

Editorial Opinion

A Better Penn State Must Be Deserved

As we heard the news of the resignation of five Congressmen last night, we began to reflect upon the status of student government at this University. Due to the resignations, elections will soon have to be held again. With each election for Congressional substitutes, interest among students seems to decrease. We abhor this apathy.

There are those, and they are not few, that will criticize us for calling non-interest in student government apathy. We ask these people to consider:

Are students at the Pennsylvania State University so content . . . so satisfied with their situation here . . . so unimaginative and so disinterested that they could not wish for a better university?

As you spent \$40 for books in a crowded downtown bookstore did you wish for a University bookstore which could possibly offer reduced prices? Student government has explored bookstore possibilities in the past and could do so again WITH STUDENT SUPPORT.

Were male students glad to hear the University Senate's recommendation that ROTC be made voluntary? Student government was active in advocating this change.

Probably every student, excluding freshmen and transfers, has enjoyed the Spring Week festivities. They are student government sponsored events.

These are but a few of the vast variety of projects in which student government has participated. The possibilities for its future are unlimited.

But without strong student support it can do nothing. Each person on this expansive campus can contribute to the betterment of this university, student body and himself in his own way through student government. He may run for an All-University office or he may drop a line to the president recommending a capable person for a proposed project. He may just cast his ballot. Extent of contribution is an individual matter.

If students are dissatisfied with the job their student government is doing or if they have become disinterested because they feel student government is "doing nothing important," let them examine their own ideas for this University's betterment. Let them use their imaginations. Let them make our potentially vital student government into the driving force that it should be.

In a University as large as Penn State, student government should be a body of stature, responsibility, respect and influence. Student government is not given to the students, but is made by them.

We cannot condone the behavior of students who sit back and criticize . . . who jeer at attempts to better the University . . . AND DO NOTHING to correct the situation.

They do not deserve a better Penn State.

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Letters

A Poe On Collegian?

TO THE EDITOR: Have you an Edgar Allen Poe on your layout staff or was the front page of the Nov. 27 Collegian—containing the suicide report—merely a product of capricious chance?

What involuted Gothic imagination could have the USG proclaim "Dead Week" (goes rather well with a suicide story!) in one place then, alongside that, proudly announce that university "Improvement" (no doubt the erection of taller dormitories) "May Lead To Rating in Top Ten by 1970"—what top ten? (heh, heh).

This was not all, we still have jolly old "Spring Week: Schedule of Events Announced." "By now we all have a vague idea of what those "events" will consist.

These are, of course, the impressions of a person who reads only headlines. The report of the boy's death, contrary to the usual cry of coldness you may receive, was, I thought, well and compassionately written. I have only one complaint and that is, why did one of the eighth-floor students get his name in bold type? A trivial matter, but it seemed to put the article in bad taste. Why should any other human being except the deceased have received that much attention in the report?

To conclude, Edgar Allen Poe was pretty good at horror stories but to use him in laying out headlines is rather inappropriate.

—Pete Pappentick, '64

WDFM Schedule

- TUESDAY, JAN. 8, 1963
- 4:15 THE PHILADELPHIA — Bloch; Schelomo; Ravel; Concerto for the Left Hand
- 5:00 DINNER DATE—Popular music
- 6:00 THIS WEEK AT THE UNITED NATIONS
- 6:15 WEATHERSCOPE—Joel Myers' forecast
- 6:20 CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS
- 7:30 HIGHLIGHT—Campus organizations
- 7:40 CAMPUS SPORTS PARADE — Joe Grata interviews top athletes
- 7:55 NEWS ROUNDUP
- 8:00 THE SOUND OF FOLK MUSIC—Mike Thomsen with records and local talent
- 8:55 SPORTS NEWS
- 9:00 MEET THE PROFESSOR
- 9:15 MOSTLY MUSIC — Popular music
- 9:55 UP! NEWS
- 10:00 SYLLABUS NOTEBOOK

2 cents worth

IFC Week?

by dave runkel

Last year the Interfraternity Council tried to take over Spring Week by direct methods. At that time, the council proposed that the participating members in the "week" should decide what activities were to be included in the annual spring affair.

Thus since the IFC has participated more heavily than any other group, it would, in effect, be in position to dictate the events of the "week."

That move failed for various reasons, the main one being that no other groups on campus supported IFC's position.

This year the IFC is waging a more subtle campaign to take over Spring Week. They are attempting to infiltrate the sponsorship of Spring Week by scheduling a concert in the prime time slot of the spring weekend—Saturday night. Student government has sponsored Spring Week since the conception of the event nearly 15 years ago. This year the Town Independent Men's Council has agreed to relinquish its monopoly of the rights for a "gambling" night so that a Casino similar to "Las Vegas Nite" could be a part of Spring Week.

