



Student Table Scraps Litter Cafe

Many students have recently complained about Slippery Rock's cafeteria situation. "Where are we going to sit?" "No, you pick out an empty table, I already have eyestrain." These and similar comments are heard ringing from Weisenfluh Cafeteria each day at lunch and dinner time.

Although we suffer from overcrowded conditions in our cafeteria, this is not the reason for these pleas from irate students. Instead, they are complaining about the garbage strewn tables piled in litter, left that way from the sharp college students who are here to seek an education and culture.

Since it is impossible for state funds to hire extra help to collect the trays of these thoughtless kiddies, we must either try to get to the cafeteria before they do or sit at the messy tables and pretend not to notice the eyesores. Although overcrowded conditions are already a problem, it is necessary for us to excuse the sloppy offenders of simple courtesy, realizing they had to hurry off to the Grille to hear the latest disc or to the Hut to finish that pool or ping-pong tournament. Sure it is necessary for us to excuse such behavior, or is it?

Over three-fourths of the students who eat in the cafeteria manage to find the time to return their trays to the convenient racks provided for this purpose. The time consumed in this process ranges from one full minute to twenty seconds for a senior, more experienced tray handler (the usual offender). Surely we could all take out that amount of time to provide a seat for the next person and give a better impression to any visitors to our campus.

Now that this situation has demanded so much attention, let's take care of it before the cafeteria management finds it necessary to impose fines upon the immature offenders.

Have a Merry Christmas and hope our trays can start off the New Year together—in the dish room!

Campus Observer by Joe Vranich

Crisis In Student Government

This writer was the campaign manager for Laporte, Stevens and Smith during last year's campaign for student government. Because of that relationship, not many persons expect this column to criticize the government. Such is not the case. This is a no-nonsense article about the ineptitude of the 1969-70 student government.

SG is on the brink of chaos because of personality clashes and policy differences which continually arise between several members. Many people are dissatisfied and President Laporte is being blamed as "the person primarily responsible for the malfunctioning of student government."

Reliable sources report "two or three key people will soon resign unless Laporte begins functioning in a conscientious manner." Private charges have already been hurled at the President; he was called "un-communicative, self-serving, authoritarian, inconsistent, short-sighted and imperceptive."

This situation developed because many consider this year's SG a "failure." Some consider SG's "achievements" to be "phony public relations material." In any event, the morale among the members is at rock bottom.

The "Who's Who" Committee is an example of a "failure." This committee was to submit 33 names to publishers of *Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities*. But it could only find 20 names "worthy" of inclusion. This resulted when the faculty "just didn't bother to submit names to student government." What is amazing is that *nobody* in SG bothered to make even one phone call to certain department chairmen who failed to submit names. Such slipshod work is inexcusable.

But President Laporte excused it. He defended this somewhat lazy committee by telling this writer, "If the students at this college don't get honored, then it's the faculty's fault." Consequently, 13 additional student leaders won't receive the Who's Who honor.

Other government failures are obvious to those who have depended on SG this year. Few officers do a conscientious job and many tasks are completed sloppy and late. The elected secretaries

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Letter to the Editor

Open letter to students:

Plan now! Don't get caught short! The effect of the Slippery Rock student body in attempting to form legislative policy concerning state college budgetary problems is very commendable. However, the cold hard facts that regardless of your effort, there still may be a tuition increase is paramount.

The federal aids program was cut, the state scholarship has not been funded and the state guaranteed loan has been increasingly difficult to acquire due to the high interest rate demanded.

The deplorable situation does have one ray of hope, "The Guaranteed Student Loan Bill." The bill was passed by Congress this week and has been sent to the White House for the President's signature. The bill authorizes "incentive" payments of up to 3 percent (over the present 7 percent interest) to private lenders to make tuition and fee loans to students. This in effect raises to 10 percent the amount of interest the federal government will agree to pay on state guaranteed loans while a student is in college. The move was deemed necessary to permit students to compete with other borrowers in a market in now 8½ percent.

If you are in need of additional financial support for the second semester and have not received a state guaranteed loan this year, I suggest you contact a lending institution in your hometown for an application. After you have completed the application, bring or send it to the Office of Student Aid, Room 22, Old Main. It will take from four to eight weeks before you will receive the money.

