

PITZER COLLEGE

JUL 8 1966

DEAN OF THE FACULTY

# Sound-Off

July 1, 1966

Dear Pitzer Community,

Hello to all of you from Claremont. This is the first of what I hope will be a series of Sound-Off's to serve as a vacation-time link.

Probably the most sensible way to begin is by explaining Sound-Off to the incoming members of our community. It was conceived as a typically "Pitzeresque" (to borrow a faculty member's much-needed coinage--I've been groping for such an adjective for the past nine months!) brainchild. It has been an outlet for all degrees and varieties of Pitzer emotion--frustration or rage on the curriculum, indignation from both sides on Vietnam, ecstatic offering of reprints from older and wiser (?) publications. Sound-Off led a precarious existence after the initial onslaught of opinion during the first semester this past year until it was revived as a channel of communication enabling one to SOMEHOW have a faint conception of the activities of Pitzer's ever-blossoming committees.

Now...why a summer Sound-Off? Well, for one thing, in spite of the absence of the majority of Pitzies at the moment, Pitzer has not entered a state of suspended animation for these vacation

months. Extensive, intensive debate, soul-searching, and a general review of past experiences proceed in informal committees charged with discussing a number of vital questions on Pitzer's future. There are as well a number of students working here this summer; currently, nine of us are living on campus for this purpose. And, during our midnight gossip-philosophy-politics sessions, we do include the eternally fruitful topic of ~~what-should-be-done-with-Pitzer~~ (or more immediately, ~~what's-wrong-with-Pitzer~~). We would like to share some of our gripes and, we hope, our remedies with you.

It's possible that some of us feel that those of you who are about to join Pitzer for the first time in September should not be subjected to this facet of Pitzer before you have even arrived. But I am hoping that it might give you a different kind of contact, a more forceful, direct one with the institution of which you are about to become a part--a microcosmic preview, as it were, of the community in life. For Pitzer is not perfect; and thank goodness that it isn't, for where, then, would all the creative energies we have gathered be directed? Controversy and criticism are indispensable ingredients of life at Pitzer. I know that I myself felt it delightful and reassuring to discover that genuine disputes on both vital questions and not so earth-quaking ones on Pitzer policy did occur.

To return to summer Sound-Off, I would like to stress that it will be meaningless without contributions from the community at large. So please write in. What on? Anything, of course. Other than that-- there are, of course, a number of unresolved issues: grades or no grades; academic honors; hours; Pitzer as an academic institution (i.e., some feel that "curricular emphasis on the social sciences")

should be pushed further, while others are vehemently opposed); the honor system and third-person responsibility; architectural features; establishing Pitzer traditions....Issues which have not yet been raised, suggestions, solutions, are all welcome. Summer is the time when there is the time to ponder over these matters, either seriously or whimsically; when, perhaps, insoluble problems seem insoluble in different ways because they can be viewed from different angles. Please do send in your most logically propounded or off-the-beach-towel-spawned thoughts.

Many students are pursuing a variety of independent studies this summer. Perhaps you could share your discoveries, your frustrations, or simply your views with all of us.

I would also like to use this to keep those of you who are away in touch with the work of the summer-time committee meetings. In fact, here are a few selections to launch us off:

(1) The Academic and Cultural Events Committee has been discussing plans for the coming year. A major issue is a regularly-scheduled Pitzer film series, possibly featuring such American classics as A Place in the Sun. We may even be able to get directors or producers to speak in conjunction with the showings.

(2) The Admissions and Financial Aid Committee has established guidelines for financial aid to returning students. Details will be mailed early in July.

(3) The ad hoc committee for forming a judicial council is attempting to arrive at proposals for revising Pitzer's judicial system. In so doing, it is not only reviewing the present set-up

of the review boards plus judicial council but is also debating more fundamental questions: e.g., the reasons for rules; the implications of having hours; noise in the dorms; in loco parentis or not.

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Remember, please write. New members, your responses, of course, will most certainly be welcomed. Letters should be addressed to Norma Moore, Scott Hall, Pitzer College, Claremont, California, 91711.

Sincerely,

*Norma Moore*

Norma Moore,  
Summer Sound-Off Editor