

Sorority Rush Needs Evaluation

Having just completed the first new sorority rush plan in three years, sororities now face the serious—and vital—task of evaluating the program.

That a thorough and sober evaluation is necessary is evident. Many problems, unique to this system, arose and must be solved if sororities are to maintain the healthy rush program necessary to their existence.

First, and perhaps foremost, is that sororities inadvertently pledged fewer girls than they need to exist in the long run.

This resulted from the division of rush into a fall session for upperclasswomen and a winter session for transfers. The majority of sororities gave bids to fewer girls in fall rush than they had previously given to upperclasswomen in the combined rush — presumably to save places for freshmen rushing during the winter.

But during the winter session, no more freshmen signed preferentials than did the year before, and there were simply not enough girls to give each sorority a full pledge class.

A sorority cannot survive without enough girls paying dues to bring costs per girl down to a reasonable level.

Whether the bitter experience of so few pledges this year will be lesson enough for the sororities, or whether Panhel should reinstate the combined rush period, should be a subject of rigid examination.

The winter rush schedule, which ended before the term's classes began, raised a second problem of major controversy.

Besides the objections of added costs and a shorter Christmas vacation which were raised last fall, some Greeks feel that the concentrated schedule did not allow the time necessary for registration procedures.

Some women also feel that a constant schedule of song practice, skit practices, rush parties and selection meetings for five consecutive days was too tiring and made rush a complete drudgery. Others claim that the advantage of completing rush before classes start is worth any sacrifice.

This is too big an issue for one person or small group of persons, such as Panhellenic executive, to decide. An informal meeting of rush chairmen and representatives from each sorority should be held during which these issues are debated without the influence of a biased Panhel executive.

Other problems which should be discussed in the comprehensive evaluation are: how many sororities were hindered by sisters refusing to come back early to rush; whether sororities were able to get hometown recommendations for each ribbonee within the short span of the winter rush schedule; whether Greeks were given a fair amount of time to observe prospective pledges in social and academic situations other than suite parties; and whether the early rush affected the number of girls who decided to rush.

Too many opinions on the major controversies remain unstated for a decision to be made now on how to conduct next year's rush. But thorough and thoughtful debate is needed to insure that the same mistakes will not occur.

a penny's worth

The Deadly Habit

by penny watson

Suicide is a morbid, though rather fascinating subject. The possible methods of self-destruction are infinitesimal, ranging from wrist-slashing to poison to a short shot-gun blast at one's own temple.

Here at Penn State suicide was the talk of the campus at various times last year when several students, each driven to desperation by his own personal anguish and unbearable problems, took their own lives.

For week after week after each tragic episode, shocked and appalled students queried each other as to why any human being, but especially one so young, would prefer death to life. Equally puzzling to many was why anyone would kill himself by jumping off an eight-story dormitory rather than take sleeping pills or run a car in a closed garage.

You'd think that someone bent on self-destruction would at least make it as painless for himself as possible, wouldn't you?

It seems like a logical assumption, folks, but it's simply not true! Just look around you. The girl borrowing matches from the boy beside her—the professor smoking as he lectures—the student headed for the cigarette machine—your roommate lighting up after a meal—you, bumming cigarettes from a friend—all are blithely contributing to their own premature deaths. And cancer hardly ranks among the more "pleasant" ways of dying, does it?

The facts about smoking have been all too clearly revealed in the recently released report of the Surgeon General's Committee on Smoking and Health.

"Cigarette smoking," the panel reported, "contributes substantially to mortality from certain specific diseases and to the overall death rate."

In addition, the report stated that men who smoked

had a death rate 70 percent higher than nonsmokers, and that "cigarette smoking is causally related to lung cancer in men."

If you smoke cigars of a pipe, the risk of your getting lung cancer is slightly less than if you smoke cigarettes. According to the report, however, pipesmoking may be causally related to lip cancer—certainly not a happy affliction.

