

'Elite' gather behind closed doors

Editor's Note: This is the second in a three-part series on secret societies at the University.

By DAMON CHAPPIE
Collegian Staff Writer

May the Lion's Paw ever rest as the guardian at the gates of old Penn State, that its stroke may be the despair of her enemies and its strength the pride of her friends.

— Lion's Paw creed

Behind a locked door on the fourth floor of Old Main lies the Lair.

For more than 55 years, the dozen or so members of an elite student society called Lion's Paw have held weekly meetings in the Lair, discussing campus problems and ways to solve them.

Membership in Lion's Paw is considered the highest honor senior student leaders can achieve, but they aren't supposed to discuss their involvement in the group. In the past, the group usually included the top executives of the Undergraduate Student Government and the Interfraternity Council, and the editor of *The Daily Collegian*.

Lion's Paw members must also belong to one of the other secret societies, Skull and Bones and Parmis Nous. The officers of those societies are usually in Lion's Paw.

"The group is really a way for certain student leaders to get together and try and have a more informed approach to better



serve the students," said a recent USG executive who belonged to Lion's Paw.

"We would argue, sometimes violently, over certain student issues and try to come to an agreement on what to do about them," said the former executive, who asked not to be identified by name.

The source said Lion's Paw allows leaders to discuss campus issues away from public scrutiny, something other forums such as the University Student Executive Council don't allow.

"In Lion's Paw, you can discuss any issue

with a lot more informality outside of USEC. Everyone knows that in USEC the press is going to be there and that they can't be as open as they might want to be," the source said.

Last year's Black Caucus president, Larry Patrick, who was also a member of Lion's Paw, said "there's a very big need for this type of group."

He said some of the same topics discussed in USEC were discussed in Lion's Paw. "There are positions that you won't feel comfortable with talking about in the public."

The student 'elite'

Each April, the Lion's Paw class is chosen by the preceding year's class. Patrick refused to identify this year's members. USG President Matt Baker and USG Vice President Sue Sturgis said they didn't belong to the group, as did Panhellenic Council President Mary Pickens, IFC President Pat Conway, Association of Residence Hall Students President Kent Jute and *Collegian* Editor Anita Huslin.

Collegian Business Manager William G. Landis Jr., also the president of Skull and Bones, replied "No comment" when asked if he belongs to Lion's Paw. Marjorie Utt, president of the Organization for Town Independent Students, also said, "I have no comment on that."

A current Lion's Paw member, who asked not to be identified by name and refused to

identify other members, would only say that the group is "apolitical."

But the known history of Lion's Paw, from records in the Penn State Room, shows a group very interested in University politics.

The group was formed in 1908 by 10 senior men upon appeal from Penn State President Edward Sparks, who asked for student help in curbing "hoodlum elements" on campus. In those days, students roamed around the town during "hell week," shouting, tearing up sidewalks and shooting guns into the air.

The society remained exclusively male until 1972.

In the late 1920s, when Old Main was being rebuilt, the alumni of Lion's Paw donated \$1,000 with the understanding that a room would be set aside in perpetuity in the refurbished Old Main for Lion's Paw exclusive use.

No documentation can be found of that agreement, according to University administrators, except a 1954 letter from the president of the Lion's Paw Alumni Association, B.M. Hermann.

Since 1931, Room 419 in Old Main has been the exclusive haven for Lion's Paw. Labeled "the Lair" by Lion's Paw members in 1931, the room is reportedly furnished with a large round oak table, chairs, bookcases, a chess table and dark drapes for the window.

Few people working in Old Main have seen it. A maintenance man working on the fourth floor where offices are being renovated said he had the key to every room in the building except Room 419. The man, who asked not to be identified, said he has worked there seven years and has never seen inside the room.

Although administrative office space is so tight the University is buying office space downtown, James Dungan, director of office facilities information and management, said: "That room is considered off limits to the University. I know nothing about that room except that it is used by Lion's Paw."

He added that all other rooms in Old Main are used for official University business. Dungan said he doesn't know how members get keys to Room 419 or to Old Main.

According to the Hermann letter, Lion's Paw had an "intimate" relationship with the college administration in its early years.

