

Letters to the Editor

From your point of view

Crime in USG

TO THE EDITOR: I wish to report the perpetration of a crime against the constitution and laws of the Undergraduate Student Government. Last Wednesday night the USG Senate passed an impeachment article quoting their own senate resolution Number 9 as saying "failure to comply with a committee subpoena shall be considered an impeachable offense." Regardless of the fact that this was a misquote of the resolution and therefore invalid (the actual phrase was "refusal to comply," and I might add that not one speaker at that meeting even accused George Cernusca of refusal to so comply) the Senate does not have the power to create impeachable offenses in resolutions, but only in laws, a class of legislation distinct from both resolutions and orders.

Last Sunday night the senate passed another impeachment article, citing Cernusca for "misfeasance of office" despite the explicit recognition by the USG constitution of only malfeasance (and the insurance investigatory committee spent considerable time explaining the distinction to the Senate) and actions in contradiction to, or in violation of, this constitution and the laws of this congress are impeachable offenses.

A senate which can pass two such resolutions after having been warned of their invalidity is at best deaf and at worst a lynch mob. If we insist on playing Watergate, let us at least play by the rules.

John Phillips
USG Senator
Town Area

Squawking USG Senate

TO THE EDITOR: Penn State students are in a soul-a-conservative people. They are conservative in their fundamental beliefs of democracy. In the USG Senate, this belief does not exist! As one of these conservative students, I challenge these so-called "liberals" in the student Senate who are always squawking about individual rights.

As a conservative student with a political ideology very different from that of George Cernusca, even I would see that he was given every basic freedom entitled to him. That is something the flaming liberals in the USG Senate were not and are not about to consider!

Name withheld



Where's the UCC?

TO THE EDITOR: Has anyone seen the University Concert Committee lately? Could it be that they were working so hard on the Homecoming concert that they completely forgot that this weekend is Homecoming? Or could it be that they thought they couldn't compete with East Halls and the HUB and the three big names they have lined up for Schwab Saturday night? I'll never forget the times I saw Forest Green out by Beaver Stadium and those fun-filled coffee houses with Sunday Drive in the Fub Rec Room. I for one certainly wouldn't expect the UCC to come up to the high standards of such places as Millersville with Yes—or Lycoming Community College with Mountain, or East Stroudsburg with Emerson, Lake and Palmer. I know it must be difficult to get a good group — or were you afraid that with only 30,000 students to draw from that you wouldn't be able to sell out?

Mark Hannagan
7th-psychology
Jeff Schatz
7th-horticulture

UCC not inept

TO THE EDITOR: Too often a student speaks out without any knowledge of the subject he addresses himself to. As Chairman of the UCC, I would like to correct a few misconceptions brought out in Friday's letter to the editor describing

my Committee's ineptitude in selecting top name artists for University concerts."

The University Concert Committee had nothing to do with the Forest Green Concert. No one from either of the sponsoring organizations saw the need to even discuss the concert with me. The UCC did have a major artist scheduled for Homecoming Weekend. Unfortunately, the artist cancelled without sufficient time left to secure a comparable act. The idea of doing several smaller acts was dismissed as being a poor second choice.

Since placing the fall concert schedule in Friday's paper, another top artist has been signed for November 6. There is no need to reply to our "ineptitude," but for those who feel like Mr. Shaffer, I would just like to say that this year's Committee has shown more cohesiveness and response to student input than any previous Committee I have witnessed.

Jordan Rednor
Chairman University Concert Committee

The UCC story

TO THE EDITOR: This is in response to Ron Shaffer's letter. Perhaps I should not be the one who should write this reply, but I am just sick and tired of people who talk and don't know what they are talking about. Yes, Mr. Shaffer, you are one of these people. If you had read any of the publications about the supposed Homecoming Concert, you would have realized that the concert was being sponsored by the Hetzel Union Board and the East Halls Concert Committee.

I must agree with you that it was a shame that there was no major concert, but some things just cannot be helped. As a person who has worked with groups such as Morning Song, I know how tight booking schedules can be. Location doesn't help our situation either. Being in the middle of the wilderness with transportation problems is a major factor in why many groups elect to play elsewhere. Another factor is, if you were a group member would you want to travel to the middle of nowhere, to a place that has an auditorium with a seating capacity of 6,500 people and could only afford to pay you \$20,000 to \$25,000, or go to the Spectrum in Philadelphia or the Civic Arena in Pittsburgh, which seat 20,000, and make \$80,000 to \$100,000 for a night's work. Any person with an ounce of intelligence would take \$80,000 before they would take \$20,000 — at least that is what I would assume. So, Mr. Shaffer, maybe now you understand the situation the University Concert Committee is in.

