

Editorial Opinion

A Planned Demonstration With Mature Objectives

This Saturday's regionally-televized football game does not seem to be the time nor the place to hold a mass demonstration for an extension of the Thanksgiving vacation.

Although the suggestion for such a demonstration (which was mutually proposed by the chairmen of the three campus political parties) may have superficial appeal to vacation-minded students, the disadvantages of such a demonstration outweigh its merits.

Students demonstrating for an extended holiday will appear to TV viewers, unfamiliar with the background of the issue, as rowdy youngsters attempting to shirk their work.

Even if the TV viewers knew and sympathized with our reasons for wanting the vacation extension, it is extremely doubtful that they would exert any pressure on our behalf.

The administration, which possesses the power to affect a calendar change, would probably be so disgusted by this immature move they would snuff out what little hope remains for obtaining a recess extension.

If, however, students are anxious and willing to demonstrate this Saturday the theme of their actions should be the University budget.

The focus of attention that budget-conscious students tried in vain to obtain last year in order to pressure the legislature and Governor into appropriating the full University budget will be within their reach for more than two hours Saturday.

The failure of the legislature to appropriate the needed funds, which resulted in tuition and room and board increases, was valid evidence that the people of Pennsylvania have not been made aware of Penn State's needs.

The legislature recently changed from biennium budget sessions to annual sessions. The budget question will therefore arise again this spring.

Now is the time to begin a demand for recognition.

The people of Pennsylvania must be told of the legislature's archaic neglect of public higher education in the Commonwealth.

They must be informed that Penn State has the highest tuition of any strictly state-supported institution as a result of this neglect.

In contrast to a vacation demonstration, a budget rally might create some interest among the viewing audience, particularly if that audience included some legislators and Governor Lawrence.

As opposed to a vacation demonstration, a campaign of this nature cannot damage the University "image." If carried out in a mature, planned and orderly fashion, with leadership from the SGA, it may go far towards obtaining recognition of the depressing financial problems that tie the hands of the administration.

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the megaphone

Holiday Road Blocks

by meg teichholtz

The Senate Committee on Calendar and Class Schedule is throwing up road blocks and smoke screens to keep students from taking a powder for Thanksgiving recess.

The measures the committee has in past days announced are diversionary, throwing the emphasis from the real issue to a series of minor points and weak excuses designed to have the students running in circles.

Thus, the committee must think, the students will tire themselves and give up in disgust.

One such measure is Chairman Read's belated "discovery" of some small print in the June 1961 minutes of the University Senate which quietly stipulates some im-

Letters

Walker Will Get Vacation Proposal

TO THE EDITOR: During the past few weeks there has been a great deal of discussion about extending Thanksgiving vacation. Because of this discussion a greater problem has arisen, the student-administration relations.

These relations have sunk to a new low as was witnessed at half-time during the Army game when the students spontaneously booed the four-term system and drowned out the Blue Band with cries of "We want a vacation."

Something must be done NOW by students, faculty, and administrators alike to improve the relations between us. Decisions should not be made with total disregard to the groups effected by the decisions.

We must be responsible and dedicated leaders. When we believe that the administration is wrong, we should investigate fully and try to find out their reasons before we criticize. If criticism is called for then it is our duty to speak out constructively.

Therefore, I propose that: the president of SGA, the president of TIM, the president of IFC, the president of AWS, the editor of The Daily Collegian meet with President Walker, the special assistant to the president for student affairs, the assistant to the president for academic affairs, and the chairman of the University Senate Committee on Calendar and Class Schedules to discuss the proposed Thanksgiving recess.

At this meeting the students should be prepared to listen and think carefully about the administration's points against extending the vacation.

Because of the complete breakdown of student-administration relations it will be very difficult for the administration to put themselves in the students' place. Nevertheless, they should try to do so.

If Dr. Walker or the University Senate at the present time refused the vacation the student sentiment would continue to grow against them and the student-administration relations would sink even lower.

Therefore, I shall present my proposal to Dr. Walker this afternoon.

