

The Athenian

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MOST USG FUNDS TO DORM REPS STILL UNUSED

USG encourages residents to take more active role

Matt Greenfield
Editor-in-Chief

Case's Undergraduate Student Government allots \$75 to each residence hall (or Greek or commuter) representative. However, according to Sharlene Cunningham, USG Treasurer, only one dorm rep (from Alumni) has officially spent this money.

These funds are typically used by USG reps for study breaks during finals, according to Aqueelah Jordan, USG Vice President of Finance. Nevertheless, she encourages students to take a more active role

in the use of the funds.

"At any time a resident or member of any constituency can speak with the USG representative," says Jordan. "The funds after all are set aside to be of benefit to them."

USG President Leland Methany agrees with Jordan. Methany cites the CaseFam forums as an effective way for reps to use these funds, but also states that the ultimate use for the funds depends on residents' communication with their representatives.

"Dorms don't use these the funds, the reps do," he says. "I encourage the students to ask

the reps ... they should hold their elected officials accountable."

The ball seems to be in the residents' court, as to how they would like to see these funds used by their representatives. As Methany points out, the size of the funds depends on how much they are used.

"As long as they [the funds] are not being used heavily, they will probably stay the same," says Methany. "These allotments exist to provide reps the freedom to pursue their own programs."

Athenian Business Manager Peter Nalepa assisted in fact-gathering for this article.

THE ORIGIN OF APRIL FOOLS' DAY

"Cuckows return beginning of April.†

† In *Europe* the *Cuckows*, Paffenger Birds, arrive generally beginning of *April*, therefore the first Day of *April* is called *Fools Day*; this Bird is fo foolish as not to have any exclusive Nest; hence filly married Men whofe Wives are not exclusive but common, are called *Cuckold*, *Kockok*, or *Cocu*."

—A Summary, Historical and Political, of the first Planting, profreffe Improvements, and preftent State of the *British Settlements* in North-America by William Douglas, M.D. ("On Connecticut," p. 211, Vol. II, Boston, New-England, 1753)

ALCOHOL AND READING DAYS: A SPECIAL REPORT

Violations used to support change in reading days schedule; statistics reveal otherwise

Peter Nalepa

Business Manager

Greater use and abuse of alcohol during reading days and finals has been cited by administrators and faculty alike as one primary motivation for changes to the reading days and finals schedule at Case. The question many students have when they hear this justification is, "Where's the proof?"

Just this question was put to Dean Margaret Robinson at the USG Reading Days Forum in February, according to The Observer. She referred interested students to the Office of Housing and Residence Life. The Athenian decided to find out if there were numbers to back up the claim.

The numbers do exist (see chart), and they show a greater incidence of drinking over reading days and finals than during a mean period of the same length in both the fall and

	Class Weeks	Finals	RDays
F-01	39	4	12
S-02	30	11	2
F-02	87	7	9
S-03	50	2	2
F-03	53	3	6

The number of violations over the past three years, adapted from data from Housing and Residence Life. The number of violations during reading days has been declining.

spring semesters, except for Spring 2003.

Alcohol violations and abuse are not the only reasons behind the wish to change the University's calendar. However, these reasons are the most visibly and most often cited by administrators and the most commonly known to students. Aside from mentions of support for students' need of relaxation and concerns over a four-day period with no formal academic activity, alcohol is the only other reason mentioned for changes to the reading days and finals schedule in the minutes of the Faculty Senate. The issue was

last voted on at the April 2003 meeting, and changes were defeated.

The bottom line is that a similar

number of incidents were reported across Fall 2001 and Spring 2002 (sixteen and thirteen, respectively). The difference lies only in which part of the combined finals period the violations occurred.

According to the minutes of the same Faculty Senate meeting, drinking is a problem only over the fall semester reading days period, because of the nature of the four-day period. The minutes state that "the problem [occurs] in the fall semester only, when students can have four straight days ... in which excessive drinking does take place and our students place

themselves in danger." The statistics, though, do not bear out the assessment that the four-day fall period is the only contributor to drinking, or that eliminating it would relevantly impact alcohol violations.

The following semesters do not improve the credibility of claims that the four-day period is the problem, or that eliminating it would cut down on drinking. Furthermore, the numbers provided do not, in fact, necessarily represent the numbers of actual incidents.

According to Assistant Director of Housing and Residence Life Lisa Marsalek, the numbers given are only for students found responsible for violating policy. At the same time, according to an email with Marsalek, a student could have more than one violation for an incident and there could be more than one student involved in an incident. That is, there is no guarantee that the numbers provided correspond to the number of students involved or to the number of actual incidents found in violation.

CENTER FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH PREPARES FOR UNIVERSITY RE-ACCREDITATION EVALUATION

Self-study report of Provost's Office may also influence future policy

Samuel Rivier
Staff Reporter

The Provost's Office Steering Committee is currently involved in a university self-study report project to be submitted to the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA), so that the university will be accredited to give degrees in a nation-wide decennial evaluation performed by the NCA and six other groups.