Thus, the present situation is that although this one weekend in April has been set aside as an All-University Spring Week, the Interfraternity Council has moved in, rather uninvited, and scheduled an event for the Satur-

day night of that weekend.

The Spring Week committee was faced with the choice of either accepting the IFC-sponsored event or scheduling something in direct competition with it.

The committee has apparently rejected the latter alternative believing the concert would outdraw any event they might schedule. This seems to have some logic to support it.

This scheme to take the control of Spring Week out of the hands of USG and give it to the IFC would, in this writer's opinion, destroy the All-University nature of the event. Now it is one of the few, if not the only time when all students can work on one event. It is a truly Penn State Week.

In addition to this loss, the past record of the IFC shows that when it has been confronted with the choice of doing something good for the University as a whole or doing something good for IFC, it has chosen to do that thing best for IFC. This is exemplified by its refusal to participate in a float parade at Homecoming when all other campus organizations supported the proposal.

When Spring Week chairman Peter Lockhart makes his report on the schedule of events for Spring Week to the USG Congress perhaps student government will throw its full support behind an All-University-sponsored Spring Week and apply pressure to the IFC to relinquish the sponsorship of the concert now set for the Saturday night of Spring Week.

If this can't be done, perhaps Spring Week can be moved to some other weekend more inconvenient to the IFC.



RUNKEL

Affluent Society Called A Myth By Arizona State Grad Student

TO THE EDITOR: In 1953 David Lilienthal wrote: "... today one finds the physical benefits of our society distributed widely, to almost everyone, with scant regard to status, class or origin of the individual." Also that year Shepard B. Clough wrote that the "... progress which has been made in the last 20 years toward a more equitable sharing in the benefits of economic growth shows what is possible under the capitalist system."

In 1958 the concept of "the affluent society" was propounded by John Kenneth Galbraith. Among others, David Riesman and A. A. Berle have also contributed to the popularly held notion of justly distributed wealth. Surely all this is ample testimony that Jeffersonian democracy has become a reality in the U.S.A. Thus we have come to believe that the rich are getting poorer, and the poor, richer.

Sooner or later all dogma and myth falls prey to facts and figures. So it is with American economics. A recent book by a Harvard historian has exploded the pernicious myth that the so-called free enterprise system is spreading the wealth.

Dr. Gabriel Kolko's book, "Wealth and Power in America," attacks this comfortable notion—that the rich are getting poorer, and the poor, richer—with a barrage of documented facts and plain-spoken logic. He shows the widely hailed democratic revolution of the New Deal and after to be little more than making the status quo more palatable. Even with the many reforms over the last 30 years, the distribution of wealth is essentially the same as it was in 1910!

That the rich are getting richer is also revealed by Robert J. Lampman, economics professor at the University of Wisconsin, whose book, "The Share of Top-Wealth Holders in National Wealth, 1922-56," claims that the richest one per cent holds 76 per cent of the total of corporation stocks outstanding. This concentration is actually worse than 1929.

Why do such anti-democratic

forces go unrecognized and unchecked? The strange silence in the universities, labor unions, and government is most mysterious to me. (We can rest assured Big Business won't blab about its monopolistic activities.) It seems that a conscious deception is being infused on our folkways and mores to a dangerous degree. Such corporate despotism as now prevails in our country points to the necessity of radical change in economic structure. But the crazy national psychology and logic wrought by Cold War fear are working against any rational approach in solving our grave economic problems. The military-industrial complex has too much at stake to allow this. ("Peace" has become a subversive idea.)

Close scrutiny of the U.S. power structure shows a juxtaposition of economic and political power, with labor playing a subordinate (servile) role. The record of the 87th Congress readily demonstrates this. President Kennedy ultimately got his fingers burned after the row with big steel; he later appeased the monopolists. Check the record. In the name of the Taft-Hartley Law, court orders, and national defense, labor quickly got in line. (Labor has been housebroken for years now.) Too many labor leaders have a vested interest in the status quo. Check the record. The forces of democracy are surely being thwarted to serve the interests of a greedy few, the corporate wealthy.

But why the silence (or is it confusion?) in the academic world? Surely most teachers and professors have little vested interest in maintaining the present structure of wealth and power? Or is there an ignorance of basic facts? Fear maybe?

To save what there is left of our democracy, many misconceptions and myths (many of those spawned since the New Deal days) first have to be removed. A good start would be to read the books mentioned here. The dead hand of ancient ideas can be fatal.

—John D. Copping
Grad Student
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University

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