

Editorial Opinion

The Information Dilemma

Colleges and universities throughout the country are confronted with the problem of creating interest and pride in their student governments. Many attempts are made to discover a solution, but few schools have found the formula by which students are given a reason to care.

Most of the disenchanted complain that student government "isn't the real thing." Perhaps not, but it speaks poorly of American youth who are not prepared to accept responsibility and make this government more like "the real thing" they want. This attitude is one indication that today's colleges may not be graduating young adults but old teenagers.

One attempt to inform students about their government on this campus has been through The USG Record. The newspaper was established during the winter term with the high hopes of USG officials as a publication designed to inform students of USG projects and policies. As the former USG Record editor Kurt Simons said of the newspaper:

"We hope it will give students insight into the working of their governing body and so stimulate interest."

Simons added that the newspaper would give congressmen a means of informing their constituents of issues before they are presented at a USG meeting. If students really read the Record and discussed questions it raised with their representatives, publication of the newspaper might eliminate the delay of postponing decisions until USG members surveyed opinion in their living areas.

Only one issue of the newspaper has appeared. While copies of The USG Record did not disappear as rapidly as the proverbial hotcakes, the future of the paper cannot be judged on the merits of one performance.

Another information attempt may be made this fall if the current USG administration can implement one of the campaign planks on which it stood during spring elections, that of buying advertising space in The Daily Collegian to supplement regular news coverage.

USG President Dean Wharton said recently he will suggest that both the Record and Collegian advertising be used for a trial period to see which best informs the students. We commend his decision to ask that The USG Record not die until an alternative medium has been selected to serve the information purpose.

We would, however, caution USG from allowing either the Record or the advertising column to deteriorate into a pat on the back for USG or, worse yet, its individual members. USG's public relations personnel must keep their purpose constantly in mind. It is all too easy for a group to drift into a position of examining its policies with less than a critical eye.

Any attempt to boost the already over-inflated egos of campus personalities would become only an object of derision among the student body. Appearance in this USG publication or paid column under such circumstances could well spell the political "kiss of death" like that suffered by the so-called activities men in student elections in the spring of 1961.

Regardless of the success of The USG Record, the intentions of its founders were basically good. Students can benefit from a knowledge of what projects their leaders are undertaking and why. Although USG members have a tendency to go too far in this direction with the "see-what-we've-done attitude," the programs rather than the personalities approach is sound.

In short, what this campus definitely does not need is another pre-paid outlet for the status seekers' strivings.

Summer Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance est 1887

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Letters

'Little' Man At HUB Desk Angers Grads

TO THE EDITOR: Congratulations to the dutiful "little" man at the HUB desk; he has helped this university to score another "first" in bad public relations. This time, the "first" was in the area of how to mistreat the handicapped and make them feel like second-class citizens.

One Sunday this summer, a blind married couple came to visit us in State College with only their seeing-eye dog as a guide. Since both are college graduates who are employed in professional positions, they are interested in education and asked if we would give them a tour of the campus. They wanted a verbal description of the physical plant through which they are able to form mental pictures.

While on this tour, it began to rain quite heavily and we went into the nearest building, which was the HUB. We went into the lobby and sat on one of the benches very near the entrance. Within a few minutes, this "little" man asked the blind couple to leave because of their seeing-eye dog. When we hesitated for a few moments, too shocked to comply immediately with the request, he raised his voice and became very insistent that they leave immediately. The four of us and the seeing-eye dog left the building and sought shelter outside until the rain stopped.

Although we two university students were angry, the blind couple expressed no anger, but bewilderment. They said that this was the first time they had even had a request such as this, for without their dog, they are completely helpless. All their life they have gone into hotels, restaurants, theatres, etc., and never been asked to leave because of their dog. So the HUB has really gone a long way in scoring a first this time. For his own sake in the future, we hope this "little" man is not majoring in public relations. We also feel that the university, and the HUB in particular, owe this blind couple an apology.

