

Editorial Opinion

For A Better Encampment

Encampment is held each fall before the beginning of the academic year to discuss pertinent and pressing student problems. To accomplish this purpose the encampment is divided into workshops in which participants discuss these problems and recommend solutions.

This year there were five workshops. They dealt with the four-term system, judicial problems, off-campus problems, on-campus problems and the Undergraduate Student Government.

This closely parallels last year's encampment program when there were workshops on student government, then called SGA, off-campus problems, on-campus problems, social and academic problems under the four-term system, public relations and communication, and rules, regulations and student welfare.

The workshop structure seemed to create many problems this year. It held back discussion on such urgent and pressing problems as discrimination in downtown housing and the shameful condition of some rooming houses in State College. It stifled active discussion on the problem created by a newly-imposed borough tax which some downtown men have been forced to pay even though they are not able to vote in the borough, or, in other words, taxation without representation.

These problems were included in the agenda for the off-campus problems workshop. The official minutes of the workshop explain that these problems were not discussed because "most Greeks are not familiar with housing or taxes and they cannot help. They cannot contribute new ideas because they have not and/or cannot obtain information in this area."

As a result of the difficulty in finding any major problems which both fraternity and town independent men could discuss, the workshop recommended to the encampment that next year the workshop on off-campus problems be eliminated unless there is a specific need for it. We agree.

It seems that each workshop had some difficulty with its agenda.

Both the on-campus and the judicial workshops discussed the problem of academic honesty.

The judicial workshop had such wide and varied problems to discuss as the function of the Supreme Court, whose duties beyond settling constitutional questions have not been defined, and the particular problems of the women's judicials.

The on-campus workshop did not have time to wade through its extensive agenda which included discussions on community living, discriminatory clauses, the "state of the University" and campus morals.

The USG workshop agenda included most of the basic problems which student government spent all of last year trying to solve.

And the four-term workshop instead of discussing problems created by the four-term system turned discussion into a semester vs. term system debate.

In light of this year's problems, we recommend that each spring the USG Congress decide which are the major problems facing students at that time and then advise the encampment chairman to arrange workshops on these problems.

This year the encampment could have had workshops on the tax problem of downtown men, the housing situation, the role of the Supreme Court, the future of the National Student Association on campus, the advantages and disadvantages of the five-point grading system proposed by USG President Dean Wharton during last spring's presidential campaign as compared with the present grading system, and the timing of the Float Parade, formerly held during Spring Week.

This, we believe, would make a more beneficial encampment.

HUBbing

Why Have Customs?

by herb witmer

A quarter of a century ago, in the fall of the year, the Penn State campus was in quite a frenzy. What was the reason? Freshman Customs, of course. Those were the days when upperclassmen truly enforced Customs to the hilt.

But, as usual, the passage of time has caused changes, both in attitude and procedure. No longer do we have the inter-class scraps, the professor's graveyard or the once cherished panty raid. Students are more mature and are so treated.

The Customs program, too, has changed drastically since the olden days. The program has been streamlined and shortened. The purpose of Customs is more in line with that of the University—a learning process. These changes have been beneficial. But what has happened to that vital upperclass support which was so evident in the past?

Some upperclassmen nowadays

say that Customs is a waste of time. I ask, how can a learning process be a waste of time? It is necessary for freshmen to learn the location of buildings on campus. We have visitors everyday who ask directions. Freshmen will have to attend classes in these buildings. The sooner they learn, the better off they will be.

School spirit is not a necessity but it is certainly desirable. When is school spirit needed more and enjoyed more than during football season?

Penn State has many fascinating traditions. I would wager that many upperclassmen lack even a passing knowledge of them. Although knowing Penn State traditions is not necessary, it is an enjoyable experience to delve into them. Give the freshmen this chance by starting them in the right direction through Customs.

When thinking of Customs and freshmen, one often overlooks the fact that these newcomers are probably away from home for the first time. Some will be overly shy. Some will be overly "cocky."

It is the purpose of Customs to begin preparing these freshmen for their proper place in the Penn State community. The faculty can't do this job, nor can the administrators. This is one for the upperclassmen.

Customs is a time for fun, too. "Hoty toty, I love ROTC" and "Button Frosh" are essential to the relaxed atmosphere which should surround the Customs period. And what better time is there to meet girls and guys?

An important point to remember for the coming week is that the freshmen of today will be replacing you tomorrow. I want the person replacing me to be aware of his surroundings, to be a responsible member of the Penn State community—not just a vegetable taking up space.

Customs is not a waste of time. It is an essential tradition which has a direct bearing on a student's University life in the future.

