

opinions

12
The Daily Collegian
Friday, April 26, 1985

editorial opinion

USEC's . . . growing pains?

After one full week for the "new" University Student Executive Council, it is time to look back on what's been accomplished. Looking back so soon, in most instances, would be premature. But in USEC's case, it is simply less frightening than looking ahead.

USEC has failed to grasp its role as the channel for student input to the University administration and thus has the potential to fall in that role. What it has done is to undermine this same role by putting it aside to satisfy individual USEC members and the group.

At last Thursday's meeting, members of USEC unanimously agreed to allow the seat of the Associated Student Activities Budget Committee chairman to vote. The question of voter eligibility on USEC for this position — which was originally an ex officio post — was brought before USEC by Greg Cable, who currently holds the position.

"It's not fair to have input but no vote," Intergovernmental Council President John Rooney said in support of Cable. But former USEC Chairman Adam Levinson said last year's council decided a vote would give ASA's position too much power because ASA oversees budget needs of organizations on USEC. Also, voting power had only been given to USEC members elected by student organizations, with the exception of the student trustee who is appointed by the governor.

The Council discussed it, but with Cable still seated in the room, none of the members — even if there were some who opposed the idea — were willing to speak out

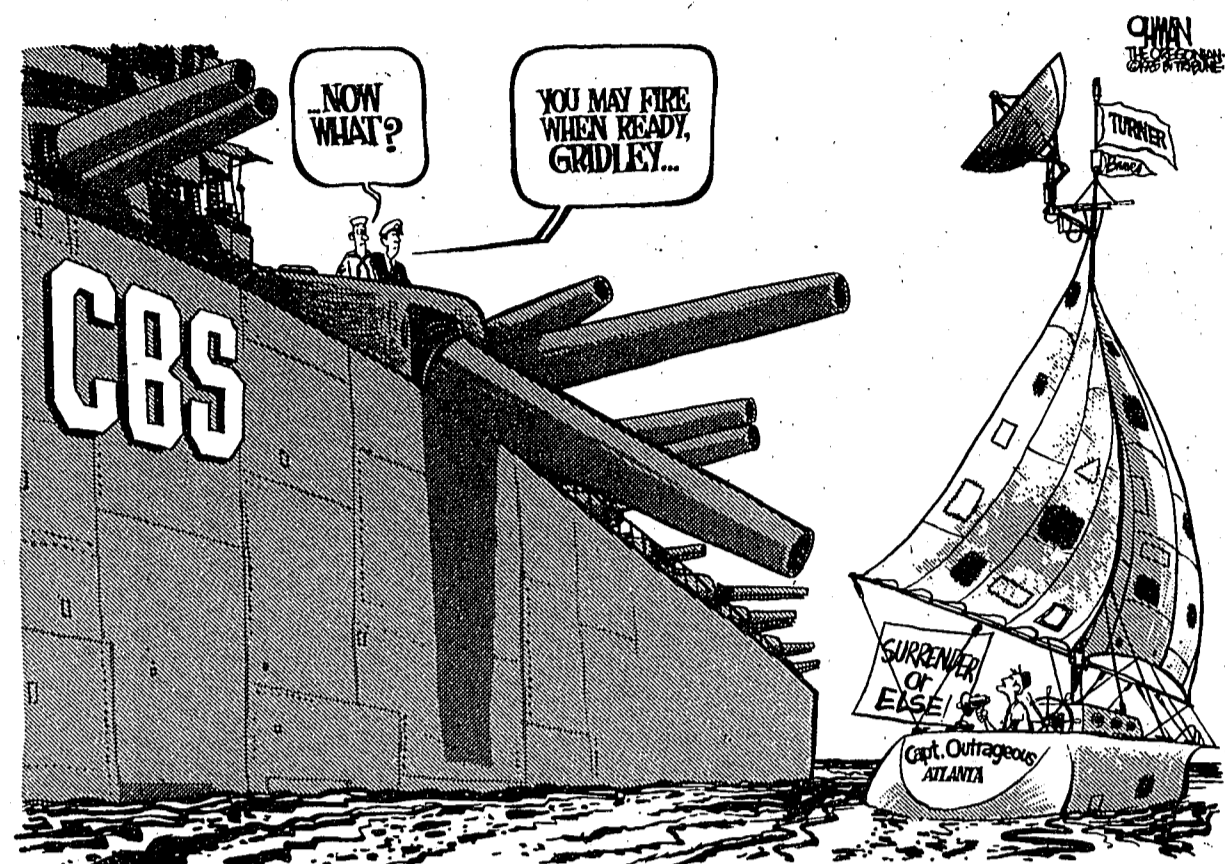
against the person who holds the purse strings for their organizations.