—John G. Gavazzi, —Joseph Metz, Graduate, Students

WDFM Schedule

Table with columns for days of the week (TOMORROW, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY) and corresponding program times and titles.

meandering

Noble Aim

by Joan Mehan

Student government made a major mark on Penn State's history last week when USG President Dean Wharton set up a committee modestly titled the Student Recognition Committee. The purpose of this committee is to investigate possible means of making the general student body (or the masses) aware of the activities of campus leaders.



This is indeed a noble ambition for student government and should go down under major accomplishments second only to the famous cheer writing contest. I definitely agree with Mr. Wharton that student leaders should be recognized by the students. The slow way would be for them to be recognized by their accomplishments as student leaders. However, since many lack accomplishments other than being elected, they often find themselves completely unrecognized except by a few hat societies and honorary groups. The majority of students don't know them. This is indeed disconcerting since students should stare at our campus leaders in awe and feel somehow uplifted for having had contact with them (no matter how slight or superficial).

The attempts by hat societies and honoraries to recognize these leaders I would presume have been fruitless. Perhaps the persistent rumors that some leaders are working only for such honors has dulled the students' interest.

Yes, student government has surely seen the way and is trudging forward on another crusading and important project. Students must be made to realize that campus leaders are important, and that they should recognize them. They should also realize that they are followers and should attempt to perform this role to their utmost capabilities.

Since I am in full agreement with the formation of this committee, I would like to offer a few suggestions that in my

humble opinion might well accomplish this noble aim.

I think that campus leaders should wear sandwich boards at all times. Something simple and appropriate such as "I am an important student leader. I belong to the following important activities" could be inscribed on the boards. The size of the board could also be a status symbol—the more activities, the larger the board, therefore the greater the leader's importance. This would definitely encourage participation, no matter how slight, in many activities.

Campus leaders could hold autograph parties in the HUB so that the followers could obtain autographed pictures of their favorite campus star. USG could offer the services of its secretarial staff to process fan mail for the more popular leaders. On special nights students could (for a slight charge) have their pictures taken with campus leaders. This would do a great deal to improve Penn State spirit. Students would begin to feel this was "their" school.

The University could also do more to recognize student leaders, and the recognition committee could encourage this. The scheduling office should arrange classes for these leaders at convenient times. After all, a campus leader shouldn't have to take 8 o'clock or Saturday classes. This would help to create the image that we should strive for—that campus leaders are important and shouldn't be treated as ordinary students.

A better understanding of what makes a campus leader could be obtained by this committee. Perhaps they could wipe out such outdated ideas as participating in activities purely for the satisfaction of doing so, without any idea of recognition.

Yes, our campus leaders have thus far gone on with only the minimum amount of recognition. This should be stopped. They should be recognized whether they want to be or not. "Recognition for the sake of recognition" seem to be the call words of the future and our student government is leading the way.

Letters

Margate Rise Seen as Hope For Fragment of Humanity

TO THE EDITOR: When a quasi-nagatory remnant of the fourth estate sanctions the dissemination of theories of polemic nature, such as those expressed by Miss Gwen Epstein in the August 2 Collegian, we are constrained by our faith in the serioludicrous to reveal the counter-treatise before the coruscations which emanate from the corners of this campus. Her mordacious diatribe on the margates is apparently founded on a prepossession against heterochitic action. Though their ideas may seem in conflict with the unctuousity inherently attached to formal-

ism, margates are not floundering in the logomachistic imbroglia which threatens to engulf Miss Epstein.

The truth embodied in the coaduation of mind and body is not realized through amautotic grasping for the anodyne proffered by epicurean prophets of verism. The liberation of even a fragment of humanity from its egophobic morass resides in a margate restoration.

As for the rest, they have made their feather beds and now they must lie in them.

Sandy Gilmartin, '65 John Herpel, '64

