

only for you and me

The Suspicious Finger

By RICHARD G. SPAGNOLLI
Editorial Columnist



With the outline for the proposed change of the off-campus visitation rule before the student body, a penetrating analysis of the new policy as well as the rationale behind it is necessary.

After years of concentrated and meticulous effort, after long hours of discussion and thought on the off-campus visitation issue by students and administrators, the attempt to eliminate the so-called cause-and-effect relationship between State College housing and student immorality has failed. It has failed because the Administrative Committee on Student Affairs and a few members in particular do not have the courage to admit a mistake. And this mistake has been their defense, through fallacious and inconsistent reasoning, of the present off-campus visitation rule for the past five years.

And now when the administration's old-line defense becomes embarrassing and crumbles under careful analysis, a new rule is substituted that alleviates its embarrassment for the moment, but still points the suspicious finger at every student living in off-campus housing. This rule is still based on the belief that a cause-and-effect relationship still exists between apartments and immorality. Not only is this belief false, but it illustrates the Administrative Committee's lack of understanding of the basic realities of the educational and residential communities.

The fault does not lie in either of these communities, nor is it the result of too strict or too lenient regulations in this respect. The problem arises when certain students knowingly and willfully use apartments for immoral purposes and nothing short of a police force can prevent this type of behavior. And it is rather doubtful that these particular people will ever abide by any University regulation which limits their activities in this realm.

Yet these few people are the ones who have falsely influenced the Committee into believing that the so-called student body with immoral tendencies must be watched closely and guided lest they avoid their academic responsibilities and pursue a compromising life while attending the University.

Will there be pregnancies under the proposed change? Most likely this university will have its share of pregnancies this year and in coming years regardless of the rules that exist to regulate student behavior. It is from the Committee's reluctance to accept this basic premise that much of the student discontent has arisen, and until the individual committee members discard their own fears and prejudices in this area and view the issue in a realistic light, students will continue to violate any new rule change.

Two segments of the proposal submitted by Dean of Men Frank Simes are indicative of the suspicion he and the committee have for the student body. They are: (1) Three or more couples must be in the apartment during the entire visitation period; and (2) When classes are in session, visitation may take place during the evening from Sunday to Thursday inclusive starting at 5 p.m. and ending by 8 p.m.

Why must there be three couples? Perhaps it is because even the biggest apartments in State College have only two bedrooms! Perhaps with three couples, immoral behavior is less likely to occur!

Why visitation for only three hours Sunday through Thursday? Again this segment casts doubt and suspicion on the student body under the illusion of extending more freedom to it.

And these examples alone illustrate that there are deep-seated reasons within the minds of certain Committee members that have not been revealed to the student body and most likely never will.

In considering the off-campus visitation issue as a whole, it would be well for parents and administrators to realize that after their children reach a particular age, parents do not know what is best for them, but can only encourage their sons and daughters to seek the rewarding and wholesome aspects of life that they as individuals can incorporate into their own lives.

Letters to the Editor

The Same Game

TO THE EDITOR: The administration has done it at last!

The long awaited liberalization of the "apartment rule" has been made. But in reality nothing has changed; the rules of the game have been placed in different order, but the games is the same.

The administration has not taken seriously the mood of the majority of the students and the trend of the times. Admittedly, 2,281 students or so don't care; in fact they may even wish no change.

After all, it's a bigger joke to flaunt

a rule than to have no rule. But what about those students who have seriously, conscientiously arrived at a personal philosophy differing from the middle-class, 19th Century ideals advocated by the powers that be?

Have they no right to live as they see fit within the bounds of civil law? Perhaps it holds down the illegitimacy bounds of civil law? Perhaps it holds down the illegitimacy rate, but is that the purpose of a University? The students, I fear, will not take the administration seriously either.

H. H. Rigg, '66

'Bernreuteran Democracy'

TO THE EDITOR: As something of a preface, let me say that as a twelfth term senior living in a fraternity, I have no personal axe to grind in the matter of visitation. Not only is any ruling too late to affect me, but I am vehemently opposed to the possibility of crossing paths with some chick while I am on the way to the shower wearing a towel over my shoulder.

However, I am drawn by the innovation in democratic procedure introduced by Dr. Bernreuter at the recent meeting of the Administrative Committee for Student Affairs.

The rather well-known 11-1 tie vote is something of a first. The basic tenet of Bernreuteran Democracy appears to be the weighted ballot. A vote cast favorable to the thinking of the chairman becomes more influential

than others.

Since the manner in which a vote can be split follows a straight line relationship, the obvious extrapolation of the 11-1 tie would be that if another person had agreed with Dean Simes, the vote would have been unanimous in favor of Forces for Good in the Community. Rather quaint.

That Dean Simes had very good reasons for his ballot is quite immaterial. It can hardly be assumed that the other equally prestigious members of the committee had reasons that were no good, or had no reasons at all! Unless good is defined as equal to the thinking of Dr. Bernreuter. Perhaps the disclaimed "Baron Reuter" title is not so inaccurate after all.