The Steering Committee, appointed by President Hundert in October 2002, has four subcommittees focusing on separate aspects of the university. The Interdivisional Collaborations and External Partnerships Subcommittee examines Case's cooperation with other schools and institutions, and how this benefits the uni-

versity. The Faculty Engagement, Motivation and Commitment Subcommittee surveys and gathers data on faculty performance, as well as the recruitment and retention of faculty members. The Undergraduate Student Development Subcommittee deals with the undergraduate academic and non-academic experience, the resources available to students, and the students' use of those resources. The Graduate Student Development Subcommittee evaluates the graduate experience, particularly in the areas of research and teaching.

The NCA asks for specific criteria in the self-study report, but the Steering Committee will "look at everything possible," according to Institutional Research Associate Jean Gubbins of the Center for Institutional Research, one of the Provost's Office departments associated

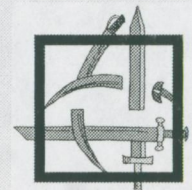
with the self-study report. She said that the self-study report will be used in self-assessment by the university, which can have an impact on future policy.

Indeed, the previous report in 1995, though positive, had a few areas of criticism in that there was no formal outcome assessment program and that minority student recruitment and doctoral students in the humanities had declined slightly that year. These issues were re-evaluated by the Steering Committee for the next report.

The self-study report will be drafted in December and submitted to the Higher Learning Commission next January. The entire process of accreditation happens on several levels, however. In April 2005, the NCA evaluation team will visit Case for several days, analyzing specific aspects of the university. When their report is submitted,

Case will submit a response, and with the self-study report, the NCA will determine whether or not the school will be re-accredited.

"An institution like Case is in no danger of losing accreditation," Gubbins said. "Normally, schools lose accreditation because they don't have enough financial basis to continue operating, which is not a problem here."



The Athenian

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A FAREWELL LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

"To morrow to fresh Woods,
and Pastures new."

— John Milton, "Lycidas"
(1637); last line

Dear Reader(s),

My empty green field has been sown, and now the blossoms of spring fill the air... and I have hay fever. So it's time to go. Graduate, so forth.

The Athenian will go on, something which I am quite surprised about. As anyone who barely knows me can tell you, I am not exactly prime leadership material. (That's why I'm going into the field of education.) And yet, this magazine has done quite well for itself during my brief tenure as editor-in-chief. The Athenian is an actual organization now, with a staffful of regularly humor-producing writers; respected enough to be made fun of in its own right.

I hand over the reins to a man whose jib cut much re-

sembles my own (and yet he has his classes mostly on the other, unornamented side of Euclid)—Scott Milinovich. I know that the magazine is in capable hands, and I hope you'll all join me in welcoming Scottie with open eyes. He's pretty much been taking over all this semester, and I must write that I love what he's done with the place.

There is one thing that I've always wanted to do and which I'm doing now before I make my exit: an April Fools' Issue, funny only because we are doing serious news articles with no humor in them whatsoever. The Observer takes this opportunity to do what we do, so I thought we should do what they do and which we usually pretend to do—and which they pretend to do, too, most of the time.

One final sociological observation: It [verb]s me deeply that the boundary between actual news and satire has become paper-thin, so that an article written for this magazine could easily happen in real life,

no matter how ludicrous, and that most news nowadays (especially the laugh riot that is the A&E section) could easily be penned by a fourth-rate satirist. It's a good thing life's too important to be taken seriously, or else I'd be worried about that.

I've had a blast doing this, and am quite pleased that this magazine has attracted such a talented group of writers and a solid readership. The definition of "funny" is, by definition, a definition which lacks definite substance. Nevertheless, we're funny. So there. If you don't think so, why don't you see if you can do any better? That's what each contributor tries to do every issue... except this one.

Thank you, Case, for being a place where ignoring is par for the course. It's made my job so much easier. You've also all done incredible things for my ego—I hope you feel proud of yourselves. I know I do.

Props also to those loyal Athenianites who have stood by me through thin and thinner. I'd

be nowhere without you, and not the good kind of nowhere either.

With that, it's up, up, and away to grander, simpler, and more complicated things (date and location, TBA). I have a lot more to write, but I think it's about time I did some editing for a change, and there's no better place to start than with myself...

Sincerely,
Matt "Full" Greenfield

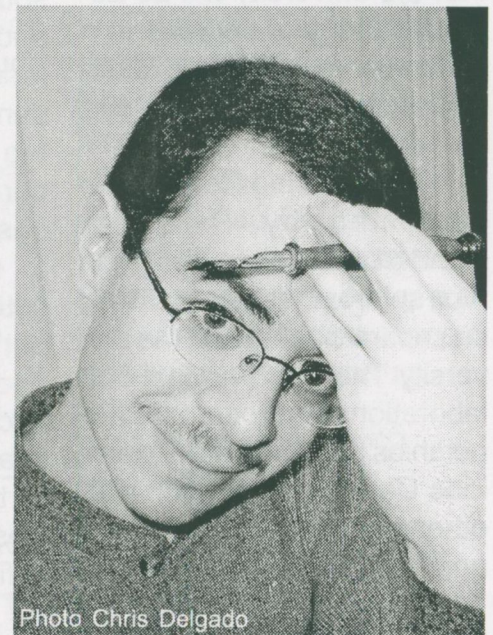


Photo Chris Delgado