

Political Progress

ANYONE WHO cares enough to ask soon discovers that Penn State's student body carries a national reputation for apathy and a lack of participation in political affairs. The recent reaction of students to the problems experienced by Homophiles of Penn State is just a demonstration of why this reputation is well deserved. Despite the fact that the administration's blatant discrimination against HOPS is a threat to all students, most chose either to ignore the issue or to react negatively to HOPS because of an unfounded fear and mistrust of homosexuality.

But a recent event indicates that things may not be hopeless and that perhaps progress is being made. Monday night, Marty Bauman, president of the Panhellenic Council, asked that group to seek input and to take a stand on the problems of HOPS.

The request was not forceful or dramatic, and Panhel will be months behind most groups which have studied the issue and taken a stand. But the event takes on significance because Miss Bauman is not noted for her strong political views or for her active role in campus politics. Neither, for that matter, is the Panhellenic Council.

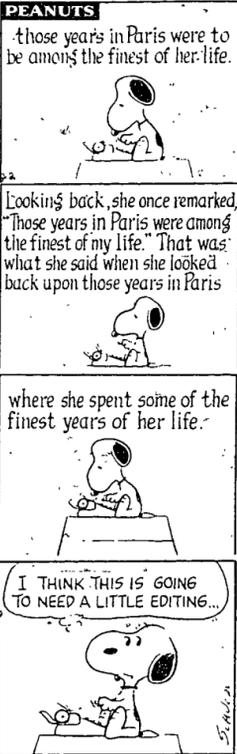
HOPEFULLY, Monday's night's

move was not taken just because someone had decided Panhel no longer could hope to avoid the issue. The action instead may indicate a change in attitude among the members of Panhel and a commitment to become more involved in the affairs of this campus.

Whether or not the numbers show it, Greek societies are experiencing problems because many types of young people have chosen to totally reject them. To some extent, fraternities here have overcome this by slowly knocking down some of the barriers and overaged traditions.

Panhel and the sororities it represents, however, have continued to emphasize their separateness and their lack of concern with the realities of campus life. Rather than becoming an integral part of the community, they have chosen to ignore their responsibility to take a stand, generally because "someone might not like it."

MONDAY NIGHT'S action, therefore, is a happy one; it seems to indicate a new willingness by Panhel's members to accept their responsibility. If they do, it will go a long way toward convincing people that students here no longer will accept being ignored, threatened or attacked.



Letters to the Editor

Finding extra time

TO THE EDITOR: Why is it that when there is something worthwhile, like a meeting or a guest speaker, so many students can't find the time to go, but when there is a dance (somewhere to finger-pop) students will find the time?

On Saturday, Feb. 19, John Sanders Redding, spoke at the Forum on black writings. I realize that the weather was bad, but when I asked some students why they didn't come, they said that they either forgot or were busy. That same night there was a dance at the Walnut Building, and these same students were there dancing though they had had no time for the talk. There were about twenty people, if that many, at the Forum to hear Redding, and some of those people were students who were there to cover his speech for a class.

Shirley Laws
(2nd-counseling-Philadelphia)

Food situation

TO THE EDITOR: Living in the dorms is fun but it is no picnic. Being a freshman, I was forced to live in the dorms and surprisingly I've found it quite enjoyable. However, the food situation is "wretched."

I understand that it is financially impossible to sell food and room contracts separately but I strongly believe that we are entitled to meal ticket options. Personally, I rarely attend meals and I am paying for both University food and my own refrigerator goodies. There is no reason that we could not compromise and have the option of choosing dinner, lunch, breakfast, or other various meal ticket combinations. This would allow the student to feel that he has a personal and individual contract with the University.

I would also like to express my gratitude for some of the pleasant accommodations from the food service. I am referring to the delicious special dinners for Halloween, Christmas, and Valentine's Day. Because I don't eat meat, the salad bar was a refreshing change. I don't see any reason that the bar couldn't

become a permanent addition to dinner. This would make every dinner an enjoyable experience.

Being forced to pay for meals that I don't want or eat, I feel that is my right to allow anyone to use my ticket. Having paid for the commodity, it should be transferrable.

These recommendations have been made in conjunction with fellow students. We realize the difficulty of initiating these changes but we would be willing to work with the University in order to find pleasure once again in dining.

Carol Finkelstein
(2nd-human development-Philadelphia)

Unborn stranger

TO THE EDITOR: I only have one comment to make to that person who said, "I really wonder whose well-being is usually given first consideration, deep inside, when someone decides to have an abortion". I had an abortion and you're damned right — I was thinking first of myself. That child was the result of a contraceptive failure and one of us had to go. I just happened to love me a whole hell of a lot more than I did that unwanted fetus.

If I'm more concerned about an unborn individual than I am about myself, I really need help. I was concerned about myself because that child's presence was interfering with my life at that time and there was a good chance that a vital part of my life would be completely wiped out by remaining pregnant. You see, I really do like me and want to go on living with me in any way that I want. It certainly does sound selfish. But I refuse to submit my life to a man. So why the hell should I do the same for an unborn stranger?

Name withheld by request

Band tribute

TO THE EDITOR: Normally a letter to the Penn State Blue Band is addressed to its director, James W. Dunlop, but this is an exception. Although Dunlop is a fabulous musician, dynamic leader, and attractive personality, this letter is not primarily for him. And his associate, Ned C. Deihl, almost a genius at charting band formations and coming up with the right show to make the band look its best, is not the primary addressee of this letter.

