

Editorial Opinion

Recall: A Better Approach For an Effective USG

USG Congressman Alan White's proposed constitutional amendment to permit a referendum on the continuation of student government is enough to make even the most disinterested student sit up and take notice.

It set off a prolonged debate in the meeting of the USG Rules Committee, where it was decided that the bill was unclear. Therefore it will not be on the agenda for the Congress' meeting tonight. There are indications that the bill would cause even more discussion if and when it is presented to the Congress.

Such an amendment would permit approximately 2,000 students, by petition, to call for a referendum on the continuation of student government. Were such a petition obtained, the issue would come to a vote of the entire student body.

We strongly believe there does exist a basic need for an All-University student government on this campus. The individual area governments cannot perform many functions that a student government representing all students can. Also, there are certain times when the collective views of the student body must be presented; an All-University student government can best reflect these views.

While we disagree with White's amendment, we believe that he has raised a valid point in that there is a need for a means by which students can keep tabs on their representatives.

At the present time, the USG Constitution provides for removal of a Congressman only by Congressional action. We feel there should be a means by which a Congressman can be recalled by his constituency and urge that an amendment providing for this be adopted.

This power of popular recall is not presently included in the By-Laws of the Undergraduate Student Government. Steps should be taken to fill this gap and to give students the ability to remove elected representatives from office as well as vote them into office.

This seems to us to be a more effective and workable means of popular control than that of allowing for the entire body to be removed.

If the student body and the Congress agree with us that there is a need for an All-University student government, we hope that they will consider our suggestion for an individual recall amendment rather than Congressman White's proposed amendment.

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kaleidoscope

Term System Soul Searching

by kay mills

The home stretch of each term brings a flurry of criticism about our educational "wonder," the term system. We begin to complain of the pressures placed upon us by the need to condense courses into a 10-week span.

People have always complained and undoubtedly always will. Until now, I have felt that maybe the term system wasn't so bad. After all, we have a term break next month to outdo that of almost any other university.

I have changed my mind, however. What good does this lengthy vacation do to students who are too tense to enjoy it? We are told by our elders that college years should be the best of our lives. Tell that to some industrious student at 2 a.m. and see what reaction you get.

Too many people have become too mired in their own academic problems to remember that other students have worries. These students may never need counseling services but they have become so involved in their little worlds that minor irritants cause major tem-

per outbursts or increased withdrawal, depending on the person's emotional makeup.

Of course, the term system can't be solely responsible for tension. The world is in a pretty bad fix, too. Experience shows, though, that people respond more to events which happen to them than those that happen to others.

Students may be able to accelerate and offer their brainpower to the community sooner, but is possession of crammed facts and not well-considered concepts the criteria for the educated man our society wants or needs? America requires citizens with increased understanding and tolerance — noble words, perhaps, but words which cannot be allowed to become meaningless.

We may likewise be able to reduce financial handicaps by working during the long winter vacation. We may gain, but what happens in the long run when our hollow education fails us?

I realize that here I am criticizing myself and my school. Why do I remain, you ask? I remain because I believe there are people and groups which are striving to enrich others' educations and make the diploma more than a symbol.

These people deserve all the thanks and praise a grateful stu-

dent body can deliver. They are the ones who will be remembered by us in the future. Some students unfortunately never find these people.

One suggestion for easing pressures could be drastic curtailment of extra-curricular activities. Indeed, many students have needed no prompting and realize that first duty is to the books. But activities, sports and social life are vital outlets for many in easing term system pressures.

There are obviously those students who do not feel pressured. Parties are as gay and as frequent as ever. But the average serious student — if you pardon another noble sentiment, the people who should be the backbone of our society in 10 or 15 years — are at the same time concerned about the depth of their learning.

The whole problem can be stated as one concerning philosophies of education. Should universities educate a few students well or many students sparingly? Or can universities educate in depth the mass of students, even the jokers, and the plodders? There is the real challenge.

I am well aware that the University will not undo what is done. Many attempts have been made to soften the pressure cooker effect of this grind. On paper, the term system may appear ideally geared to our age of technological advances. Progress in education is desperately needed. Human learning and living, however, are complex processes that cannot be neatly represented on charts or pre-packed for distribution at 10-week intervals.

Penn State, look at your students now as they are voicing their most penetrating comments about you. Then plug your electronic brain into the circuit marked "silent, serious soul-searching." Thank you.

