

opinion

Students work against each other

Calling ASUN a government almost seems to be a misnomer. The tangled web of student government, Student Court, appointed boards and councils has entangled its spiders leaving them powerless and inactive. The student government system is a travesty of the democracy it purports to be.

Student Court waits until the night before ASUN elections to rule on alleged illegal actions that have plagued the Senate all semester. Then, when the court justices get together they decide not to decide. They need more time to ungarble "the mess," as justice Don Wesely described it.

Instead of following the court's action, or inaction, ASUN President Bill Mueller tries to proceed with the elections. Being held in contempt of the court, by proceeding with the elections, does not bother him.

However, his whims were blocked. Election commissioners were meeting at 2 a.m. There were rumors of the Council on Student Life meeting at 4 a.m.

And behind it all the mysterious Greek slate operates. The machine that controlled last year's

elections and crippled this year's Senate rises for an encore.

It is impossible for any student government to work when students constantly work against each other.

Student Court is pitted against ASUN. Greeks work against other Greeks, as well as themselves.

Delaying the ASUN elections will cost about \$900 in new ballots, new signs and new advertising. This might be the time to ask if it's all worth it.

Student Court is to be criticized for not taking swifter action on the suit to abolish ASUN. Any momentum that the campaign had gained in the past few weeks will be lost by the time spring break is over.

It is during such periods of low morale that powerful groups sweep in to gain control. Maybe Spring Break will offer students the breath of fresh air they need for the final round.

But maybe fresh air is the whole problem. After all, who can think of classes, government and politics when everyone is playing tennis and riding bikes?

Marx disguises.

If the SECRET Greek and Independent organizations think they can play Spy Games, so do we. Only we can play them better because we have a better lead—Gary Abel's infamous remark, "Wow! Sixteen? Whoops."

So if you have any information on these SECRET organizations, please slip it to any trenchcoated, Groucho Marx'd woman who is slinking around campus looking under every TNE'd, Raction'd, or MECA'd rock on campus.

We are bored with the manipulative antics of all involved. Next year, let's try an election based on the issues, without the games. Or we may pull a Woodward and Bernstein Trick and Expose the Spies.

Very Secretly Yours,

Matahari Joan Bond
Agent 99 Nancy Drew
Wonder Woman Bionic Woman
Maxine Smart Charlie's Angels

letters

Trenchcoat politics

In view of recent SECRET happenings on this illustrious campus concerning the esteemed ASUN elections, we have decided to form our own SECRET organization—the WSOICOSOCIMOSPIBGI. Or, "The Women's Secret Organization to Investigate Certain Others Secret Organizations on Campus Involving Certain Illustrious Student Members of Our Student Population Including Both Greeks and Independents". We will be SECRETLY meeting every Tuesday night (which is mid-way between Monday and Wednesday... hint, hint.), at Horsefeathers, under the tables, in trenchcoats, dark glasses and Groucho

ralph



Theodore M. Bernstein

Not all freshmen, freshwomen are freshpersons

Beginners. It seems unbelievable, but a clipping from a university student newspaper sent this way by Marion C. Friedman of Philadelphia speaks twice, quite seriously, of first-year students as *freshpersons*. "Not all freshmen or freshwomen are *freshpersons*," she writes. "Some of them are very courteous young people." Bet they can't wait to become sophomores at that university.

Current cant. A relatively new piece of jargon has caught on in the fashion industry: It is the word *knockoff*, which means a copy or reproduction of a design or material displayed by an expensive fashion house. The

Undoubtedly these colloquial uses of *myself* originate in a timidity about when it is proper to use *I* and when it is proper to use *me*. The *-self* words are best used for two purposes: for emphasis, as in, "The guests enjoyed my cooking and I must say I enjoyed it *myself*," and for reflexive purposes: "She dressed *herself* quickly."

Crazy word. "It may be," a recent article said, "that drivers will be going *bonkers* when they realize that it will take two more years to complete rebuilding of a mile of this highway." The word *bonkers*, meaning mad, crazy, was originally British naval slang dating back to the 1920s, but it crossed the Atlantic to this side and came into fairly wide use early in this decade. It is almost always used in the phrase *go bonkers*. Nope, no connection with Yonkers.

