

THE

SACRIFICE

Volume 2 Number 2

"The tigers of wrath are wiser than the horses of instruction"

- William Blake

SMOKE-FILLED ROOM

Five faculty and four student members met as the Graduate Council Monday, the first GC meeting since April 12 and the last until next semester. A delegate of the People's Newsletter Collective attended (anyone can) to carry The Truth to the students, to the surprise and uneasiness of several faculty members.

The Truth:

Course evaluation this year, if it exists at all, will have a different format and purpose than that advocated in this sheet last issue. During extended discussion of the proposal for such a project, GC members worried that administrators might use such information injudiciously, and that students have other ways of obtaining it.

The most appropriate use of course evaluation, most seemed to agree, is to privately inform teachers of the opinions of the students in each class, anonymously and confidentially, with an evaluation tailored to the characteristics of each course. Any teacher, of course, may reject the evaluation project for any reason.

Rather than recommend to faculty that such evaluation might be a good idea, the Council directed its secretary to prepare a report of the discussion on course evaluation to circulate to all professors and students. The arguments and comments of the GC debate may stimulate debate among faculty and students - perhaps even action.

Before the document is made public, however, the GC will review it and decide whether to release it or not. And since there will be new members the next time the GC meets, the status of the report (and of course-evaluation) is in doubt.

More Truth: Although the year has progressed with no major incidents of theft or assault, the Council still is concerned with security at ASC. The idea of a receptionist stationed in the lobby to challenge potential assaulters or thieves has proved financially impractical, but the administration is pondering other possibilities. In the meanwhile, Sol Worth asked GC members to try outside doors frequently to be sure their locks are not jammed open with data cards.

Another suggestion: Larry Gross thinks it's a good idea to put Polaroid shots of incoming students and faculty on the bulletin boards during orientation periods to make it easier for all to get acquainted. GC members kicked that one around a while, agreed that the photo displays must be completely voluntary, but took no action.

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HAVE YOU PERCEIVED?

- that copies of the recently compiled Annenberg/Van Pelt Periodical Holdings List are available on the bulletin board, in the office, at the Library front desk and from the Student Council?

- that during a Wednesday Proseminar section of 10 graduate and undergraduate students, conducted by William Melody, the phrase "in terms of" was used exactly 14 times between 10:39 and 11:05 am?

WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT ISN'T
views of an anonymous columnist

Our Verbal-Linguistic Messages as Manifested in our Socially Oriented Interpersonal Communicative Interaction, or: How Jargon Puts Us Where It's At

Scene: Annenberg Lobby anytime at all

- First Annenberg Student (naive): I really get the feeling that Professor ---- doesn't like me.
- Second Annenberg Student (sophisticated): Oh, don't go making inferences that are contextually inadequate in terms of the space-time communicative structure here.
- FAS(N): Huh? Wow! I know when someone doesn't like me. I mean, he doesn't act nice to me.
- SAS(S): Look, epistemologically speaking, you couldn't possibly have a total cognitive awareness of the intention (if such a phenomenon exists at all) underlying his manifest behavior that you believe is personally directed communication.
- FAS(N): Yeah? Then why doesn't he ever smile when he sees me?
- SAS(S): Did it ever occur to you that he doesn't perceive his kinesthetic cues as being the hostile messages that you abstract them to be? Perhaps he sees his individual behaviors as appropriate units in the teacher-student relationship structure.
- FAS(N): That might be true, but he seems friendly to some of the other students, especially the more advanced kids.
- SAS(S): He probably behaves similarly to them, but they have learned, as you should, that the faculty here are not subject to the same rule-governed social etiquette that one would normally expect to be implicitly understood in most other social relationships. Ergo, they certainly don't become paranoid about something as meager as idiosyncratic social behavior.
- FAS(N): Yeah, I guess you're right. I am being a little touchy. It might sound silly, but the thing that was really bothering me (that really doesn't have anything to do with this) was that he gave me a "C" on my paper.
- SAS(S): Wow! He really must hate you.

TOWARDS A THEORY OF NEWSREADING BEHAVIOR

No doubt it gratifies Walter Annenberg, US ambassador to Great Britain and our chief benefactor, to know that 100 per cent of the students who read a Philadelphia daily newspaper in the Annenberg library read the Inquirer, the paper he published until his appointment. Still, there are two other metropolitan dailies in Philly.

Understandably, the tabloid Daily News would cause graduate students some intellectual insecurity (all that boldness and brashness). The Bulletin, though, is a respected sheet whose coverage of the city would be a valuable complement to that of the Inky, for those interested in the city that play host to parasites like us.

The problem, librarian Grilikhes says, is that distributors refused to deliver the Bulletin: it is an afternoon paper while all the other ASC holdings are morning papers. She added that the Bulletin is available in Van Felt Library, along with a raft of other dailies. However, the ASC Library will gladly send out a staffer to buy the Bulletin if Ms. Grilikhes gets requests from students. The power, as usual, resides with the people.

CULPITS

The Sacrifice is published now and again for Annenberg students under the auspices of the Student Council. Anonymous Columnist, Barry Milavsky and Pauls Span worked on this issue, assisted by Minor Information Gatherers Hugh Crosby-Lennon and Bob Dilworth. Membership still open. Sportswriter: Geoff Wainwright-Stiles.

JUAN VALDEZ

The Graduate Council has enough money to pay for an afternoon pot of coffee in the student lounge for caffeine addicts who have complained. What it doesn't have is a volunteer or five to refill the pot. Show you care - see John Massi about keys which will admit you to a closet with a deep sink which will allow you to fill the pot which will keep you awake during afternoon classes. Or else patronize the machine downstairs and quit griping.