-Gomer Williams '63
•Letter Cut

Gazette

- TODAY
Ag. Ec. Club, 7:30 p.m., 203 Weaver
B.A. Student Council, 6:45 p.m., 304 Boucke
Block S, 9:5 p.m., 1st floor HUB
Chem.-Phys. Student Council, 6:45 p.m., 214-215 HUB
Chess Club, 7:30 p.m., HUB cart room
Faculty Club, 7 p.m., HUB ballroom
Hillel Freshman Council, 8:15 p.m., 215 HUB
Ind. Ed. Society, 7:30 p.m., 212-213 HUB
Newman Club, HUB ground floor
P.S. Bible Fellowship, 12:15 p.m., 214 HUB
Penn State Figure Skating Club, 4 p.m., ground floor HUB
Penn State Flying Club, 7:30 p.m., 215 HUB
Penn State Sports Car Club, 8 p.m., 217 Willard
State DHIA, 10 a.m., 212 HUB
Theta Sigma Phi, 8 p.m., 124 Sacker
TIM, 7 p.m., 298 HUB
UCA-Freshman Series, 6:30 p.m., Chapel lounge
U.S. Information Agency, 1:30 p.m., 213 HUB
Women's Chorus, 6:30 p.m., HUB assembly hall

Letters

Alum Sees Dollar Sign In Athletics

TO THE EDITOR: Having read in Sunday's Philadelphia Inquirer that the State-Army games of 62-63 may be played in Philadelphia's vast 100,000 seat stadium, where 80,000 seats are either in the end zone or two blocks away, I thought to myself, "how greedy can you get?"

It's no wonder the students feel they are getting the short end of the stick.

In order to pay for our "big time" schedule they are considering taking one of our best home games 200 miles away to "tin can alley." With a brand new 46,000 seat stadium, which any State-Army game could fill, the "powers that be" are going for the big money.

Let's not let this happen! It's time the mighty dollar be given the go by. Give the students, and people who appreciate Penn State and what it stands for, a break.

Keep the home schedules as they have been drawn for the next three years. If this can't be done, let's de-emphasize and bring on Penn and Bucknell. (Which isn't a bad idea either; we could use a breather for a change.)

- W. H. Parkhill '49

These procedures would have all proposed changes in the 1961-62 calendar made in accord with the more evenly distributed 1962-63 calendar. When we first spoke to Dr. Read about the possibility of a recess, he said he would aid the student members of his committee in constructing one.

The next day he phoned us to tell us of this "small print" and its suddenly all-important implications. The discovery was convenient, but we are sure, does not have to bind the hands of his committee and of the University Senate.

No ruling of this nature is iron clad and when opinion and circumstances demand, bureaucracy can find many ways to bend to the demand.

From this first ruling, however, another has blossomed. Read asked the student members of his committee to alter their articulate and eloquent proposal (which he blatantly said "missed the point") in accord with the above ruling.

This would mean that the students will be presenting a proposal to install a Thanksgiving recess into every term henceforth.

Obviously Dr. Read entirely missed the point of the original request.

To clarify this point, the idea was that in this fall term and this one only, there are three extra days.

The days are there, according to Dr. Bernreuter, because the start of the term was moved ahead one week from the originally scheduled date. And the term was moved ahead, as we all know, because Penn State played the Navy.

If the start of the term had not been moved up the game would have been a financial failure.

Very obviously, Read has gotten the students to ask for something the Senate would not approve since after this year each term will have exactly 60 days.

Thus the students will be asking for something that is impractical rather than the very practical use of this term's three non-recurring days for a recess.

Dr. Read's next point concerns the timing of the student's objections. He contends that if students wanted to alter the schedule they should have lodged their protest last spring when the calendar was being considered.

We'd like to refresh Read's memory on three points that counter this pat and very dubious answer.

Firstly, the calendar did not have those three extra days when it was first approved. Therefore there was little bother in asking for the impossible.

Secondly, the change which brought the extra days was made late in the spring when students were, and rightly so, studying for upcoming final examinations. It was, therefore, impossible to make any concerted effort for the recess.

Thirdly, the committee seems to feel that because nothing was done last year it is now impossible to alter the precious term.

Policy, to be effective must be flexible. The committee (Continued on page eight)



Miss Teichholtz

