

# Students contest governance laws

(CPS) — Some people say the protest of the 1960s gave way to the apathy of the 1970s and cite the mood on campus as the perfect example. Although some colleges can muster enough students together for a convincing show of force on tuition increases, few schools are hotbeds of action for more student power. Student power, it seems, has been lost to the scramble for jobs.

But working within the bureaucracy for more student influence over university administration, many students have won places for themselves on schools' governing boards. And statistics indicate that the impetus to provide a chair for students at the regents' round table is increasing.

At last count in 1974, at least 20 states had student members on their governing boards at public colleges and universities. About seven of those states allowed their student members to have full voting power. About seven others allowed their students to participate in the decision-making process up until it was time to vote. The remaining

states permitted student representatives to serve on committees but not to attend full-scale governance meetings.

But the struggle for more student representation on these boards continues in earnest. A bill now before the West Virginia state Legislature creates a non-voting seat on the state's Board of Regents for a student to be appointed by the governor. Although members of the West Virginia Legislature thought they were acting progressively by putting a student in an advisory capacity to the regents, many students believe it only goes halfway.

"The Board of Regents is afraid students and faculty would take over if they receive voting rights," said one West Virginia student body president. "This is unfounded." Without the vote, he added, the bill is a waste of paper.

Since the 1972 "sense of Congress" resolution which was passed at the same time as the Higher Education Act, more states have been considering the idea of putting students to work at governance. Congress had indicated that the governing boards of public institutions should reassess their representation of students and many states even went so far as to mandate student participation in governance.

But seating those students on boards and giving them full voting powers has been a slow process. Many university administrators believe that students represent a special interest group and would be incapable of voting on crucial issues as representatives of society's best interests. Furthermore, critics of student representation say, students are not around long enough to become effective members who can view the university problems in the long run.

"A student is transient, usually immature and not too knowledgeable," said one opponent of students having votes on governing boards.

Finally there is no point in trying to appoint a true representative of students because students are such a diverse group.

But advocates of student regents argue that the decisions of the governing boards significantly affect the students at the school. Adding the student voice to regents' discussions would provide regents with a better idea of how students will react to their decisions.

Where students have failed to seat one of their own representatives on their college's governing board, other tactics to keep the regents responsive to students have been tried.

Several students at the University of Nebraska have initiated a campaign to drum out four members of that school's Board of Regents. The leader of the group complained that regents were just not concerned or sympathetic to the needs of the students after the board rejected revisions of visitation and alcohol policies for on-campus housing.

## Another planet may have been in solar system

WASHINGTON (AP) — The orbits of 60 comets indicate they originated from the explosion of a giant planet that once existed between Mars and Jupiter, an astronomer says.

Dr. Thomas Van Flandern of the U.S. Naval Observatory here said in an interview Tuesday that computer plotting of the comet orbits seems to confirm that the long-theorized planet existed up to about six million years ago.

"At that time, the planet exploded—accounting for most, if not all comets, the asteroid belt and many meteorites," Van Flandern said.

What could have caused such an explosion is unknown.

The astronomer traced backward the orbits of 60 comets that have been seen only once from earth. These comets have orbits so large that it takes millions of years for one swing around the sun.

"There is a tendency for these orbits to intersect at a common starting point in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter," Van Flandern said. The asteroid belt is a ring of rocky bodies orbiting the sun.

Three quarters of the orbits indicate the comets originated in that area five million to seven million years ago in a zone about 100 million miles wide, he said.

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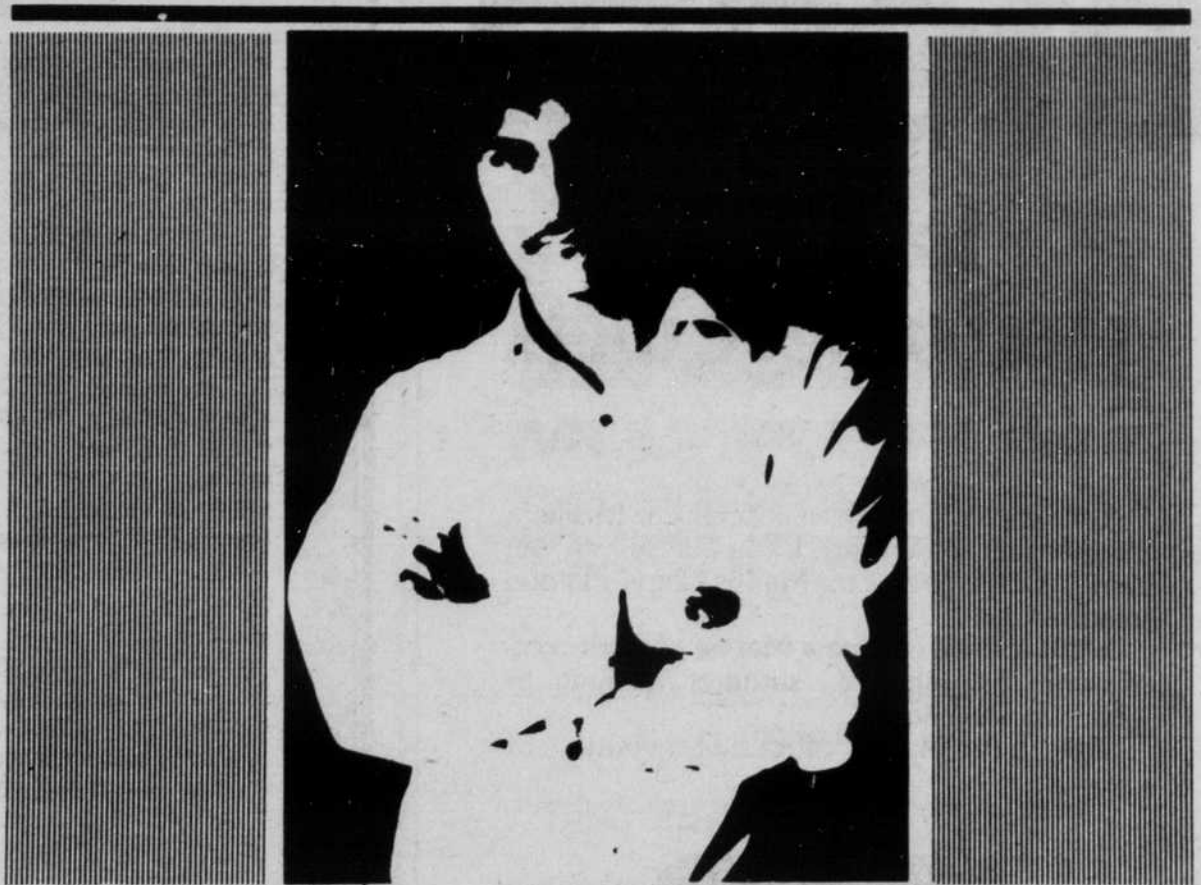
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