Perhaps worst of all, though, the new USEC laid some dangerous groundwork. It voted to keep confidential the results of the USEC chair elections between Panel president and newly-appointed USEC chairwoman Laurie Maser and Mary Weaver, vice president of the Undergraduate Student Government. The reasoning? Some USEC members said a split decision would signal a rift among members of the organization which would undermine the unity the council should maintain.

But USEC's mission as the representative of students to the administration contradicts its decision to keep voting results confidential. And while it may be true that the results of that particular ballot are not vital knowledge to University students, the idea and the ease with which the council unanimously decided on secrecy could set a precedent for far more crucial decisions in the future.

After only one week, USEC members have made it obvious that they have a lot to learn about representing student concerns to the University.

USEC members were right about one thing: solidarity is necessary to successfully convey students' viewpoints. However, that solidarity cannot be used as an excuse to stamp everything "confidential" and to leave USEC's constituency — which is essentially every Penn State student — without an accepted channel for their concerns.



the Collegian
Friday, April 26, 1985
©1985 Collegian Inc.

Gail L. Johnson Business Manager
Editor: Diane O'Phore
Assistant Editor: Jeff Bliss; Campus Editor: Anita Huslin; Assistant Campus Editor: Kris Sorchill; Town Editor: Patti Diacon; Assistant Town Editor: Bob King; Features Editor: Anita Yest; Graphics Editor: Tony Ciccarelli; Wire Editors: Joe Ditzler and Leslie Persin; Copy Editors: Bill Farrell, Pat Collier, Cindy Davis and Julie Rasicot; Weekly Collegian Editor: Laura Dunhoff; Assistant Weekly Collegian Editor: Christine Anderson; Weekly Managing Editor: Marcy Mermal.

Bill Cramer, Thomas Swarr; Arts Editor: Diane O'Phore; Assistant Arts Editor: Jeff Bliss; Campus Editor: Anita Huslin; Assistant Campus Editor: Kris Sorchill; Town Editor: Patti Diacon; Assistant Town Editor: Bob King; Features Editor: Anita Yest; Graphics Editor: Tony Ciccarelli; Wire Editors: Joe Ditzler and Leslie Persin; Copy Editors: Bill Farrell, Pat Collier, Cindy Davis and Julie Rasicot; Weekly Collegian Editor: Laura Dunhoff; Assistant Weekly Collegian Editor: Christine Anderson; Weekly Managing Editor: Marcy Mermal.

Complaints: News and editorial complaints should be presented to the editor. Business and advertising complaints should be presented to the business manager. If a complaint is not satisfactorily resolved, grievances may be filed with the Accuracy and Fair Play Commission of Collegian Inc. Information on filing grievances is available in a separate corporate publication, "An independent, non-profit corporation with a board of directors consisting of students, faculty and professionals. Students of The Pennsylvania State University write and edit both papers and solicit advertising material for them. The Daily Collegian is published Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday during the summer, and distributed at the University Park campus. Weekly Collegian is mailed to Commonwealth campus students, parents of students, alumni and other subscribers who want to keep abreast of University news."

opinions

Being greek is more than a chariot ride

To most people at Penn State, the week starting with the Phi Psi 500 and ending with the Beta Sigma Beta Sig Barish Regatta means fun in the sun, blowing off some work to celebrate the end of the winter blues, and taking part in the myriad activities that have suddenly popped up all over campus.



