

## Editorial Opinion

## A Study of Term Problems

Since its installation in the summer of 1961, the advantages and disadvantages of the four-term system have been batted around by students, faculty and administration.

Now is the time for an intensive study of this system. The University Senate maintains a committee for four-term evaluation. We understand that the Undergraduate Student Government is forming a similar committee.

We heartily approve of USG's interest. But we feel that the entire four-term system is a broad and intricate field. We feel that a broad evaluation with yea or nay results is not the most valuable pursuit for student government.

During the past two years we have seen problems develop under this system. For the most part they are mechanical problems which can be solved.

We feel student government should delve into these problems from the students' point of view and work out practical solutions with the faculty and administration.

The main student problems as we see them are:

**FINAL EXAM PERIOD:** The four-term system began with the elimination of a final exam period. When this was found undesirable, a three-day optional finals period was instituted. From the student point of view, we think this change can be vastly improved upon.

We feel student government should poll student opinion on this matter and explore the various possibilities for a more equitable solution.

**CALENDAR ARRANGEMENT:** Thousands of pros and cons on Thanksgiving vacation, Christmas vacation, late September term beginning and other calendar eccentricities have been offered by University associates since summer 1961.

Studies and surveys of individual calendar arrangements have been made when emotions were high. We feel this serves no long-range purpose. Rather a study of the calendar for the entire year should be made.

Would beginning the fall term earlier in September allow for a better fall term with turkey at home? Would a later beginning of the summer term allow a longer break between the winter and spring terms? We would like to see USG delve objectively into this problem.

**CREDIT OVERLOADS:** According to Robert G. Bernreuter, special assistant to the president, credit overloading is causing student mental and emotional stress. USG

should find whether this is true from the student's point of view.

Can students complete their required academic work without taking credit overloads? How do the problems vary from college to college? Is the three-year graduation plan feasible in every college?

**COURSE ADAPTATION:** While the concept of a term system demands concentration of course material, we are under the impression that some courses were concentrated even under the semester system.

Is there a problem with "super-saturated" courses? Are there areas in which the course material is too great to be humanly digested in ten weeks? How do students feel? We think this would be a good angle to include in a program of student course and professor evaluation.

**DISTRIBUTION OF COURSES:** Under the four-term system individual courses are offered less frequently than under the semester system. This has posed problems for seniors who are unable to take a course before graduation. We feel USG should explore how courses are chosen for each term. Is there a pattern to when they are offered? Do many students have scheduling problems? Could a University-wide system of course scheduling be effected?

We feel that specific studies such as these would be one of the most valuable things student government could do at this time. By June, 1964, almost all students who have attended the University under both the semester and four-term plans will have graduated. Now is the time for valuable comparison and practical solutions of these problems.

We feel this investigation is so necessary that we call on the USG Congress itself to carry through, not with a committee or committees of outside persons, but with Congressional committees. With the five proposals we have presented there could be 6-man committees of USG Congressmen to head each investigation.

The Congressmen are supposedly the most interested and informed students. This is a big and important task. We call on them to undertake it.

## ATTENTION MEN

**ATTENTION:** Male students in Nit-tany, North and West Halls and men living downtown. Today you will elect representatives from your living area to the student government Congress.

In all cases a sufficient number of candidates are running to make the election a contest.

Select that man whom you feel will be able to do the best job.

A Student-Operated Newspaper  
58 Years of Editorial Freedom

## The Daily Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance, est. 1887

Published Tuesday through Saturday morning during the University year. The Daily Collegian is a student-operated newspaper. Entered as second-class matter July 5, 1934 at the State College, Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879. Mail Subscription Price: \$6.00 a year

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## Behind the 'Times'

by sandy yaggi

Absence makes the heart grow fonder, so they say, and people are beginning to believe it. You can tell by the mournful expressions on their faces at breakfast that they miss their New York Times.

The strike of 3,000 printers in New York City has caused nine daily newspapers, holding 10 per cent of the nation's newspaper circulation, to cease functioning.

Now in its 45th day, the strike has affected the publication of The New York Times, The New York Daily News, The World Telegram and Sun, The New York Journal-American, The New York Herald Tribune, The New York Evening Post, The New York Daily Mirror, The Long Island Press and the Long Island Star-Journal.

Perhaps to some this seems very far away and unimportant, but to the newspaper-reading public right here in State College, as well as "out in the world," a catastrophe has occurred. This strike has even affected the intellectual atmosphere of the University. Political science professors can no longer rely on the "News of the Week in Review" section of the New York Times as the bases of their current events quizzes. I've noticed students diligently reading the pages

of all sorts of newspapers to get snatches of national and international news. I've heard via the grapevine that one professor intimated to his students that he didn't care which of the "remaining" papers they read for the course, but that he, for one, had been listening to the radio quite a bit for his report of the news.

One can well imagine the impact of the strike on a student of journalism. Gone (temporarily, I hope) are the days when the journ prof can assign students to follow closely one of the large newspapers for such things as news play, makeup, and the like.

I wonder what a one-time editor of this publication who suggested that all wire editors carefully compare their news play with that of the New York Times, would do now.

But on to the brighter side, it might be an interesting task to poll the population to see what news media has been filling the gap. Certain publications, I am sure have increased readership. Weekly news magazines and local papers, I am sure, have benefited.

As one walks across campus or participate in a "bull session" in the dorm, one noticed new names of newspapers creeping into the vocabulary of students.—The Washington Post, National Observer, and The Baltimore Sun. One even hears of The Centre Democrat occasionally these days.

When the strike will be terminated is anybody's guess, but there are many who will welcome the end so that they can have the "security" of their New York Times.



MISS YAGGI

## Letters

## Ethnic Groupings of Greeks Hit in American Framework

**TO THE EDITOR:** It was disturbing, disgusting and humorous to see the ethnic groupings of sorority rushees in The Daily Collegian on Jan. 15. Thoughtfully, there were some exceptions.

We call ourselves a nation of people, an American nation, a so-called "melting pot" of different nationalities if you wish, but yet we witness on this campus, a microcosm of the cleavages that divide our American "nation" as a whole.

In short, the fraternity-sorority system, in my opinion, smells.

The fault does not lie entirely with the coeds, for their narrow viewpoint is nothing more than a reflection of their older counterpart, the fraternity. But yet, the fault cannot, entirely, be found here either. The fault lies in the incessant desire of all of us to emulate and accentuate the schismatic customs of our forefathers rather than those customs that produce harmony, unity, accord and consensus.

The problem of school spirit and pride and national spirit and pride can both be seen as stemming from this same source. Lack of spirit and pride in both.

If we, now, or in the future wish to live up, in substance rather than mere form, to the term "nation," there is no better place to start than in the University.

I am not saying here that the system should be abandoned. It does have its good points.

The privilege and right given by Nature to Man, to choose his own friends, and to choose those with whom he wishes to sit and

## Williams Questioned On Source Authority

**TO THE EDITOR:** The accusations which Gomer Williams makes about the behavior of U.N. forces in the Congo require documentation. Also, it had better be precise and accurate. There exists complete, verifiable reports on all U.N. operations.

Certain anti-U.N. groups are fond of making charges, the authority of which is open to question. I am fully in accord with the suggestion that food be given to the Congo in place of weapons but must point out that much food is being given.

—Helen M. Fritz  
Boalsburg

