

Editorial Opinion

The Question of Justice

The present disciplinary structure at Penn State is a complex mixture composed of many organizations, the judicial boundaries of which are ill-defined.

This decentralized disciplinary set-up has caused considerable confusion because there is no central body to which all disciplinary agencies are ultimately responsible.

There are seven "dispensing" agencies: the Administrative Committee on Student Affairs, the Senate Committee on Student Affairs, subcommittee on discipline, the Dean of Men's office, the Dean of Women's office, the Association of Women Students judicial, the Men's Residence Council judicial and the SGA Supreme Court.

Not all of these agencies, however, are recognized by the student body as regulatory in nature. The SGA Supreme Court, for example, has in the past only acted when the constitutionality of an SGA issue has been contested.

In addition, not all the functions of all these groups overlap. That men should sit on men's tribunals, and women on women's cannot be contested.

However, too often the regulations set up by and interpretations fostered within some of these groups prove to be contrary to regulations and interpretations on the same subject in other of the judicial groups.

The most prominent example of this occurred in the spring of 1960 when AWS permitted women to visit men's apartments and the Dean of Men's office didn't.

The decision was left to the Senate Committee on Student Affairs, but AWS withdrew the permission before the Senate committee considered it.

Contradiction is not the only problem raised by this diverse set up. Because no one ultimate authority is responsible for rules, the discipline function itself can be arbitrarily shifted—often surreptitiously and without the knowledge or consent of the governed.

The SGA Evaluation Workshop at Student Encampment hit upon an exemplary solution to this situation—although it may not have been recognized as such.

The workshop recommended that SGA seek final governmental jurisdiction in one area of student affairs and that this be included in the constitution presented to the Senate Committee on Student Affairs.

SGA President Dennis Folanini recommended to the Senate committee that this area of student control should be the judicial.

This would mean that all courts and regulatory agencies dealing with student affairs and welfare would be integrated into the SGA court system.

The system would include an appellate structure with appeals made to the SGA Supreme Court. The final appeal would be made to the Senate Committee on Student Affairs itself, not the small and tightly controlled disciplinary sub-committee which is currently the highest group to which students may appeal.

In addition, rules governing student conduct, although made by AWS and MRC could be appealed to the court by petition of the students in the area affected.

Students in the past have sometimes found themselves in the unfortunate position of feeling unfairly chastised by one or another of the current regulatory bodies.

In the next few weeks the Senate Committee on Student Affairs will be meeting to consider the SGA revised Constitution. As they do so, we ask that they give much serious discussion to this area of judicial regulation which, in its present form, provides dangerous opportunity for abuse or maleficence.

We ask that they give a re-vitalized student government the opportunity to prove itself. We ask, finally, that they cease to be hampered by the status-quo, which is imperfect, and that they constructively seek to protect the rights and dignity of the student body.

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Letters

Soph Hits Myers' Reasoning

TO THE EDITOR: Concerning the semi-informed reply to the reply by three misinformed students to the usual unfounded statements of the ultimately misinformed Mr. Myers.

First I must say that I can not back up my information by referring the reader to a book. Most of my information was obtained from such obscure sources as front pages of newspapers and newscasts.

The comparative numbers of missiles seem approximately correct so I will not contest this fact, nor will I contest the fact that there are many military (some with missiles) bases throughout the world (Italy, Germany, Cuba, etc.)

Russia's missiles are as was stated, big though their accuracy is only fair, but do you have any idea of the area of destruction of a bomb the size of which can be carried by these missiles.

A near miss of quite some distance can cause quite significant damage to its target. It can, in fact, be considered a hit.

Everyone seems rather confident that we are going to shoot down all but a few missiles, everyone except the military, that is.

At the present time we would be hard pressed to intercept any missiles. Even when operational Niki-Zeus would be doing quite well if it got 50 per cent of the attacking missiles. It is also quite foolish to believe that the Russians are not developing a similar missile.

Everyone seems to be disregarding the intercontinental bomber, still our most powerful weapon of war. During the last Russian air show a flight of bombers flew past which, while in the same class as the B-58, were faster and had larger payloads.

The Russians also have thousands of bombers capable of either making a round trip bombing mission or a one way trip (which they will make.)

The Russian power is not just publicity, it is a threat which can wipe every living thing off the face of this planet.

Before our patriotic Mr. Myers goes shouting from the rooftops that we are superior in arms, let him consider that the absence of war does not indicate superiority, merely enough power to make it unprofitable to attack us.

—Harold Harrington '64

Letters

A Parody In One Act: 'For the Eternal Glory'

TO THE EDITOR: For the proverbial glory of, etc.

(Place: A room in Mold Brain, the administrative building of Bland Pate Univ. Two men, X and Y, are talking.)

X: "Hey, Y baby, how you like that ol' four term plan? It's murder, isn't it, kid?"

