

Best bet

The administration will make its decision on the University calendar pretty soon.

Faculty, students and administrators have been hassling over calendar options for quite a while now and nobody seems to get anywhere.

Students overwhelmingly support the current term system with ten week classes, three or four courses on the average and a May end to Spring Term.

Some officials, however, say a semester system might be more economical. They say the two-week Christmas break which interrupts Winter Term costs a lot of money — money that would be saved under a semester system. Some say the two-week in-

terruption is bad for classes, that the break prevents normal classwork flow.

But nobody has seen any figures. Maybe it's logical that cutting off heat and lights for fall break, then revving maintenance up again for two weeks of Winter Term and cutting it off again for two weeks is impractical. But just how impractical is it? Nobody knows or else whoever knows isn't telling.

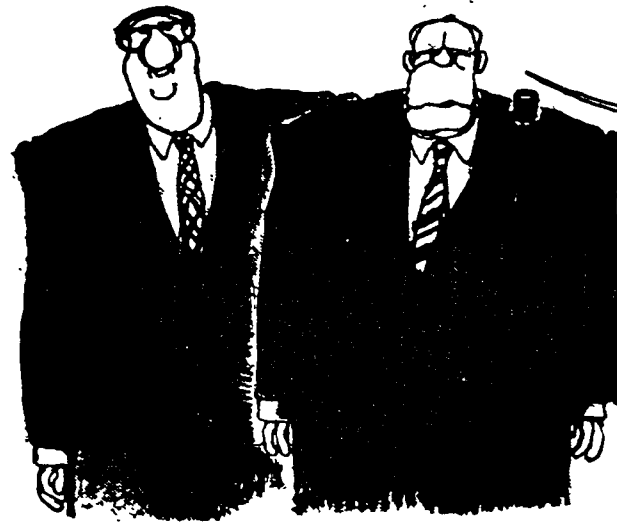
And if the extra cost isn't that threatening, the University should bend to student will on this issue. Sure, students want the term system because that's what they're used to. But that's not so bad. Students like having a chance at greater course variety under

term system. And they like having a chance three times a year instead of two at getting into required courses.

Perhaps the University could arrange the term calendar to get around the "expensive" two-week Christmas break. After all, the administrators who will decide what the calendar should be aren't the group most affected by it. But students and faculty have to live with the calendar.

Until the University comes forth with figures showing how much money a semester system will save, we can only assume that the amount isn't that significant. So for now, leaving the calendar alone is the University's best bet.

AS DER PRESIDENT, IT WAS HIS DECISION AND HIS DECISION ALONE TO HAVE SCHLESINGER AND COLEY CANNED...



To and from the Editor — Is the Collegian universe fact, fiction or rumor?

TO THE EDITOR: I agree with Mr. Salvatini's letter of 10-4-75. It would indeed seem that the Daily Collegian is impotent content to deal only in the emotional outbursts of feuding factions such as student-organizations, students vs. administration, and students vs. the townspeople. If, as you say, the University is not your financial backer, then what in Happy Valley are you afraid of?

Jerry Schwartz should reread his editorial of the Collegian Orientation issue (9-3-75). In it he states "... We cover the universe of the University ... were going to try harder to put things into better perspective, so you will know how an administration decision or a student government controversy will affect you. We want to cover everything that happens on this campus and in town — at least everything that is interesting or important."

Well, Jerry, where is it? Where is the universe of the University?

Where is the story about how our tuition money is spent? What is the documented truth about Dr. Oswald's \$5,000 dog house, his private jet that gets him Fla oranges in winter, or the 1000 doorknobs, only one of which was used for his mansion?

Where is the story about why our room and board costs went up while our maid and janitor service went down?

Or how about probing the double standard of justice on campus, wherein students are accountable to Dr. Suit for rule infractions but faculty and administration can (and do) flaunt the rules, because no one holds a stick over them?

The obligation of a free press is to present the truth. The short supply of it in these pages gives me doubt as to the freedom of the Collegian, and causes me to wonder if I am reading the Collegian newspaper or Collegian comics. I and others I'm sure, would like to know why such concerns as I've listed above are

not more fully explored. But I foresee no editorial reply — power, even of the press, corrupts.

David Sharpe
7th-theater arts

TO MR. SHARPE: Prove it.

Prove that Oswald has a \$5,000 dog house, that he uses a University plane to pick up Florida oranges, that he ordered 1,000 doorknobs and used only one in the president's mansion.

Prove that there was something shifty in the rise in room and board costs, or that the University approves of lawbreaking by the faculty and administration.

Prove it. We've been checking out rumors and allegations such as these for years, and we've never found any grounds for your charges.

You seem to think that the reason you haven't seen your suspicions in front page headlines is that we are either too lazy or too much a part of the University power structure. Could it be that either (a) your rumors aren't true, or (b) conditions in the University community make it impossible to track down the truth?

