

Editorial Opinion

A Much Needed Explanation

President Walker undertook a major public relations effort within the University, yesterday which we believe succeeded.

In an unprecedented move President Walker spoke at a specially called faculty meeting. His speech was apparently designed to mollify faculty opposition to college realignment plans which would organize the technical and professional departments around three "core colleges." The President also informed faculty members of the present and future status of the University.

The Board of Trustees approved the first of the departmental shifts which will gradually lead to the core college set-up last weekend.

These were the moves of the Departments of Economics and Psychology, from the Colleges of Business Administration and Education, respectively, into the College of the Liberal Arts, and the shift of the Speech and Hearing Clinic to the College of Education. These moves were previously approved by the faculty of the departments involved.

We heartily approve of this realignment. When Walker evaluated the University's present departmental organization as "irrational" and "horrible," he was absolutely correct.

We hope that the faculty of this University will forget any petty differences they may have and approve and/or improve realignment plans to better equip Penn State for high level education.

Related to the overall problem of meeting the 60's, President Walker commented on the department-by-department evaluation now being conducted. He termed the results of the half-completed evaluation not greatly surprising, but said that some are "disturbing."

We see this department evaluation as perhaps the greatest contribution to University improvement in the last five years. At last the academic departments of this University are being given careful study both from within and without. The results of the evaluation will serve as guidelines for the academic building of this University.

Walker listed three general deficiencies that have been found among departments already studied: spotty coverage in some fields, curricula which the professors do not understand and the lack of a satisfactory plan for graduate students.

These deficiencies, along with the specific deficiencies of individual departments, must be remedied.

Increasing faculty and student tensions was another object of Walker's concern. He did not offer any solutions, but hinted that tensions are a universal problem among colleges and universities.

He associated faculty tensions with the evaluation program. With departments discovering their weaknesses, faculty mem-

bers are constantly striving to correct them and this "is not an easy goal."

With regard to student tensions, Walker referred to the number of students taking an overload of credits (from 15 to 17 credits) which he called "unreasonable."

This item, we believe, could be a major cause of many student tensions. It can be solved. However, under the existing graduation requirements, it is impossible for most students not to be over scheduled some of the time and still graduate in 12 terms.

Sometimes this is because the college requires more credits than can be taken in an 11-credit term—the definition given for the average load. But, in most cases overloads are caused by the nature of courses. It is difficult to find many worthwhile one or two-credit courses. Thus, in most terms students must either take nine credits, not enough to graduate in 12 terms; or 12 credits, an overload.

In addition, persons taking a double-major or the advanced ROTC option find that they must take an overload to complete their requirements in the regular time period.

We believe many students' tensions can be relieved by adjustments in the term system such as the addition of a final exam period and curriculum revision.

President Walker achieved his desired aim in his speech. The faculty deserved a thorough explanation of college realignment plans and a progress report on the department evaluation.

We hope that in the future the administration will continue this practice of publicly explaining its progress and plans to all who have the right to know — the faculty and students of this University.

U.N. Kicks Off

We wish the best of luck to the Model U.N. It is a worthwhile experiment in international understanding in this section of rural Pennsylvania.

But the general student body can be assured that the most valuable aspects of the project need not be confined to delegations. The Liberal Arts Student Council, sponsor of the Model U.N., has arranged for highlights of the three-day program to be televised into Sparks.

Students should not neglect this opportunity to make the Model U.N. a truly campus-wide project.

We hope that the delegations develop the project to its utmost and that no one group unduly monopolizes the Assembly's time—even though the members may feel that they are best-prepared and most qualified to speak.

Delegates—and students—it is up to you to prove that worthwhile activities such as this can exist even under the term system.

meandering

The Forgotten Box

by joan mehan

The senior class president is currently selecting feasible suggestions for the senior class gift. These suggestions will be narrowed down by his advisory board and three or four will appear on the ballot at both March graduation and Spring registration. All seniors will be permitted to vote.

Lists of suggestions have been obtained from the President's office and the Alumni office, as well as other interested and influential administrators.

