

Editorial Opinion

Thanksgiving Recess: A Time For Adjustment

Thanksgiving vacations have a tendency to make their presence or absence apparent to the student body at this time each year.

The initiation of the four-term system has brought along a "hangover" in the form of the scheduled one-day Thanksgiving recess and the three extra days found in this fall's calendar.

The chairman of the Senate Committee on Calendar and Class Schedule and the chief scheduling officer Tuesday agreed that no plans had been decreed as to the use of these three days.

The student body, it seems, may have a different view of these three, non-recurring, days of grace which fall just ten days before final examinations.

These days, we feel, could be most profitably used by the students for concentrated study. The arduous four-term plan places an unprecedented premium on study hours.

Things were rough at the end of a semester, and it is likely to suppose that the situation will not be improved by the attenuated term.

Dr. Robert Bernreuter, special assistant to the president for student affairs, adroitly pointed out recently that the first few terms of our new academic schedule will require many adjustments on the part of the faculty and students.

One of the hardest adjustments for students to make will be to adequately prepare for final examinations without the benefit of the two-week exam period under the old semester schedule.

This desire for a Thanksgiving recess is far from capricious or whimsical in nature, but would be extremely beneficial to a student body trying to adapt to a new academic schedule.

Therefore, we urge that a suitable plan be worked out for a Thanksgiving recess.

This plan, we feel, should declare Friday and Saturday as part of the now one-day holiday, and should emphasize that students use this time for study for approaching final examinations.

We realize that it would be impossible to legislate the use of the time, but the new emphasis on achievement and the rising calibre of the student body lead us to believe that it would be used to scholastic benefit by most students.

The head of the Food and Housing Department said yesterday that if the students do get a recess, his department could work out the attendant problems of reformulating food preparation in the dining halls.

We urge its most serious consideration by members of the faculty and administration, with assurance that the student body is willing to work out a specific plan for presentation to Dr. Walker and the University Senate.

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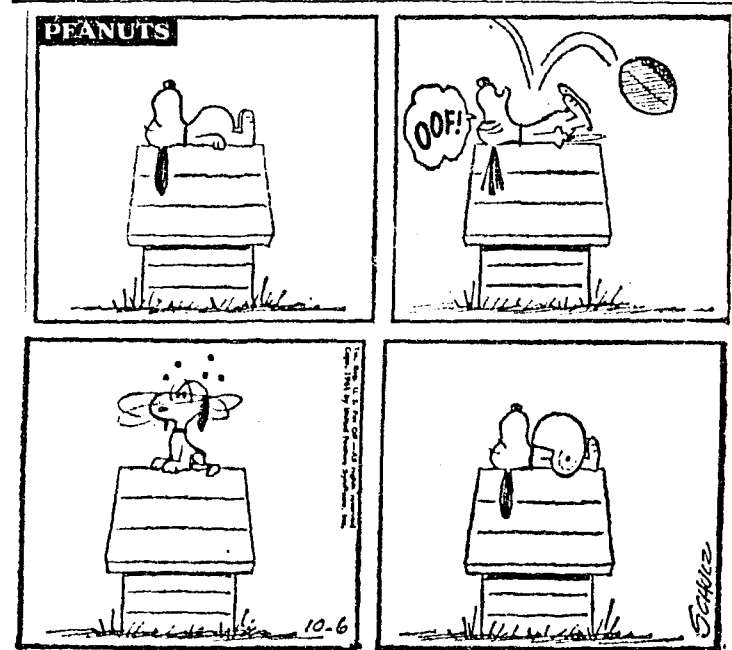
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JOHN BLACK Editor

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Interpreting

12 Countries Take Action In Conference

By J. M. ROBERTS Associated Press News Analyst

While 23 unaligned nations and the Algerian rebels were waltzing around with major world issues in Belgrade last month, criticizing the Western powers at points but walking softly with regard to the Soviet Union, 12 newly independent nations were gathering at Tananarive on a different tack.

They were 12 French-speaking nations of Africa - Mauritania, Senegal, Upper Volta, Niger, Chad, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville - and Malagasy, calling themselves the African and Malagasy Union.

They adopted a diplomatic convention covering their formal relations, and provided for regular consultation and a concerted foreign policy, especially in the United Nations.

In a communique and a formal statement of aims they criticized all colonialism, agreed to ask the United Nations for formal action against it and, as the Belgrade group did not, most specifically included the Soviet Union with Portugal and South Africa among the colonial powers.

The world was so busy trying to evaluate the Tito-Nasser-Nehru-Sukarno show in Belgrade that the Tananarive conference got almost no attention.

Yet the 12 nations adopted the major Allied line regarding West Berlin and the all-German question, calling for self-determination on both points.

They joined in "condemning the initiative of the Soviet Union" for resuming nuclear tests.

They specifically commended France and Britain for their efforts to lead former dependencies toward independence.

They agreed to memorialize the United Nations for a greater economic aid program of its own - as suggested later by President Kennedy - to make independence meaningful, and to help produce democratic regimes.

They sympathized with Tunisia, but commended both De Gaulle and Bourguiba for moves to straighten out that conflict.

They agreed to ask all U.N. members to break diplomatic relations with Portugal, and to deprive South Africa of the West African mandate.

They went solidly on record against the Soviet "troika" proposal for the United Nations.

Letters

Students Ask Longer Recess

TO THE EDITOR: In reference to your article, Wednesday, Oct. 4, 1961, concerning the extra days added to the fall term, we have a suggestion.

