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Student Gov't Proposes Revision Of Constitution's Article XVIII

February

By Wm. Kane
and Tim Adams

As a result of operational inconsistencies and personality conflicts, the student government has proposed an amendment to Article XVIII of the constitution.

Article XVIII, as it now stands, says that any monies spent by the student government in excess of \$25 must be reviewed by the finance committee and approved by two-thirds of the Senate.

Reasons for the change were due to disagreement between some organizations, and the SGA, over methods presently employed by the SGA Treasurer when deciding how to dispense funds to those organizations.

In a strongly worded statement, distributed at the SGA meeting by Sheldon Munchus, president of BSU, Munchus expressed disappointment and dissatisfaction with student government operations and leadership. The statement went on to say that, "The SGA was hypocritical, contradictory as well as being not very functional."

The conflict arose when the BSU requisitioned money for gifts to its graduating members. Further problems developed when Beth Kopas, the SGA Treasurer, told the BSU they must submit a constitution in order to obtain funds for the upcoming Black Arts and Science Festival, according to Munchus's statement.

Apparently this information contradicted Provost McDermott and Dr. South, who informed BSU last spring that they should submit a separate budget for the BASF. Munchus also charged that Kopas was negligent in her duties and abrasive in her manner.

Similar charges of personal bias against Kopas were filed by several other organizations, according to Ray Martin, SGA Vice-President, although after investigating this allegation we were unable to substantiate its validity. After interviewing several SGA Senators and other parties involved, the general consensus was that one problem was a personality conflict between the BSU President and the SGA Treasurer.

Also the lack of specific guidelines for the treasurer's job, and lack of responsibility on the part of SGA to clearly communicate its budget recommendations to the treasurer, were cited as problems.

Kopas said, she should have the right to bring any questionable spending by an organization to the SGA. Kopas claimed she had done this but, to no avail, for the SGA made no response. "Cliff hasn't been involved this semester, the only information he gets is from Ray Martin," she said.

Cliff Eshbach, President of SGA, said, his internship has presented no problems with his involvement in SGA. He said, no one has mentioned anything

to me about my ability to govern effectively.

In order to alleviate these misunderstandings, Eshbach appointed a committee to clarify Article XVIII. The committee consists of: Ray Martin, chairman, senators Diane Lewis and Lenny Klonitsko, Treasurer Beth Kopas, and BSU President Sheldon Munchus.

Suggestions for revision of this article, made by those interviewed, ranged from total control by an organization of its expenditures, to tight guidelines, thereby forcing organizations to itemize spending.

All agreed that the treasurer's job should be better defined so the treasurer has a clear indication of what his or her duties are, and to alleviate any possible personality conflicts in the future.

After the committee compiles its information, and submits the revision of Article XVIII to the SGA, a general election will be held. According to Eshbach and Martin if the amendment is passed the new law will take effect immediately. This would mean budgets that've already been allocated will be effected. However, Dr. South said, this is not necessarily the case. Further investigation will be required to see if the amendment will be retro-active.

The general election on this question will "hopefully" take place by the end of February, according to Ray Martin.



Photo by Mark Appleby

In order to give the White House that down-home look, the first family has added this suite of rooms. As the last board was thrown in place, Jimmie yelled, "Hallelujah, the South has Risen!"

By Marian Scorza
February is Black History Month, however, programs related to Black history began back in January.

The Cultural Committee of Capitol Campus received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to present a program "Black Heritage in American Music." This program began January 7, and will continue until April 5th, according to Roberta McLeod, coordinator of student activities. Ms. McLeod was also the person who wrote the proposal for obtaining the grant.

"The true American music is jazz, it is a music all of its own," said Ms. McLeod. The program will trace the roots of jazz, from Africa to contemporary times.

This will be the first year Black History Month will be celebrated at Capitol, according to Ms. McLeod. "Black Orpheus", a film done in Brazil during Carnival, will kick off Black History Month.

On Thursday February 8th, Dr. Vernal G. Cave will discuss his experience of exposing doctors who gave syphilis to 200 black men in Tuskegee, Alabama. No treatment was given to the men after they contracted the disease.

The Wiseman Film Series will be scheduled during the month and a lecture on "Law and Order" will be given by Frederick Wiseman himself.

"Watermelon Man", a film featuring Godfrey Cambridge, will be shown February 23rd in memory of Cambridge's death last year.

"There is so much going on at this campus if people would only take time to read and find out," said Ms. McLeod. "We usually don't charge for any of our events, but if we do, the charge is so minimal for the benefits received, that it is really worthwhile."

The Shadow Knows

By Robert L. Fisher Jr.

At exactly 7:27 a.m. yesterday, King Phillip of Punxsutawney emerged from his warm burrow, glanced at his shadow on the frozen turf, and scurried back to the comfort of his home, thus heralding the unwelcomed continuation of this blustery winter weather for at least six more weeks, and destroying any hopes for relief from the present natural gas shortage.

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Weekend

Weather

The weather outlook for Eastern Pennsylvania from Friday through Sunday will be: partly cloudy and cold through the period with a chance of snow flurries each day. Morning lows will be in the teens to low 20's, and afternoon highs will range from the mid 20's to the mid's 30's.