

opinions

editorial opinion

Role of the student trustee

Within any organization, there are groups that advise and recommend, and those that make decisions.

At Penn State, the most influential of the advisory groups could be the University Executive Council, which has been established to advise the University president directly and, thus the University Board of Trustees indirectly.

The group that makes most of the primary decisions concerning the operations of the University is the Board of Trustees, which takes recommendations from University President Bryce Jordan. Jordan should carry to the board the views and concerns of the executive council.

However, a problem arises when a member of the Board of Trustees votes on what the executive council recommends to the administration. By appearing with student leaders in an advisory capacity, a trustee risks losing the credibility and influence with University administrators needed to be an effective trustee.

But Marie Patricia Walsh, who will become the next student trustee if confirmed by the state Senate, plans to risk diminished influence by accepting an appointment to become a full member of the executive council.

Last Thursday, while the trustees were holding their first meetings since Walsh was selected by the governor, the council—as part of their metamorphosis from the Undergraduate Student Government Executive Council to the University Executive Council—voted to make her a full voting member instead of an ex officio or non-voting member.

USG President Emil Parvensky said the move was made at Walsh's request, although he had advised her that "she may want to keep her

autonomy," as did Walsh's predecessor, Paul Bell. Walsh said in an interview that she wanted to be a full member of the council in order to "consolidate" her efforts to gather all the information she needed to be the student trustee.

But that philosophy doesn't seem to hold water. Walsh could efficiently use executive council meetings to gather information about what students want and need. She could also contribute to the meetings by adding her own opinions and observations. However, that can be done by non-members at the meeting just as easily as by council members. As an ex officio member of the council, the student trustee has always been invited to council meetings.

Walsh added that her only charge as the student trustee was to bring to the trustees a point of view representative of the students.

But if the student trustee wants to know what student leaders are saying to the president, she can easily find out by asking them or attending their meetings.

Finally, Walsh said she would act as the student trustee representative to the executive council and would base her advice to the council on her position as trustee. This, however, inherently contradicts the purpose of the executive council—to advise the president on student concerns and interests.

Student trustees should represent student interests, but they must keep a distance from forming those interests to ensure that they can effectively wield their influence at trustee meetings.

Trustees are traditionally the policy-makers of the entire University—not just student government. It's time for Walsh to begin acting more like a trustee and less like a member of student government.



"HOLD THE FORT, RON!"

reader opinion

Checks and balances

In response to Kathleen Porter's letter of Sept. 20, we have neither the time nor the inclination to engage in a point-by-point refutation of her position.

The facts, as well as various analyses,

concerning the downing of KAL Flight 007 have appeared in both the popular media and scholarly journals. This is one of the advantages of a free press.

Unfortunately, Soviet citizens do not share this privilege. Whether or not one chooses to believe what has been published throughout the United States and the free world is one's own decision. We have confidence in the independence and the integrity of the news media regarding this event.

As to a comparison of U.S.-Soviet nuclear and conventional military posture, these figures are also readily available to the public. True, these are government-provided numbers, but an overwhelming percentage of journalists and scholars accept them. After

all, any attempt by the government to deceive the population would be exposed either by a leak or investigative journalism within days, if not hours. Remember Watergate?

Furthermore, our constitutional system of checks and balances ensures responsible government. The Soviet population enjoys no such protection.

In closing, although we possess different viewpoints from Ms. Porter's, we thank her for expressing her opinions. Perhaps this exchange of letters will stimulate others to investigate such issues of vital national importance.

