

Editorial Opinion

Contradiction Noted

The recently-initiated policy of pre-payment of tuition is working a hardship on many University students.

According to regulations that were adopted at the start of this term, students must pay their tuition and room and board fees at least four weeks before the term actually begins.

Students who fail to meet this deadline, which is Dec. 8 for the winter term, will be subject to payment of a \$25 late fee.

This policy is in direct contradiction to the administration's four-term sales talk of last year.

One of their most appealing arguments in favor of the then proposed system was the long Christmas vacation, which would provide enough time for students to earn money to help finance their education in the winter and spring terms.

As soon as the first term of the new system had begun, administrators started planning the policy of pre-payment, even though it hadn't been one of the original components of the term plan.

When questioned about the need for advanced payment of fees last summer, the Bursar indicated the move was designed to eliminate the last minute rush.

We cannot help but wonder whether a more direct cause was the University's immediate need for funds in the face of a state legislature that proved unresponsive to the University's budget requests.

If the deadline was really established to eliminate the last minute rush, why was it a full month before the term is scheduled to begin? Wouldn't a week deadline suffice?

If the need for ready cash motivated the University to compel students to pay in advance, it seems that a more realistic policy should be established now that the financial crisis is over.

In any event, the University should make some provision for students who plan to follow the University's expressed recommendation and work during the Christmas vacation to help pay their way through the winter term.

Merry Christmas

We hope some kindly member of the custodial staff will unstop the chimney in Willard during Christmas recess so that St. Nick can leave well deserved rewards for the Office of Student Aid.

This is one of the few offices which has taken a pleasing aspect of the four-term plan and capitalized on it to the benefit of the student body.

The staff has made arrangements for in-state students to apply at Willard for December jobs in their home town. The local office then works through the State Employment Service, which graciously cooperates in lining up jobs for vacationing students.

So to Ralph Kreckler, the director of the Student Aid Office, and to his staff—a premature but sincere . . . Merry Christmas.

A Student-Operated Newspaper  
57 Years of Editorial Freedom

The Daily Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance, est. 1887  
Published Tuesday through Saturday morning during the University year. The Daily Collegian is a student-operated newspaper. Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1934 at the State College, Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879.  
Mail Subscription Price: \$6.00 a year  
Mailing Address - Box 261, State College, Pa.

Member of The Associated Press

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megaphone-at-large

Literary Magazine Reviewed

by meg teichholtz

Shortly before the Charles Van Doren grown-up quiz-kid scandal of several years ago, a story circulated about the day Van Doren walked into his English class at Columbia to find his students had chalked "What Is Justice?" across the blackboard.

La Critique this week picked up where that class left off. They have taken this ancient question and applied it to Penn State where "the student waives his constitutional rights upon matriculation at the University." (Quote from the La Critique editorial.)

With the aid of the American Civil Liberties Union—and the sundry students, deans, faculty and psychologists who administer discipline (sometimes unjustly called justice) in committees, tribunals, judicials and the privacy of offices, the publica-



Miss Teichholtz

tion has done the students a public service.

The sad part is that many students do not and will not see it this way, for my own experience has repeatedly shown that many Penn Stater's have little conception of the rights and considerations to which democracy entitles them.

The La Critique editorial takes the data gathered from the four magazine articles on various judicial practices and malpractices and builds a solid case for a uniform codification of disciplinary policy.

The editorial is frankly and thoughtfully conceived and executed. The articles, though they contain valuable information, are awkward, unpolished pieces.

One way to ruin your future, I am told, is to write against the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Be that truth or threat, it is a growing pre-occupation and La Critique joined the agitation.

To all the freshmen who have been writing indignant letters to this newspaper—those who would rather relegate civil liberties to glass museum cases and thus prevent Communism from destroying them first—I recommend the piece.

As most of this population

knows, the floundering Circa literary magazine joined up with La Critique. The fiction section of the magazine is excellent.

Marianne Furia's piece is a sensitive and vigorous work, demonstrating the concurrent growth of a nation and a person. Her craftsmanship is good because it is unapparent and seemingly effortless.

Mr. Richman's stream of consciousness is a little too self-conscious but its theme will make most of us nod in comprehension. It concerns the gap between generations and the incommunicable wisdom to be found on both sides.

The poetry, mostly free verse, was rather unoriginal and unmoving to this reviewer. Two exceptions were R. J. Werner's "Railroad Men" and Trudy Gerlach's "Aesthete."

Comment on Steve Bloom's "Why International Films?" is superfluous. Those who have seen any of the Thursday night showings this year know what I mean. Those who haven't seen any of this new and very beautiful art form, won't understand or like his article.

In all—a valuable addition to something they call "A Better Penn State."

