Coward Stompsum declares student moratorium

By L. INE
Mild-mannered Pravda Reporter

Pair O'Dice has declared a four-year moratorium on students, according to Coward Stompsum, head of the Pair O'Dice University Ministry of Propaganda (PUMP).

"Although this is a step the University has been far from anxious to take," Stompsum mumbled in a prepared statement before a hastily-called news conference in the phone booths of the mezzanine of Floundring Library “the economic pressures and increasing complexities of the modern world—and in particular, the place of the University in such a world—have forced it upon us.”

Flushed Out
The PUMP statement outlined the admirable simplicity of the mechanics of this unprecedented action:

- no students will be admitted for four years
- all students currently enrolled in the University will be forced to withdraw.

According to Stompsum, the moratorium was initiated by Czar Kennie, upon discovering that students actually were enrolled at Pair O' Dice.

"You can imagine my surprise," Czar Kennie told a Pravda reporter, "when I learned that all these people clattering the campus were students. I mean, I'd often wondered who they were, but all along I thought they were professors, or staff, or Sanitary Engineers (S.E.)'s—that is, people who made significant contributions toward the future of Pair O'Dice University.

Parasites
"I was quite surprised—I could hardly believe it—I mean, you could have knocked me over with a... stick when it came to my attention, to quote a learned colleague," Czar Kennie babbled on, "that these were actually leeches, hangers-on, parasites in Pair O' Dice—in a word, students."

The primary factor in the administration's decision was the unreasonable expense caused by the presence of students on campus: expenses such as providing housing, classrooms, and dining facilities.

The University felt that such funds could be better employed in such activities as hiring more researchers, expanding research facilities, and renovating the grossly inadequate faculty club, Coin House.

PUMP Pumped
This action, which the University had been trying to stifle, for obvious reasons, came to light as a result of tireless efforts by diligent Pravda reporters.

Suspicious of a PUMP press release indicating that the reason for a drastic reduction in admissions was that none of the 5000 applicants was able to meet the stringent entrance standards of Pair O' Dice, unerring Pravda reporters pumped PUMP for explanations until the news conference was called.

Questioned whether recent student political activities figured in the University's decision, Stompsum maintained, "Although to be sure, from time to time PUMP has been obliged to bail the students out of trouble, I can assure you without fear of contradiction that this was not a factor.

University Rhetoric
"As a matter of fact, we were unaware any of our students were involved in political activities. Of course, had we known they were involved in such activities, it might have been a factor. I cannot, of course, speak for the University in matters of conjecture."

When asked whether this action was in conflict with the University's indenture establishing it as an institute for "students," Stompsum reiterated the University position that it was the intention of the Dice twins (Willie and Billie), the founders of the University, to create "an institution of higher learning of the first rank." The Administration now feels, he said, that the presence of students is incompatible with the Dices' ideal.

"As all of you know," Czar Kennie said in a prepared statement, "the primary aim of the Administration is to maintain Pair O' Dice as an institution of higher learning of the first rank. Although elimination of students is an action we have tried to avoid, the present economic situation now shows us that, as long as we allow students within our state-ly hedges, Pair O' Dice can never be a major league University. Unfortunately, the presence of students is a luxury we can no longer afford."