

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Saturday Morning, January 11, 1941

All-College Elections Committee Can Set A Precedent

Now that the All-College Elections Committee has been appointed, Collegian hopes it will consider a suggestion for earlier elections made in this editorial column last May 17.

The committee, it is understood, will meet next Tuesday night and perhaps it will decide on a date then. If it does, Collegian believes it should give considerable consideration to the idea for earlier elections. Since it was first passed eight months ago, the idea has received only favorable criticism.

The objective of the plan, briefly, is to strengthen student government by giving it a more continuous organization, giving new appointees a longer time to understudy the positions they will step into. Thus, if elections were held in March, the successful candidates would have two months or more in which they could understudy the jobs they were to assume.

Last May the Cabinet went in "cold" and the progress of the student government was slowed. Not until last November did the present group begin to mould itself into the really democratic governing body it should be. Had its members understudied their jobs two months before they stepped into them the new Cabinet might have been able to take up where the old group left off.

Just how the situation shaped up last spring is indicated by this editorial reprinted from the May 17, 1940, issue of the Penn State Collegian:

"Probably the biggest problem facing the All-College Cabinet which took office Tuesday night was that it is uninformed.

"Its members for the most part have not trained for Cabinet membership or long planned for it. Not more than a handful of them attended more than one Cabinet meeting before they took office. Because of these things, none are fully aware of the possibilities and limitations of the Cabinet.

"Under an educational system that completely turns over its student body every four years a certain amount of newness must be expected. But the fact that all 22 members of the All-College Cabinet are new to the group is to a degree an indictment of the present system of student government.

"The present planning does not presuppose leadership. Only notable exceptions like the Pan-Hellenic Council presidency are decided any considerable time before the student takes office. Other organizations simply pick out a popular or capable student for leadership—and pray that he will learn what his job is after he steps into it a week, a day, or an hour after his election.

"The new leader often comes into a job which he has not studied very carefully. For him the attainment of the position and not the operation of it was the goal. When he was elected he celebrated, seldom does a student celebrate having accomplished his job.

"There is one thing this new All-College Cabinet can do next year. It can make itself a continuous group by electing its successors early enough—in February, perhaps—to give them time to understudy the positions they will assume in May.

"This means a change in many elections, All-College, school councils, and others, but it is a change that can be achieved. Coeds have approached the goal; men are farther from it.

"The system would cut down on the fumbling and muddling which the new All-College Cabinet must inevitably do before it finds itself."



We Apologize

Before we write a word in this bright, peaceful, carefree year of 1941 A. D. we want, in some small way, to make retribution for any nasty remarks we may have let slip during the year just bombed into eternity.

We really don't think Larry Driever and Bill Fowler are such bad guys. In fact we like them. But we, for some perverted reason, have always figured that if we didn't feel like ribbing someone we really didn't sincerely like and trust them. We still think so and for that reason we think you guys should feel flattered that we took you for a ride and therefore refuse to apologize.

But to one person we feel we should apologize for a few statements which turned out to be not so innocent as we believed. We mean Miss Winnie Bischoff, one of the most glamorous, charming, poised, and beautiful Penn State coeds we have ever been snubbed by. Winnie, we abjectly and humbly seek your forgiveness for remarks made in an issue of this column and promise never again to mention your name in this column even if you get married and have quintuplets.

We hope the above apology will save us from a duel with your two chivalrous Galahads, Riddell and Lovell. Even if they did call us and our Leader nincompoops we admire their spirit.

Quo Vadis?

We attended the organization meeting of the America First Committee the other night and were very much disillusioned in the size of the turnout. There were seven others besides myself. And three of these seven, including us, were there just to find out what the score was, leaving a grand total of four America Firsters.

In case you have not heard what the America First Committee is, it is a National organization backed by such luminaries as Henry Ford, Gen. Robert E. Wood, head of Sears-Roebuck, Eddie Rickenbacker, and others, which opposes "all-out" aid to Britain and is in favor of the isolation policies of Senator Wheeler. It is the antithesis of William Allen White's committee.

This IS Propaganda

This isn't propoganda for isolationism nor is it propaganda for interventionists. It is propaganda for democracy and for America; you know, the United States of America. Even State College is in the United States of America and the opinions which emanate from here are every bit as important as the opinions which pour out of New York or Chicago. Why not help form that opinion instead of deriding or disclaiming it after it is formed?