Gazette

TODAY  
Ag-Econ Dept. Seminar, 10 a.m., 212 HUB  
Ag Hill Party, 6:30 p.m., 212 HUB  
Art Demonstration, 1:30 p.m. - 9 p.m., HUB Ballroom  
Chaplain's Office, 10 a.m., 217 HUB  
Commerce and Management, 1:50 p.m., 212, 213 HUB  
Forestry Society, 7:30 p.m., Alpha Zeta  
French Club, 7:30 p.m., Home Ec living center  
Liberal Arts Lecture Series, 7:30 p.m., HUB assembly hall  
Panhel, 6:30 p.m., 203 HUB  
Peace Corps Talk, 7 p.m., 10 Sparks  
Penn State Bible Fellowship, 12:15 p.m., 212 HUB  
Penn State Jazz Club, 7:30 p.m., 212, 213 HUB  
Pre-Vet Club, 7 p.m., 214 Boucke  
Republican Club, of Penn State, 321 Boucke  
Schuhplattlers, 7 p.m., 215 Wagner  
Scrolls, 8 p.m., 214, 215, 216 HUB  
SENSE, 6:30 p.m., 217 HUB  
Speech Committee, 6:30 p.m., 214 HUB  
Speech Dept. 8:30 p.m., HUB assembly hall  
TIM movies, 1 p.m., 6 p.m., HUB assembly hall  
USAF, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., HUB ground floor  
Wesley Choir Rehearsal, 6:30 p.m., Wesley Foundation

Blackboard

Panhel Problem

by Johnny Black

Last week was a rough one for the local Penhellenic, but the results may pay off in a more just and more efficient organization.

The real issue was not the innocence or guilt of the sororities or the fairness or unfairness of the penalties

administered, but rather the procedure by which the judgment was made and the penalties levied.

The procedure went like this: Two sororities were reported for alleged rushing infractions.

A member of the Panhellenic Executive Committee made a personal investigation into the cases before a meeting of the committee was ever called.

A committee meeting was called and members did not even know that there was a judicial case to consider until they got inside the door. But before they came back out that door, they heard the accusations, listened to the report of the member who had investigated, rendered a verdict and pronounced a sentence.

The accused, whether guilty or not, never had a chance to hear the charges, face their accusers, prepare a defense or submit evidence or testimony.

The pity of it all is that the whole procedure was entirely legal under the local Panhel rush code, which merely states the executive committee has the right to investigate and punish alleged rushing infractions, and makes no provisions

to safeguard the rights of the accused to a fair trial.

Three days later an appeal was heard in a partial facsimile of what the original "trial" should have been.

The local Panhel did not violate any national regulation for there are no national regulations binding on the local group. There are, however, national regulations binding each local sorority chapter which is a full member of the local Panhel.

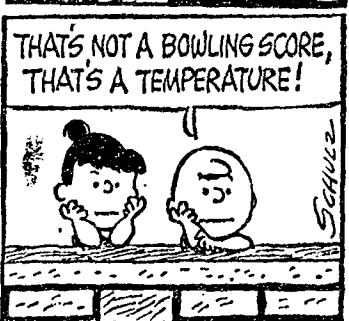
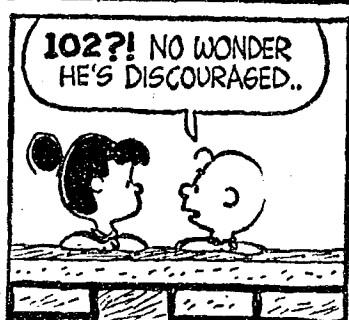
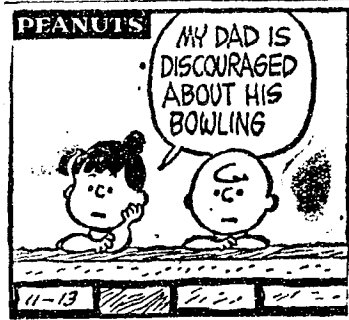
And if the local sorority presidents had been fully aware of the regulations binding them from their national sorority, they could never have voted to accept the present Panhel rush code.

In accepting this code, which made no provisions for the procedure to be followed in judicial cases, the local sorority presidents were violating an agreement of National Panhellenic Council which was ratified by their own national. This agreement specified the procedure to be followed in administering justice for rush infractions.

The local sorority presidents, who make up the local Panhel, have no alternative but to rescind their present rush code and draw up a new code including safeguards to the rights of the accused as stipulated in the NPC agreement.



BLACK



Letters

Reader Hits Fraternity Discrimination

TO THE EDITOR: Granted, as claimed by the national heads and organization of a Penn State fraternity, that a freely associated group has the right to choose its own members; why doesn't the local group have such liberty?

How can thoughtful people zealously guard their rights and then deny the same right to or for themselves?

Furthermore, how can a fraternity pride itself on being a Christian group at the same

time that they consider even some Christians to be unworthy of brotherhood?

Our nation, probably as never before, needs true and complete democracy. Hypocrisy and intellectual honesty are irreconcilable. As part of an educational enterprise, college fraternities should be keenly aware of the responsibility they share in the transmittal of our culture.

—Arthur M. Wellington Professor.