Fred Lichter
University Concert Committee



Wise up, Wendy

TO THE EDITOR: Wendy Morris has done it again. With the aid of her fellow cheerleaders she has been contributing to the bad reputation of Penn State's student spectators by encouraging them to make loud, distracting noises when the opposing team is trying to execute a play. First, this is extremely poor and unsportsmanlike conduct. As a former high school cheerleader I have been thoroughly indoctrinated with a sense of respect not only for our own players but also for the opponents. How would Penn State fans feel if our team were trying to concentrate and calling for quiet while thousands of people were shouting and booing at them? Second, the noise can distract our own team's concentration on defense. When the Wake Forest team members repeatedly called for quiet to no avail, a few of the Penn State players turned around and signalled the crowd to keep it down. The fans, spurred by Wendy and her fellow cheerleaders, were too preoccupied (or perhaps too obstinate) to notice this and kept right on screaming.

Penn State cheerleaders: WISE UP!! And if Wendy EVER calls for some noise to "shake them up," fans, be more sensible than she is.

Jan Matthew
5th-theatre & journalism

the Collegian

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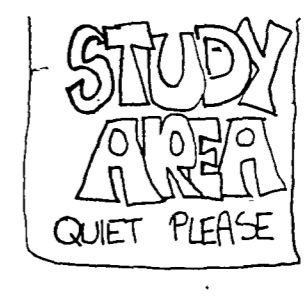


'Well, Mr. Rattlecracker, your letter wasn't printed because it lost something in the translation from butcher paper to newsprint.'

Who's on the mike?

TO THE EDITOR: We would like to call to your attention once again the situation at the football games concerning the cheerleader with the microphone. We appreciate the fact that she has stopped calling for cheers during plays in the game, and we thank her for it, but we would also like to be able to hear the public address announcer directly after each play. During last Saturday's game, she repeatedly called for cheers at the same time that the public address announcer was reporting the action in the previous play. If she isn't interested in the game, fine, but we are and we would like to know what is happening. Cheering for the team is fine, and it gives the crowd a sense of participation, but some discretion must be used.

Why not put the coke man on the mike?
Pamela E. Waddington
1st-pre-vet



Homecoming: no pizzazz

TO THE EDITOR: I have not even been at PSU for one full term, yet it was easy for me to see that this past Homecoming weekend lacked pizzazz. Or maybe I should say that this past weekend lacked a Homecoming.

The basic fault of the entire situation was that there were no unifying, campus-wide activities. For example, the parade on Friday night was an excellent idea, but why weren't the residence halls and other groups involved? Why were there so few floats from the fraternities and sororities? After all, it was JFC and Panhel who sponsored the parade, and there are certainly more than five or six fraternities and sororities. Why couldn't the parade have terminated at a big bonfire pep rally for the forthcoming game?

The elimination of the traditional Homecoming Queen also detracted from this past weekend. I agree with many of the women libbers' ideas, but how in the world did they get the final say about liquidating the Homecoming Queen. First of all, women libbers may not think of the female as an object of beauty, and that's their prerogative; but what gives them the right to prevent those women who want to participate in beauty pageants from participating? The libbers are being just as biased and discriminative as males once were to females. Secondly, the Homecoming Queen Pageant serves as the culmination of the week's activities. It is something that people campus wide become interested in whether they are directly involved in the pageant or not. Why couldn't the pageant be conducted in a manner similar to the Miss America contest for example. Girls could come from the dorm halls, sororities, apartment complexes and where ever else, and they could go through a preliminary judging session; then Saturday night after the football game, the semifinalists and finalists could go through competition in talent categories, bathing suit categories, etc., just like prospective Miss Americas do.

The idea of the concert, sponsored by the ERA and HUB concert committees was also good, and it is a shame that it fell through this year. I don't believe these two groups were completely at fault for its failure though, and hopefully next year will be more promising. Possibly a combination dance and concert could be held on Saturday night with the Homecoming Queen Pageant on Sunday evening.

The Blue Band deserves a hand for gearing their excellent half-time program around Homecoming, and in particular, the Alumni Blue Band must be lauded for a show well done. It's a wonder that they even wanted to return to play for PSU's so-called Homecoming.