"Lion's Paw came into being as the result of an inspired wish of a group of student leaders to be of loyal service to the College in democratically moulding the student opinion of their day into constructive channels," the letter said.

"I am reminded of President Hetzel's taking pleasure in saying that when he looked from his home he could see the light burning in the fourth floor room of Old Main and he knew, perhaps chuckling about youthful inexperience, that the actives were discussing away in the small hours of the morning, and that the discussion would flow down to the student body and at least there would be some form introduced democratically into what... would... otherwise be chaos.

"He said on many occasions that he could sleep soundly knowing that things would go well with Penn State and its students as long as that light burned in sincerity and honesty," Hermann wrote.

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Senate to probe crash

By GEORGE GEDDA
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff will conduct an inquiry into whether an airplane resupplying Nicaraguan rebels was working in cooperation with the Reagan administration, the panel's chairman said yesterday.

Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., divulged the plan for the inquiry by his committee's staff in response to an accusation by Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., that "individuals are running around... conducting their own foreign policy in violation of the law."

In related news, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry announced late yesterday that it would allow U.S. Embassy officials to question American Eugene Hasenfus, the lone survivor of the crash Sunday of the cargo plane in southern Nicaragua. The ministry also said it would return the bodies of Americans who were killed.

The announcement came a day after the State Department threatened to shut down the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua unless U.S. officials got consular access to Hasenfus.

Acting State Department spokesman Charles Redman had said earlier in the day that the embassy delivered a diplomatic note Tuesday to Nicaraguan officials requesting consular access to Hasenfus and asking for the remains and personal effects of the two Americans who died in the crash.

Asked late yesterday about the Nicaraguan announcement, Nancy Beck, a State Department spokeswoman, said the United States "has yet to receive consular access. Nor," she said, "have the remains of the men, who are reported to be Americans, been turned over to us."

Lugar said Reagan administration policy toward Nicaragua is effectively in a sort of "limbo" because Congress has not given final approval to \$100 million in U.S. aid to the Contras. That money for that aid program is contained in a pending catchall money bill.

The plane was on a mission to resupply Nicaraguan rebels but the Reagan administration has said it had no connection with the U.S. government. Nicaragua has said the plane was on a CIA-sponsored mission.

Marchers enthusiastic for peace trek

By JANE KOPACKI
Collegian Staff Writer

Last March, 1,500 people started on a 3,500-mile trek across the United States in support of global disarmament. In the past six months, the group of marchers, ranging in age from 6 months to 79 years, have faced apathy, bankruptcy and harsh weather.

But now, members of the Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament walk across Pennsylvania, speak enthusiastically about the future of the peace movement, and look ahead to the peak of the movement on Nov. 15 in Washington, D.C., when the city will be barraged with letters and phone calls supporting global nuclear disarmament.

The march began on the west coast March 1, only to be halted by bankruptcy four days later in Barstow, Calif. The People Reaching Out for Peace, the funding organization of the march, was bankrupt and the 1,500 marchers knew they all could not continue.

"There was never a doubt that the march would go on," said Karen Lauer, 24, a social worker from Portland, Ore.

With the logistics of the continuation of the march in question, one of the options the marchers discussed was splitting the group and spreading across the country to cover the most ground. Without waiting for a decision to be made, the Peace Wave, a group of 13, ripped out of Barstow.

"We didn't know if the big march would get off its feet," said Kathy Potter, a preschool teacher from Boulder, Colo.

She said the Peace Wave was effective because of the size of the group, even with the small numbers who joined them for parts of the walk, were able to make more one-to-one contact in spreading their message of peace to the nation.

The Peace Wave is self-sufficient and consists of 12 women and one man ranging in ages from 24 to 52. Lauer said the numbers have fluctuated as others joined their movement but they never lost the 13 original members.

Susanne Mendelson, 76, and the oldest woman in the Great March, said, "It just goes to show you, old people don't have to just sit around and watch TV all day."

"I decided to become completely involved," Lauer said. "We're living out something we believe in and want to work for."

Charles Davidson, a marcher and Great Peace March educational outreach coordinator, said he was concerned with the apathy of university students in this country.