This letter is addressed to you men who have worked hard and long, giving of your personal time and talents, without pay nor reward, except the satisfaction of having given of your best, you who have drilled through hail storms, rain, sleet, and cold and have performed so magnificently, you who have endured the heat of pre-season drills, with sweat-soaked clothes, but never deterred from your determination to give the fans a stirring and musical half-time show.

This letter of gratitude is to you men who have endured icy roads, forgiven short tempers and have reciprocated with kindnesses.

For three seasons I have had the privilege and honor of being numbered with you. Though you may not realize it, you have taught me many things which have enriched my life.

I am leaving Penn State to go out and put into practice the things I've learned here, but my thoughts and best wishes will remain here with the Blue Band, the men who have won my sincere gratitude and admiration.

James W. "Sarge" Marker
(graduate-music education-Pennsylvania Furnace)

Complete with bio-degradable students

Environmental crisis theme for entire college



by Rick Mitz

Dubbed "Survival U," "Ecology U" and the "University of Involvement," UWGB is all of the above. The entire school has been organized around the theme of environmental crisis. A lot of theme. A lot of crisis.

It's the first of its kind. Structured with a unique semi-structure, it's the free school au courant, complete with bio-degradable students who study the solution to pollution, the psychology of ecology as they bicycle and recycle their ways through four years of issue-oriented education.

UWGB, all acronyms aside, is a breath of fresh air in an otherwise polluted academic environment. It opened its doors to students in 1969. And word spread. Now, more than two years later, ecologically minded students from all over the country flock to this environmental mecca.

But the college itself is polluted with many undistinguished problems — an 80 per cent commuter campus, a minor housing crisis, student apathy (and apathy about the apathy). But certainly never a complaint about Irrelevant Education. UWGB is anything but irrelevant — the answer to any activist's academic reform visions. If anything, it just might be too relevant.

A student selects an environmental problem that "forms the center of his intellectual interests," according to the school catalog. The structure is based on environmental themes rather than standard disciplines. There are four colleges within the University: Environmental Sciences, Community Sciences, Human Biology and Creative Communication.

Curriculum includes such subjective subjects as "Visions of Man," "Ecosystems Analysis," "The Philosophy of Leisure," independent study programs that include community, communication and involvement — as well as the old standby standards like accounting and phys. ed. But this university ties them all together.

"Frankly," says chancellor Frank Weidner, "we've tried to build an institution that says the cop-out from society isn't welcome here. There must be a feeling of social responsibility — relevance — in every area. Let's not pollute this university

with things that lack meaning."

It is this man who sets the pace. Complete with a simple, folksy charm, Weidner wows students into involvement like cows into an educationally verdant pasture. But sometimes, as they say, the pasture is greener on the other side. For most people UWGB is that greener side. But for many UWGB students, their pastures are more gangrene.

"Do I sound bitter?" asked one bitter coed after she had listed several reasons why she hated the school — from big classes to big masses to her disdain for student apartments. "If there weren't any classes, I'd like it better." But there are classes. And there are students who like it better.

One student who does like the school diagnosed students' problems as such: "They come here expecting utopia. You know, this school is supposed to be a big, innovative thing — new, different, all that. Then they come here and they're disappointed that it's not Walden III. But they forget that they have as much a role in making it innovative as the staff does."

Or, as Karen Weidner — yes, the chancellor's student daughter — says, "People think it's all going to be there when they come. But it's not just going to come up to your doorstep and buzz." Her father agrees:

"Things take a while to implement fully," Weidner said. "There is no such thing as a perfect human institution. And I hope we never have one because that means we've stopped growing and changing."

UWGB is growing and changing. But it isn't a perfect human institution. It's got its problems. But it also has potential, which few other institutions have. It's got potential for change but, more important, its students have the potential for changing the world.

At the end of the day, I hopped into a yellow Yellow Cab and was on my way home. I thought I'd try again.

"I don't know much about it," the driver said. "But a college is a college. Isn't it?"

I turned around to notice a dark trail of combustion coming from the rear of his cab.

GREEN BAY, WIS. — The cab made its way through the dirty dankly polluted college town. Tall chimneys emitted a bad black smog in a city where that kind of black isn't beautiful.

And then the vehicle pulled in front of a puddle of dirty water near a slightly larger puddle of dirty water called Lake Michigan near a construction site near an environmental science building. I had arrived.

"I don't know," said the Green Bay cab driver. "It's just like any other university, I suppose."

At first glance it looks just like any other university. I suppose — with 3,500 students shoving their way to class, books under arms, girls under arms, long hair, short hair, linoleum floors, white cement walls, bulletin boards announcing the usual bull.

At second glance it looks just like any other university. And at third and fourth and fifth...

In fact, it's only until you find out what's going on there (and, more important, what isn't) that you discover it's not just like any other university.

It's the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay, its acronym being UWGB, the sound one emits upon getting a mouthful of smog, which is exactly one of the things this college is dedicated to remedy.

International Films Presents
FORBIDDEN GAMES
France 1952

Rene Clement's FORBIDDEN GAMES is most definitely the greatest of modern anti-war films, yet it does not deal with actual warfare. Two young French children become playmates during the German occupation in 1940, and imitate the cruel adult life that surrounds them by building a "play cemetery" using dead animals dragged from battle-torn fields. In order to make their cemetery complete, they steal crosses from a local graveyard, and as a result the little girl is placed in a refugee center. Miserable and disoriented, she becomes but one more victim of this adult "game."

Thursday March 2nd Shows at 7:00 & 9:00
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