

# Voices From The Classroom

Gone are the days when sub-standard academic conditions at Penn State go unnoticed.

Gone are the days when inept professors and inadequate courses are allowed to perpetuate uselessly without the slightest student murmur.

The publication of the student Course Guide Evaluation Booklet this term heralds a new and fresh bright era for student affairs. It represents the greatest stride thus far for student involvement in academic affairs.

For the first time on this campus students have taken it upon themselves to evaluate critically the education they are getting and publish the results.

After all, who are a better judge of the education processes than those who are receiving the education themselves? For too long we have relied upon administrative and faculty self evaluation. For too long the student has kept mum in this area.

Education is as much an art as painting,

music, theater and writing. And the educators are as much artists in their own right as are painters, musicians, actors and writers. Yet because an artist demands his own painting is excellent, or an actor describes his own performances as breathtaking, or a writer thinks his own book is *The Great American Novel*, we will not accept these as truths.

In the final analysis, it must be the theatergoer who reviews the actor, the reader who analyzes the author, and the listener who enjoys the music. And, in the final analysis, so too must it be the student who reviews the educator.

This is the principal of the Course Guide Evaluation Booklet. In the long run, we can only hope it will raise the academic standards of the University by eliminating self-perpetuating inadequacies in our courses and our faculty.

The Course Guide Evaluation Booklet was not published by students who want nothing more than to raise hell. To the contrary, most entries are favorable and all are well calculated to be an honest appraisal of student

opinion. Sincere and hard-working students published this initial issue and the academic improvement of the University was foremost in their minds. Administrators and faculty members who fail to recognize this will fail to serve the essence of this University: its student population.

The contents of the initial guide, however, leave much to be desired. First of all, its scope must be broadened to include more, many more, courses. Secondly, the questionnaire must be made more flexible to allow for more particular comments. Thirdly, in the evaluation of the instructor as much concern should be given his ability as currently is his policy. Finally, when the data is converted in the end to its prose form it should appear in a more subjective and imaginative manner to give a clearer picture of the nature of the course and the instructor. But it is a start, and a good one.

The Course Evaluation Booklet is the result of nearly two years of preparation by Richard Kalich and his committee. The quality of the first issue is a tribute to them.



## Why A Professor Failed

By MEL ZIEGLER  
Editorial Editor

First in a Two Part Series  
Political Science 3 is an antiquated and naive discussion of Government and Politics, mostly in the United States. The course is taught by Dr. R. Wallace Brewster, who delivers dull lectures and gears his material to the intelligence level of a high school sophomore.

Brewster's exams are filled with ambiguities and are largely concerned with trivia, and by nobody's measure could they honestly represent a student's true knowledge of the subject.

To make matters worse, the text for Political Science 3 was written by Brewster himself and is a long-winded, clouded, unimaginative, overly-generalized mass of verbiage. It's about as deep as a "See Spot Run" first grade reader and is more redundant than an impromptu speech by Lyndon Johnson.

Rather than have to snooze through his dry lectures, a majority of the students just don't bother to go, since the greater part of the examinations is taken from the text. If you do go, chances are you'll never get more than a half page of notes, anyway, since Dr. Brewster is noted widely for rambling and rehashing what he already set down in the text.

A discussion period is scheduled once weekly with graduate students, some good, some not so good, serving as discussion leaders and administering eight quizzes and a book review test throughout the term. An evaluation of this aspect of the course would be unfair, because it varies widely with the ability of the graduate student.

Brewster presents his material in a style so simple and shallow he almost naturally offends even the student of only average intelligence in his class.

Yet he is a man with much integrity and makes no bones about having his own views in a field where views are both plentiful and disputable.

Although he is a liberal in his political portunity is here at 5, 7, and 9, for one dollar, every day at Twelvetees. To take advantage of this is to assure yourself of an entertaining new year.

philosophy and a Democrat in his political affluence, he outlines all opposing viewpoints, both in his text and lectures, in an unusually fair and equitable light.

Furthermore, Dr. Brewster is a widely acclaimed and well-seasoned political scientist and indeed a very knowledgeable man.

Why then, we should ask, does he appear to be such an utterly inept professor? Why is his course downright inadequate?

The answer probably rests with the fact that he has been teaching this course for many, many years in lecture halls too large to allow for student-teacher exchanges. Thus in the vast impersonality of this University he has become "That Man Who Delivers A Monologue Twice A Week" to several hundreds of students each term. The communication has been one-way and Dr. Brewster has received little, if any, feedback from his students.

Times change. Teaching methods change. Course material becomes obsolete with modern developments. Students become brighter. Education becomes more advanced. Students come to college more and more prepared and much of the material previously taught at the college level is already old hat to new students.

This is what happened to Dr. Brewster. His course, which might have gotten by in previous years, is now stale. His students are more intelligent, more perceptive, and better prepared. Dr. Brewster is giving them a rehashed high school civics course. He has given them an even more stale text.

Now the students can tell him. They can tell him what they want in their long-awaited Course Guide Evaluation booklet. But with all its attributes, the first Course Guide has not told this to Dr. Brewster and perhaps others in a way they can understand.

NEXT: A critical analysis of the first Course Guide.

### Film Review

## New Theatre Hosts Best Films

By STEVE HERR

If you happen to have been in the area of 129 South Atherton St during the past two weeks, you may have heard words like, "How nice!" "Finally!" "This is a treat!" "What's happening to State College?"

What's been happening is what many on campus and in town have been wishing for years would happen.

We now have a new movie theatre in town and since it is locally owned and operated, it can be as highly selective as it wants and only offer good films, or

It's name is Twelvetees

Cinema and is located on South at least constantly interesting films.

Atherton between College and Beaver Ave. The owners, Steve Schlow and Gene Stavits have seen to it that nothing will distract the moviegoers inside.