However, I feel that senior class president, Randy Carter, and his advisors have overlooked one important possibility. They do not plan, at present, to have a suggestion box for every-day, ordinary seniors to offer thoughts on their gift to the University. The reasoning behind this seems to be that since suggestion boxes set up by other senior class presidents have proven unsuccessful, such boxes are a waste of time.

To consider this problem we should look into the time it will take to set up such an operation. First of all it would take only one person to gain the required permission from the Associated Students Activities office and this same person could easily place the box at the Hetzel Union desk. He could also pick up the suggestions periodically (surely any student finds himself in the HUB at least

twice a week.) The time and effort, therefore, is practically non-existent.

Sure, the suggestion box could prove, as in the past, that many seniors don't really care about their class gift. However, perhaps a worthwhile suggestion might be forthcoming. One never knows, no matter how much power he wields.

After all, the senior class fund came from many people who do not sit on the advisory board. They should at least be permitted to offer suggestions before the narrowing-down process for balloting occurs. I have faith in the board and I think that at least a few members might be interested in hearing from some of the less influential members of the class.

The suggestion box procedure has proven successful in many large companies. The general philosophy seems to be that employees, although not in an executive position, might possibly have workable suggestions about the company's operation. These suggestion boxes do not always produce feasible ideas but sometimes they do and for that reason have become an important practice in these firms.

Somewhat it does not seem too far-fetched that a member of the senior class (most spend 4 years at this University) might come up with a project that he would like to have his donated dollars help finance. At least in a democratic society he should have an opportunity to offer suggestions before he votes on pre-selected gift ideas.



MISS MEHAN

Letters

Simmons Girls Protest Cold Lunches As Inadequate on Winter Afternoons

TO THE EDITOR: We are not students to complain. We chose to attend this wonderful University, although it is quite some distance from any booming metropolis. We never raised one word of opposition in regard to the marvelous laundry facilities. Though wrapped in our blankets we didn't complain when we were without heat for two weeks in this zero degree weather. Our lips remained sealed when it became compulsory for us to wear heels to the "savory" dress-up dinners we are blessed with on occasion. But now, after remaining quiet over a long period of time, we find it is of utmost importance to our survival through this long winter to speak out and protest the cold cuts, ice-cream bars, and tuna fish salad.

The thought of having tuna fish salad in the winter on Friday is poor enough. But on Tuesday! Is it a religious holiday? Are we ignorant of some National Fasting week? Is the gov-

ernment cutting us out of its surplus budget? Is President Walker aware of what we're being served? Is he aware of what we're being subjected to? Is he aware? We'd personally like to subject him, 'er, invite him to one of our meals in Simmons Hall. But not being students to complain...

—P. Karen Hill, '65
Gail Whitaker, '65
Barbara Morris, '65
Patricia Chavis, '64

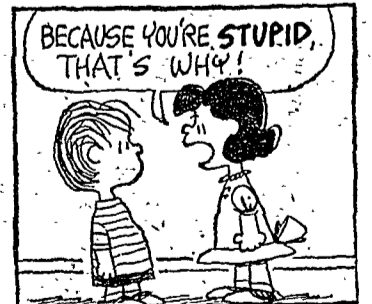
Campus Beat

One of my brighter students has finally answered that age-old student question "Why am I behind even though only one week of the term has gone by?" The simple answer is that all profs, myself included, work out a lesson schedule for the entire term—or thirty sessions. Thus when a student reports to class the first day he realizes that the prof has an assignment listed for that day. So everyone starts out one day behind schedule. I know some students who never recover from this initial setback.

—Prof Wayne

WDFM Schedule

- FRIDAY, FEB. 1, 1963
- 4:15 "The Philadelphia" Liszt: "Hungarian Rhapsody" No. 1 Enesco: "Roumanian Rhapsody" No. 2
 - 5:00 Dinner Date
 - 6:00 Washington Reports: news from the capitol
 - 6:15 Weatherscope: Joel Myers
 - 6:20 Ballet Theater: Offenbach: "Helen of Troy" Chopin: "Les Sylphides" Berners: "The Triumph of Neptune"
 - 7:30 Special Broadcast of the Model United Nations in Schwab
 - 9:00 Send Off: Tex Lux playing pop music
 - 12:00 Night Sound: Big Sounds in music till 2:00



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