

A dubious honor

The beauty queen glides gracefully down the runway, turns and smiles demurely at her public who marvels at her radiance and beauty.

A touching scene? To an increasing number of Americans, the concept of the beauty queen has crystallized as a slightly horrifying example of the debasement of women.

Homecoming weekend at Penn State this year may witness just such an example of degradation. In their efforts to recapture the past, the members of the Homecoming Queen Committee have restored the "traditional" queen and court.

Granted, some things need not change with the times. Homecoming is a perfect occasion to forget the present and continue old traditions.

But the Homecoming Queen should not be viewed as one such treasured tradition. By continuing this sexist contest, the committee

has debased the larger tradition of Homecoming.

Though the committee has included such criteria as a woman student's contributions to the University and cumulative average, Chairperson Richard Schroeder admits they mainly wish to stick to the 1940 standards. The old criteria remain: poise, personality, grace and overall appearance.

Schroeder said the decision was based on a general consensus across campus and from alumni. However, he admits that he knows of no University-wide poll. In addition, the Alumni Association has assured the Association of Women Students it would take no stand on the issue. The only consensus appears to be within the Homecoming Queen Committee itself.

Dorene Robotti, AWS president, said the committee informed her they would open the competition

to men if she wished. They added, she said, that although the competition would be open, a man, of course, would not win.

University funds may not be used for activities which discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex or religion. Although the competition may be opened to men to quell AWS objections, the contest remains blatantly discriminatory.

Aside from legal considerations, the competition should be scrapped from a moral standpoint. Despite the token criteria of contributions and scholarship, the contestants will still be scrutinized for "poise, personality, grace and appearance." It represents a serious regression from the modern concept of women as equals to the old ideal of women as fragile objects to be pampered and protected. As Robotti observed, "It is a blatant example of how we should not see a woman in today's world."



Nicholas Von Hoffman:

Sexual revolution?

No proposition is more widely believed with less solid evidence than that we have been making a sexual revolution for ourselves. The end of marriage, the extinction of the family unit as we've known it in the West over the last 5,000 or more years, has been offhandedly predicted even by Republicans and others who ought to know better than to be caught up unthinkingly in a fad.

So comes Playboy magazine (October issue), of all unlikely institutions, to tell us that the small group of skeptics were right all along: there has been no sexual revolution in America. Changes, yes, some very interesting ones; but revolution, no sirree.

To come to these conclusions the magazine paid for the first massive study of American sexual behavior to be made since the late Dr. Alfred Kinsey's work a generation ago. All the study's findings will be published in a series of articles and a book by Morton Hunt, but the overall picture is laid out in this issue of Playboy, where we read, "... liberation has not cut sex loose from significant personal relationships or from the institution of marriage ... for the great

majority, sex remains intimately allied to their deepest emotions and inextricably interwoven with their conceptions of loyalty, love and marriage."

The Playboy study involving 2,026 participants, even finds that most married people of people living together, regardless of their age, "are not inclined to grant their mates permission for overt extramarital sex acts." Indeed, all that wild stuff — mate swapping, open marriage or tribal families — is what we like to read about others doing: "... the much-publicized sexual practices that greatly alter the relationship between sex and marriage are far less common than they are generally alleged to be ... only 2 per cent of married males and fewer than 2 per cent of married females have ever participated in mate swapping with their spouses."

The data from this involved and costly study tend to reinforce the idea that the American sexual revolution didn't take place in the early 60's with the mass distribution of the pill, but right after World War I, at the start of the 20's when the upper middle class renounced the cult of female virginity and proclaimed that sex was as good and valuable for fun as it was for babies. Even so, the flappers did their playing around within the framework of marriage, albeit sequential marriage, just as their grandchildren now choose monogamous relationships.

What seems to be happening is that the revolutionary ideas of the "liberated" portion of the upper middle class have been spreading out and downward through our class system. Thus ever since Kinsey there has been a huge jump in premarital sex, but the Playboy study tells us we're still not very promiscuous.

The partners, women especially, have marriage on their mind. Nor is there nearly so much switching around as we've been led to think. Women under the age of 25 usually have but one bed partner in the course of a year. The median number for males in the same age group is but 1.5. Single people aged 25 to 34 bounce around somewhat more,

but they still only sleep with three or possibly four different mates in the course of a year. Hardly reminiscent of the delicious excesses of the last days of Rome.

Within the bounds of marriage or the quasi-marriage of living together, the changes of a generation have been impressive. People are making love more, liking it more and doing it in many more different ways, or, as Morton Hunt writes, "there have been dramatic increases in the frequency with which most Americans engage in various sexual activities and in the number of persons who included formerly rare or forbidden techniques in their sexual repertoires."

A generation ago the male-above position in sex was the only way we did it in America, and then we didn't talk about it in the newspapers. Now Americans are routinely using love-making positions that we once thought only Hindu acrobats were capable of. Oral sex, customarily called unnatural acts in papers during Kinsey's time, is now practiced by more than 75 per cent of married couples between the ages of 18 and 34, and by more than 50 per cent of married couples between 35 and 44, the study shows.

