

A Challenge: Student Power for Penn State

Although this year's Undergraduate Student Government elections failed to generate the excitement or capture the student interest that past elections have, the campaign completed last night contained a most significant point.

During the closing days of the campaign, both presidential candidates stressed what they called "student power." James Womer, the victor, and Jon Fox, the loser, repeatedly used this phrase. But what is student power?

To us, student power represents the strength of the student voice in University affairs. It is the degree to which the student body influences the thoughts and actions of the people in Old Main.

Unfortunately, student power is sadly lacking at Penn State. It is a vacuum re-

flected in the powerless state of USG. USG is powerless because students here are powerless. And students are powerless because most of them are not concerned with the problems they can correct.

Worse yet are those comparatively few students who are concerned with the problems—those students active in USG, several political groups on campus, and other organizations. These students simply do not know how to go about solving the problems.

At this time several issues need solutions:

- the establishment of a University-operated bookstore
- the rule prohibiting coeds, both under

and over the age of 21, from moving out of the dormitories

- the regulations forcing transfer students, even seniors, to live in dorms
- the recently enacted overnight fees at the Ritenour Health Center
- the ticket fees for football games.

USG has sought the Administration's view on all of these problems. But to all of USG's questions have come the standard, unsatisfactory answers

Old Main, most likely, has good reasons for its stands on these problems. In some cases, economic factors or pressure from State legislators prevent the Administration from complying with student requests.

Too often, however, we find that the Administration is unwilling to go along

with student sentiment. In addition, administrators often refuse to answer questions; information is withheld.

And how can they get away with it? Quite simply: the student is powerless. He is absolutely powerless to influence the moves of the Administration.

Now, however, we have a newly elected USG president. He has promised "to achieve student objectives," and to "make USG a more powerful force on campus."

But can he accomplish this? Can Jim Womer reverse the Administration's privilege of considering student opinion only when it is convenient for it to do so?

We think so. There's no reason why the student body of Penn State, with proper leadership from USG, should not make a

stronger impression on the Administration.

This should be Womer's main goal as he takes office. A mature plan for mobilizing a display of student support should be drawn up and executed.

Even if Womer has to resort to rallies and boycotts—tactics some students might regard as unsophisticated—student support must be demonstrated.

The burden now lies with Womer. He must provide aggressive leadership if USG is to awaken the student body. And he must remind the Administration that Penn State's students will no longer tolerate being pushed aside at the convenience of the people in the belltower.

But the burden also lies with the students. USG can only be as strong as the student body makes it.

'Mini-Morality' at Barnard?

The Daily Collegian presents its "Model of Morality" award to the Judicial Committee of Barnard College for its remarkable shortsightedness in playing Mother, Church and Queen Victoria.

The committee recently ruled that a 20-year-old coed who broke housing regulations by living off campus with her boy friend would be denied the use of the cafeteria

and snack bar. The group of students, faculty and administrators also recommended that the girl, sophomore Jill LeClair, be refused admittance to dormitory social events at the New York City women's college.

What the committee is attempting to prove is difficult to determine. That it did not recommend suspension is commendable. But to bar the student from the snack bar

and cafeteria? Is the committee trying to say that she is impure, and therefore a bad influence on other students?

If so, we recommend that the committee shed its bustle and petticoats, and shorten its hem. While not advocating "mini-morality," we hope that outdated and hypocritical regulations are adjusted to conform with the modern morality and social norms.

BERRY'S WORLD



"O.K., when it's all over, win or lose, from whom do you suppose we'll get more help... China or America?"

Letters to the Editor Women Must Be Better To Get In

TO THE EDITOR: I should like to express agreement with Ernest C. Pollard's proposals (yesterday's "Faculty Forum") to provide additional opportunities at Penn State for the education of the culturally disadvantaged.

There is, however, a serious error in his statement: "By a sad twist, the very virtue of admissions policy in our University (indeed in all State Universities with which I am acquainted) the virtue that students are selected without knowledge of their background or appearance, but solely on their qualifications, gets in the way of educating those whose NEED renders them admissible."

Students at Penn State are NOT selected solely on their qualifications. Each year hundreds of women applicants are denied entrance to the University while hundreds of less qualified men are accepted. By requiring significantly higher scores for women, Penn State admits between 2.5 and 3.0 men for each woman. If students were admitted on the basis of qualifications, there would be as many women students as men.

