

Editorial Opinion

NSA Conference Results

If the success of the regional conference of the National Student Association is an indication of the interest other members have in this organization, we have serious doubts regarding our own student government's joining.

The regional conference, held last weekend with the aims of education as a theme, drew only 30 students from the member schools of NSA in West Virginia and Pennsylvania. This number was less than half of those delegates originally expected to attend.

This year USG has been participating in NSA on a trial membership basis, with the vote on permanent membership slated for late this academic year.

Besides questioning the value of joining the organization on the basis of interest shown, we also question the value of the topics discussed at the conference.

One seminar group dealt with student-faculty-administration relations and the contribution of student government to university development. A second seminar considered both curriculum development and the benefits students should derive from courses.

These are worthy topics for discussion—but also ones which are discussed more extensively on a local basis such as at a meeting of students at the USG Encampment. It seems more reasonable to expect that NSA delegates would discuss what NSA could do as a group to promote the aims of education on a national basis utilizing the interests of member schools.

The delegates did not offer any concrete action after their discussions. While definite proposals are not always desirable, it seems reasonable to expect that this group would have been able to draw together their discussions into a helpful plan of action if they believe strongly and agree enough to reach conclusions in the first place.

It would be fallacious to assume that one could decide the basis for membership in a large group such as NSA on the outcome of one meeting. It seems logical, however, that the USG delegates should question the value of the organization after viewing this past meeting.

We urge the USG representatives to take the initiative to question the benefits of NSA before committing themselves to permanent membership. This newspaper intends to engage in the same probing before endorsing or disapproving permanent participation in the association.

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Editor

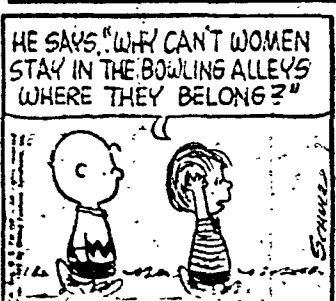
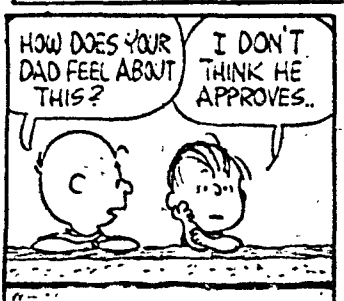
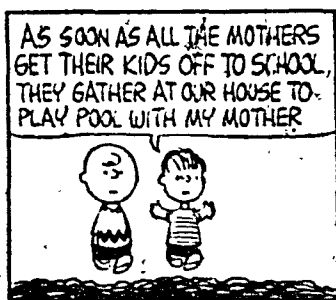
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Letters to the Editor

'Letters' Called Useful Tool; Students Encouraged to Write

TO THE EDITOR: This is not to be a "common" attack upon student apathy; nor is it intended to be in defense of it. This letter, however, is intended, more or less, to be a challenge to many people, primarily students, who are concerned and sensitive to problems at this large university and to those who have the ability and clarity to bring these ideas and feelings into the open through the media of writing.

After following the letters to the editor for quite a time, I have begun to realize just what a tool these letters can ultimately be in defense of student opinions and attitudes. I only regret that I have not participated in writing to the Collegian, thereby taking advantage of this tool. As other students, I have found myself with many feelings of dissatisfaction from time to time at Penn State.

Many of these feelings have been geared toward University policies in general—many of which have been identified in previous letters to the Collegian. Unfortunately, termination of many of my feelings has not come only by reading these letters. Reading a number of them, in fact, has often left me more bitter and more dissatisfied.

More than once I have sat down to write to the school paper to expound about my feelings; however, in all of these instances, my attempts have either ended in the form of a completed letter in the waste basket, or as uncompleted ones eventually dying similarly. I have really felt unjust to myself for not writing, and this is why I am finally writing this letter.

At this point you may be questioning what my purpose in writing really is. The answer lies in my belief that there are many people on this campus who have ideas which should be brought into light so that those who read

this paper may know them, understand them, or even question them.

Many of these people, of whom I am speaking, have the capabilities and creative instincts to perform the operations of writing effectively, but many do not take advantage of these gifts. One may ask these questions: "What good is writing a single letter?" or "Does it pay to write a letter at all?" This, unfortunately, is something that cannot be answered immediately, or possibly never.

When we look at a forest, do we ask ourselves, "What good is one tree?" No, we do not, for we know that one tree alone is insignificant. But, we do not realize, on the other hand, that in terms of the entire forest the one tree is important. Therefore, instead we can ask ourselves, "What would the forest be without the totality of many individual trees?"

This is primarily my argument. For instance, this letter which I am now writing is entirely insignificant in itself. However, one never knows what its ultimate effects might or could be if defended or rejected by other interested writers.

As stated in the beginning, this letter has not been intended to be an attack upon student apathy. I believe apathy is a phenomenon which has always existed on campuses and always will in one form or another. This is something I can realize and accept as being natural without holding a grudge. However, this letter has been a challenge to those who can write, and who are concerned about different things which may be of interest to others. I think these people should write.

Some do write already; many of whom write well. However, I do believe that too much talent lies dormant at this University. And I think it should be brought into the open through written expression.

