

Editorial Opinion

An Open Letter To the University

To Whom It DOES Concern:

Every university has problems that seem unsolvable, but Penn State has been ridden with many such dilemmas for about a year now.

First the School of Journalism suddenly lost its accreditation because of rifts within the faculty. Albert E. Diem, a well-known and well-liked administrative vice president resigned because of a difference in policy with the Board of Trustees. The recent resignation of John A. Sauer as head of the Department of Physics was followed by widespread protest against his resignation by his faculty and graduate students. And now the Department of Architecture has lost its accreditation.

Amidst all these blows have been the sometimes quiet and sometimes not so quiet protests against the term system both by faculty members and students. There have also been rumblings about difficulties in other departments and some of these quite audible.

With all this protest and anti-protest is our appropriation problem. We beg for \$24 million to just keep the University going and receive \$20 million. When the University is given money from the budget surplus, we who are on "the tightest budget in Penn State's history" begin new research projects. It makes one wonder just how much money is needed to run the University and also just how accurately our needs have been presented.

A great many of these problems were explored by a staff reporter for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette. Triggered by letters of protest against the acceptance of Sauer's resignation, the city paper sent a reporter here to investigate. He found, as we have, that everyone makes vague statements concerning the controversy, but only those who prefer to remain anonymous will voice an honest estimate of the situation. Fear of retaliation seems to be the guiding force.

Thus we remain in a period of controversy with many people of position giving us vague and conflicting answers to pointed, probing questions. The answers just won't mesh. For the cases cited, we respectfully request that someone have the courage and integrity to bring the facts into the open.

What other questions and answers have been swept under the rug we cannot know. The University is, however, divided quite decidedly on these problems and a solution must be found. Suppression of facts by anyone concerned is definitely not the way to go about solving problems that could give the University a colossal "black eye."

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meandering

Up for Adoption

by Joan Mehan

Some universities have fairly normal problems such as lack of funds, need for facilities and less than capacity enrollments. However, Penn State has a very unusual problem. We are a state university that lacks a state. We are essentially like the man without a country—he tried to recognize his country, but his country would have nothing to do with him.

The traditional problem here seems to be the definition of a state university. The University, believing that it has a state, pays Pennsylvania due homage.

We operated on a double standard, charging reduced tuition rates to in-state students.

The University proudly names residence hall units after the counties in the state with great ceremony and publicity. It is as if we recognize our lack of acceptance and are trying to gain it county by county.

The final and most elaborate

plea to the state is made in the drawn out ritual known as our state appropriation request. Around appropriation time there are often more University officials in Harrisburg than in State College. The University is not above the noble art of lobbying.

All these time honored traditions are of no avail, however. The state officials continually tell us that Pennsylvania has no state university. Penn State in their eyes is just a land grant college which receives less than its appropriation request every year.

They tell us that since a majority of our trustees are not state appointed this also takes

us out of the state university category.

All this verbal by-play occurs year after year and nothing much is really accomplished.

I would suggest that since Pennsylvania doesn't want us, we should secede from the Commonwealth. The admissions office should encourage out-of-state enrollment requests and attempt to get a majority of students from another state.

Perhaps New Jersey or even New York would be interested in adopting us. We seem to be getting nowhere in Pennsylvania, so the University might very well benefit by putting itself up for adoption.



MISS MEHAN

over the rail

In Dry Dock

by Dave Runkel

PANAMA CITY, Fla. — Before leaving Penn State this spring, it was suggested to me that I write a column for The Summer Collegian reporting on my NROTC summer cruise. It had further been suggested that this column (they already had presumed I would be conned into writing the column) be titled "Over the Rail."

Foolishly, as I view the situation with retrospect, I consented both to writing the column and to the name. So far I have thrown several outlined "Over the Rail's" just there. And they have landed on the pier.

You see, I and five other midshipmen from Penn State have received close to shore duty for our summer cruise. Our ships, minesweepers, are doing test work for the Mine Defense Laboratory located in Panama City, Fla.

Since civilian employees do most of the actual testing and our ships only provide transportation out to the testing center in the Gulf of Mexico, we must operate by civilian

hours or on eight-hour days. We go out in the morning and back in the afternoon.

We even sleep in the air-conditioned barracks on shore because there is not enough room for us on board the ship. Although this doesn't really seem too exciting, it is sort of interesting.

