

## Editorial Opinion

### Practical Aid to Adjustment

The tenor of administrative comments made yesterday on the feasibility of a Thanksgiving recess are evasive, vacuous and illogical and seem to be better arguments for a recess than against it.

Dr. Robert Bernreuter, special assistant to the president for student affairs, said students have a "big investment" in their grades and a recess would be too great a "risk" on their part.

Certainly the students have a "big investment" in their grades. That is exactly why they need the recess to study and catch up for finals. Therefore, not having a recess would impose the "risk," rather than the other way around.

Dr. Bernreuter further introduces the "practicality versus sentimentality" issue.

Is it really so impractical for students to seek some class-free time for study and general absorption of the ideas, principles and information that have been hurled at them for nine weeks?

**We think not. Furthermore, one of the chief philosophical objections to the four term plan, on this campus and others that have adopted similar schedules, has been the total elimination of digestion time.**

The nature of mental work follows no precise timetable, but often necessitates time to organize and invest-gate principles in an atmosphere that is less pressured and slower-paced than the classroom.

But since this doesn't fit into the term plan, it is said to be "impractical."

Dr. Bernreuter said, "Most of us haven't learned to make the transition to this new type of program. I think most students are finding that the pace required is too great to take a break then, especially right before final examinations."

Because the pace is too great is exactly the reason a break is needed. And the time is just right for the explicit purpose of preparing for final examinations.

**Dr. Bernreuter seems to see students as something like steelmills. If you bank the mill's fire for an hour it takes days to get that mill going again.**

The mind may be analogous to a muscle, but not to a machine or a foundry.

Simply because the pace is great, simply because final examinations are so close, simply because human beings are not machines—a recess would be invaluable.

**We think, however, there may be more subtle points in these evasive statements that only beg the question than is at first apparent.**

Many members of the faculty and Administration may be against a change in schedule because of a contradictory form of inertia. This means that initiation of and adjustment to the plan has disrupted many concepts and procedures for both these groups as well as for the student body.

The faculty and administration therefore are hesitant to disrupt the schedule once again, especially since this would cause them inconvenience.

In this case we will reemphasize that the student body regards such a recess not as the other half of the coin (i.e. convenience) but as a practical measure to aid their adjustment to the term and to air their academic consumption before final exams.

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## A False Image of Strength

by joel myers

Since Russia launched Sputnik I in October 1957, an inflated image of Russian military strength has been growing among the peoples of the world.

This false illusion has convinced many people that the world will soon be destroyed or enveloped by Communism.

If Russia had the ability to take over the world while preserving herself, Communist leaders would unleash World War III without hesitation. However, Russia does not possess this ability.

She has at her disposal terrible weapons which could reign mass destruction on

### Letters

#### Soph Labels Myers' Critics 'Uninformed'

**TO THE EDITOR:** Concerning the reply of three misinformed students to Joel Myers' article about the outcome of a U.S.-U.S.S.R. nuclear war, I would like to extend some of Mr. Myers' points that were criticized without sufficient knowledge of the facts.

First of all, Russia is known to have no more than about 46 to 50 ICBM's capable of reaching the U.S.

**Second, of the few that might get through, how many would hit the target effectively? Russia's missiles are huge and powerful, but are not known for their accuracy.**

Then comes the factor that was overlooked or not appreciated by Mr. Small, Miss Rubin, and Miss Small. There are over 70 nuclear-equipped missiles and air bases operated by the U.S. that literally surround the U.S.S.R.—each capable of laying waste to several Russian cities before their missiles would ever reach the U.S.

Don't count the Polaris subs out of the running, either. Before Russia could ever hope to attempt a full-scale nuclear war, these bases must be destroyed.

**With a limited ICBM stockpile, and no operational bomber of any threat that could compare to the B-58 "Hustler," any sort of full-scale war would be sheer lunacy and plain suicide for Russia.**

If any of my points wish to be argued, I refer you to Major Alexander DeSeversky's recent publication, *America, Too Young to Die*.

The information I used was extracted from a series of articles featured in the Pittsburgh Press by Major DeSeversky. Many other interesting facts are revealed about Russia in his book. I suggest Mr. Small, Miss Rubin, and Miss Small review the book before drawing any more conclusion.

—George M. Ballog '64

#### Campus Beat: Crazy Weather, Confused Frosh

For the past several weeks everybody has been talking about the heat. First it was in connection with all the hot weather we were having. Now they are talking about the lack of it in some of the classroom buildings.

During customs a Frosh was asked where he lived. Not to be outdone by the upperclassman who stopped him, the Frosh politely replied Stalag 38. He later explained he meant Nittany 38.

One of the most missed questions during the early part of customs was who was the dean of admissions. Very few freshmen could remember that it was he who delivered the main address at their convocation during orientation week.

Poor losers were the few students who thought they were doing the right thing by hanging Rip Engle in effigy on the Mall after the Miami loss.

—Prof Wayne

large sections of the world. However, the present distribution of weapons does not give her the ability to destroy the United States while escaping annihilation herself.