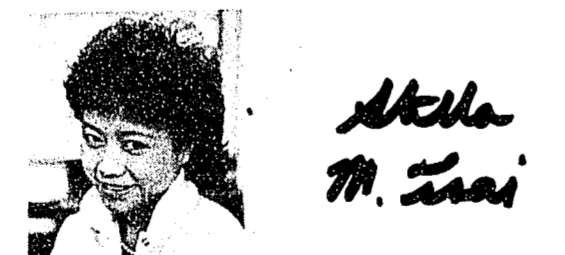
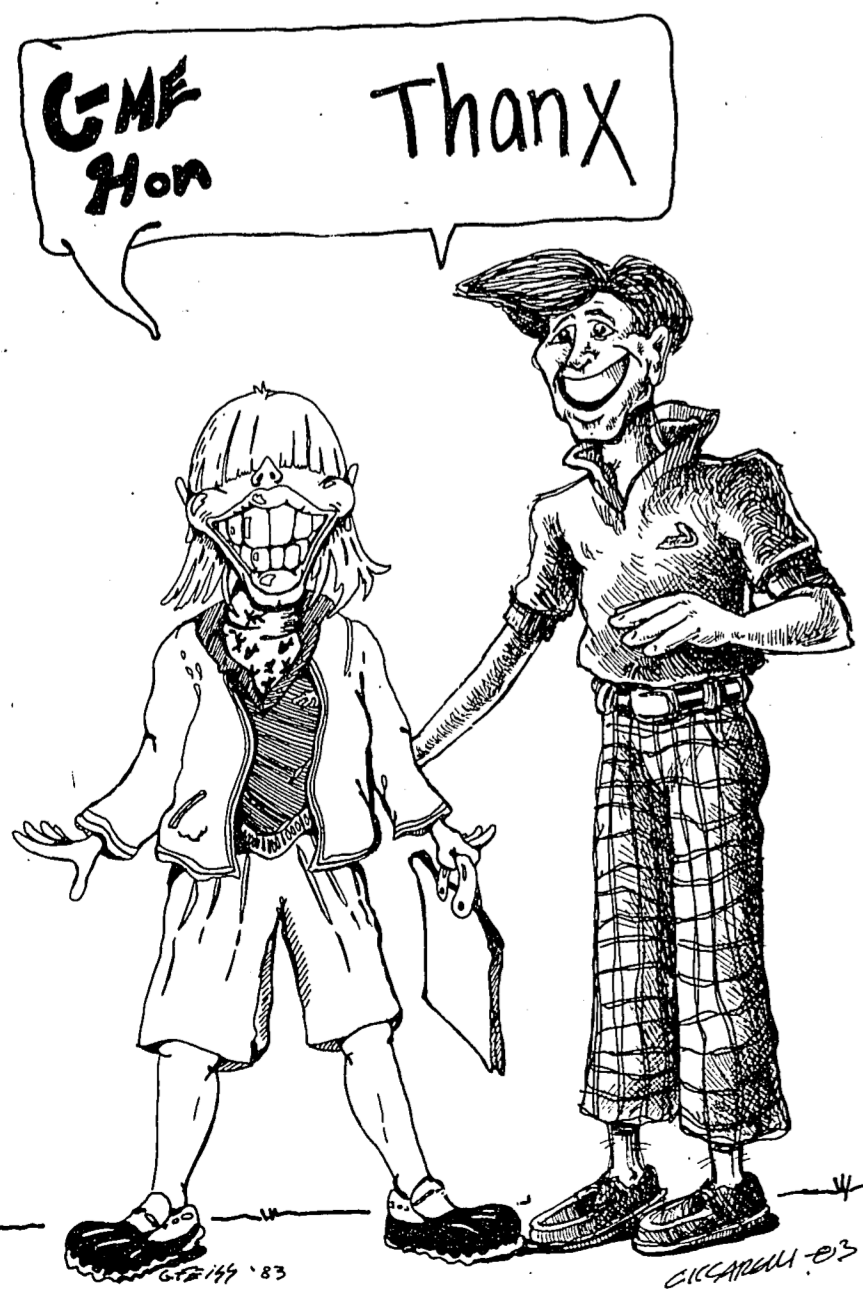
Anthony Christine III, senior-foreign service
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Sept. 20

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Thanx just the same, but no phonies needed



I'm afraid the scheme backfired quite explosively — the curiosity about what kids were not supposed to read probably spurred "A Catcher in the Rye" to the top of the "Required Reading Lists" of "My Frayed 'The Official Preppy Handbook'" (p. 59).

Vice-wary people did not want the book to fall into the delicate, unsoiled hands of young Tad and Tiffany and into their spotless(?) minds. No can do. Censorship is out of the question when trying to force-feed ethics to adolescents. Face it, a novel is a novel. I believe reading triggers a reader to think about any dank, dingy thoughts already floating through his mind.

I'll bet some anti-Catchers feared that their dear children, sprung forth from their evil-free loins, would go through the fabled "Holden Caulfield" complex that frequently accompanies the book. Symptoms include periodic sighing and moaning, gazing into space and discharging a battery of explicit statements about what the victim likes or dislikes (heavy on the dislikes). Because I am experiencing these dreaded side effects... sigh... I thought I would share my thoughts with you as I suffer this arduous journey.

I seem to be passing through a prolonged "society is full of phonies" stage. I feel terrible; it wrenches me to know I have mentally blasted a lot of my fellow collegians and former schoolmates for doing things like rattling off a current beau's attributes as if reading ingredients off a nutrition label of Crackerjacks ("100 percent pure sugar, gorgeous all-American").

Doesn't it ever bother you when you unearth an entire square foot corner at a party and the book-eyed bozo jammed in next to you boasts about munching Mexican mushrooms and then monopolizes conversation with barbaric grunts? Or how about the Polardrenched Madras, plaid-clad Joe College who says "excellent" when a "great" will do?

It kills me to hear some pristine princess elaborate on her lofty ideals after she sifted 10 test files to find a duplicate of the Finance 100 final her prof would be giving. Hah. I hope this scholar will apply her pragmatic scruples to the world, if she graduates.

I shudder when I see phony 20-year-olds write "luv," "tham," and "cme" on their notes and letters (on gushy stationery, to be sure). They must think shortened phonetic spellings look cute on paper. Does jotting an "x" instead of a "ks" conserve that much energy? I wonder. If this adorable spelling trend continues we may become too "his" devising catchy spellings and bag consulting Funk and Wagnall's altogether.