"I've met fifth and sixth graders who are more interested in what they could do to attain peace than university students," Davidson, 25, from California, said. He said that sometimes when conducting programs on college campuses he felt like he was talking to ice.



University student Christopher Bell, inset, is participating in the Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament. After leaving California in March, hundreds of antinuclear activists arrived in Pennsylvania on Monday.

"Getting involved to stand up for a comprehensive test ban treaty takes just as much commitment as going to the pubs to drink beer," he said.

The large numbers and diversity has attracted overwhelming international support for the Great Peace March, Lauer said. She said some members of the march have done mini-marches in Japan, Germany and Holland. She said the Soviet Union even publishes updates about the group twice a week.

"I'm learning more about myself and how to deal with the many different aspects of human beings," he said.

The march has attracted people from all walks of life, Davidson said, adding, "We are a microcosm of society."

The Great Peace March has tried to motivate support for global nuclear disarmament.

"We've been through everything — heat in the desert, snow in the Rockies, and rain in the east," Potter said. The walkers travel between 15 and 20 miles a day, he said, and rest one day a week.

Great Peace March walker and University student Christopher Bell said people did special things for the walkers all across the country. When the walkers did not have a camp site on the third day, for example, the people of Clairmont, Calif., took them into their homes.

Lauer said the response along the way was always fresh and positive, "whether it was knocking on a door to use the shower or phone or to ask permission to camp in their yard." She added, "It was kind of neat."

"We've been taken care of the whole way. We run on faith," Potter said. "We trust in that the universe will provide."

Davidson said the Great Peace March will be a historic event. He said the event will not be truly understood until they arrive in Washington, D.C.

Although she has no plans for herself after reaching Washington, D.C., Nov. 15, Lauer said her transition back to living indoors will be difficult after 10 months of weathering the elements.

Carson, former manager of a day care center in Tahoe City, Calif., said she was planning to join a 200-mile march from the tip of Florida to Cape Canaveral after the Great March in December.

Davidson said he will return to California and may continue the movement if it is still attractive to him and serves his interest. If nothing else, he said, he would work himself out of debt and begin collecting data and writing societal and historical accounts of the Great Peace March.

Student marches for peace

By JANE KOPACKI
Collegian Staff Writer

Last spring, while most students were lying in the sun or planning their spring break, another University student was traveling across the country for a cause.

Christopher Bell began a 3,500-mile trek to Washington, D.C., to spread the word of peace and global nuclear disarmament. Bell (junior-agricultural science) said he is not politically active at the University but that he is concerned about nuclear weapons. Furthermore, he said he admires the two-thirds of the University's physics department that agreed to refrain from conducting research for the "Star Wars" program.

"I was always upset about the apathy at Penn State," Bell said. "Most students are here just to get jobs in big corporations like IBM and Gulf. But if we don't disarm our nuclear weapons soon, there will be no chance for those jobs anyway."

When he read an advertisement about doing something for the future and being a part of history, Bell said, he decided to become a recruit for the Great Peace March for Global Nuclear Disarmament.

Through benefits by local bands such as the Earthtones and the Screaming Ducks and financial help from his friends, Bell raised the money he needed for a plane ticket, a tent, and rain gear for the nine-month trek starting in Los Angeles.

"It takes energy to make a change for the future," he said. He added that students possess that kind of energy but need to concentrate it.

All students do not have to walk 3,000 miles to work for the cause, he said. "Have a keg party for peace."

"The march is a baby, with nine months of incubation from beginning to end," Bell said. "When we get to Washington Nov. 15, the peace movement will be reborn."

Bell said march organizer David Mixner's dream of 5,000 people walking across the continent for peace, with an entourage of trucks carrying all the comforts of home, was not as feasible as Mixner believed.

Marchers are doctors, lawyers, physicists and families, he said. The group is not just "beatniks, hippies and Deadheads," but is a diverse microcosm of society.

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Thursday

weather

This afternoon, cloudy and a cool, brisk wind. High 58. Tonight, a partly cloudy start, with clear skies by morning. Low 37.

.....Heidi Sonen