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"All the news that fits we print"

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New SGA President Calls For More Involvement

By Phil Intrieri

Walk in the student government suite, knock on the first door on the right, and you are greeted with a smile by an athletic, red-haired guy of 24.

"Hi, c'mon in," he says, as he extends his hand. "I'm Tom Halley, the new S.G.A. president."

But to call Tom new as S.G.A. president does not mean he is new to student government -- he gained experience last year as a senator. It was during his term as senator that he decided he'd like to be at the helm. At the time, he was unsure of specific priorities.

"I wanted to get things done," he says with a firm conviction. "I wanted to see how well student government could work for the students."

Being by trade a student journalist and by nature a cynic, I've always had the same perception of one who runs for elective office: they are self-righteous, with an intense desire to have their ego endorsed by the votes of their peers. And here was another politician, talking about "a really good year." Spend five minutes with Tom, however, and he quickly erases such doubts. This is a man of action. His ability to lead is apparent. Halley was a former sergeant and work crew leader for the Air Force.

One cannot help but be impressed with his sincerity. When asked to sum up in general terms what he expects to accomplish, Tom leans forward eagerly in

his chair and says firmly, "I want to see activities go like gang-busters on this campus. I want to bring Penn State good entertainment and interesting cultural events. I want to get people involved."

Getting people involved seems to be the name of the game at C. C., where students are notoriously absent from some excellent productions and cultural events. Some may think the main reason for student apathy is the large number of commuting students. Students who, when their classes are over, simply hop in their cars and go home. The problem is not that simple, though, as Tom points out.

"Quite a large number of our students work full or part-time. They just don't have the time or energy to participate fully in campus activities. It's the same for returning women," he says understandably. "Many have husbands and small children who demand their attention. It's hard to attend classes, do homework, care for a family, and also have the time and resources for extra-curricular campus activities."

There is no easy answer to the problem. "It's a shame," Tom laments. "The purpose of going to school is to learn. But learning is more than just tests and term papers. It is also interacting with people -- especially people different from ourselves. One way to experience this interaction is to participate in social functions."

Tom is convinced, however, that stu-

dent indifference can be overcome. "Student leaders have to get involved. There are many clubs here on campus. They cover a wide range of interests. And each has its own president, organization and budget. There are also faculty organization committees of which students are members. In my opinion, the potential for student involvement is enormous."

How does Tom see his role as head student leader?

"I like to think of myself as a direct liaison between the students and the administration." In that capacity, he stresses accessibility. "If anyone has a gripe, he is welcome to bring it to student government. If the problem is legitimate, there's a good chance they'll get a positive response."

What other responsibilities does the President have?

"One thing I do is coordinate proposals generated by the student government for campus improvement. I work closely with the Director of Student Affairs, Dr. South."

One project in the planning stages today is the proposal to revitalize the Student Center. Mention this, and Tom immediately pulls a sheaf of papers from the top drawer of his desk. The blueprints show an ambitious plan.

Imagine yourself strolling into the Student Center. On your left are five video games lining the wall. (Tom is unsure whether one will be Pac-Man). Turning

right, you bump into two new ping-pong tables. Skirting those obstacles, you walk to the juke box and play a tune. Turn right again, and a dartboard springs up. In the middle is a spanking new pool table. And you are walking on fresh carpet. It certainly sounds inviting.

"There is also a plan to annex the storage room next to the Student Center and create a study area," says Tom. "There will be new furniture, tables, and two typewriters for the students to use."

Regrettably, it is by no means certain that money will be available for the renovation. Because of this problem, the student government has conceived an ingenious plan to share the costs with University Park. In short, if State College will pay for remodeling of the building, the Capitol Campus student government will pay for the games inside.

In Tom's opinion, tight money is one of the most critical issues facing students today. "With budget cuts, more students have to work to put themselves through school. This not only hinders their schoolwork, but also hinders their participation in activities. It's unfortunate. If students could relax, whether at a guest lecture or a beer party, they would learn better."

Is there any message he'd like to give to the students of Capitol Campus?

Tom thinks only for a moment, and then speaks, tapping his index finger on the desk for emphasis. "Get involved."

Accounting Options Becoming Limited

Students in the Accounting Option will be finding that many courses they hoped to take are not and will not be offered in the near future (through Summer Term 1983). This fact is evident by just looking at the proposed courses posted in the hall outside room E-355.

Students in the Accounting Option must take Introduction to Accounting I and II (as must all Business majors), Intermediate Accounting I, II, and III, and Cost Accounting. Accounting majors must also take at least two other accounting courses from the following list:

- Income Tax Accounting
- Accounting Internship
- Advanced Accounting
- Advanced Tax Accounting
- Auditing
- Auditing II
- Government Accounting
- Seminar in Accounting
- Advanced Cost Accounting

Herein lies the problem. Of the above list, Accounting Internship is offered once a year in the Winter Term although special arrangements can be made for other terms. The only other courses proposed for the next year are Income Tax

Accounting (which will be offered 3 times), Advanced Tax Accounting (which will be offered Summer Term 1983), and Auditing (which will be offered 4 times).

Students are concerned about this lack of advanced course offerings. Jeffrey R. Updegraff, a 9th term accounting major says that he is "paying to take upper division courses (and that) they are not being offered (with the exception of Advanced Tax)." He goes on to say that he "could have taken the same courses...at HACC for much (less money)." He further states that he spoke with Dr. Bleau, the Division Coordinator, who explained the lack of advanced courses as being due to lack of qualified instructors. Jeffrey feels that the budget for accounting should be increased "so that they can hire the qualified personnel." In the meantime he is applying for prior approval to take courses and transfer the credits from the University Center in Harrisburg. Susan Marshall, an 8th term accounting major has similar concerns. She points out that "according to the PSU Capitol Campus catalog, three of (the

See Page 2



Diane Buhay clowns at Capitol Campus Health Fair. Photo By Steve Myers.