After Snow Ball Dance

It's

The Corner

Unusual

Students Defend Academic Rights

AUSTIN, Tex., January 10 — Active supporters of academic freedom and student rights were recently shaken when the University of Michigan with one-sentence letters refused re-admittance to thirteen young men and women "because they were considered disturbing influences."

University officials have declared the action was not taken because of the students' political ideas or activities, but the Michigan Committee for Academic Freedom and the barred students themselves believe they have shown that this was the basic reason. If the problem of academic freedom is placed before the entire student enrollment of the United States, especially now during these war days of fifth-column scares and un-American activity investigations, what is the consensus of this democracy's college youth?

Student Opinion Surveys of America, of which The Daily Collegian is a cooperating member, has sampled the nation's colleges and universities. It finds, everywhere overwhelming majorities opposed to any control of either student or faculty thought or activity.

Polling a representative cross section of U. S. campuses, interviewers asked, "Do you believe that a college has the right to control a student's personal political activities or expressions of opinion?"

Yes, said 4%
No, said 96%
Regarding control of faculty members' political activities or opinions, these were the results:
Yes, said 9%
No, said 91%

The slightly larger percentage in favor of control of the faculty may be due in part to the influence of teachers themselves, many of whom believe that in times like these they should show restraint.

That feeling was expressed not long ago by Professor Alonzo F. Meyers of Kent State University, when he declared, "Teaching should protect democracy, but in periods of stress it is of paramount importance that academic freedom does not provide the cause for denial of democratic education as a result of abuse of its privileges."

Only one student in twenty, however, approves of control of undergraduates, the poll shows. And this opinion is prevalent from coast to coast in about the same proportions. "Our educational centers have always been the seats of freedom, and if we start censoring political views on the campus we are destroying fundamentals of democracy," said a senior in a Far Western university. In that group of states the largest opposition (97 per cent) was discovered.

Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pa., is celebrating its seventieth year.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY:

Tea dance, musical program, southeast lounge, Atherton Hall, 3 to 5 p. m.

Swimming, Penn State vs. Carnegie Tech, Glennland Pool, 2 p. m.

Wrestling, Penn State vs. Maryland, Rec Hall, 7 p. m.

Penn State Club Snow Ball Dance, Rec Hall, 9 p. m. to 12 midnight. Admission \$1 per couple.

Delta Alpha Delta meets in south-east lounge, Atherton Hall, 1:30 p. m.

TOMORROW:

Hillel Foundation social, Phi Sigma Delta fraternity house, 7:30 p. m.

Freshman Council and Forty Forum cabin retreat party leaves rear of Old Main, 2 p. m.

PSCA Project Council meeting, Room 304, Old Main, 4 p. m.

League of Evangelical Students meets in Room 318, Old Main, 7:30 p. m.

Alpha Lambda Delta "Information Please" program, Room 121, Liberal Arts, 8 p. m.

Dr. Harold C. Case of the Elm Park Methodist Church, Scranton, will speak on "Managers of Tomorrow" at Chapel services in Schwab Auditorium, 11 a. m.

Russian Society's annual Christmas "Zakusnik" Sandwich Shop, Old Main, 7:30 p. m.

Don Bridge, advertising director of the New York Times, will speak at a smoker sponsored by Alpha Delta Sigma at the Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity house, 7:30 p. m. All journalism men invited.

MONDAY:

Future Farmers of America elect officers, Room 405, Old Main, 7:30 p. m.

Philotes meeting, Room 302, Old Main, 7 p. m.

Merrill Bernard, supervising hydrologist of the United States Weather Bureau in Washington, D. C., will speak on "Flood Forecasting" at a meeting of the student chapter of the ASCE in Room 107, Main Engineering, 7 p. m. A sound movie will be shown.

TUESDAY:

All freshman candidates for the editorial and business staffs of The Daily Collegian are requested to report to Room 405, Old Main, at 8 p. m. Tuesday.

Professor Sparks Called To U.S. Naval Reserve

Ordered to active duty as a lieutenant in the U. S. Naval Reserves, Norman R. Sparks, associate professor of mechanical engineering at the Pennsylvania State College, will not need to change his residence.

He has been designated as officer in charge of the 30 Naval Reserve officers who began an intensive 16-week course in Diesel engineering here this week.

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