A HEALTHY MIND IN A HEALTHY BODY

Don't miss the Annenbell Footberg Game Saturday at 1 pm at a site to be announced by bulletin board. Students and friends of any sex are welcome. Informed sources on the organizing committee say knowledge of the rules of the game are unimportant. "All you need is a lot of orgiastic feeling," the spokesman said. "It's not exactly touch - more like grab."

CHAIRMAN HOW?

Charles Wright will serve as co-chairman of the Graduate Council next semester, along with one of the student members to be elected in January. Traditionally, one student and one faculty member are selected by lot as co-chairmen. They have little power: the faculty chairman presides over meetings in the spring, the student in the fall.

But another look at the approved minutes of the first GC meeting last year casts some doubt on this procedure. The minutes say, "Discussion made it clear that the co-chairmen were to be those first selected by lot, provided only that they came from any two of the three categories of members of the Council (i.e., the faculty, PhD candidates and MA candidates). The motion was carried by 2 votes to nil."

Apparently, then, two students could conceivably be co-chairmen of the GC. At Monday's drawings, though, only faculty names were drawn from to fill the vacancy left by Ray Birchwhistell.

Three questions come to mind. (1) Does the letter of the law correspond to the intent of the motion Larry Gross introduced at that first meeting? (2) If not, which should change, the law or the intent? (3) Is it really advantageous for students to have two chairmen, or will the legitimacy and leverage of the GC suffer?

The Council should reopen this discussion at its first spring meeting. One thing seems clear: Dr. Wright won't mourn the loss of his post.

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FAREWELL POST-TIMES

The new name that floats proudly on the page one mast was selected in balloting Tuesday. Voters included the four students who attended a renaming session, the students in Denis McQuill's afternoon class, and a random sample of anyone sitting in the lobby or roaming the halls during the day. The Sacrifice, taken from the gold and marble plaque which reminds us that "Sacrifice is Necessary for Achievement," won by a one-vote margin over The Random Sample and The Hoagie ("Everything's in it"). Other nominations included Noise, The Post-Times, Modistation, Epistemological Quackery - The Journal for Communication Fanatics, The Standard Deviation, Trash, and the Sun Post Herald Tribune Plain Dealer. So much for the thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.

THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH SURGES ONWARD

Last year, one enterprising ASC student produced a structural analysis of football as a term paper ("Hold that Honey, Kick that Mother's Brother").

Determined not to let this tradition of scholarship die, an experiment has been organized and set in motion to utilize the multidisciplinary interests of the student body, or bodies: we hope to videotape and subsequently analyze a series of squash matches, and try to develop a syntax and grammar of the game.

Certain stylistic (probably cultural) variations are already visible on a macrolevel, viz. differences between English, Canadian and American players. We hope to reach a socio-squash level through more intense study and isolate the Birkbeck bash, the Milavsky pat and the Kenworthy Karoumphh in greater detail.

The experiment is being held in the Gimbal gymnasium, where the cameras are so well hidden that subjects may be altogether unaware of the surveillance. We found in protests that the ASC TV studio, though interesting as a venue, tended to lose squash balls rather too easily.

Subjects may enlist on the poster surreptitiously labelled "Squash Ladder" on the school noticeboard and then, either for themselves or through Harry Milavsky (ASC 72 & Supply Room) arrange a time to "play," as the activity is sometimes referred to. Unfortunately, no rewards can be offered, for fear of biasing the sample, but we can almost guarantee that no electric shocks will be administered, unless we feel particularly vindictive. Boys and girls are invited to participate in this important venture. It makes you healthy and wise but, unfortunately, carries no credit.

ghs

WHERE TO BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS THIS WEEK

The University continues to amaze and delight with its selection of lectures and seminars for fanatics and zealots of every stripe.

Consider this double header on Wednesday, December 8. At 3 pm in Alumni Hall of the Towne Building on 33rd Street, it's Prof. William Hawthorne, CBE, FRS and head of the engineering department at Cambridge. Obviously the gent has class and so does his topic: Some Turbo Machinery Aerodynamic Research. Then at 4 pm at the Medical School (D) on Hamilton Walk, Sigma XI presents Prof. Christian J. Lambertsen on Extension of Manned Undersea Activity.

Next day, December 9 at 3 pm in Bennett Hall the English Department carries on with Timothy Katerer's discussion of James Joyce's Dubliners.

The psychology department's colloquium committee has announced a dazzling lineup of speakers through February 5, including Dr. Robert Abelson of Yale on December 14. The schedule also lists Dr. Martin Braine of NYU on December 7 (Tuesday), Dr. Patricia Greenfield of Harvard on January 25, Dr. Geoff Galef of McMaster University on February 1 and Alvin Liberman of Haskins Lab on February 8. Subject to change though. Better stay glued to The Sacrifice for final dates and topics.

Feedback Lovers: Hear Dr. M E Sternman on Neurobiofeedback and Motor Control at 4:30 pm Monday, December 6 in Piersol Library. He's associated with the UCLA anatomy department and the Sepulveda Veterans Administration Hospital.

The TV people wish to remind you all that next term they'll present another series of films and videotapes each Thursday at 4:30. The week's program is posted on the bulletin board - oops - programme. This semester's series included the Murrow-McCarthy struggle, a Kennedy-Nixon debate, Offer, Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge and a trip to the moon. Next term should be as compelling.