Let's face it, David. This community thrives on secrecy. Both the administration and student groups meet behind closed doors, deciding in the darkness of a room lit by fluorescent lights how to put their best foot forward. If there are a lot of Deepthroats behind those doors, David, I've yet to encounter them.

As for this newspaper, well, all I can say is that the staff of the Collegian has been asking your questions as long as I've been here. The apocryphal story about Oswald's doghouse was mumbled about when I first joined the staff; people here still mumble about it.

And yet, the story didn't hit the pages of the Collegian until this summer, when columnist Nicholas von Hoffman sent the story of Disraeli's doghouse across

the country. Although we sometimes slip up, it is our policy not to print allegations without some proof to back them up. And it's for that reason that we never printed the doghouse story; although we tried, we never could find any proof to back it up. Even von Hoffman offered no proof that the story was true.

Take your letter, for instance. You do not know the people on the Collegian staff. You probably have no conception of the conditions they work under. Yet you accuse us of corruption, of cowardice and of laziness. If we covered all our stories with the amount of research you showed in your letter, you bet Oswald's doghouse would be in the headlines. You bet you'd hear the "inside story" on why there was a tuition hike.

But it wouldn't be fair. It wouldn't be responsible journalism. We've made the mistake of printing things like that; in fact, we've done it quite recently. And every time it happens, we become more frightened by the consequences. We have it within our hands to hurt people very badly with lies, innuendoes and half-truths. Every time we do something like that, it's not "chalk one up for experience" time; it's a tragedy.

This is not to say that we are perfect, that we follow up every lead or do everything we can to uncover a story. If you'd quoted farther down in my editorial, your letter would have included the fact that I said, "If we fail in some cases, please understand — just like humans, newspapers often have difficulty living up to their goals."

I can tell you that the Collegian staff does try. We spend a lot of hours each week working to put out a good newspaper. We often fail in reaching the standards we set for ourselves.

But we do try, and it upsets us to hear anyone say otherwise.

Jerry Schwartz
Editor

USG corner

On University meetings

By JOE SEUFER
USG president

There were meetings of two very important University groups this past weekend, the Board of Trustees and the Alumni Council and Executive Board.

The three standing committees of the Board of Trustees met last Friday to discuss a wide range of topics. There was an adoption, by the University, of Guidelines for Resident Status for Purposes of Determining Tuition. This task was previously accomplished by the Commonwealth's Auditor General, who recently revoked the guidelines.

There was also a report on housing at University Park. University President John W. Oswald informed the board that there is work being done by a special committee composed of students, faculty and administrators in this area.

There was discussion about the committee meetings being closed to the public. There was some concern as to the personal liability of the individual board members against legal suit. A couple of people stated that they were unclear as to the legality of the closed meetings, but the University's legal opinion stands that it is legal.

The second very important University group that met was the Alumni Council. Among the normal everyday things they supply like thousands of dollars for undergraduate scholarships, job placement activities, alumni fellows program, graduation information, reunion activities — the list goes on and on and on — they recommended to Oswald that certain words of the alma mater be changed as stated by Fred Lewis Pattee several years ago.

The Alumni Association is a very interesting and interested organization. I would like to extend my appreciation for welcoming the involvement of the USG. I would also encourage all undergraduates and graduates to learn more about the Alumni Association now and participate in their very fun and worthwhile activities after graduation.

At a meeting with the University Student Advisory Board last Wednesday, Oswald announced that he would make a decision on the assignment procedures for on campus housing after all the proposals made by

student groups are reviewed; either by the end of this term or before the Christmas term break.

The Student Advisory Board recommended to Oswald that the University not charge students for taking over 13 credits per term, but that a per credit charge be levied on those that register for over 15 credits, thereby not penalizing the majority of those intelligent, highly motivated students who want to learn everything possible or who want to graduate earlier.

The six-day exam period which is to become effective next Fall Term has resulted in many questions and much confusion as to exactly what it will entail. One of the more confusing aspects is that many students and faculty believe that comprehensive finals must be given in all courses during the six-day period. This is not so. It is only required that any course which gives a comprehensive final exam must do so during the six-day final exam period. Another confusing aspect is that many people think that all finals must be given during the six-day period and this is also not so. Exemptions may be given to those faculty members who do not wish to give a non-comprehensive final on one of the six-day periods by receiving permission from a department head who must also notify the dean of the college. The major bad points of the six-day exam period requirement is that students will have to pay more in increased room and board costs and that they will have to register for school before Labor Day, thereby decreasing summer earnings and vacation time.

During a meeting on Oct. 7, I asked Director of Police Services David Stormer to look into the possibility of a storage area for guns. Last week the project was completed. The gun racks will accommodate approximately 75 firearms.

Remember, term break is coming up, which means taking new courses next term. Books are very expensive and students are very poor. Most residence associations conduct book sales around the day after registration. A schedule of the book sales will appear in the Collegian in the next couple of days.

USG is the official voice of the students: Be aware and become involved.

Good luck on finals and have a great term break.

Letter policy

The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and campus and off-campus affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double spaced, signed by no more than two persons and no longer than 30 lines. Students' letters should include the name, term and major of the writer.