Judith Jansen

However, this is a week of hard work. The culmination of months of dull meetings to the people behind the scenes who are responsible for bringing most of the fun about.

Now, some people may call them different names — from "frat rat" to "sorority bitch" — but, like it or not, these are the people who have given up a lot of time to make spring at Penn State what it really is.

At one time in our college "careers," we all have probably pondered like if we had taken a different social path. If you are greek, you have thought about how career life would have been if you didn't have to spend hours of your lifetime holding a can out on a street corner. If you are not a fraternity or sorority member, you probably have had visions of a calendar full of semi-formals and theme parties. No matter which side of the fence you are on, greek life is an important part of Penn State, and despite the reputation a lot of people try to give it.

When I was a freshman, I went through sorority rush. Everything happened so quickly that by the time I figured out what "philanthropy"

Glue, glue, who's got the glue?

Thirty thousand students are buying an education from Penn State, for the same price they could get a Volvo, if not a Mercedes. The cost of a Harvard education would buy you a Rolls. But such a buyer would never buy a car in bits and pieces; fenders, engine, headlights and bumpers jumbled together in a crate. A few hobbyists do in fact buy model cars and assemble them, but the majority buy toy cars all assembled.

Of course, there are many things I would like to change about the greek system. Rush, in both sororities and fraternities makes this process even more difficult no matter whether you are the chooser or the chosen. The unofficial "ranking" of sororities and fraternities makes this process even worse. As a rush counselor during last fall's sorority rush, I saw more tears than I had seen through all my years at school.

forum

Why then do 30,000 students buy the education they are getting instead of the assembly line? Mainly, of course, because that's what the University offers.

Yet there are not at all sure when members of the faculty in the senate and elsewhere are dedicated to doing better; to providing an education which would be integrated into a "vehicle" to, literally, carry one through life. But if so, why hasn't Penn State been doing better at it? Let me suggest three reasons:

1. There is no real business and industry in called, market-pull or demand. The students haven't demanded such an education. So, it is obvious to a student that a fully assembled car is much more useful to her or him than a crate of parts? Well it should, but it clearly isn't, and you may understand why if you think of a bushman in the Kalahari or a extraterrestrial visitor buying a "car."

2. How would they know an assembled car from the kit in a crate and which would be better for their purpose — if indeed they had a clear purpose — the purchase? I submit that most Penn State students are not fully aware of what a good education could do for them; if they knew, they would and should march on the senate with their demands for a much more integrated education — for putting it together. At the end of this article I list a few relevant quotes. It is absolutely essential that we, as professors, show the connections between all the courses we require of students. How does Plato's philosophy relate to today's social problems; or how do the findings of modern radio astronomy square with the Biblical insights on which this country was founded? Engineers and the handicapped; political science and acid rain.

What then is the glue which could link the parts into an articulated whole? In the past the glue of any society was its culture and its heart was its religion. And in many cultures from Iran to China, the deeply-held religious (in the broadest sense) of society valued its culture and its heart as its religion. And in many cultures from Iran to China, the deeply-held religious (in the broadest sense) of society valued its culture and its heart as its religion. And in many cultures from Iran to China, the deeply-held religious (in the broadest sense) of society valued its culture and its heart as its religion.

3. The structure of the University is such that we have 101 departments producing 101 parts but no one is in charge of assembling these parts. The student makes up a tray-load of parts (sorry, courses) in the cafeteria (sorry, registration) line and gets her/his check-out slip (diploma) at the end of the line. Go back to the gemstone kit analogy. Read the fine print carefully and you find on the side of the box, "Glue not provided."

So you see, Penn State has excellent individual parts — no need to provide the glue. Just let students figure out how to put the physics and philosophy and engineering and sociology together. And indeed there are the very few who really learn more by doing this assembly. But it is surely cheating the majority not to provide the instruction and glue, if not an assembled car.