—Edward Mandel, '63

Class Board Cites Purposes, Need

TO THE EDITOR: We, the Freshman Class Advisory Board, firmly believe that there is a need and a purpose for class advisory boards. Looking forward, we base this belief on future plans being proposed and discussed by non-legislative bodies.

We support our belief with the fact that the members of these boards were selected on their capacities to contribute to, work for, and serve their respective classes. Their year of service has just begun, but the ideas and concrete plans springing from these creative minds are representative of their desire and ability to serve.

Living within a large university, each student needs a certain degree of identification. Specific interest groups provide an outlet for a part of this. But when the student graduates from Penn State, he graduates from the Class of '66 (for example). He has been living, learning, and sharing experiences with his class for approximately four years. This is the group with which he is most likely to identify himself.

The advisory boards do not claim to be 100 per cent perfect, but they are striving towards a feeling of class unity and class

Campus Beat

Tsk! Tsk! the Collegian only gave 12 inches of space to a report of the USG meeting last night! And on Wednesday it was 12 and on Tuesday it was 15! Why that hardly seems ample to tell the story. Perhaps Collegian should let those Congressmen write the interpretative columns they're pestering the editors about—or maybe they should "educate" their reporters and educators on what kind of interpretation USG measures need.

Maybe they ought to ask the USG Congress next week what their interpretation of "interpretation" is!

—Prof Wayne

Froth Support Given in Letter To President

DEAR DR. WALKER: As former editors of Froth, we were saddened to learn that our venerable (for Penn State) former publication has been shut down. We hope the decision of the Committee on Student Organizations is not irrevocable.

Since we can only imagine the circumstances which led to such a drastic decision, we offer no criticism. However, in defense of Froth as an institution, we would like to tell you what the magazine has meant to us.

On a campus as large as State had become even then, Froth functioned as one of the few outlets for personal dissent. This dissent was harmless and healthy in an atmosphere which too often was willing to sacrifice personal eccentricity to the pressures of conformity. Froth often missed its mark as a literary effort, but the staff never lacked enthusiasm.

The freedom, which other campus publications lacked, was sometimes abused, but never maliciously. We attacked with a naive fervor certain social problems other publications were content to ignore. Froth was a delicious luxury we will never know again.

Froth was also an introduction to our present careers. One of us holds his present position because of the work he did for the magazine. The other was given his first job on a newspaper on the basis of his Froth writings.

And there are many other Froth graduates holding important positions on newspapers, in publishing houses and with magazines. Froth was the kind of practical experience that will never be available in the artificial climate of the journalism laboratory or the creative writing class.

But most important, Froth was a labor of love. Not just our labor, but the works of the countless student writers, artists and editors of the past fifty-three years. To let all of that disappear because of a momentary indiscretion would be a sad thing.

—Marshall O. Donley, '54

—Bryon Fielding, '56

(The Daily Collegian received a carbon copy of this letter to President Walker. We print it here with Walker's permission.)

Junior Charges

'Misinterpretation'

TO THE EDITOR: In reply to the "refutation" of Edward Silver's letter on dress by Bonnie Benka and Janet Blank: Here we have an apparent example of a problem existing on our campus. It seems that many people are either unable to comprehend what they read, or too quick to express unfounded opinions which lack knowledge of the facts.

The most obvious fallacy contained in these girls' understanding of Silver's letter is that they either did not take the time to read it, or they have no idea what they read. It is extremely obvious that Silver intended his letter to be a satire. Even if he was misinterpreted by these young women, they had only to read the headline — "Senior Satirizes Dining Hall Dress" in order to ascertain his meaning.

I suggest that these scholarly and virtuous women, who would not slanderize the poor peasants of the Bible, look up the meaning of satire in Webster's dictionary. In case they do not have one, I am sure that our library does.

I believe that even a greater fallacy exists than this superficial misunderstanding. I feel that herein we have an example of the blind virtue and false morality which caused Froth to be banned from our campus.

—Julian Rappaport, '64

Maryland Student Thanks Penn State

TO THE EDITOR: I received a clipping of Miss Ann Palmer's column from the Nov. 10 issue of The Daily Collegian and would like to recount my impressions on visiting your campus. I found that the students were very friendly and went out of their way to make us feel welcome. I came with the University of Maryland Newman Club and I'm sure my fellow students who came with the group agree with me. I didn't attend any of those "wild" fraternity parties, but they sounded like they were a lot of fun.

Sunday morning I was given a tour of the campus by one of your sophomore boys, and it is beautiful. Thank you, Penn State, for a wonderful weekend. I won't soon forget your Old Main or your warm hospitality.

—Ronnie Thayer
University of
Maryland

WDFM Schedule

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 21
5:00 Dinner Date
5:15 Weatheroscope with Joel Myers
6:20 Virtuoso: Arturo Rubenstein
7:30 Artists Series Preview: Sangeeta Madras (Music from India)
8:00 Pleasures of Music: Dr. Raver commenting and playing artists of the past: Caruso, Bruno, Walter, etc.
9:00 Campus & Religion (University Christian Association)
9:15 Mostly Music: Jazz motif
10:00 Symphonic Notebook: Berlioz
Symphony Fantastique
Bach; Brandenburg Concerto No. 5
12:00 News