

Editorial Opinion

Barricades In Government

A barbed-wire barricade is not a pretty thing—especially when it is being built around a supposedly democratic government.

Yet it seems that the SGA reorganization committee may undermine the government it was attempting to construct by the use of such tactics.

Two of the committee's proposals in particular are blatantly authoritarian and should be debated thoroughly before Assembly votes on its future tomorrow night.

The first of these recommends that no bill can be brought to the floor unless approved by three-fourths of the eligible Assembly or brought before rules committee for approval.

The rationale behind this measure seems to be to prevent the recurrence of past situations where an uninformed Assembly voted on a bill it had just accepted for debate.

The rules committee chairman has also admitted difficulty in insuring that sufficient investigation went into the bill if it was hurriedly prepared.

We strongly urge that Assembly maintain the past requirement of approval by two-thirds of the membership to hear legislation.

This would prevent a small minority from binding the hands of the entire Assembly, for either rules committee itself or one-fourth of the Assembly could prevent legislation from ever being heard.

The second proposal is an obvious attempt to silence what in the past has been a critical and vocal minority—the gallery.

The recommendation itself says "have some set rule against members of the gallery speaking during Assembly meeting, except to offer a point of information.

It also gives the chair the right to call a speaker out of order if he oversteps the bounds of information and gives an opinion.

The reorganization committee nicely rationalized this move by saying that it would expedite meetings and encourage the constituents to seek out their Assemblymen.

If Assembly wants to expedite its meetings it alone has the responsibility of being informed, both on the issues and on parliamentary procedure.

Student government operates on a minute scale when compared to a national government and therefore has ample room for direct expression or opinion.

Let the Assembly not violate basic democracy by placing undue limitations on the gallery for the sake of efficiency.

Democracy is not, by nature, the most efficient form of government. Autocracies and aristocracies are smoother and wonderfully efficient, but as the world situation today proves, not necessarily in the best interest of those governed.

The right of the gallery to speak should most certainly be maintained.

\* \* \* \* \*

We would offer just one warning to the Assembly.

The constitution which SGA members will debate tomorrow night needs only one reading and the approval of a majority of the members present to become a government.

We urge Assembly to act cautiously, to question each proposal regardless of the "inefficiency" this might entail.

We ask that they postpone their approval if necessary until they are certain they have considered all the potential dangers and implications of their constitution and have taken steps to remedy future abuses before they occur.

Only when student government has a truly democratic constitution will it regain pride and stature in the eyes of its people, the 13,120 undergraduates on this campus.

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Letters

Hunger Strike Proposed to 'Back Budget'

TO THE EDITOR: In the days of my innocent youth (pre-PSU) I suffered under the illusion that "something could be done" about most anything.

But now I see student attempts to procure a larger appropriation from the state either stifled or non-existent, so perhaps the expectations of my younger days were too extreme. Hopeful of revitalizing student energies, may I suggest the following actions to be taken both by SGA and the individual students:

● Obtain official support of the faculty for one specific day on which classes could be cut without fear of retribution so that a large portion of the student body could travel to Harrisburg. It appears that the Administration (I use capitals loosely) will not officially allow such a day.

● Charter a caravan of buses for the use of those students who are not rich capitalists. This would be safer and more practical for all concerned.

● To inform and to activate the masses here on campus, have prominent student orators return to the soapbox style of delivery. Rabble rousing speeches could be given between classes or wherever the gathering of a crowd makes it advisable.

● Assign students to personally contact each legislator; make appointments to see every one; go to them with facts and figures; impress upon them the importance of the University.

● Have a hunger strike. Imagine — 15,000 starving students! This might even bring us depressed aid from Washington. Am I hoping for too much? I don't think so; as a "simple soul" I believe in the efficaciousness of action.

—Karen Tuton, '64

Sophomore Hits Turkey Draggers

TO THE EDITOR: Our letter is directed primarily at Misses Kaplan and Cimmons and Messers Schwartz and Miller whom we yesterday observed dragging a turkey around campus by means of a rope attached to its leg.

While we have hitherto considered Spring Week a fairly innocuous event, such senseless cruelty as this places the event in an entirely different category: one of negative worth. We wish to propose that the turkey be returned to his cage and that campus cruelty in the future be limited to humans.