You see those guys dropping like flies out there? This is really great! We can get so many more kids in here and make metabolizing socio-economic statistics out of them this way."

Y: (Nodding head enthusiastically, leaping onto chandelier and swinging back and forth across room.)

"Yeah, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah. And the way it altered the brain structure of the human organism is fantastic—only last spring it took two weeks to prepare for finals, and now they can do it with no time at all. What a genetic breakthrough. What glory for old BPU!"

X: Get off the light you fool—you want to get sent back . . .

Y: Anyway, it sure was a stroke of genius you had with that football game situation—making all 18,000 of them come back a week early so they wouldn't tie up traffic.

That really put them in their proper perspective. But now we're stuck with those extra days. Maybe if we just keep it quiet . . .

(Door bursts open and a messenger tumbles in. He is covered with blood and is panting furiously.)

Mess: They . . . (gasp) . . . found . . . out . . . They . . . want . . . two extra . . . days . . . to . . . study.

X: Nonsense! That's all

changed now. This Isn't the semester system any more. Don't they understand that? This is the term plan. They won't study now like they used to—they're biologically different; they'll just goof off for the whole time.

Let's be practical about the whole thing. One day is better to study for finals than three. Any moron can see that. You give them three days off and they won't be able to finish the term.

Y: The sentimental fools. Tell them a three day vacation would be . . . oh, what's an impressive phrase? . . . would be a great mistake. That's it—tell them: it would be a great mistake.

X: Well put, Y, well put. They'll probably be in a stir for a few days but they'll settle back into their apathy and accept this like they take everything else we dish out.

Some of them just don't seem to catch on that they have no say, that they're puppets on our strings. They'll never learn. (Messenger leaves with the decision.)

Y: Hey X, I just got the greatest idea. How's this sound? Ten four-week terms with a maximum of five credits each term and the finals are given the first class period?

X: That's fantastic! Let's get to work on it right now. How do you do it, Y, how do you do it?

Y: (Blushing becomingly) Aw, I don't know. I guess it's just a natural talent . . .

(X claps Y heartily on the back and they exit cackling hysterically.)

—Curtain Falls —
—Neal Steinman '63

Snowed

Program Contrast

by Joel Myers

The contrast in program interest, explanation of international positions and ideals, and the method of presentation between Radio Moscow and the Voice of America is striking.

Radio Moscow presents carefully-prepared programs saturated with Communist propaganda, which is often hidden by subtle and clever means.

News broadcasts are restricted to a few pro-Communist items, which best serve the advancement of the Communist thesis for that day. Those chosen items are repeated in disguised form through informative features and clearly defined through strongly partisan commentaries.

Russia's superb use of the broadcasting media was expected by me before I heard their broadcasts recently, but what surprised me was the amateur-like productions turned out by the Voice of America.

Not only is their programming sloppy and loosely presented, but their news broadcasts seem to be a greater asset to Soviet policy than our own.

Much of the time between these newscasts is used for uninteresting and sometimes boring features.

As an example of wasted program time was a "humorous" show that was presented recently. It featured cards and letters sent home by youngsters attending camp for the summer.

It is possible that some of the gruesome details of overbear-

ing camp counselors, inadequate housing facilities and torturous games might have brought smiles to the faces of some Americans, but it's inconceivable how they could have served any useful propaganda purpose when intended for people not entirely familiar with our way of life.

The Voice of America's news broadcasts are very similar to network newscasts which can be heard on the regular AM band.

When most Americans hear news about unemployment, racial riots, crime waves and aggressive or feeler statements by Congressmen they have the background to interpret the real meaning of such events or statements.

But, to the peoples of other continents who are unaccustomed to our economic, social and cultural structure these newscasts serve to confirm the Communist propaganda which is presented to them much more effectively.

Adlai Stevenson, influential congressmen and administrators of the U.S. Information Agency have recently urged that the United States increase the number of broadcasts beamed at the uncommitted nations.

Before the VOA increases the amount of broadcasts in order to try and match Russia hour for hour, it might be wise for the U.S.I.A. to take steps to make those broadcasts more effective.



MYERS

Gazette

TODAY
American Institute of Industrial Engineers, 7 p.m., 215 Hammond
Collegian Photo Staff, 7 p.m., Collegian office
East Halls Council, 6:30 p.m., East dining hall
Folklore Society, Executive Board, 8 p.m., 216 HUB
International Relations Club, Dr. Brew-

ster speaker, "The Break-up of French Power in Algeria," 7 p.m., Slovic House
Pi Lambda Theta (women's Education Honorary), Dr. Snyder speaker, "The SENSE, 7 p.m., 217 HUB
Spanish Club, 7:30 p.m., Sigma Nu Fraternity
Theta Sigma Phi, 8 p.m., 124 Sackett U.C.A., Freshman, 6:30 p.m., Chapel