Furthermore, many state universities discriminate against women. In the eyes of University administrators "Equal protection of the laws" and "Equal access to public education" do not apply to female citizens. While Penn State's discriminatory practices in admissions are almost the worst in the nation, they are by no means unique.

Our admissions policies are not "virtuous"; they are institutionalized bigotry.

Rena Foy
Assistant Professor of Education

Better Read Commission Report

TO THE EDITOR: I am writing in response to Miss Wertheimer's humorously ridiculous article "Individuals Cannot Transcend the Law" in the Wednesday issue of The Daily Collegian.

Anyone who thinks the way you do about the racial problem in this country Miss Wertheimer is either insane or totally uninformed. If the latter, I suggest that you purchase and read a copy of the riot commission's report; it costs only \$1.95.

Elijah Johnson

The Daily Collegian

62 Years of Editorial Freedom

Published Tuesday through Saturday during the Fall, Winter and Spring Terms, and Thursday during the Summer Term, by students of The Pennsylvania State University. Second class postage paid at State College, Pa. 16801. Circulation: 12,500.

Mail Subscription Price: \$8.50 a year
Mailing Address — Box 457, State College, Pa. 16801
Editorial and Business Office — Basement of Sackett (North End)
Phone — 855-2631

Business office hours: Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Member of The Associated Press

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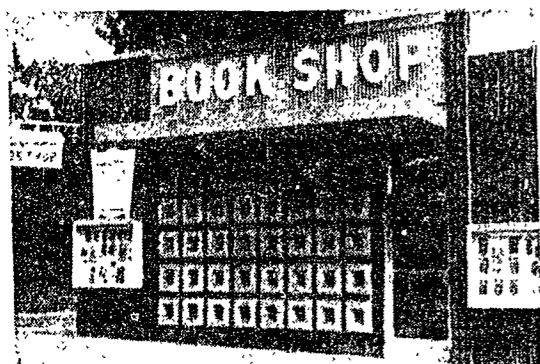
PAGE TWO

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 1968

Letter Policy

The Daily Collegian welcomes comments on news coverage, editorial policy, and campus or non-campus affairs. Letters must be type-written, double-spaced, signed by no more than two persons, and no longer than 30 lines. They should be brought to the Collegian office in person so that proper identification of the writer can be made. If letters are received by mail, the Collegian will contact the signer for verification. The Collegian editors reserve the right to fairly select, edit, and condense all letters.

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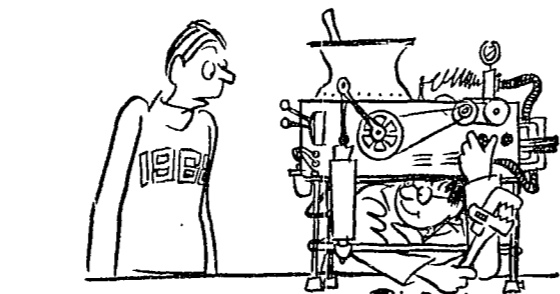
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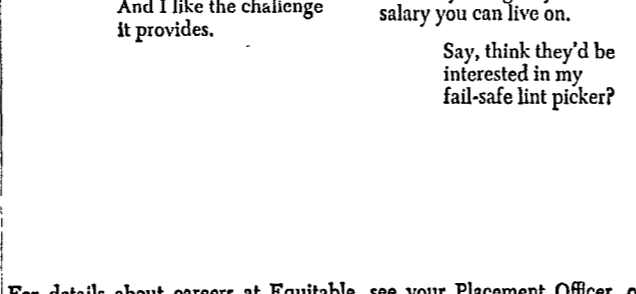
2. What'd you mean 'almost'?

It keeps rejecting dills.



3. How'd you make out with your self-sharpening toothpick?

I gave it up to work on my pre-stretched rubber band.



4. Ever considered going into a field more likely to give you a living income?

But I want to be of service to humanity. And I like the challenge it provides.

5. Maybe you ought to look into the openings at Equitable. They've got a wide range of fascinating jobs that give you the chance to be of service. And they also give you a salary you can live on.

Say, think they'd be interested in my fail-safe lint picker?

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