The third reason may be the most important of all. Perhaps American education has forgotten how to put it together; perhaps they are not even sure what a car looks like anymore. Indeed there is no shortage of those who say there is no need to put it all together. They write — they say — is clamoring only for parts-makers and parts specialists — let's make headlines! B.S.'s and left-center specialists not worry about all this putting it together. Perhaps all the king's teachers and all the king's professors can't put it together again.

But there is a group of faculty with strong encouragement from the very highest levels of this University's administration struggling with putting it all together. The University Senate is debating "general education" at length. It is only every ten or 15 years that this happens. Yet, more in sadness than in anger, I note that any one minor sports event gets more space in the Collegian than the entire debate about the future of the educational content of ten generations of Penn State students' education. Edward Burke wrote: "The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing." The many deeply concerned students must speak in every forum open to them — Collegian, USG, the Senate.

Now throughout the nation, indeed the educational world, there is a trend to expand and reinvigorate content to ensure that (1) curricular content is directly addressed not only to subject matter but also to the development of capacities of analysis, problem-solving, communication and synthesis, and (2) students and faculty integrate knowledge from various disciplines" (emphasis added). — "Education in the 21st Century," report of the National Science Board Commission on Pre-college Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology (1983).

"Liberal education requirements should be expanded and reinvigorated to ensure that (1) curricular content is directly addressed not only to subject matter but also to the development of capacities of analysis, problem-solving, communication and synthesis, and (2) students and faculty integrate knowledge from various disciplines" (emphasis added). — "Education in the 21st Century," report of the National Science Board Commission on Pre-college Education in Mathematics, Science and Technology (1983).

"Recent national reports on the status of graduate education suggest that the graduate curriculum today may need to address issues and problems that cross disciplines and that are not usually embraced by primarily discipline-oriented programs." — Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools' policy statement.

Rustum Roy is an Evan Pugh Professor of the Soil Science Chair in the Science, Technology and Society Program.

reader opinion

Get with it, USG

On Wed. March 27 and Thurs. March 28, students gave thanks for the tables for the Undergraduate Student Government elections. Supposedly these students were to be paid for the time they put in. I, being one of those students, was told that I could pick up my check anywhere from one week to two weeks thereafter.

It is now almost four weeks since the time of the elections and I still have not received the check. Every time I go to the Associated Student Activities office to see if the check has arrived, I get the two same replies: "We (ASA) are still waiting for the treasurer (of USG) to sign the checks" and "You'll have to check with USG to see what is holding up the process." I then went over to the USG office to find out what the holdup was about, and on four separate occasions I got the same two replies: "We (USG) are still waiting for the treasurer's signature" and "It should be in by the end of the week."

I would like to know why the treasurer is taking so long. It is not just the people who sat at the election tables that are waiting patiently to pick up their checks. There are others also. For instance, my roommate has been waiting for a check of a substantial amount for work he did on a magazine for USG since Spring Break, almost two months ago.

If USG can't solve a simple problem like getting their treasurer's signature, how do they intend to solve larger problems that might arise over the course of the next school year. Come on USG, get on the ball!

Asset, not liability

State College businesses and local residents: stop taking advantage of students. Rent in the downtown area is outrageous. Prices downtown are high. Our activities are restricted because of ordinances. And now, the borough of State College is pushing for a noise ordinance.

Penn State University has stimulated the economy of the downtown businesses. In addition to the everyday business generated by the students' needs, there is the patronage of the alumni, friends and relatives of the students. This is in addition to the considerable revenue

generated from University-related tourist attractions and sporting events.

Penn State also offers State College residents cultural experiences, plays, concerts, museums, etc. Besides the bars and movie theaters, what do downtown State College merchants offer the students and local residents?

Where would State College be without the University? If it time that you begin to look at the University as an asset instead of a liability?

Jim Codar, freshman-Division of Undergraduate Studies April 12

Important accomplishment

The completion of the final report of the Governor's Commission on the Financing of Higher Education is an important accomplishment for Pennsylvania. It reflects the hard work and dedication of its Chairman, Robert E. Rippy, immediate past chairman of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and the 24 other persons Governor Thornburgh appointed to this important group in December of 1983. We were optimistic that the governor's commitment to the exploring of new ways to finance higher education in Pennsylvania would be productive, and we have not been disappointed.

