

Editorial Opinion

USG's Housing List

With the end of the term approaching and students beginning to look for downtown housing for the summer term and for next fall, USG must take definite actions to correct certain deficiencies in the USG housing list if this list is going to benefit the large number of students wanting to use it.

At the present time according to Suzanne Flinchbaugh, chairman, only four other persons are working on this committee. Each of these students works one night a week from 7 to 9 bringing the list up to date, receiving additional calls and taking messages from the automatic answering service which USG purchased to answer calls during the day.

This answering service, apparently, has not been too effective since over 60 per cent of those landlords using the list who we randomly contacted yesterday said they have had difficulty getting in contact with USG to have their names added to the list.

We suggest that USG enlarge this committee, which provides a more important service to the student body than perhaps any other student government committee. USG must insure that this valuable non-discriminatory housing list is a profitable addition to the services provided by student government rather than a part-time appendage to USG as it is now.

In addition, some provisions must be made to maintain this list over vacations. This year Miss Flinchbaugh has given up a part of her vacations to keep the list up to date.

But what is going to happen in August and early September when students are seeking fall residence? Will an administrative office have to assume responsibility for this project which student government fought to take from the dean of men's office.

With a new executive branch of USG, a thorough review of this existing committee should be undertaken before many new projects are started.

Get Down to Specifics

The process of building a strong student government is a long and arduous one requiring dedicated leaders and staunch supporters.

The Undergraduate Student Government at this University currently faces the task of enlisting support and it can do this only by insuring every student that a continuous and conscious effort is being made to better the University.

And yet the question constantly arises: "What does USG do for us?"

A resolution calling for a committee to study the feasibility of publishing a brochure on USG appears on the agenda for tonight's Congress meeting.

This resolution recommends that such a brochure include "the history, functions, structure and goals of the Undergraduate Student Government."

We strongly support the publication of such a booklet which would be aimed primarily toward Freshmen but urge that an additional category be added to its content—achievements of USG.

The Congress must get down to specifics. It must show students what it has done in the past as concrete evidence that it will accomplish its goals in the future.

Summaries of USG structure and activities are already offered to the student annually in the Student Handbook. A repeat of such over-simplified information would result in a waste of effort and funds.

However, a close look into what student government at this University means to the student, what it has achieved and what it plans for the future would be a valuable investment.

A frank and interesting account of the opportunities afforded by a growing student government could serve as an important tool in combating student apathy if it were supplied to all incoming freshmen who are still "open-minded" about its possibilities.

We urge the Congress to organize this committee which should begin work immediately on such a project. The fall term Orientation Week is fast approaching.

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ANN PALMER Editor

HERBERT WITMER Business Manager

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Lest We Forget...

by saralee orton

Subversion is not a pleasant topic. The idea of communists nibbling away at our society from within is sufficient to cause shivers along spines and thunder from right-wing groups.

But many people competent to judge feel that we have far more to fear from communist forces without than within. The danger from an internal Communist party now illegal by statute and tiny in membership should no longer be reason for hysteria. The task of the American people is to mobilize to meet the threat of Soviet Russia and Communist China, not to hunt down persons suspected of left-wing ideas.

However, there are a great many people in our country who are not convinced. They

find witch-hunting and subversive scares far more exciting than a cold analysis of the foreign threat. The John Birch Society, Neo-Minutemen and members of YAF fall in this category as do a great many people who should know better.

Let me just remind these people that the methods they use may contribute far more to the destruction of democracy than the action of the communists within our country.

Our universities have been traditional strongholds for the freedoms of speech and association guaranteed by our Constitution. Thus, they have been the happy hunting grounds of those who claim to be ridding our country of "subversive influences".

Senator McCarthy and his colleagues made an all-out attempt to turn "academic freedom" into a myth several years ago. There are still those today who would cleanse universities of all who do not hold the "acceptable" beliefs.

Are these people afraid that democratic principles cannot compete with communist ideology in a fair and open encounter? Do they have so little confidence in the young people of this country that they think

a few persuasive communists will cause mass desertion of democratic ideals?

This lack of confidence is a disservice to both American principles and American youth. Democratic principles are sufficiently viable to meet those of communism. If they are not, then we might as well admit that the communists are right and we've been following a pipe dream since 1776.