—Gerald Burman, '63  
Russell Greenfield, '63  
James Rothrock, '62  
David Snediker, Grad

Gazette

TODAY

- AIM, 8 p.m., HUB 203  
AWS, 6:30 p.m., 203 HUB  
Camera Club, 7:30 p.m., 217-218 HUB  
Chess Club, 7 p.m., HUB cardroom  
Collegian Credit Staff, 7 p.m., 8 Carnegie  
Fresh Advisory Board, 6:30 p.m., 216-216 HUB  
Investment Club, 8 p.m., 212 HUB  
I.V.C.P., 12:45 p.m., 212 HUB  
La Critique open meeting, 7:30 p.m., 214 HUB  
Machine Records Conf., 8-5, AH 214-218  
Men's Residence Council, 7:30 p.m., 217 HUB  
Phi Epsilon Kappa, 9 p.m., 214 HUB  
Pi Eta Sigma, 5 p.m., HUB ballroom  
Pi Sigma Alpha, 7 p.m., 213 HUB  
Realstate Club, 7 p.m., Beta Sigma Rho  
Sportscar Club, 8 p.m., 214 Boucke  
TIM, 12 p.m., HUB assembly hall  
Women's Chorus, 8:30 p.m., HUB assembly hall

Letters

Graduate Supports NSA

TO THE EDITOR: A point which was raised in the recent election campaign should be clarified and stressed. One candidate for SGA president suggested that Penn State might rejoin the U.S. National Student Association, whereupon another candidate felt compelled to call the NSA a "pink" and "leftist" group.

Unfortunately the first candidate did not answer the charge, but withdrew his support from NSA. (The winning candidate, as far as I know, made no public statement on the issue.)

Contrary to campaign assertions, the National Student Association is the most highly respected student organization in the country, except among those individuals who are farther right than Barry Goldwater.

President Kennedy has pointed out the Association's "generous and effective contributions in many areas of public policy," particularly its "most significant and path-breaking role in expanding opportunities for educational assistance and exchange to the underdeveloped areas of the world."

Richard Nixon has commended the group for "the splendid work you are doing to advance student aims and to contribute to our American way of life."

And an editorial in the not-quite-left-wing New York

Times last August concluded, "For its 13-year record and for its efforts to widen its area of concern and responsibility, the United States National Student Association deserves the commendation of all."

NSA is also the largest student organization in the nation, and probably does more to make student opinion felt in public life than any other.

It would appear to me that the Penn State student body could obtain much benefit from membership in NSA — because it would reduce Penn State's lamentable isolation from the world; because it would simplify the problem of obtaining information and experienced advice on many issues which face student government; and because it would give PSU some voice in matters which affect the nation's students as a whole.

Penn State withdrew from the Association several years ago, partly because of personality conflicts on campus and partly, I think, because NSA firmly supports democratic student government and opposes rule by Administration or secret societies.

Neither reason for withdrawing was a worthy one; there are many good reasons for rejoining. I hope the Assembly and the new SGA president will give earnest consideration to the good reasons.

—Alan Elms, '60

● Letter cut

CD Supported By Sophomore

TO THE EDITOR: The individuals who protested against civil defense maneuvers last Friday afternoon appear to have a salient lack of common sense. If they believe they can settle the problem of world peace by waving an olive branch in the face of the Russian regime they had better review their history lessons.

They stated "... fallout ... would contaminate the atmosphere for years." An incomplete picture is rendered here. This atmospheric contamination does not necessarily have to be harmful for years.

If it would be, why would the CD organization advise only enough rations and necessities for 72 hours after a bombing? As for CD creating an "Hysterical emotional impact" I think the only people who suffer from this are Friday's CD protestors.

If the Soviets merciless intrusion ever comes they can preach their sermon of peace to the oncoming warheads. I think that will be the extent of their congregation.

—Thomas Hunsinger, '63

WDFM Schedule

WEDNESDAY

- 3:25 Financial Tidbits  
3:30 Stock Market Reports  
4:00 Critics Choice  
5:00 Music at Five  
6:00 Studio X  
6:55 Weatherscope  
7:00 CAMPUS BEAT  
10:00 Virtuoso  
12:00 Sign Off  
HUB

Postal Speed Questioned

TO THE EDITOR: I am interested as to the reasons why it takes a letter 74½ hours to travel from the HUB post office to the Pollock A post office, a distance of 1,250 feet, and it only takes 19 hours for a letter to travel from the Wilkes Barre post office to the Pollock A post office, a distance of 134 miles.

The only deduction which I can make is that delivery time is an inverse function of distance. I would appreciate it if any other logical explanations for this phenomenon would be forwarded to me.

—M. Louis Lieberman, '63

Student Makes New Proposal

TO THE EDITOR: Recently various minority groups of Penn State students have been holding demonstrations to arouse public opinion in favor of the groups' objectives.

I would like to propose another such organization whose purpose would be to stamp out demonstrations.

What this organization would do would be to plan a series of demonstrations against demonstrations. By these demonstrations we would hope to arouse public opinion against demonstrations.

I am sure a horn-honking caravan through town and campus at 3 a.m. or something of a similar nature would be quite effective to this end.

—G. Leary, '63