Pennsylvania's public research universities — Penn State, Pitt, and Temple — are particularly pleased that the report advocates the concept of differential funding based on differential missions within the higher education community.

We supported that concept before the commission on a number of occasions, based on our belief that the high level and complex educational opportunities we provide for the people of this state — in accordance with the mission outlined for us in the current Mission Plan for Higher Education in Pennsylvania — are more costly than are the programs at colleges and universities with narrower missions. For example, the state's public research universities collectively offer undergraduate and graduate programs that include engineering, medicine, advanced science and agriculture. Our costs in these areas are increasing dramatically, largely driven by our need to keep pace with new technologies and by burgeoning state enrollments in high-demand areas like engineering, business, and computer science.

We have argued that these costs must be recognized and supported, in part with increased state appropriations to the state's public research universities. We believe differential funding based on the concept that differentiated missions require differentiated support from the state is critical to the future of public research universities and key to the contributions they collectively will make to economic development and revitalization in the Commonwealth.

The task before us now is to ensure that the forward-looking thinking that is in the commission's final report to Governor Thornburgh is incorporated into the upcoming Master Plan for Higher Education in Pennsylvania, that is currently under revision by the State Board of Education.

Bryce Jordan, president The Pennsylvania State University April 17
Dr. Jordan, as immediate past Chairman of the Commission for Commonwealth Universities, was the spokesman on behalf of Penn State, Pitt, and Temple before the Governor's Commission on the Financing of Higher Education

Who's Who-vian

So, Gay Student Services elected new officers on April 15. Why is this group being publicized so well? I was elected President of the Whovians of Penn State on the night of April 17 for Fall Semester. But was there an article on our elections and meeting? No!

Did you say nothing? Or was that steno? No, it's their noise the ordinance quells. (Also, shouting and barking and ringing of bells.)
David M. Silverman, State College April 19

He, what in the devil are decibels? They're the ratios of the logs of sound levels.
Or was that steno?
No, it's their noise the ordinance quells. (Also, shouting and barking and ringing of bells.)
David M. Silverman, State College April 19

Unite against prejudice

You may have noticed lately that there have been several articles in The Daily Collegian pertaining to the subject of racism. I myself do not have a degree in any social science or sociology fields, but I do have my own

opinion on this problem.

I come from a small town about 120 miles east of State College and I was never really exposed to prejudice or racism. The reason for this I believe is that no one ever paid much mind to this subject and treated everybody quite equally. There is a mixed population present in my community and even to this, prejudice did not occur. Since my arrival two years ago at Penn State, I have learned through various articles that prejudice is definitely a problem, if not in my community, in others. My opinion is that making that is the commission's final report to Governor Thornburgh is incorporated into the upcoming Master Plan for Higher Education in Pennsylvania, that is currently under revision by the State Board of Education.

George Lehnan, senior-microbiology April 5

Danger, decibels at work!

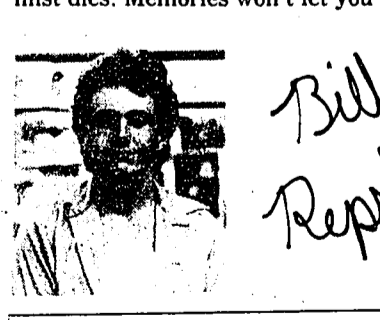
He, what in the devil are decibels? They're the ratios of the logs of sound levels.
Or was that steno?
No, it's their noise the ordinance quells. (Also, shouting and barking and ringing of bells.)
David M. Silverman, State College April 19

Unite against prejudice

You may have noticed lately that there have been several articles in The Daily Collegian pertaining to the subject of racism. I myself do not have a degree in any social science or sociology fields, but I do have my own

The many thoughts collected on the first warm night of spring

The first warm night of spring brings sadness on its wings. I'm sitting on a porch swing in State College feeling the wind against my face. The wind also brings happiness, the kind you feel when an optidist dies. Memories won't let you be sad.