At least the Homecoming football game has not been done away with yet...I wonder how long it will take the women libbers to complain about no female football players or referees being in the Homecoming game, or have they already.

Brad Harris
1st term-accounting and pre-law

Alma Mater

TO THE EDITOR: Kindly permit me to offer the following suggestion to the ladies and gentlemen of the student body as a possible solution to an apparent problem: Could we all please consider clipping out the poem copied out below and bringing it — and hopefully even a few extra copies — to the remaining home football games. Should we become aware that there be some near us who are unfamiliar with it, might we not just offer to share our copies with them. We would only then need to smile courteously and say, "Now you do."

For the Glory of Old State
For her founders strong and great,
For the future that we wait,
Raise the song, raise the song.

Sing our love and loyalty
Sing our hopes that bright and free
Rest, O Mother dear, with thee,
All with thee, all with thee.

When we stood at boyhood's gate
Shapeless in the hands of fate,
Thou didst mold us, dear old State
Into men, into men.

May no act of ours bring shame
To one heart that loves thy name,
May our lives but swell thy fame,
Dear old State, dear old State.

— By Fred Lewis Pattee
Guy E. Croyle, Jr.
Graduate-agricultural extension education

More realistic grades

TO THE EDITOR: A rampant 15 per cent "grade inflation" has raised the grade point average of the average (ranked in middle of the class) Penn State student from a 2.6 five years ago to a current 3.0, according to the Records Office. Thus, half of this University's students have grade averages of B or better. Grades do not differentiate well enough between student performances. Half of the students are cramped into a one point spread (3.0-4.0), while the other half are scattered over a three point spread (0.0-3.0).

Above-average grades have less value than they did in the past, and this is why "grade inflation" poses a serious threat to students, not just at Penn State, but across the nation as well. Employers and graduate schools, forced to choose between students with equally above-average grades, will be tempted to make hiring and admissions decisions on criteria not related to proven academic performance. These criteria might include the size of the school attended, participation in extracurricular activities or scores on certain standardized tests. Such criteria would not be as accurate as grade point average in evaluating applicants because grades are the only standard which constantly monitor a student's progress.

Stricter grading is the only means of reinstating the C as the average grade in the present system. However, simply tightening down on grades here at Penn State could jeopardize the careers of the many students who aspire to attend graduate school because Penn State students would be forced to compete with students from other schools where the average grade is still B or higher.

Stricter grading is necessary at colleges and universities across the nation. To this end, I propose that the administration of this University use its position as a member of the Association of American Universities to work for more realistic grading in higher education in the United States.

E.F. Crumb
4th-pre-law

Missing the point?

TO THE EDITOR: When I first came to Penn State, and in the time since, I have been very excited about learning. I could not be considered a stuffy intellectual, but I have always loved to read, I enjoy writing, and ideas have always fascinated me. Being perhaps misguided, I would have assumed that this was what college is all about — or at least the base to underlie the study.

I have had very good courses here, including some that are completely out of my "ling." But with only rare exceptions, I have found mostly that these courses, with good professors, awaken interest only to squash it by putting so much material into the course that all one can do is take a deep breath and plow through reading after reading or assignment after assignment. I understand the reason given is that there is a lot of material to be learned. This is undoubtedly true and would be fine if for 10 weeks one did nothing else. But this leaves one no room to explore further something which may catch your interest, or even to look more than superficially at any one book or area covered. Assuming a student really does want to do the work and is really interested (there are many left) there is no room for anything else, much less for one's own self.

I am beginning to realize that I shall leave college in a year or so knowing a little bit about a lot and a lot about very little. And I'll leave frustrated, with a list hundreds long of things "one day to be looked into." But the worst of all is that I'll leave remembering many friends who cared about their work pressured to the point of tears, ulcers and frazzled nerves. But I'm afraid I still can't help wondering what education is really about. Is this learning? Or have we missed the point completely somewhere along the line?

Anne leBlanc
7th-Journalism-English

'Reserved' seats

TO THE EDITOR: I don't understand. The Collegian reported that George Plimpton spoke to a "near-capacity crowd." If there were seats available, why were 20 students not permitted to enter the auditorium? We were told that it was sold out and that we would be fire hazards. We were told by people who were leaving that there was a whole balcony open. How many balconies will be "reserved" during the Jackson Brown-Bonnie Raitt concert?

Joan Fulton
10th-speech pathology and audiology