Minesweepers are small wooden ships. They are compact. House trailer manufacturers and minesweeper builders must get together annually to swap notes on how to use every available square inch of space and how to build a smaller bathroom. (The Pennsylvania association probably meets at University Park in one of the Nittany units.)

Being small ships, they are noted for their roll and pitch in the waters. But here in the Gulf the sea has been so calm that anyone could get more seasick in Walker Lab than on our ship.

But the most notable characteristic of minesweepers, at least here in Florida, is that they are hot. With the daily temperature running well over 90 degrees, working is almost unbearable, especially to one not particularly motivated in that direction.

Oh well, who knows—something exciting might happen soon, I hope!!



RUNKEL

Letters

Coed Shows Interest In Market

TO THE EDITOR: I enjoyed the article by Mr. Krauss in the Common Market in the issue of July 5th. Less than five weeks ago, we, in the Penn State Study Abroad group at Cologne, Germany, traveled through Brussels, Luxembourg and Strasbourg, France for the purpose: lectures for nearly a week long by official spokesmen on the topic of a United Europe. Naturally, it was interesting to hear the European point of view on the situation. Mr. Krauss mentioned "the admission of Britain, Switzerland, Austria, Portugal and Sweden," which would create "a gross cash income three-fifths as big as ours . . ." Mr. Krauss may be interested in knowing that we were informed by a Mr. Mozer of the E.E.C. (European Economic Commission) in Brussels, that Yugoslavia, Portugal and Spain would be among certain governments which would most probably be excluded.

In fact, the only new countries mentioned by Mr. Mozer as possibly joining were Britain, Ireland and Sweden. We were later told in Luxembourg that any additional member countries would have to:

- Have a strong economy.
- Guarantee existence of a democratic form of government. (It was mentioned that the communism in Italy is presenting a problem.)
- Be neutral in foreign policy and not liable to change.

We were also advised that the "U.S. wants to produce: it is rich. Europe wants to develop the little that it has."

—Carolyn Griswold '63

• Letter cut

Campus Beat

Cast Some Light . . .

I realize it's kind of useless to dream up more expenditure-type projects when the University can hardly get enough money to buy library books and pay us long-suffering souls on the faculty. The administration is quite capable of this planning function.

I am repeatedly concerned about the lack of adequate lighting both on campus and on nearby streets.

It's a sad day when the list of things to do grows longer and longer and the money to do them slips through your fingers.

Prof Wayne

Letters

Senior Hits 'System'

TO THE EDITOR: A recent article in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette sums up what the outside world is thinking of Penn State (and what we are thinking of ourselves). The Post-Gazette staff writer expressed concern about disputes which are upsetting the campus. I feel that this article accentuated the theme of Joan Mehan's Memorization U. column of a few weeks ago.

From the above-cited articles, comments of others and personal experience, it appears that Penn State has, in fact, become a large-scale "brain factory" concerned with the "production" of "educated individuals." This is either a reason for the term system or an effect of it: education on a production line basis, "geared to the needs of the country."

The administration produces data to show the size of the dean's list has grown under the term system. They then equate this one piece of evidence to the "success" of the system. However, a few important variables have been excluded in their analysis. Two important ones may be cited.

First, the standards of admission have been raised, and therefore the caliber of people admitted to the University has also been raised. DOG can verify this claim. The effect of these people on the scholastic averages is obvious. With such a high caliber of students, the number on the dean's list is bound to grow.

A second fact, not too well known, is the fact that the number of people on the probation and warning lists has grown proportionally with the dean's list. The question then arises, "Is this process fair to those who are in the lower percentage of the student body?" It would be an ideal situation if all students had the intellectual ability to do dean's list work. This is not the case, however. Then, what of the people who cannot learn well under this tension-filled system?

Shall the University cater ONLY to the select few who are of the dean's list caliber?

Taking these facts into account, the term system is NOT the howling success it has been blown up to be. I know that many graduate students and much of the faculty of the chemistry department are against the term system. The physics department has lost several members of their faculty, such as Dr. Fitzgerald, one of the leaders of the TOCS movement. I believe these men left because they wanted nothing to do with the term system. The results of the survey now being conducted by the Graduate Students Association will probably add to the list of no's against the new Old Main system.

A neo-TOCS movement would be a welcome addition to the campus. We all need to take stock of the system.

—Neil Buckley '63

• Letter cut