

# THE LANCE

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Paul Finger, as Student Body President, was instrumental in withstanding the blitz for severe rule changes the last week of Spring semester by the now predominantly conservative Student Life Committee. We interviewed him at length—but because of space limitations we had to edit at least a third of what was said.



## Lance Interviews Finger Student Body President

"If you close dorms, you know, you're just restricting people, you're not doing them any good. You're not gonna make them change their ways, or anything."

"Okay, I think a lot of times faculty members haven't engaged themselves as wholeheartedly as they should into the course."

Lance: We would like, first of all, to get your comments on the rule changes, Paul.

Paul: I'd like to say that all of the rules changes that occurred from last year to this year went through the Student Life Committee, and the Student Life Committee met last year in the last week and a half of school. They formed a committee—the faculty part of the committee—and we organized immediately upon finding out that they had organized a new committee. We dealt with issues of cohabitation, hour changes, the drug problem, and just general problems we had in communication.

Lance: Would you discuss these different issues separately, and elaborate on them?

Paul: Number one, the biggest rule change, the one that affects the students most directly, is the hour changes. Closed dorms are now from 3 o'clock in the morning until 9 in the morning—and that was as a result of a proposal by Dean Decker to the committee that the dorms be closed from 12 at night until 12 at noon on week days, and from 2 in the morning until 12 noon on weekends.

Lance: What committee was this exactly that proposed this?

Paul: This was a proposal presented by Student Personnel Services, which

Decker was representing, and from other people which I prefer not to mention. But it was from Student Personnel, that the official, and they are administrators and they're under the Board of Trustees.

Of course, we just disagreed completely with that, and we argued and said "If you close dorms, you know, you're just restricting people, you're not doing them any good. You're not gonna make them change their ways, or anything." So, anyway, we compromised on the issue, to be brief. We didn't argue for more open hours, 'cause we thought that would be foolish. So we argued from 4 to 7, and we got a compromise from 3 to 9, and that's what happened.

Another one of the issues that came up and was dealt with in the Student Life Committee was the problem of drugs, and the problem of when someone is arrested on a drug charge and when someone is convicted on a drug charge, or a felonious charge I should say, not just drugs, because we tried to eliminate the drug thing as the only issue—and made it just a felony. One of the things we came up with—that all of us were in personal disagreement with, including the faculty, they wanted it stricter and we wanted it looser—was if a student is indicted on a felonious charge, he is required by the Honor Code to withdraw himself from the campus.

Lance: Whether he is convicted, or not?

Paul: Right. He must withdraw himself from his living quarters, and live in town; he can still attend classes, as I understand it.

Lance: So he can still attend classes, right?

Paul: Let me quote it for you. "Withdraw themselves from campus residency until that charge has been resolved by civil authorities." If and

when he is proven guilty, he will be asked to remove himself from the school, not just residency but from classes, and if he is proven not guilty, he'll be taken back into the dorm and be reimbursed for the entire time that he was out. Also, if in the event Student Personnel is led to investigate a complaint concerning the possession of controlled substances—

Lance: Marijuana.

Paul: Marijuana. Okay, if they find out about this and kick a person off campus, the student may appeal to a special committee which was set up by Student Life, so that Student Personnel Services would not be the final word. Last year they had some complaints that Student Personnel was being unjust.

Lance: Last year wasn't the system set up so that you were supposed to go before a residence court before you were removed from the campus?

Paul: That I'm not absolutely sure of.

Lance: Do you think that it is ethically right that person has to leave this campus before they're proven innocent or guilty?

Paul: Ethically I disagree with it. I personally feel that it just has no substance—but in light of the situation that the Student Life Committee was in and the pressures from above, the Board of Trustees, the faculty, administration, and a group of concerned students, we felt on the Committee that it was ethically wrong, but we had to come to the realization that this was the best way to deal with the problem now, rather than have it dealt with strictly by the administration. It was a definite compromise. They were concerned with image of the college.

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## Work Progressing On New Rehab Center

Many students have been wondering what that new partition of the gymnasium represents. It is an extension of the old weight room, or could it possibly be a new set of hand-ball courts? It is neither. That new partition is none other than the new rehabilitation and health center complex. This new center which has long been needed (as the other health and rehab centers are out-moted by many years) is a first in making the handicapped student, primarily the quadraplegic student, adjust to the rigors of everyday college life.

According to Dr. Urie, head of this new project, this development entails life in a more natural environment with friends one can relate to and discuss problems; not a hospital where your problems are settled in some staff meeting. True, there will be such needed services as a twenty-four-hour nurse, and of course the old college aid and off campus attendant will still be there to help out. But it is the goal of this new approach, as Dr. Urie pointed out "to eliminate or hopefully change the alienation caused by the quote: "rehabilitation mode" which is created by the quadraplegic's constant need for help." This new approach is further emphasized by Dr. Urie's use of the efficiency apartment which will be held for the upper class quadraplegic student so that he may overcome his problems by doing the everyday chores one would carry on in his or her own apartment such as cooking and cleaning. In his knowledge that he can cope with these problems he may go on to adjust to a new world of independence, self-confidence and self-care.

After having listened closely to some of the gripes and questions of the wheelies, I

questioned Dr. Urie on some of the points such as living quarters, care, and luxuries; such as leaving the complex when one wanted to. One, this new complex will hopefully not have the air of a hospital, or clinic, rather it will be a rare and plush place to live with fully carpeted rooms, (a kitchen where one may cook his own meals, this is a centralized area for all para and quadraplegic students, nurses, and staff to use) paneling, and private baths. And yes, if you are not under constant care you will be able to come and go as you please. Also you will have the advantage of receiving personal care when and if you need it; it will not be forced upon anyone. If you are a paraplegic who wants to live in this new complex you may find it difficult because the complex is primarily for quadraplegics, you would, according to Dr. Urie, "probably find yourself turned down."

Many students, especially the wheelchair students, feel that this complex will be a big clinic for handicapped students. And Dr. Urie? He still feels that this new complex will solve many of the problems which face the quadraplegic. Both will begin to be answered only when this new complex is completed.

BY MIKE GREENE

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