Letters should be brought to the Collegian office, 126 Carnegie, in person so proper identification of the writer can be made, although names will be withheld on request. If letters are received by mail, the Collegian will contact the signer for verification before publication. Letters cannot be returned.

the Collegian

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'Like a bird with a broken wing'



By GARY MURACA
Collegian Staff Writer

"Hear me, people: We have now to deal with another race — small and feeble when our fathers first met them, but now great and overbearing. Strangely enough they have a mind to till the soil and the love of possession is a disease with them. These people have made many rules that the rich may break but the poor may not. They take their tithes from the poor and weak to support the rich and those who rule."

Chief Sitting Bull, speaking at the Powder River Conference in 1877

In 1961, my hometown celebrated its one-hundredth birthday. The usual shenanigans prevailed. Each man had to wear a mustache. If he couldn't grow a 'stache, he had to buy one. The penalty for a man without hair between his nose and upper-lip was jail. The jail was a structure with wooden bars, much like a primitive animal cage. You could find such jails all over town — in front of bars, grocery stores and the like. Day in and day out, clean-shaven men were thrown in jail for hours at a time.

During those days of my past, I had a warm and lovable neighbor. Let's call her Jenny. Jenny was half-Indian and very proud of it. She was a loner at heart, with children as her only close friends. I was one of those friends.

One day in 1961, as I strolled by Jenny's house to gaze in awe at her fine craftwork and beads, and to watch her mother cat feed its newborn children, I glanced across the street curiously to

see what unlucky soul was imprisoned in that mustache-loving animal cage.

And indeed, the person in jail did resemble a wild animal — kicking and clawing at the men around the cage, who seemed quite amused by such a lively prisoner.

The intensity with which the jailed person rocked the loosely-bound structure drew me closer to it, like a gigantic magnet.

As I poked my head through the throng of jeering mustaches, I began to cry for this caged animal, this enraged creature.

To this day, I can still hear myself cry out to this lonely soul ... "Jenny, Jenny!"

Every time I think of Jenny, I think of the Indian population as a whole. These noble people, caged-in on reservations, are ripping and clawing at the society around them.

It seems I think of Jenny and her people more than ever these days, with our bicentennial drawing near, hoping my country doesn't behave in the same manner as my hometown did, more than 12 years ago.

For years America has been sweeping the Indians into a nice, neat little pile. A pile so small that it could be easily swept under a rug to be forgotten.

And what about these corruptible white men of the past and present? Do they show any indication of letting up on the redman? Let us hear the words of the redman, as he spoke of his white brother so long ago:

"...We saw that the white man did not

take his religion any more seriously than he did his laws, and that he kept both of them just behind him, like helpers, to use when they might do him good in his dealings with strangers. We have never been able to understand the white man, who fools nobody but himself."

Plenty-Coups, Chief of the Crow Nation, in an extract from his autobiography.

What did the Indians want from the white man? Indian Chief Joseph, in an address to cabinet members, congressmen, and President Hayes in 1879 said, "Let me be a free man — free to travel, free to stop, free to work, free to trade where I choose, free to follow the religion of my fathers, free to think and act for myself — and I will obey every law or submit to the penalty."

During the 1972 Republican Convention in Miami, a group of Indians from many tribes throughout the country brought a message for President Nixon. Unfortunately for the Indians, the message ended up in the hands of Pat and Julie Nixon, who were signing autographs in the lobby of the Fontainebleau Hotel. It seems Nixon's daughters were the only dignitaries the Indians were allowed to get near. The message said, in part:

"Attn.: Richard M. Nixon, President U.S.A. We come today in such a manner that must shame God himself. For a country which allows a complete body of people to exist in conditions which are at variance with the ideals of this country, conditions which daily commit injustices and inhumanity, must surely be

filled with hate, greed and unconcern."

Yes, as our bicentennial approaches, I think of Jenny and her people. I think of their reservations, their government-run schools, about the fact that, among other things, their water rights were stolen, their babies still die regularly of diseases, and of the unbelievable fact that the average life expectancy of an Indian is only 46 years.

I agree with Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. when he said, "I would call the robbing and killing of American Indians 'genocide.' Genocide means the extermination of a racial group. It means sweeping them under the rug and caging them on reservations."

The Indians are a proud and patient people. The redman deserves something in return for his land and his honored dead. If nothing else, our 200th birthday gift to the redman should be unwavering patience and understanding of his pain and suffering over these past centuries.

Today's Indian does not want to wander on the prairies until he dies. Rather, he wants to grasp the dying-breath of his forefathers and to call the soil underneath his feet his very own — again, to call it home.

As 1976 approaches, I am thankful that my friend Jenny is not alive, for the future of her race is surely a bleak one.

"We are like birds with a broken wing. My heart is cold within me. My eyes are growing dim — I am old..."

Chief Plenty-Coups, in a farewell address in 1909 at the Little Bighorn Council grounds in Montana.