It is a small 154 seat house, comfortable and friendly. Free coffee is served in the lobby before each performance, but no noisy popcorn or soft drinks are sold. There is a short before each feature, and because of the way the theatre is arranged, there is not a bad seat in the house. Only the clearest, uncut films are shown and foreign language films will have subtitles. The theatre is equipped to show Cinemascope and any other wide-screen movie.

The owners are very clear in their purpose. They have long felt that a good film deserves the same respect that any art deserves. "You can see the 'Mona Lisa' or any other great work of art in a museum, see it clearly and without interruption. But to see 'Citizen Kane' on television is not really seeing the masterpiece." Besides the endless commercials, the poor cuts, the distorted sound, there is the annoying feeling of watching a copy of the real thing on such a small screen.

Through the constant showing of good, interesting films, shown as they were intended to be shown, "People will know that at Twelvetees they will find an atmosphere in which to enjoy these films. We will try to house a permanent repository of the world's best films."

And what may we expect to see there? Since the opening the owners have run a sampling of all kinds of film to try and see what interests its audience most. They are not quite sure what to show and can tell only by the audience's reaction. They hope to have some festivals of, perhaps Japanese, Humphrey Bogart, shorts (their shorts so far have been excellent and I would enjoy seeing a whole evening of them) and student films, not to mention many films which, for one reason or another have never played in State College.

They hope to have a Saturday matinee showing serials, cartoons, and westerns. Suggestions are freely accepted at all times and encouraged for there is no better way of find-

ing out what people really want to see.

Playing now is "Black Orpheus" and coming up are, "Behold a Pale Horse" (a commercially unsuccessful film which is being shown because of the director's strong personal statement), "A Taste of Honey", "Arsenic and Old Lace", and for the first time in State College, Kurosawa's "High and Low".

There is no reason why a theatre of this nature, in this college town, under good management, should not succeed. But to continue its present policy it needs the support of every discriminating moviegoer on campus and in town. For those who have wondered why a certain film and director has gained distinction and reputation, now is the chance to see what it is all about and decide for yourself. The op-



HERR

A Student-Operated Newspaper  
60 Years of Editorial Freedom

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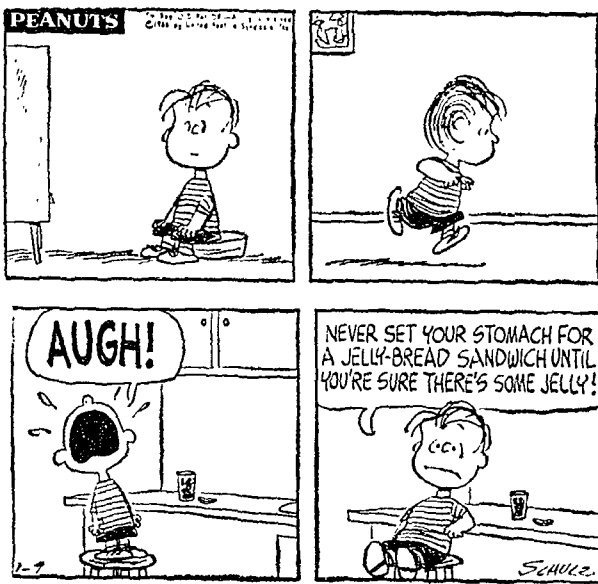
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7 p.m. 131 Sackett

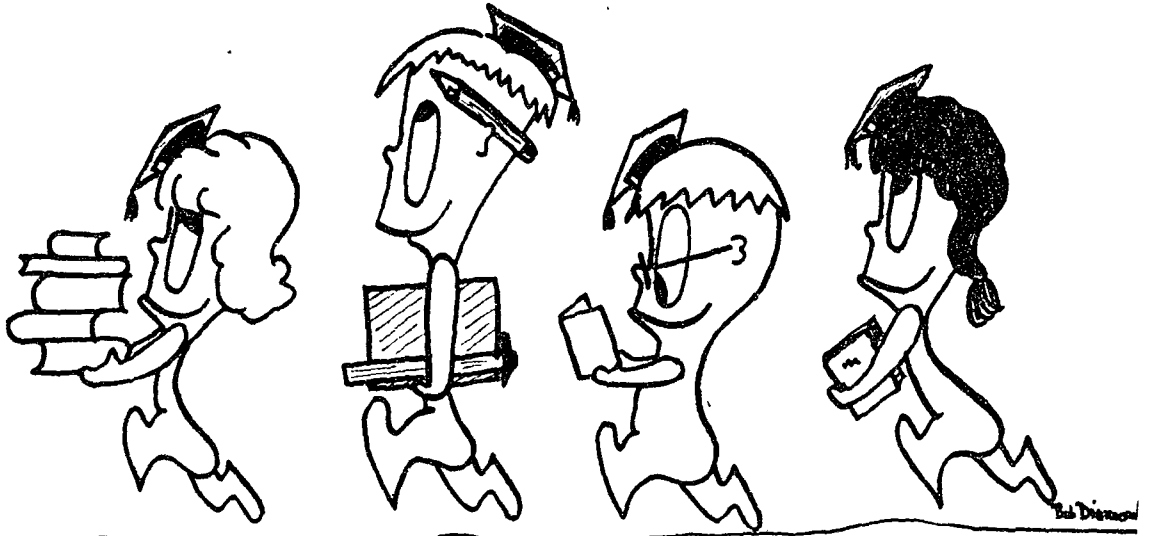
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FAITH CHURCH . . . 300 E. COLLEGE AVE.  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 9  
Holy Communion — 8 a.m and 10:45 a.m.  
Kentucky Report — 6 p.m.  
A report of the experiences of ten Penn State students working with the people of Quicksand Hollow during the Christmas holidays.

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