

# SOUND OFF



Although I do not have the intestinal fortitude to stand up in class and proclaim the following views, I sincerely believe that these opinions need to be brought into the open, discussed (rather than griped about), and acted upon very soon.

I am referring to "Man and His Environment."

I debated long before "sounding off" and feel that I should make my personal position clear: Generally speaking, I like the course; I respect the amount of preparation that has gone into the plan; though I have some criticisms, I do not condemn the textbook; I feel it would be possible to learn a great deal this year.

What I condemn is the horrible atmosphere that is growing up around the course both in and out of class. In class girls talk, giggle, eat, sleep, and show little respect. This is far worse than the actions of many who don't come at all. Outside of class, complaints are so widespread that I'm sick of them: at meals, in the dorms, to professors, to sponsors, to boyfriends, to parents in letters home. Fine impression of Pitzer!

I can understand that some griping is natural in college and that anything required will get a share of complaints; but when the destructive criticism prevents anything good from taking place, some concrete action is necessary. If all students understand that a "big course" enables us to have Freshmen Seminars, perhaps they will be more tolerant. If mature students realize that all academic subjects are worth pursuing--not just "what interests me"--perhaps they will be more serious and respectful.

I offer here some concrete suggestions to students, to faculty members, to the Academic Inquiry Committee, to the Curriculum Committee. I don't know if these suggestions are feasible, or even if they are very good; but perhaps if I make some positive proposals, other students and faculty members will stop whispering in corners, and develop a plan "for the good of the Pitzer Community."

1. For this semester: end complaining and immature actions in class. Do the best possible work and learn as much as possible. Stop preparing stupid petitions.
2. For next semester:
  - a. Make the second semester course an elective, rather than a required course. I believe that if this were instituted between 25 and 50 girls would elect geography, because it would be a more personal course and good group discussions could be arranged.

- b. Don't panic about how to "absorb" 200 students into other classes. Plan carefully. Would 20 professors really rebel against adding 10 more students to their classes?
3. For next year: try to avoid a "big course." Have good surveys for freshmen like geography, western civ., psychology, sociology, philosophy; but make them all elective courses.

Thank you for your patience. Please make suggestions and take action.

A Sincerely Concerned and Upset Pitzie

To Susan Woenne and others:

I was a sitting duck for "Sound Off!" remarks about the parody of the geese and golden eggs-which was not intentionally obtuse. It was not generally understood because its author did not have the wit to state that it referred to a recent action of the Community Council. That action (since rescinded) permitted two CMC students special access to a list of Pitzer Students' birthdates and the College's addressograph plates for Pitzer parents. The CMC students--whose entrepreneurial acumen I do not decry-wanted simply to ask parents to remit the money to buy and deliver birthday cakes for their daughters. The parody's intent was to chide the Council for not seeing the implications of its initial action. It seemed to its author that such a precedent could make the parents prey for other appeals aimed at real or imagined needs of Pitzer students.

The feathers of the author are again unruffled. He salutes the Community Council for its reconsideration of the cake action. Next time he writes a parody he'll be ready to duck.

Wm. Frenaye.

PITZERESE, or slopbucket English revisited, by W. Frenaye.

The printed and spoken word at Pitzer needs correcting. The purist rebels against the flabby language one hears and reads at Pitzer. Let me offer the following stays and urge that the following laces be pulled tight:

School vs. college. Pitzer College is a college. It is also a school. School starts with nursery school and continues through graduate school. College comes after high school. Use the specific, more definitive where possible. For Pitzer that word is college, not school.

The Claremont Colleges vs. The Claremont Colleges. The capital "T" ennobles and unifies. Use it, even though nobility and unity do not always guide the interactions of the Colleges. It may help.

Girls vs. young women. My mother-in-law, bless her, still goes out with the "girls." The men (boys?) Pitzies date will surely find Pitzer young women more formidable than Pitzer girls. Start early to assert yourselves.

Last Wednesday night I was called a "lousy citizen." I didn't vote. I question how much of the blame belongs on me for not voting. Unless I completely missed the boat, the voting was fruitless for the freshmen. Not only did most of us not know the candidates but also we did not know their platforms or even what their offices encompassed. After I walked by the ballot box because of ignorance I returned to my corridor and asked the other girls if they had voted. Several girls said no because they didn't know the girls running. Other girls said yes and when I asked them if they were familiar with the candidates they said they knew one girl on the list and therefore voted for her. One girl I asked had voted and had known all the candidates. One out of about twenty girls is not a very good percentage. I personally don't think that the rest of us are "lousy citizens" but rather unfortunate citizens in a community of a double standard. The government run by the students is very important but the right to vote for participants in the government is not important enough to spend a little time explaining it to potential voter. Suggestions which I have for the future are: 1) that candidates platforms be given at town meeting 2) that platforms be written up in the "Sound Off!" 3) that a tea be given for the candidates so that those who want may meet them 4) and if all these fail, that there be more notice before a future election so that each individual may look up the candidate on her own. Whether any of these suggestions go through or not I think it is wrong to be called a "lousy citizen" in a community in which there is no effort made to make you a good citizen.

Kathie Brown

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Alumni vs. alumne. Alumni are male or male-and-female. Alumne are female. The flabbiest persons avoid either term. They say "alums." Alum' is potassium aluminum sulfite. (But I stray from my point.) When you say Pitzer "alumnae" make like "eeee" as in "glee," for the final sound. Let the graduates of CMC or the graduates of Pomona and HMC say "alumni," as in "guy."

To summarize: tighten your corsets, young women and future alumnae of Pitzer College, sixth of the Claremont Colleges.

editor,  
Pam Ormsbee