

EDITORIAL OPINION

Another Look

Women students, it seems, "got sprung" Wednesday night when the Association of Women Students' Senate passed a rules revision that will be effective next term.

At this point in the game we are ready to say any liberalization in the rules is a step in the right direction. Many rules (such as smoking on campus) were antiquated before this year and the year before that one.

But take another look, all you happy coeds, at what really happened Wednesday night. Take another look at your grass roots democracy.

Probably the first time you heard about the rules revision was when it had already passed and become law. A comparable situation would be the United States Supreme Court revising the Constitution and submitting the bill to Congress tomorrow and having them vote on it. The masses, of course, would be told of the decision, but only after it passed in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Many in AWS would argue that the vote was made by representatives of the women students, and in fact, discussion would be redundant. But the fact is, undercover tactics of the organization itself defies its own claim as a democratic body. And how redundant that discussion might be is little consideration when the methods fall short of democratic procedure. We also have a strong feeling that if the subject was brought before the coeds at large there would hardly be a "redundant discussion." In effect, AWS has said to each woman student, "These are the changes we have made to govern your lives—live by them, or else."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student Investigation Procedure Questioned

TO THE EDITOR: I read with interest Mr. Spagnoli's very timely and judicious treatment of the campus disciplinary system.

As Chairman of the USG Legal Awareness Committee, I have had occasion to deal with cases of a similar nature. The committee's work is strictly confidential. However, I am able to cite a few general categories in which legally questionable and/or unethical procedures are evident:

1. Interrogation of students suspected of misconduct:
  - a. It is questionable that the University, not being a legally recognized police organization, has the right to investigate certain cases of misconduct.
  - b. It is questionable whether students are informed of their constitutional right to legal council and to the right of protection from self-incrimination.
  - c. It is questionable whether promises made to students to keep information confidential are kept.

In light of these factors and others deemed unnecessary to cite at this time, the Committee, in consultation with professional legal advisors, is preparing a comprehensive report outlining questionable areas in University disciplinary procedure and recommending revisions in line with the findings. The committee welcomes any information that students may have concerning these matters. Confidential statements may be turned into the committee at the office of the Undergraduate Student Government in the HUB.

It would be helpful if the University would reevaluate its procedures in light of civil law and ethical standards. It seems quite absurd that the Legal Awareness Committee should have to exist on a University Campus. However, the severe damage to individual personalities and futures caused by certain procedural inadequacies makes the existence of the committee imperative.

James A. Caplan

Individual Votes Recorded by AWS

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to raise a question concerning the AWS election voting procedure. To vote, your activities card is punched, and you sign your name to a numbered list. My question: why are the ballots numbered to coincide with the one next to your name on the list?

I was under the impression, erroneously it seems, that voting was by secret ballot. Why does AWS record the way every woman votes?

Nancy Lee Carter '68

only for you and me

The Tragedy Of Sigma Nu

By RICHARD G. SPAGNOLI  
Editorial Columnist



From almost every tragedy there evolves a lesson. And even the lesson learned is in itself a tragedy when it evolves from an incident similar to the fire in Sigma Nu fraternity.

Regardless of the cause of the fire, certain conditions existed in the fraternity to compound the effects of the blaze. And these conditions are present in a majority of the older fraternity houses located in this university community.

It is a well-known fact that most fraternity houses have a beautiful outward appearance. The houses are well painted, the lawns and shrubbery are neat and a person passing by could never imagine what conditions exist inside.

Usually the first floor is well kept, probably because it is the first place people see when they visit a fraternity house. Of course this is where the parties are held also, so it's important that the whole first floor be neat

and impressive at all times.

But the danger lies on the upper floors. Here less care is exercised in regard to appearance and in many cases the rooms are filled with old furniture, the plaster is peeling from the walls, the wooden backboards and junk is piled in heaps on the floors—all which could aid a fire if it should start.

When houses are old and constructed mainly from wood, it becomes important that extra precautions be taken above those of regular fire-fighting equipment.

It would be well for every fraternity and the University also to examine the upper floors of all the houses to make certain that no conditions exist which could aid a fire.

A fraternity has a beautiful outward appearance, but the lesson of Sigma Nu tells us that beauty can be impaired.

Today on Campus

Critique, 6 p.m., 203 Hetzel Union Building.  
Hospitality Committee reception, 10 p.m., HUB main lounge.  
Interlandia Folk Dancing, 7:30 p.m., 267 Recreation Building.  
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 7:30 p.m., 111 Buckle.  
Jawbone, 8 p.m. to midnight, 415 E. Town Independent Men Jammy, 8:30 p.m., HUB ballroom.  
Foster Ave.

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For Further Information and Appointments contact  
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PAGE TWO FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1966

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