Bill Repsher

The air tastes like water in my lungs. I'm slipping under the waves and seeing the heaven of summer nights. I hope I'll always feel this alive on the first warm night. I'll be twenty-one in two months. I'll walk into bars without the adrenalin flowing. Tonight, I'm a child.

Uncle Bill went out for a swim. He swims like a dolphin. He said he had to pull the plug on the Atlantic Ocean. I believe him. Once he returns, he's going to tell me of the pirates out around Asbury Park who last week attacked an 80-foot squid with nothing but their sabres and peg legs. I believe him. I wear my Hawaiian shirt and Bermuda shorts.

All the money in the world couldn't bind the first warm night. All I hear is the wind, the swing's chains and Ralph faintly yelling "Bang-zoom" from my neighbors' flickering blue-light living room. This feels like home for the first time. Tonight, I'm the one. Billions of people are in the world — I'm the one. Only one out of ten thousand writers is published — I'm the one. Drop a 16-oz weight on me, because tonight I'm the one. I've been drinking too much pride. In the haze of my drunkenness I see the faces of those who weren't the one. Those who never even believed they were the one. Those with their names written in stone. Tonight, I'm a teenager.

door shut. He was drunk. He was sad. Which should I believe? I prefer both. He wasn't dumb, so why didn't he open the door? Because he was drunk. It doesn't matter if he took his life or if his life took him. We won't be shaking hands at high school reunions.

I go to his wake out of respect. He's in a box surrounded by flowers and well-dressed people with white faces. I look at his face. I see death wearing lipstick and powder. I don't know this thing in a box. I decide that God must exist, because this thing never joked with me in the back of her room. Someone says he looks almost as if he's sleeping. I don't believe him. This is my last wake out of respect for the living.

I saw those fireflies drifting up into the apple blossoms. If eyes could talk, her's would have said, "Keep chasing." I believe them. They didn't see my seventeenth birthday.

There was a thump in the bathroom two days before my seventeenth birthday. I knew it was her. She'd been ill the past few weeks, worse than usual. It was June 16th, and a heat wave had just begun. My sister called downstairs to get an ambulance for her. She was still alive.

William S. Repsher is a junior majoring in English and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian. His column appears every Friday.

MOVIE 11th Annual

APRIL 27, 1985
HUB LAWN
12-11 PM

Performers in order of appearance:
12:00 - 12:45 ► Thrilling Detective
1:15 - 2:15 ► Bad Humor
2:45 - 3:45 ► Bashful
4:15 - 5:30 ► The Markley Band
6:00 - 7:15 ► Cheater Jones
7:45 - 9:00 ► Harpo

introducing Denny Dent & his two-fisted Art Attack and special guest
9:30 - 11:00 The Robert Cray Band

SPONSORED BY The Association of Residence Hall Students
IN COOPERATION WITH
T's Custom Printing
FOR MORE INFO CALL ARHA AT 865-9982

THIS SUMMER, KELLY WILL HELP 70,000 STUDENTS WORK TOWARD TWO GOALS:

TUITION AND A TAN.

With Kelly Services you can make the most of summer. And still make money for school.

You'll earn tuition while you choose your own assignments: office clerical, marketing or light industry. You take many assignments as you like, or hold them to a minimum. So you can still spend entire days basking in the sun.

Work is almost always available, too. So Kelly is not only ideal for vacations, it's a smart way to spend breaks year round.

And there's an extra benefit. Kelly provides temporary help to 98% of the Fortune 500 firms. So the assignment you take today can help you meet people who could play a big part in your future.

Join the 70,000 other students who work with Kelly Services every year. Just register at one of over 500 Kelly offices nationwide. There's one near your home or school. And it doesn't cost a thing to register. Think about it. It's a terrific way to earn tuition this summer — and still go back to school with a tan.

KELLY The Kelly Girl® People
SERVICES

An equal opportunity employer 1985 Kelly Services, Inc.