Diction-ary. A reader, John J. Harris of Kenner, La., asks me to "go to work on the misuse of the word *diction*." "It is widely misused," he goes on, "in that it is generally called upon to suggest excellence of speech, particularly in such areas as enunciation, pronunciation and accent." A person's *diction* is his effectiveness or ineffectiveness in selecting words to express his thoughts either in writing or speaking. I'm afraid I shall have to beg off going to work on the job outlined by Mr. Harris.

The employment of *diction* to mean manner of uttering words, pronunciation, enunciation is not a misuse of the word. *Diction* has two meanings. The first one is the manner of expression or effective selection of words. The second one has to do with elocution or enunciation and it is not a new meaning; it has been in existence since the

Arthur Hoppe

Carter on sex, diapers highlight tonight's news

"Good evening. This is the six o'clock Nightly News with Barbara Chancellor in New York and Harry Cronkite in Washington. Barbara?"

"Good evening. President Carter took an interesting stand on sex today. For that story, here is Richard C. Levine at the U.S. Bureau of Mines."

"Thank you, Barbara. In a get-acquainted session in the cafeteria here today, the President told more than 500 Bureau employees that if they were over 45, they should engage in sex no more than once a week and only with their spouses. He warned that middle-aged males were six times more prone to heart attacks when having amorous dalliances with younger women than if they were — and I quote — 'safe at home' with their wives. Harry?"

"Thank you, Richard. Earlier today, the President spent 30 minutes answering the switchboard at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. For that story, let's go to Irving R. Mudd at the White House. Irving?"

innocent bystander

"Thank you, Harry. In his continuing effort to keep in touch with the people, Mr. Carter donned a headset, plugged into a caller and said, 'White House, Jimmy Carter speaking.' Unfortunately, the caller refused to believe he was talking to the President and after half an hour the two men wound up shouting at each other. Barbara?"

Caller doing well

"Thank you Irving. That caller, by the way, has now been identified as Milton N. Haberdash of Pleasantville, Illinois. Doctors at the Samaritan Hospital there say he is doing very well after suffering what they described as a 'mild heart attack.' Harry?"

"Thank you, Barbara. The President also found time today to deliver his economic message to Congress. He made the walk down Pennsylvania Avenue to Capitol Hill and back in a record-breaking 42 minutes, 12 and two-tenths seconds. After that, he set another historic first. Catherine Hottelet has that story."

Changing diapers

"Thank you, Harry. Mr. Carter today became the first President to change a baby's diaper in the Lincoln Bedroom on television. The subject was his new grandson, James Earl Carter IV. The President said he 'really enjoyed' the experience. Barbara?"

"Thank you, Cassie. But Jimmy Carter wasn't the only one in the news today. Amy Carter received a B-plus in her social studies class and Billy Carter had an important announcement. Here's Bernard Kuralt in Plains."

"Thank you, Barbara. Billy Carter disclosed through his agent today that he will star as a simple, homespun, gas station attendant in a Broadway musical he is financing called, 'I Never Promised You a Beer Garden.' Harry?"

"Thank you, Bernie. And lastly, here's a comment from David Severeid. David?"

"Thank you, Harry. I think we must all realize that the President bears an awesome responsibility and only time will tell. Barbara?"

"Thank you, David. This has been the Nightly News from around the world. Thank you for watching."

(Copyright Chronicle Publishing Co. 1977)

bernstein on words

idea, of course, is to make money by selling the pilfered fashion at a far lower price than that charged by the originator. The jargon word is a noun, which might be used this way: "The scarves on sale at the Big Store are a *knockoff*."

Myself. The use of *myself* for *I* or *me* is without question broader than it should be, but I am not sure it is becoming more and more common, as June Goaglan of Aurora, Iowa, says it is in a letter sent this way. But she is correct in deploring such phrases as "on behalf of my staff and *myself*" and "between Gladys and *myself*."

This Newspaper is Needed for Recycling

Save and bundle old newspapers