn't for a better Penn State but only for a bitter one.

- L. J. Marshall, '62
- Joan J. Brass, '62
- Nancy Stewart, '62

## Commercials Criticized

**TO THE EDITOR:** This is a matter which I thought would right itself in time but which seems to be getting worse.

I refer to the "nifty 1450," "the right spot, the light spot, spiced to the listener's ear," etc. and its dollar uber alles advertising policy.

When I have some free time in the evening, I like to relax by listening to music on the radio. But instead of relaxing, my mind is in constant turmoil deciding which of three kinds of beer is best or whether a certain store's merchandise is really a little better than anything I could find anywhere else.

I'm told to buy pizza at several stores and to eat at such and such a place because it's a Penn State tradition. And what red-blooded Penn Stater wouldn't patronize a store that's a co-sponsor of the football games?

These unbearably hackneyed

and often misleading commercials become obnoxious to the point of absurdity. Their psychological overtones, which are as subtle as a kick in the head, leave me groping for superlatives.

Is this situation now prevalent because the State College merchants are just unimaginative money grubbers who aren't capable of presenting decent commercials?

I rather think that the blame is to be shared by our radio station which is gracious enough to afford as much as two minutes for commercials between the records they play.

Since no discretion is used with regard to content or length of commercials; it is not surprising that the merchants lack the incentive to make their commercials concise and informative.

—Nick Borst, '63

Editorials are written by the editors and staff members of The Daily Collegian and do not necessarily represent the views of the University or of the student body.

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56 Years of Editorial Freedom

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## Gazette

TODAY  
TIM, 8 p.m., 203 HUB  
American Meteorology Society, 8 p.m., 214 HUB  
AWS, 7:45 p.m., 216 HUB  
AWS Judicial, noon, 212 HUB  
Chem-Phys Council, 6:45 p.m., 214 HUB  
Chess Club, 8 p.m., HUB card room  
Eng-Arch Council, 6:45 p.m., 219 EE  
Finance Club, 8 p.m., 218 HUB  
Forestry Convocation, 11 a.m., 121 Sparks  
Israeli Folk Dancing, 7:30 p.m., Hillel  
IV Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB  
Modern Dance Workshop, 7 p.m., White Hall  
Pep Rally Dance, 7 p.m., HUB ballroom  
Psych Colloquium, noon, dining room A, HUB  
Sigma Theta Epsilon, 7 p.m., Wesley Foundation  
Sports Car Club, 8 p.m., 212 HUB  
TIM Movies, 12:30 p.m., HUB assembly room  
Women's Chorus, 6:30 p.m., HUB assembly room  
WSGA, 6:30 p.m., 208 HUB  
Zoology Club, 7:30 p.m., 106 Frear

HOSPITAL  
David Bair, James Black, Rosilyn Bonas, Brenda Brunner, Gail Buchanan, Carol Butler, Stanley Christman, William Crawford, Eugenia Casrau, Nicholas Falcone, Robert Fisher, John Glagola, Howard Gleit, Judith Ann Harris, Ronald Hennessey, Stephen Jacobs, Mary Kissinger, Austin Lacy, Edward London, Elizabeth Lott, Alice Mosher, James Murphy, Judith Northup, Judith Price, Arthur Reynolds, Gertrude Riedman, Carolyn Rosol, William Simpson, Richard Smith, Susan Stolzer, Marian Uramey, Carol Wolf, Martha Young.