There is no evidence to show any increase in the practice of sadism, masochism or homosexuality. The incidence of bestiality apparently has declined since the late 40's. Whatever that proves, this truly valuable study should reassure us that we're not losing our marbles or becoming degenerates.

We're having more orgasms more often — women particularly — and we don't feel guilty about it any more. We have become a lot more tolerant about the strange things others may do in bed as we have become more sensual, playful and experimental ourselves, although always within the confines of received social institutions.

None of it may be progress, but it does read as if we are a little happier than we were.

Student participation-new ideas

By DION C. STEWART
Graduate — geochemistry

I believe that your Sept. 17 front page story, entitled Student leaders want changes in SAB, misrepresented the attitudes and goals of the students present at the reported meetings. Although the discussion of events was for the most part correct, several of the statements

Collegian forum

written in the story were out of context and thus created the wrong impression. Let me first summarize the purposes and achievements of the meetings and how the SAB was involved, and then attempt a clarification of several statements printed.

MEETING I. Friday, Sept. 7. Approximately: 10 students who were attending Encampment '73 expressed their frustration at a late night meeting over their inability to bring problems of major concern to students before the decision-making bodies of the University for a solution acceptable to all involved.

The student leaders present agreed that they should coordinate their efforts so as to introduce proposals for change into all the legislative bodies possible. This would require that student leaders would get together

to work out solutions to problems and then introduce these into their organizations (as someone said: "communicate-cooperate and coordinate).

MEETING II. Tuesday, Sept. 11. To fulfill the purpose agreed upon in Meeting I, i.e. cooperate for solutions to student problems, required that a group be formed. This meeting opened with my quoting Lee Upcraft. Since that quote was attributed to me and was incorrectly stated in the paper, let me state it here correctly:

"Student participation in University decision-making comes about in two ways, first when students are allowed to sit and vote on the decision-making body, and second when students form an outside group which represents their viewpoint and exerts force on the decision-making body much as a lobby does."

This gave our group two possible ways to function. If its membership included students who sat on the legislative and advisory bodies of the University, it could introduce solutions to problems right to the decision-making bodies. If its membership was outside of the University hierarchy, it would act as a lobby on the decision-making body, for the solutions determined by the group. It was then pointed out that the SAB, on the basis of its membership, could function as the "inside"-body and could propose solutions directly to President Oswald and to the organizations which they represented.

MEETING III. Thursday, Sept. 13. The purpose of this meeting was to determine what changes were needed in

SAB if it was to assume the purpose agreed upon in Meeting I by the means agreed upon in Meeting II, i.e. solution to student problems by students proposing solution directly to the decision-making bodies.

The decisions agreed upon were:

1. SAB holding caucuses prior to meeting with President Oswald to discuss the problems and possible solutions;
2. Early distribution of the agenda allowing ample time for thought and discussion;
3. Discontinuing the dinner meetings to allow more time for discussion with President Oswald.

A major misrepresentation in The Daily Collegian's story of these meetings was in regard to the statements concerning "Oswald's influence" over the SAB members. To suggest that President Oswald controls or manipulates the thinking of the students on SAB is a disservice to both President Oswald and the students who sit on SAB. The control that President Oswald does have is over the agenda and the timing of the meeting.

For example, it was noted that at previous SAB meetings the majority of time was taken by President Oswald either presenting a report or giving a talk, followed by dinner, leaving students with less than a half hour to present problems and ideas. This is the type of influence and control that President Oswald has over the SAB and this was what was discussed at the meetings.

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UNIVERSITY CALENDAR
Wednesday, September 19, 1973

SPECIAL EVENTS

Philip Dettra, piano recital, 8:30 p.m., Music Bldg. recital hall.
"Ham's Wide World," film, Penn State Amateur Radio Club, 7:30 p.m., HUB assembly room.

SEMINARS

Ceramic Science, 3:55 p.m., Room 244 Deike. Dr. R. A. Queeney, engineering mechanics.

LECTURES

Professor Colin M. Kraay, Keeper of the Heberden Coin Room, Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, on "Timoleon and Corinthian Coins in the West." 2:20 p.m., Room 230 Arts.

MEETINGS

Graduate Council, 3 p.m., Room 101 Kern.
A.W.S., 7 p.m., Room 203 HUB.

INTEREST GROUPS

Chess Club, 6:30 p.m., HUB card room.
Focus on Sweden, 7 p.m., Room 312 Boucke.
Young Socialists, 7:30 p.m., Room 62 Willard.
Gymnastics clinic (women), 7 p.m., White.
PSOC Ski division, 7:30 p.m. Room 121 Sparks.

OFFICIAL FILMS

Add period ends, 5 p.m.

Commonplace Theatre, 8 and 10 p.m., Room 112 Kern. "A Midsummer Night's Dream," James Cagney, Mickey Rooney, Olivia DeHavilland.

EXHIBITS

Kern Gallery — Shirley Sturtz, jewelry, prints, paintings. Paul Jay, pottery.
Pattée Library, Circulation Lobby — "Retrospect," multi-media drawings and paintings by Janet I. Dougherty.
Sackett Gallery, third floor — Architectural models.

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