If you have any questions concerning the above or any segment of the student financial aids program, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Marvin R. Hensley
Dir. of Student
Financial Aid



The upstairs bathroom in the former Theta Chi house.

The Landlord on Main Street

By RICK MORGAN

For quite some time, students of Slippery Rock State College who sought and obtained off-campus housing in the borough of Slippery Rock, Pa. have encountered difficulty, inconvenience, and harassment by individual landlords and borough officials. Students have been deceived into signing invalid leases, forced to live in unsafe and inadequate buildings, and occasionally denied the right to inspect apartments prior to renting them.

A case in point is that involving the local chapter of Theta Chi fraternity and the fraternity house landlord.

In 1965, The Alumni Association of the local Zeta Alpha chapter of Theta Chi fraternity signed a five-year lease with the landlord of 328 South Main Street, Slippery Rock, Pa. to take effect in Sept., 1965.

Unfortunately, this lease mentioned nothing about improvements needed before the house could be made available for student residence. However, in a verbal agreement with the Alumni Corporation, the landlord said he would make the necessary improvements which included adequate plumbing facilities, additional bathroom facilities, adequate heating, built-in bunks, desks and chairs, an addition to the rear section of the house, and other general repairs.

By Sept., 1965 the addition had been completed. However, the heating was defective and the roof leaked badly. No bathroom or plumbing facilities had been improved and there was no evidence of bunks, desks, or chairs. In general, the house, with the capacity of 24 men, was unfit for habitation. Due to the negligence of the landlord, the Alumni Corporation was forced to assume the responsibility of improvements. Supposedly, the landlord was not obtaining sufficient profit from the rent collected to make these improvements.

By Oct., 1969, the Alumni Corporation, which collected rent from the occupants of the house and then paid the rent to the landlord, had become defunct due to the vast expense it had incurred from making improvements to the house.

When the Alumni Corporation was unable to meet rent payments, the landlord (who decided what course of action to take through numerous consultations with his pastor and God) and his attorney began to pressure and harass the officers and the faculty advisor of the local Theta Chi chapter. When nothing resulted from these tactics, the landlord, with the advice of his attorney (and God), twice threatened eviction.

Under legal advice, the few remaining occupants of the fraternity house moved out to seek more sufficient housing. Upon this action, the landlord and his attorney immediately had what remained of the bank account under the name of The Alumni Corporation of Zeta Alpha Chapter of Theta Chi National Fraternity impounded. They then had this impounding extended to include the separate and distinct bank account under the name of Theta Chi Local Fraternity. Both accounts were held by the First National Bank of Slippery Rock.

The injustice here is quite evident. First of all, the local Theta Chi house was never issued an occupancy permit. The unsafe and inadequate conditions under which the occupants of this house were forced to live reflect the immoral and inhumane treatment of said landlord under normal standards. Fraternity houses, as well as all other approved college housing, must meet the same requirements as college dormitories.

Secondly, the landlord had absolutely no right to harass the officers or the faculty advisor or to impound the funds of Theta Chi Local Fraternity. The executive director of Theta Chi National Fraternity in a letter to a Harrisville Squire stated:

"The Alumni Corporation of Zeta Alpha Chapter is a legal corporation of the State of Pa. founded to furnish housing for the undergraduate. It has no connection whatsoever with the national fraternity and is a complete and independent entity." The lease was signed by the Alumni Corporation, not the present individual fraternity officers.

The most the local chapter of Theta Chi National Fraternity can hope to gain is the return of its money which was impounded by its former landlord and his attorney. They will be unable to obtain another house for social fraternity use because present re-enacted borough zoning laws prohibit the establishment of "multiple dwellings" of the R-1 type in the borough. The term "multiple dwelling" includes fraternity houses and houses rented to more than two students. This action is discriminatory toward college students.

Last year at the borough council meeting when the zoning ordinances were re-enacted a member of the borough council was quoted as saying the action was to "keep students out of the town."

This seems to be the attitude of the "God-fearing citizens of Slippery Rock." If so, how moral are these people, really? What God do they, like the former Theta Chi landlord, really serve?