Both Russian and American leaders realize that the U.S. has a decisive weapons advantage, but both have found it expedient to propagate an inflated picture of Soviet strength.

To maintain the momentum of Communism, Soviet leaders have channeled much of their scientific facilities into rockets and spectacular feats in order to impress the peoples of the world. They have succeeded.

If the United States is to maintain its military superiority and embark on a more offensive diplomatic policy, the American public must be fed a steady diet of Russian gains and American failures.

Under the portrait of over-inflated Soviet strength, Communist leaders act out a psychological play which is directed at the peoples of the world. The acts of that performance pass alternately from scenes of improving relations with the West to gestures aimed at increasing tensions.

**The greater development of the Soviet strength image during past months has caused the frequency and amplitude of these oscillations to increase.**

Having just passed the point of worst relations, Russia will undoubtedly accelerate her bid for "co-existence," and as relations between the U.S. and Russia improve, Khrushchev will probably begin to promote another Summit conference.

Summit conferences fit neatly into the Communist "show," because they allow Khrushchev to command an unearned position as world leader.

**Inevitably, Khrushchev is the man who calls for the conference. He is the man upon whom progress depends. He is the man who ultimately torpedoes the conference. All of these seemingly wasteful actions serve as a psychological victory for the Communist world.**

The apparent control and power exhibited by the Soviet leader at the Summit conveys an image of Soviet strength far beyond its merit.

The fact that Russia is not really the strongest power on earth causes disturbances to become superimposed on their cycle of actions.

The propaganda setback which Russia suffered as a result of her decision to resume nuclear testing was one of these small-scale disturbances.

Khrushchev's overplaying in the Berlin act forced Russia into a show of strength, so the Communists aren't forced to give ground in the forthcoming negotiations.

**Unfortunately for the United States, erratic and ill-designed foreign policy have often aided Russian psychological maneuvers.**

The U2 incident, instead of being used to point up glaring deficiencies in Russian defenses, was turned into a show of apparent U.S. weakness and indecisiveness.

The Cuban invasion, which Russian propaganda machines have convinced a large portion of the world was executed by U.S. troops, is being used by the Communists as an example of U.S. military weakness.

**And the Summit conference,**

(Continued on page five)

### Letters

#### Soph Foresees Lonely Recess, Requests Help

**TO THE EDITOR:** When Mr. Read and his committee review the calendar, perhaps it would be wise for them to consider a problem which will be arising in a few months.

I refer to the period known to most American college students as Spring Vacation.

**When we go home in mid-March for one generous 10-day recess, we will find our friends and sweethearts who attend other universities too busy studying for their finals to spend any time with us.**

We will spend our ten days at home while our friends are attending classes.

A minority that will be affected is the group planning to go to Fort Lauderdale. The beach will be rather empty with no one there but a handful of Penn Staters and year-round residents.

I suggest that our between-term period be shortened by several days. These can be combined with the 3½ extra days in the latter two terms to give us a spring vacation that will coincide with that of other colleges and universities.

—Steve Monheimer '64

#### Junior Questions Seating Policy

**TO THE EDITOR:** Athletic receipts — football receipts in specific — have furnished funds for such projects as Stone Valley, The Ice Skating Pavilion, etc. I feel that these receipts are necessary for a better Penn State.

However, hasn't someone forgotten the "real" purpose of athletics? (i.e.) to give the student a place to blow steam off via non-destructive acts.

What I am driving at is that I have a friend who will be here for a weekend. We wish to see the football game, but I have to buy two, not one, tickets if we are to be allowed to sit together. Why is this so?

—Curtis H. Bonser '63

(Editors Note: Because your friend, a non-student, cannot take the room to which a University student is entitled.)

## Gazette

TODAY

Agriculture Student Council, 6:30 p.m., 217-218 HUB  
Angel Flight Pledges, 6:20 p.m., Phi Beta Phi suite, Pollock 2  
Association of U.S. Army rushing smoker, 7:30 p.m., Alpha Zeta  
Book Exchange, 6:30 p.m., HUB assembly hall  
Candidates for Basketball Manager, 7 p.m., 241 Rec Hall  
Collegian Credit Staff, 4 p.m., Collegian Office  
Greek Week Exchange Dinners, 7 p.m., 213 HUB  
Journalism Club, 7:30 p.m., Delta Zeta suite, Pollock 2  
Liberal Arts Lecture Series, 7:30 p.m., HUB assembly hall  
Liberal Arts Reception, 8:30 p.m., HUB main lounge  
Liberal Party Steering Committee, 9 p.m., 212 HUB  
Marine, 8 a.m., HUB ground floor and 213 HUB  
Navy, 10 a.m., HUB ground floor  
Panhel, 6:30 p.m., 203 HUB  
P.S. Bible Fellowship, 12:15 p.m., 212 HUB  
UBA, 9 a.m., HUB cardroom  
UCA, 8 a.m., HUB first floor