And let me remind these people that those who are college students now will be leading the country in years to come. If they can't be trusted to adhere to American principles now, will a few years equip them to assume this responsibility?

The freedoms of speech and association can be annoying and downright dangerous. They encourage cranks and they give protection to those who do not share our beliefs. But these freedoms are essential to the democratic concept of the individual's right to think as he chooses. To suppress them is to undermine democracy.

Perhaps the prime virtue of these freedoms, perhaps the prime virtue of democracy is a negative thing. The alternative is worse. The alternative is totalitarianism.

Letters

Fraternity Domination Questioned

TO THE EDITOR: Spring is here, and from under the rocks of University party and the moldy woodwork of IFC crawl out the unknown student leaders for their brief moment in the sun. With little black dinks bobbing to "Button Frosh" and "Where's the propeller?", they skip merrily hand in hand, stopping only to give profound oblations to Old Main and the Great God Steinhauer.

Rejoicing in the diminishing shadow of Dennis Fojanini, they chant Pigozzi's war cry of giving USG back to the fraternities. With Baker ruling USG, Sos IFC, and Pergam TIM; but with only four hatmen on the USG Congress, the cry is still valid.

Congratulations to Lion's Paw—two members from Phi Sigma Delta last year, the year before, and this year, too. Such continuity is seldom found in a campus organization.

The selection of this group bring up an interesting question. What do you do with two hats—wear them on alternate days, grow another head, wear them one on top of the other, or perhaps one on each ear? In the latter case do you use the frat pin to attach one to one ear and bubblegum for the other?

Finally, congratulations to Al Feingold. Seldom has a more coherent and valid criticism of the "establishment" appeared in print. But, Al, be careful! I have visions of your being drummed out of Beaver Stadium between two wobbly, varicolored lines of hatmen facing outward. The Marine Corps gave that up—but has IFC?

—Dale Scott '64

Security Office Praises Students

TO THE EDITOR: The Department of Security wishes to commend the Spring Week Committee and all participants in the recent Spring Week Carnival for their cooperation, interest and attitude for safety.

The substantial booth structures, the provision of signs and enforcement of no smoking within booths, provision of adequate fire extinguishers, and the obedience of traffic and parking regulations all combined to provide an extremely safe environment for everyone attending the Carnival.

We sincerely appreciate the cooperation of all those concerned.

—William C. Nelson, Department of Security —Howard O. Triebold, Jr., Safety Supervisor —John F. Galuda, Chief, Campus Patrol

Interpreting

Problems Threaten Berlin Discussions

By J. M. ROBERTS

Associated Press News Analyst

The United States has said in effect, if not in direct words, that she will not make definite proposals to the Soviet Union regarding the future of Germany and West Berlin without approval of the Bonn government.

But one of Washington's difficulties lies in the search

for something with which to keep the Soviet negotiations going, as the British, Norwegians and others want, as against the French and German desire to drop the whole business in the belief that nothing to which the Soviet Union will agree will be anything but bad for the West.

There is also the difficulty of gauging true German feeling when Chancellor Konrad Adenauer frequently contradicts the views his own ministers are expressing to Allied representatives. The aging man has done this often, not only with regard to Berlin, but also with regard to other problems and even in internal affairs.

Another problem in Washington is that, while the State Department insists on going ahead with what it calls a probe of Soviet intentions, a great many members of the administration and people out in the country are inclined to agree with Adenauer, that the stalemate can only be broken by some sort of Allied appeasement and giveaway.

There are suggestions that while the State Department is

probing the Soviet Union, Bonn is probing the United States to see if she can get something—such as a European-controlled nuclear defense—to balance the effects if there ever is any giveaway.

As a side issue, acerbity is heightened not only between Germany and the United States, but also between Britain and Germany.

In the background of this is something which everybody has tried to shove under the rug. Consciously or unconsciously, amid all of Washington's enthusiasm about British membership in the European Common Market, Britain realizes she is being pushed.

She attempts to operate on a basis of modern practicality. But in the background one of the things pressing on her is the growth of Germany as the strongest economic power in Europe, the growing French and German economic entente within the Common Market, and the enhancement of Franco-German relations through a common view on the Berlin problem.

