

Editorial Opinion

The Fischer Method

In a lecture Thursday night, John Fischer, editor of Harper's magazine, recommended that university students take action to improve the quality of the education by promoting better instruction.

His ideas are worthy of consideration. The Daily Collegian suggested last year that college student councils undertake evaluations of the professors in their colleges as a service to other students. Such an action could bring attention to substandard instruction and provide an incentive for improvement.

Fischer also recommended that students "raise a little hell" to end poor instruction. We would like to see students use the power of numbers to achieve results in this direction. However, without substantial organization, this plan would have no effect.

Outside examiners, by which a professor unassociated with the course makes up the exam, are another possibility. Fischer pointed out that this system provides an incentive for a professor to teach the course he is best capable of as well as promoting better relations between student and professor, who are united against the outside examiner.

We realize that substandard instruction exists at this University as well as at other universities. We do not condone it.

However, we think the student has a responsibility to his professors similar to that which a professor has to his student.

It is at least up to the individual student to find out what the professor is capable of teaching if challenged to go beyond the required minimum. Stimulating discussion is one of the best methods of improving a class and bringing out the best in professors.

Education is a two-way process. Unfortunately, knowledge cannot be implanted in students' brains solely through the efforts of the professor. Students have an obligation to make the first step to improve instruction through their classroom attitude. If they are still dissatisfied, their next resort is to the Fischer method.

OSGA-A Link?

The Organization of Student Government Associations of this University convened its fall meeting last night.

In the last two years since this organization was formed, most of the items discussed at meetings have been related to such subjects as regulating activities, setting up inter-campus athletic leagues and evaluating past meetings.

While we feel that these topics should be discussed, we also would suggest that the OSGA delegates concentrate more time on "main" issues. These issues deserve awareness on the part of University students on all 14 campuses.

Main issues which could be concentrated upon are the student drive for more state appropriations, the campaign to eliminate the 4 per cent state sales tax on textbooks and the student government's membership in the National Student Association.

Last year OSGA supported our campus student government's drive for a Thanksgiving vacation. We believe more collective group stands should be taken, since these "main" issues affect students at every campus.

We urge the delegates to consider seriously the importance and value of their organization in making it a more vital link between all university students.

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58 Years of Editorial Freedom

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The Hollow Men

by Joel Myers

The Undergraduate Student Government, supposedly the voice and "governing body" of Penn State students, terminated its usefulness to anybody on anything Wednesday night, and should be abolished immediately.

Already standing on the edge of nothingness as a result of past indecisiveness, USG completely abrogated its duties to the student body when it refused to act swiftly and firmly on a motion that would have condemned the administration's action on Froth.

USG Congressmen should not be figureheads, but should act in accordance with their role as representatives of a specific group of students.

True governmental representatives are duty bound to investigate all issues confronting them, to hear witnesses and to study all aspects of the issues in great detail.



MYERS

From the evidence and testimony so gathered, true representatives make use of their reasoning powers to reach a conclusion.

Since few members of the USG Congress demonstrated either the interest or ability to follow the course of true representatives Wednesday night, USG is obviously not composed of representatives of the students.

But they are not figureheads either!

Figureheads act in accordance with the will of the majority of their constituency.

Polls conducted by the Daily Collegian and private sources indicated students are strongly opposed to the administration's complete disregard for student rights in the Froth case.

If USG Congressmen were even so much as mere pawns of student opinion, they would have condemned the administration's dictatorial action without hesitation.

USG "Congressmen" did not even have the initiative or energy to consult their own constituency on Froth, but instead decided to await an overall poll of student opinion.

This poll will not divulge the individual feelings of students in each of the different governing areas, but will represent a mass of statistics characterized by means, standard deviations and correlation coefficients for the University as a whole.

In refusing to accept the challenge presented by this controversial issue and acting swiftly on the students' behalf, USG destroyed its last vestige of usefulness.

In refusing to legislate before a statistical summary of student opinion could be compiled, the Congress abrogated its powers as a governing body. For these reasons, USG should abolish itself at once and turn over its few remaining functions to a team of poll-takers.

It should not reappear on the University scene until a group of students can be found that understand the functioning of a governing body, are familiar with the Constitution of the United States and are capable of exercising the powers granted to them as Congressmen.

Letters

Penn Student Cites Case of Dull Humor

TO THE EDITOR: Your Froth situation interests me chiefly, I must admit, because we on the Penn campus are a beautiful example of what happens once humor and satire dies at college.

A few years ago we had one of the best humor magazines in the nation, and now we have The Satyr—published bi-annually, if it's lucky, and purchased by somebody, if it's lucky.

The magazine is dull—take-offs on a fraternity party, a few pointless ad parodies, a page of smutty jokes that never quite come out and say the words. Long ago it stopped making fun of sacred cows and pouring water over the clay feet of idols, but it wasn't because of any great furor among the student body and administration. We stopped caring; no one wanted to expend the time, sweat and talent necessary to turn the really important campus issues into palatable humor. We let our wit grow stagnant with disuse, and so we found ourselves left with a humorless Satyr.