What, then, is to become of the millions of smokers across the nation, the thousands of smokers on this campus? Few of them would purposely step

snowed

Severe Winters Become Part of Weather Cycles

by joel myers

There's little doubt probably even in Grandpa's mind that the winters of the past four years can compare with any in history.

Yesterday's big storm boosted the total snow for the winter to over 46 inches, which is 2 inches more than the normal snow for an entire winter.

This is the fourth consecutive winter in which snowfall has exceeded the normal amount. In the 1960-61 winter, an extraordinary 61 inches, a record total of 93.4 inches made that season the snowiest in history.

Fifty-two inches fell in 1961-62 and 61 inches were measured last year.

People want to know whether the record cold and heavy snows of recent years represent a trend just as they wanted to know back in the early 1950's whether the trend toward

milder winters would continue. The answer, of course, is unknown, but it is likely that winters of the future will swing back toward the normals.

There are always cycles in the weather. In fact, the weather is never normal but the result of the superposition of many cycles. At one extreme, there are ice ages, with a frequency of maybe tens of thousands of years, and at the other extreme showers or thunderstorms with a lifetime of a few minutes.

The severe winters of recent years do not signify the coming of an ice age or something of that nature, because such an event would probably come on so gradually as to be imperceptible to humans.

Long range weather trends are overshadowed by much more dramatic but short lived cycles.

Perhaps in a few years the severe winters of the early 1960's will become just "warm" memories as did the mild winters of the early 1950's and the East Coast hurricanes of the middle 1950's.



Letters

Soph Backs Academics of Term System

TO THE EDITOR: I must take issue with Ira Miller's sports column on academic sanity. I shall neither extenuate nor defend the term system, which has been well defended in the past, nor shall I deny that problems exist which are damaging to many extracurricular activities, including athletics. But there are statements that deserve a reply.

I am sure that even Mr. Miller will agree that the small percentage of students participating in intercollegiate sports does not, alone, warrant the elimination of the term system. Also, if he would observe the calendar, he would see that, more or less, there is little overlapping of a sports season into another term. This could not be said of the semester system.

Second, a more liberal probation policy was called for and the policies of other schools were cited. Such a policy might result in a tendency by our athletes to be academically lax.

I also question whether our probation system should be altered to resemble those of other schools. I would prefer an examination of the situation by the University.

"Our athletes must be students first, even on the road"—Miller. Our athletes are given permission by the University to be away from campus—legal absences from classes. Mr. Miller seems to think that they should be free from studying also.

I might remind him that this is a university and, as such, the improvement of the individual should be its basic aim with an emphasis on higher learning.

Finally, I seriously doubt that we will "witness the degeneration of our athletic program to powder-puff Ivy League-type schedules."

This is, of course, based on the premise that excellent coaches will be retained and secured, academically sound athletes will be recruited, and such football powers as Kent State and Ohio U. are removed from future schedules. —Marvin Peebles, '66

Boyle & Barry—Too Much for Berd

TO THE EDITOR: I was inspired and enlightened by Miss Boyle's recent column on Barry Goldwater's fling for the presidency. Strange as it may seem, I never realized how this noble citizen has striven to preserve my rights and to give me such a grand opportunity to choose between political ideologies.

Like an innocent babe I have been under the impression that the senator is a power-driven politician with some slightly outdated views. I thank Miss Boyle for enlightening me.

It has always been my unfortunate misconception that Sen. Goldwater and not those anti-patriots who smirk at his name are the ones who are ignorant of his views and who refuse to think rationally about him.

ASTONISHED by the revelation that the senator's "ideas have been taken out of context... making them sound little better than ridiculous," I resolved to personally investigate some of these opinions. As a source of reference I chose nothing less than a campaign pamphlet published by the national Youth for Goldwater organization. Surely this magnanimous group could not lead me wrong.

Well, Miss Boyle was certainly correct. While some decadent characters had warned me that Sen. Goldwater was opposed to allowing middle and lower class Americans to share in the nation's wealth, I learned that to preserve "man's right to the possession and use of his property" he believes that the "government has a right to claim an equal

percentage of each man's wealth and no more."