Phonies depress the hell out of me. They resort to facades whenever they deal with people. Phonies dream their feeble attempts to con and impress people will lead to admiration. Unfortunately, I believe the power tools of manipulation and exploitation can only be used by the highly respected. Any sensible person can peer through a phony's layers of Izods and oxfords and see him bare — the spineless jellyfish of man's social order — and quickly discard any notion of tribute.

The phony thrives in the Disneyland college environment; a 24-hour party atmosphere would even give a novice ample opportunity to perfect his craft. Like Holden Caulfield, I often wish to leave our beloved campus to escape from such phony people. But one wise businessman told me that mild-mannered hypocrisy finds a breeding ground anywhere people go. "Such is life," he cautioned.

Yuck. I hope I can arrest this affliction pretty soon. Although experiencing the complex places me on the offensive in the campaign against phoniness, I cannot wait until most of Holden's influences withers away. "Phony" identification can be a pretty exhausting, risky business.

Stella Tsai is a junior majoring in political science and a copy editor for The Daily Collegian.

reader opinion

Wrong interpretation

(This is a copy of a letter sent to the New York Times.) After reading Gordon S. White Jr.'s column, "At Penn State, Color is Blue" (New York Times, Sept. 19), I was surprised and dismayed at his simplistic, concrete interpretation of my recent letter to the editor of the University paper, The Daily Collegian, regarding Penn State football and Head Coach Joe Paterno.

First of all, no one at Penn State has been or will be calling for Coach Paterno's resignation and I am no exception. Had Mr. White read my letter mindfully, he should have come to understand that the changes to which I was referring were changes in attitudes.

Interestingly enough, the Collegian appropriately entitled my letter "A new ball game." It is beyond me how Mr. White interpreted it as a demand for a new coach.

Secondly, somehow Mr. White drew the insane conclusion from my remarks that a contingency exists between winning and losing and a coach's attire. Our team, which at the time of my letter had lost the first two games of the 1983 season, lacked the spirit

and intensity of Coach Paterno's teams of the past, in my opinion.

It was with regard to this phenomenon that I directed my remarks about the symbolic value of Coach Paterno's attire and the implications it has for his role identity as head coach. That's all.

The meaning of my suggested changes in Penn State football obviously escaped Mr. White and, I fear, others who can't resist the opportunity to put Coach Paterno down with unfounded criticism or put him on a pedestal. Furthermore, Mr. White has taken my statements entirely out of the context in which they should have remained.

He is also incorrect in his statements about Penn State's last game with Iowa. Iowa did not win easily. I was in the stadium (wearing blue and white) with 84,000 other people. Where was he?

Mr. White's selective and cavalier use of a few of my statements in his apparently desperate search for a lead to his sports column is shockingly uncharacteristic of the calibre of journalism usually found in the New York Times.

I resent his irresponsible use of my comments in the college paper in order to air his own caustic and ill-conceived remarks

about Penn State and Coach Paterno, both past and present.

Suzanne E. Tallichet, State College resident
Sept. 20

Problem child

We thought about this letter 20 minutes before the kickoff of our Penn State vs. Iowa football game Saturday, Sept. 17.

Prodded by the moans from the Sunday morning quarterbacks these past few weeks, we asked ourselves, "How are we going to react when we win?"

We thought about the unwarranted flak heaped upon the Lions by less-than-loving characters who, if they were on the field, would probably head for the enemy's goal post to score.

We wondered if these persons are trying to improve the Lions' performance through negativism. If so, they ought to quit quick.

The Lions will always be much better off without "fair weather friends." Just what does "Love ya Lions" mean? A casual acquaintance struck us with the question, "Which of your children do you love the most?" The answer was quick in coming:

"The one who is having a problem at the moment."

The Lions are having a problem at the moment and it's nobody's fault. Bill Madden, in his Sunday News baseball analysis, said, "The best baseball team in the American League will not win the pennant this year." This is not an idle statement of the Yank's George Steinbrenner or Murray Cook, but rather a consensus of other respected club officials around the American League. "The Yanks prove that the best talent doesn't always win," Madden said.

It is time we stopped complaining about Joe Paterno and his very talented players. How did we react when we lost? As the 43-34 score indicates, it wasn't a bad loss. In fact, the Lions might be doing better than the Yankees in getting their act together. They'll get no flak from us.

Jeff Kulp, graduate-mechanical engineering
Sept. 20

Temporary setback

As law-abiding God-fearing American citizens, we wish to respond favorably to a different article published by this newspaper some time ago.

Furthermore, as no action was taken in this matter since that date, we must remain steadfast in our opinion. Had local government been swifter in providing the necessary legislation, the inherent apathy associated with the project could have been avoided. Being major proponents of the original plan, we were deeply dismayed to find that support was lacking in other fields.

Despite this temporary setback, we feel that we were initially better informed than our worthy opponent and consequently we still don't know where Jimmy Hoffa is.

Dilwyn Knott, senior-civil engineering
Jeff Kulp, graduate-mechanical engineering
Sept. 20

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