You'd be surprised what a difference it makes. We don't have a forum for free expression anymore, and it shows. Because now that there isn't a ready opportunity to be crude and offensive, angry and biting, crusading and witty all rolled into one, we've lost the crude, angry and witty part of our personality, and you no longer find us offending, biting and crusading. Your school spirit is the first to go, and after that you forget the causes.

Take a look at the Penn campus and get sick to your stomach. What are we? A bunch of passive pseudo-intellectuals without the capacity to enjoy a good smutty joke now and then. We have a women's weekly which has as its sole purpose berating the men's daily. We have a Student Government Association that operates straight out of the Dean of Men's office. We have a fraternity system that is rapidly deteriorating and no workable dorm council to take its place. We have a Dean of Women who goes through the women's dorms to make sure every girl makes her bed before 11 o'clock. We have a literary magazine that can't sell 500 copies on a campus of 5,000.

Fight for your Froth. It's more than just a magazine. It's your right to say what you think in the way you want, tradition and administration be damned. If you're too squeamish to take your independence with a bit of flith, then by all means don't buy the magazine. But if it's the spirit and opportunity behind the Froth that you admire, then by all means support it in every way

you can—with money and with words.

Nothing is so sacred, not even God, that we can't laugh at it once in a while. And once you lose your ability to laugh, life becomes too long and the daily problems of living too oppressive.

Letter cut
—A University of Pennsylvania Student, '65

More Theft Seen As Campus Trend

TO THE EDITOR: "Theft" and "Penn State"—these two words seem to be developing a greater association with each other. Penn Staters will, it seems, steal anything: books from the library, bicycles, articles of clothing, etc. For one indication of the occurrence of theft here, just check the Collegian classifieds from time to time.

In the Pollock residence halls some sorority suites are adjacent to the main entrance and lobby, thus facilitating easy entry from the lobby and greater opportunity for anyone to enter and remove objects from these suites.

Three weeks ago, two wooden figurines brought back from Europe last summer were removed from the Alpha Phi suite. The "Optimist" and "Pessimist," as they are called, have little monetary value as they only cost about \$10. But that is not the point. They are not easily replaceable, and they do not belong to anyone other than this sorority.

I do not feel that this is a petty issue, in this particular case and in principle. That University students—by definition, an elite of each generation—can't be expected to conduct themselves in an above-average, more mature and responsible manner seems to me to be a sad fact for Penn State and our society to have to admit.

—Phyllis Hutton, '63

Some of the bulletin boards outside dining halls are sporting more signs than space these days. It makes one want to add just one more poster: "Please stop the signs" or "You're drowning us with good advice."

—Prof Wayne

Frosh Propose New System For Pattee

TO THE EDITOR: We noticed in the Oct. 20 issue of the Collegian that the editorial staff was quick to point out to returning alumni that Penn State has been predicted to be in the top ten universities in the nation within the next decade. If it can be truly said that a university can be judged partially by the quality of its library, we find it hard to believe that Penn State is destined to be a leading institution. The inadequacy of the Pattee Library is somewhat astonishing.

We went to the library last night with great expectations of finding reference material for a term paper. We were not so foolhardy as to request but one or two books. (We know better than that.) We requested seven. Still, we were astonished to learn that the whereabouts of all seven books are unknown.

As you have already pointed out, there is a great amount of thievery on this campus; and we cannot expect to raise the moral standards of our fellow students, but perhaps a system might be established to remove temptation.

We feel that the present circulation system is not only time-consuming and bothersome, but in fact serves as a stimulation for theft. The students adhere to the old adage, "A book in the hand is worth two in the stacks."

Now, we propose that the present circulation system be done away with and in its place, a new system be set up whereby students be allowed to find the books in the stacks themselves. We feel that this action will place a far greater responsibility on the students and they will appreciate the expression of confidence on the part of the library staff.

We also consider that the system will be beneficial to the library staff itself because it will require the employment of fewer personnel. Instead of six or seven assistants who are required to operate the present system, the new system will require but one librarian stationed at each of the exits of the stack rooms.

We further suggest the removal of temptation by prohibiting the student from taking his books into the stacks with him. In this way, any attempt at pilfering will be easily recognized.

We hope to remain at Penn State for the next four years; for our main purpose in coming here was to obtain an education. We do not see how this is possible, however, when such an important facility as the library is of such poor quality. Something must be done.

—Bob Newman, '68
—Bruce Yoskin, '68

WDFM Schedule

SATURDAY

- 2:00 Opera
- 3:00 Chamber Music
- 7:00 Hi Fi Openhouse
- 8:00 Spotlight
- 9:00 Offbeat
- 12:00 Ken's Korner

SUNDAY

- 1:00 Sunday Moods
- 4:00 Poetry and Music
- 5:00 Chapel Service
- 6:00 Hersman Tabernacle Choir
- 6:20 Chamber Music
- 7:00 The Third Program
- 11:00 Sign Off