Letters

Football Rating Questioned

TO THE EDITOR: As the 1962 college football season has progressed toward its final weeks, the undersigned wish to question the validity of the major national football polls, in particular those of the UPI and the AP. How, in heaven's name are these teams ranked? By the team's ability or by the amount of press coverage received?

If ranked by ability, other factors should be considered by the pollsters besides the scores by which the teams win. Of prime consideration should be the type of schedule that the team in question plays.

This week Alabama is ranked number one in the country. Let us examine their schedule. They have played such "tough" opponents at Tulane, Houston, Tulsa and Vanderbilt. We do not mean to take anything away from the University of Alabama, for it has a fine team as evidenced by the 36-3 trouncing of Miami last week. But how can a team who plays such easy opponents for most of the year be ranked number one?

By the same token, we also feel that Penn State has been kicked around by these pollsters long enough. Penn State's 1962 football schedule is undoubtedly a tough one.

Every one of the schools which we have played or will play before the season ends can be considered a potentially dangerous opponent. So far we have had a very successful season, defeating seven teams and losing to only one and that by a very close score.

Yet, we are ranked somewhere

in the second ten while L.S.U., which has lost one and has been tied by Rice, a team which we defeated 18-7, is ranked number 10. In this case, did the pollsters consider the relative merits of the two teams or did they count how many times articles on Jerry Stovall were run in Sports Illustrated?

In closing, we feel that a grave injustice has been done and that it is high time that the sports writers in question give credit where credit is due.

- Garry Kotishion, '65
- David Fitzgerald, '65
- Charles Laedlein, '64
- William Lutz, '65
- Frank Mac Cord, '64

Editorial Policy Appraised

TO THE EDITOR: In light of your motto "For a better Penn State" and your expressed interest in building good student government, we were somewhat more than surprised at a statement in your recent appraisal of the USG executive. Your editorial implied that "nothing" has been done to present the pros and cons of NSA affiliation to the student body.

Perhaps, if you are interested in building student government, it would be wise to investigate various matters more fully before subjecting them to editorial comment.

Before pros and cons can be presented, they must be investigated more fully. Student government has sent delegates to both the Spring Regional Conference and the National Student Congress of NSA, and has taken a responsible role in the formation of the present NSA Coordinator's Committee.

This committee is now working in the areas of NSA programming — for instance, book discount, Educational Travel Inc., NSA mock convention, entertainment and lecture bookings — and is sponsoring a region-wide conference on the aims of education.

Throughout the year, the committee will be investigating the feasibility of various NSA programs. In this way, the student government can and is surveying the potential benefits of NSA affiliation.

This task requires the cooperation of many campus organizations if it is to present a true appraisal of NSA to USG this spring. A conscientious effort by The Daily Collegian to at least become publicly aware of the efforts of the student government in applying NSA programs to Penn State would be appreciated.

- Tom Kiley, NSA Delegate
- Fran Monte, University Party Chairman

Letters

Simons Hits Baker Criticism

TO THE EDITOR: "Crusading, emotion-evoking student press," "crusading pseudo-journalists" — Mr. Baker at least seems to have a fixation that Collegian is crusading (perhaps he discerns contrast with his own organization).

But as for the other descriptive terminology, the honorable VP (for Morris is an honorable man) seems to have something in common with Mr. Nixon — the press just doesn't understand. It insists on printing the facts. And interpreting them.

In other words, it fulfills the responsibility for which it exists. And, as they say, Mr. VP, when living in glass enclosures (203 Hetzel Union Building has glass on both sides)

Mr. Baker apparently equates USG's "level of maturity seldom, if ever, before seen in a student government at Penn State" with inaction, for that is what USG's "mature and constructive solution" consists of at present. Mr. Baker doesn't seem to realize that while Congress was busily watering down its stand, the opportunity for timely and effective action evaporated.

USG's committee wants to "work" out changes in Froth so that it can become an acceptable publication," he says. Our oracle doesn't seem to realize that this is just what the administration committee refused to allow the magazine editors to do. Will now, several months later, they allow USG to do this? And he accuses the Collegian of making idealistic statements.

—Kurt Simons, '63

Seat Saving in Schwab

TO THE EDITOR: It is prominently noted on each program for Schwab shows that: "Early arrivals may not save seats for late arrivals." We, the undersigned, consider it unjust that despite this general policy statement, seats are reserved for certain faculty aristocrats for every performance held there.

- David Thompson
- Hank Grill
- Grad students