

# No! Dr. Pepinsky

By STEPHEN R. BLUM  
Contributing Writer

Several months ago Dr. Raymond Pepinsky, research professor of physics, made the statement that "the function of the university is research . . . Students are secondary to the purpose of the university."

Because this statement, in an extreme way, is typical of a certain sort of faculty ideology, I think that we might examine it.

The functions of the University, as President Walker has repeatedly said, are research, extension, and teaching.

This listing is not given in order of preference or importance — it is given primarily to restate a basic proposition: The Pennsylvania State University exists for the benefit of its students and, indirectly, for the populace of the Commonwealth.

A teacher, by definition, is one who teaches, instructs, etc. Granted, he also teaches himself — but as the word is here interpreted, he instructs others. The university does not exist to provide an Ivory Tower for basic research — be it in philosophy or physics.

Research, be it in the humanities or the sciences, has given our civilization many benefits.

He who denies the worth of such inquiries would be he who frowns upon invention, advancement, and the enlargement of human knowledge.

It is only recently that research in the sciences has been accorded the status of a worthwhile endeavor for its own sake. Anyone slightly familiar with the history of science knows of the malice heaped upon Copernicus and the death of Galileo.

In the past 75 years technological and theoretical research have expanded man's knowledge of his universe, and of himself, more than would have been dreamed of some 200 years ago.

As the bounteous gifts of the fruits of research have reached greater and greater heights so, too has the esteem in which we hold the endeavor known as research.

This growing esteem is to be fully expected. The growth of esteem becomes dangerous at only one point — when it reaches the stage of deification.

When research attempts to replace other functions (such as teaching) by merely asserting its vast powers of the purse and of scientific influence, at this point it is time for a few well-considered objections.

OBJECTION: Research when conducted in an academic atmosphere, is relatively free of much of the external controls of business and industry.

In return for this freedom

that the university grants the researcher, I believe that the researcher is obliged to provide the university with prestige from experimental results and with help in caring for other university functions, in this case teaching.

OBJECTION: It must not be forgotten that the world of economic realities, at some point, must enter into even the most astute regions of academia. Research must be paid for.

I, personally, would not like to think that that share of my tuition (or my federal taxes) that goes into research is a share that I am asked to give and then just meekly attend the University, hoping that some researcher will find the time to teach me.

Having contributed to the great god I wish it, in turn, would bring its great mind down to my low-status level (that of student — undergraduate type) and give me an academic rather than a technological return on my investment.

OBJECTION: I think it is usually true that a distinguished researcher is also a good teacher.

That these scholars should not want to teach is depriving the student of the prime material for learning (i.e. good teachers).

It is, I think, a sad comment on this University, both its student body as well as its faculty and administration, that when the basic concept of a modern university is suddenly challenged, by a member of that university's faculty, that no one stands up to offer but a small disagreement.

Mr. Pepinsky, and certainly not he alone, must remember that this university must not be and cannot be a mere collection of scholars.

This sort of academic fraternalism reeks of academic snobbery of the worst order. It is the sort of snobbery which says: to hell with any teaching, I have far more important things to do.

Mr. Pepinsky, TOCS did not only mean less country-club atmosphere and more study, it also was a sincere protest, on the part of students and faculty, that we get to the business of teaching rather than the business of condemning anything that interferes with our projects.

# Weather Watchers

Snowed

by Joel Myers

Hurricane activity may appear to increase during the next several years, but there is no cause for people residing in hurricane susceptible areas or insurance companies to become alarmed.

The actual number of hurricanes will probably show no significant change, but increased observational facilities aided primarily by a network of weather satellites will detect storms that previously went unnoticed.

The vast tropical oceans that serve as the spawning grounds for hurricanes are characterized by their lack of weather information. Few ships frequent tropical waters, so weathermen send hurricane hunter planes through the area in search of tropical cyclones during the season.

Because of the limited routes of these flights, at least one or two hurricanes each year probably go undetected as they develop and dissipate far from any land areas. These unnoticed storms do not cause any damage, but knowledge of their existence and characteristics would aid weather forecasters.

A network of weather satel-

lites equipped with television cameras will soon provide weathermen with a complete and continuous picture of the earth's cloud formations. They will allow meteorologists to watch tropical depressions develop into tropical storms and finally mature into hurricanes.

This will provide valuable data on tropical storm development, one of the fascinating mysteries of meteorology.

The usefulness of the Tiros weather satellites will not be restricted to tropical storms. The weather patterns in Africa, Australia, Asia and the vast oceanic areas of the world, usually incomplete because of insufficient weather data, will probably be more accurately determined when the satellites are in orbit.

Data gathered from these satellites should unlock some of the mysteries that shroud many weather processes, and it may also increase the accuracy of weather forecasts for island and coastal locations, which must now depend upon scattered and often unreliable reports from ships at sea.



MYERS

## WDFM Schedule

- Today
- 6:00 p.m. Summer Serenade
  - 7:00 p.m. Washington Reports
  - 7:15 p.m. Album Review
  - 7:30 p.m. News and Weather
  - 7:45 p.m. Album Review
  - 8:00 p.m. Show Music
  - 8:30 p.m. Starlight Review
  - 9:30 p.m. Opinion 15
  - 10:00 p.m. Chamber Concert
  - 12:00 midnight Sign Off

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