Allan M. Bloom, '68

Like Enforcing Prohibition

TO THE EDITOR: I am sorry to see that Dr. Bernreuter's committee reached a stalemate with an 11-1 tie over the unlimited apartment visitation.

I am relieved, though, to see that at least 11 members of the committee were open-minded and intelligent enough to see how archaic the entire situation is.

But admit all this smoke I can't help but

think how futile and trivial it is to fight over permission for girls to visit apartments when all through the fighting, visitation occurs fully cognizant that no matter what decision is reached, the visitation will continue.

It's about the same as fighting against a ruling to enforce prohibition in State College.

This is autocracy—make the most of it.
Chris Dubbs, '68

Simes' 'Tie Vote'

TO THE EDITOR: If The Daily Collegian's report of Mr. Bernreuter's statements to the State Ministerial Association is accurate, and if Mr. Bernreuter reported accurately to them the voting at Monday's meeting of the Administrative Committee on Student Affairs, then we, as reasonable human beings, must announce astonishment and outrage.

Mr. Bernreuter stated that his committee had voted 11-1 in favor of unlimited visitation. Simes' dissent, Mr. Bernreuter claimed, gave the committee a "tie vote because his (Simes) reasons are good."

Thus Mr. Bernreuter clearly implies that, because he approves of Simes' position, the single negative vote of the Dean of Men should be as powerful as the combined judg-

ments of the following people: Dean of Women; the Directors of the Division of Counseling, International Student Affairs, the Placement Service, the Office of Student Aid and Student Affairs Research; the Coordinators of Religious Affairs and Student Activities; the Director of Admissions; and the Dean of Student Affairs for Commonwealth Campuses.

Once again, upon Professor Haag's invitation, we must admire the classy sleight of mind with which Mr. Bernreuter manipulates the rules of reason and the forms of justice.

Lonna M. Malsheimer
Beverly A. Houston
Instructors of English

Get Out the Maps

TO THE EDITOR: In 1862, under the Morrill Land Grant Act the location of Farmers High School, later to become the great Pennsylvania State University, was determined to be at the geographical center of the state of Pennsylvania.

Yet today, the disk jockeys, commentators and president-owner of WHP (radio station) of Harrisburg insist on making assertions fifty times a day like this:

"WHP is in the heart of central Pennsylvania" or "WHP in the hearts of central

Pennsylvanians."

When persons from the listening audience call in to protest this inaccurate assertion, the station president maintains that in his mind Harrisburg has always been in central Pennsylvania.

Can Centre County defend itself against this persistent and flagrant disregard of geographic accuracy?

Earl H. Zollar, '17
Lebanon, Pa.

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PAGE TWO

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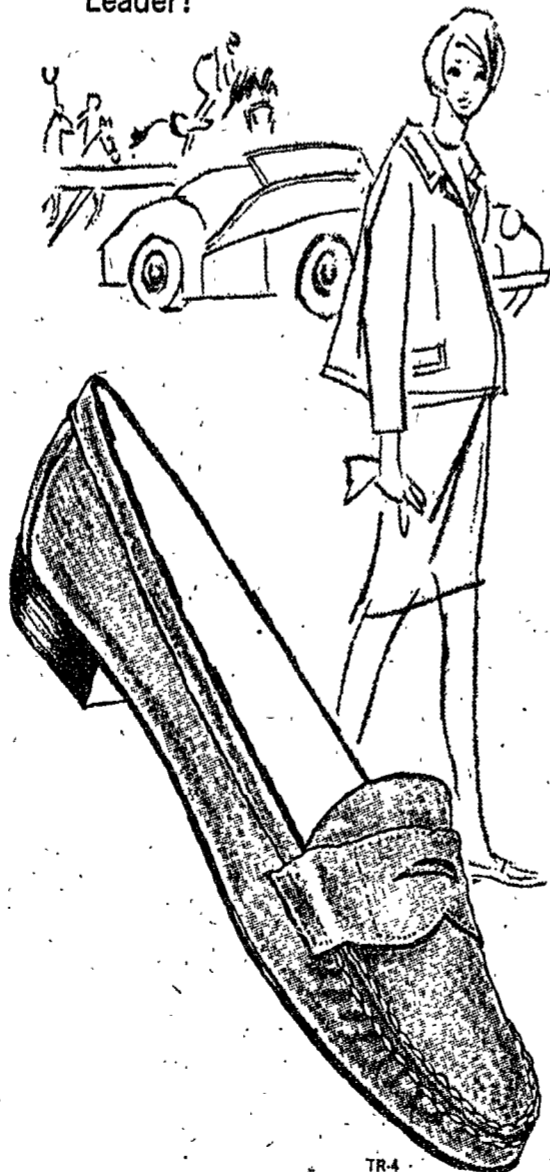
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