Upperclassmen—If you care at all about Penn State; if you believe in "a better Penn State," participate actively in this Customs period with an appreciation of the goals set forth.

for the record

Here We Go Again

by carol kunkleman

"Is Penn State THE state university?" we asked Richardson Dilworth and William Scranton at a news conference last Saturday. And just like appropriation time in the spring of the year, an argument over the answer to this question arose as the leaves began to fall.

Dilworth, Democratic candidate for governor of Pennsylvania, said Penn State is the only state university and quickly pointed out to our reporter that in that past eight years under a Democratic administration in Harrisburg allocations to the University have almost doubled.

Scranton, the Republican candidate, hedged a bit more on the question. He advocated an ironing out of the "legal technicalities" which prevent the University from receiving its due recognition and monetary aid.

While both of the candidates were certainly correct in their answers, the question now arises in reference to the previously posed question. Did they answer it? The answer is an unequivocal NO.

The key word in Dilworth's answer is "only." True, we are the sole university in the Commonwealth which claims the word "state" in its title, but we still don't know if the state claims us.

The fact that Scranton wants to "iron out" legal technicalities proves in itself that he did not want to commit himself with a direct answer.

A good, down-to-earth word for all these semantical manipulators to add to their glib vocabularies is "pussyfooting." It's a plain, old-fashioned term meaning proceeding verbally with caution in order to avoid public disfavor.

These men, as are a good percentage of the men in our capital, are well-educated. Surely somewhere in studying their Pennsylvania history, they have learned that Penn State was officially created by the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862.

Since the creation of the University at that time, Penn State has been expanding its physical facilities in order to accommodate the mushrooming student population of the state. We have also been expanding our academic facilities by striving for a more and more qualified faculty.

Only on the part of the state colleges, formerly called state teachers' colleges, has the state seemed to be perfectly clear on the question of status. These schools too have continued to ex-

pand as rapidly as possible and to improve their education processes, but with unquestioned cooperation on the part of the Commonwealth.

If the object of the Commonwealth is to provide its citizens and their children with the best education possible, why do its administrators worry about such trivialities as the status of the University when the question was decided for them over 100 years ago?

It's fine to have master plans for education and study committees to delve into the fine points

of our system, but it's concrete action that's going to accomplish their task of educating.

Before they embark on another plan of facilitating their students and get involved in more "pussyfooting," they ought to think, as we students are supposed to do, about what education means to them (with no grammatical strings attached); then no matter whether the Democrats or the Republicans dominate our legislature, money can be given to us now to help the job this University was intended to do—educate potential voters.

the AP

East Berlin's Oxygen Supply

by ann palmer

It was announced yesterday that 29 East Germans escaped to Western freedom through a tunnel built under the menacing concrete wall which divides the most unfortunate of cities—Berlin—into two parts.

Since I returned from a stay in Berlin this summer, I have been asked many times "Why do the East German people continue to risk their lives and the lives of their friends and families to escape from the Eastern sector?"

My only answer and my deep conviction is that these escapees are not risking their lives, they are saving them. One takes a risk only when he has something to lose. People living under the stifling police control dominant in East Berlin have nothing but oppression and depression to lose—they have the world to gain.

The Eastern sector of Berlin is a world in itself—a world that cannot be adequately described or imagined by he who has never visited the city. It can't be described because it is not the ruins, not the empty streets, not the rally stadium bearing the symbol of the hammer and sickle that set it apart from every other city in the world. It is the atmosphere that prevades every building, every street and every Communist memorial in the city that makes it horribly unique. The atmosphere is evident in

the faces of the people living in East Berlin as they walk slowly through the quiet and deathly empty streets of their city, as they stand for hours on the East-ern corners of Friedrichstrasse, the only American entry point into the Eastern sector, as they watch with blank eyes every person that crosses from West to East through Checkpoint Charlie.

The sickened spirit of the Eastern sector is seen in the somber faces of men, women and children who spend their days watching their families and friends ascend the old wooden watch tower on the western side of the wall to watch and wave. It is seen in the face of a son who watches his mother ascend the tower and weep. He can do nothing. He is forbidden to wave back or talk to her under penalty of death.

It was felt in the tremor of horror that shook the world when, a short while ago, an East German youth was shot and left to die by East German border guards.

In the Western sector, the atmosphere of East Berlin has touched the spirits of American soldiers stationed in the city. They are strong, courageous and very much afraid at the same time.

East Berlin is much more than a geographical feature. It is a spirit—a spirit which has been made so foul, so sickly and so foreign to the nature of man that it cannot long last. It cannot last long because the flame, which keeps it alive is fast being snuffed out.

A fire cannot burn in an atmosphere which refuses to admit oxygen.



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