Numerous slanderers had poisoned me with the notion that the senator was uninterested in the Negro and his freedom, yet I found he firmly believes that "unenforceable government edicts benefit no one" and that "continued public attention and moral persuasion" are of greater value.

Although countless villains had whispered that this leader cared nothing for our nation's educational improvement, I discovered that the state governments fail to provide adequate facilities because "the federal taxing power has pre-empted state and local sources of revenue," and that the proper solution is to restore "a portion of the tax resources which it has taken away."

I must admit that I am still disconcerted about arguments that Sen. Goldwater's economic views are accepted by very few economists, that many of his concepts were discredited by the events of 1929 and thereafter, and that he has a tendency to change his mind frequently on basic issues.

But who am I to doubt a man so proficient in aviation and landscape photography? —David Berd, '66

WDFM Schedule

TUESDAY, JAN. 14, 1964
4:15 The Philadelphia (Sanford Hinkal)
5:00 Symphony Hall (Charles Orge)
6:10 Dinner Date (Lynn Lander and Tom Groll)
7:30 USG Reports (Don Morabito)
7:40 Questions for 15 (Tom Nutt)
8:00 Parts of Call (Andy Lipchak)
9:00 Show Stoppers (Jeff Moss)
9:15 Campus News Report (Bill Merriam)
10:00 Symphonic Notebook (Bob Solosko)

Letter Cut

Once upon a time, not so long ago and hardly very far away, a rooster named Cheese stumbled into the yard of a village photographer. Upon introducing one to the other, the photographer said, "Say, Cheese, how would you like to work for me as a trademark?" Cheese took the job, became the best-dressed rooster in town and perched upon the highest shingle. The photographer was so proud of his partner that he always thought of him when at work and would proudly call out to him as he pressed the plunger—"Say, Cheesel!"

Say Cheese & Bill Coleman have just moved into their elegant new quarters at 117 Heister St. next to the new Nittany Lodge restaurant & a few doors from the Pennsylvania Book Shop.
NEW PHONE TOO!
238-8495

"I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE IT"

MAYNARD FERGUSON

WILL BE HERE IN 5 DAYS

THAT'S SUNDAY NIGHT
January 19

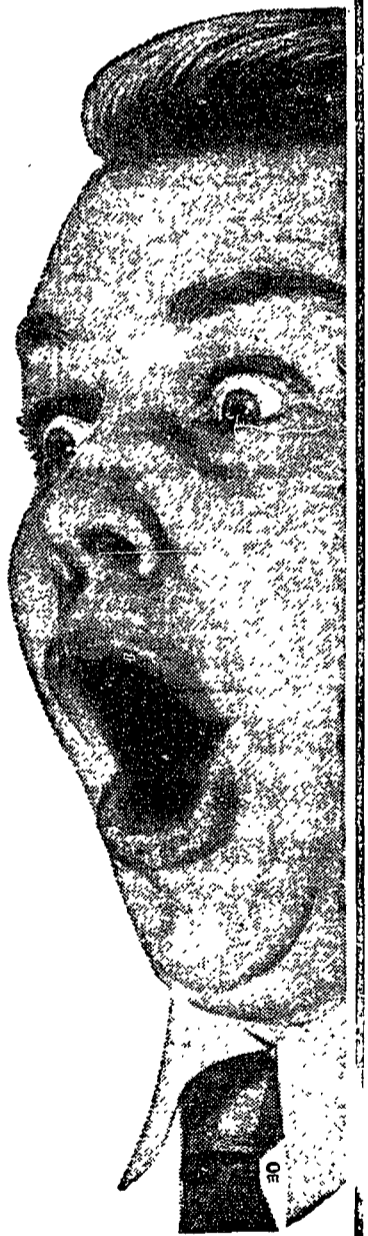
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NON-MEMBERS \$1.75

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