It seems to us that the term is set up to benefit the faculty only, since they are free to do as they please with the three extra days.

We suggest that these days be used as a Thanksgiving vacation. Thanksgiving is one of the few times of the year that is considered a family occasion. Many students, especially those who live out of state, will be unable to go home until this time and therefore this vacation is one which is eagerly anticipated.

Due to the fact that the Pitt game falls on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, this will enable many students to attend it without cutting classes. This time also could be used to study for final examinations.

- Judy Danzer, '62 -Mary Ann Weaver, '62 -Helen Oakes, '62 -Jackie Hatters, '63 -Gail Farrell, '63

Blackboard

Responsible Hat

by Johnny Black

For the past few years most hat societies on this campus have spent a goodly portion of their meeting time trying to determine just what their little rain-shedder stands for.

Unwilling to accept a lot solely as recognition societies, and unable to find many service projects to perform for the University, the organizations floundered around in a nebulous sort of twilight zone in an atmosphere which has become increasingly more academic.

This situation seemed to induce a reverse psychological effect. To wear one's hat apparently became considered an egocentric display of one's desire for social status, rather than a symbol of the further responsibilities imposed by the recognition of leadership.



BLACK

Recognition societies of all types abound on every campus. But recognition is warranted only if it brings with it the realization of continued and increased responsibility.

The presidents of the existing

hat societies this week made one small effort towards restoring this responsibility - be it by planning activities to replace potentially dangerous spontaneous actions or just to maintain a personality and individualness in this IBM-card society which is becoming cold and impersonal as the student enrollment mushrooms. They formed Hat Society Council.

This did not give them another shingle to cover the holes in their walls. It did not add to their stockpile of rainy day headware.

It did obligate them to at least one more meeting per term. It did obligate them to a serious attempt to restore responsibility to their undirected organizations.

Under democratic principles this is better done by the decision of the group than by the dictates of one man. And by experience, it has been seen that more can be accomplished through a council than a one-man "coordinator."

World at a Glance

Berlin Fight May Influence Soviet Talks

WASHINGTON (AP) - The echo of the gunfight between East and West Berlin police reverberated in Washington yesterday on the eve of the conference between President Kennedy and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei A. Gromyko. Washington officials, making last-minute preparations for the White House talks, were seriously concerned over the shots exchanged Wednesday and yesterday on the border of East and West Berlin.

The State Department termed the shooting "a dramatic and tragic story which speaks for itself and requires no embellishment."

The statement urged the Soviet Union to prevent such incidents which it said "seriously jeopardize peace and public order in Berlin."

The department made it clear the United States is convinced the West Berlin police defended themselves against Communist East German provocation.

Auto Strikers Stay Jobless

DETROIT (AP) - The nation's first full-scale auto strike in a decade moved through its third day at Ford Motor Co. yesterday with no signs of immediate progress toward settlement.

Since 10 a.m. Tuesday 120,000 production workers who belong to the United Auto Workers Union have been idle. Ford says their wages, when working, run \$2.6 million daily.

Negotiators were attempting to iron out differences at 47 local bargaining units, 17 of them at the huge Rouge complex in suburban Dearborn.

For the first time federal mediators appeared at the downtown hotel where negotiations have been going on and talked with both sides. There was no indication of federal intervention.

Agreements were reached with 26 locals prior to the strike and 12 other locals had no demands.

Elderly Groom Admits Real Age at Wedding

LONDON (AP) - There was only one thing wrong with 102-year-old Sidney Thain's wedding - he was not 102.

"I'm sorry I hoaxed the nation," he said yesterday. "There has been a mistake."

Advertised on television as the wedding of the oldest bridegroom in Britain, the ceremony was attended by 5,000 persons. TV cameras recorded the arrival of the bridegroom and widow Maud Franklin, 73.

Sidney turned up in a chauffeur-driven limousine, the bride in a carriage drawn by two gray horses, all paid for by well-wishers.

The British public heaped presents on the man they thought was starting a new life at the age of 102.

Then a doubting newspaper reporter handed him a reproduction of his birth certificate. After an embarrassing pause, Sidney said, "I seem to have made a slight mistake. I'm not 102. I'm just 79."

Cancer Revealed In Rayburn Test

DALLAS, Tex., (AP) - Sam Rayburn, veteran speaker of the House of Representatives and "Mr. Democrat" to millions of Americans, is suffering from cancer, Baylor Hospital officials revealed yesterday.

An aide of the 79-year-old Texas congressman said the cancer is incurable.

"It may be just a matter of a few days," the aide said when asked how much time. Doctors later said, "This thing could last for several weeks."

In Washington, President Kennedy voiced deep sorrow over the medical verdict and urged the nation "to join with me and Mrs. Kennedy in prayer for Speaker Rayburn, who has served his nation so well and so faithfully for so many years."

Gazette

- TODAY Folklore Society Registrations, 5 p.m., across from HUB Assembly Hall Graduate Student Mixer, 9 p.m., HUB ballroom Interlandia Folk Dance for beginners, 7:30 p.m., 301 Engineering A Intersarsity Christian Fellowship, 7:30 p.m., 111 Boucke Pa. Sociological Society, 7 p.m., HUB assembly hall Penn State Bible Fellowship, 12:15 p.m., 212 HUB Philosophy Club, 7:30 p.m., 212-213 HUB