

THE COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Friday, July 23, 1943

Cabinet's Job . . . And Yours

The gavel fell this week on a new chapter of Penn State Student government when a small Cabinet snapped into action after the balloting last week. For the first time All-College officials or, under the new system, semester officers, were sworn into office very informally preceding the first Cabinet meeting minus the usual crowd, outdoor display, and musical accompaniment. But the job of the new group is just as important if not bigger than before.

Along with its responsibilities to the College and to the country of preparing the proper atmosphere and facilities for servicemen stationed here, this Cabinet is called upon to preserve a widely recognized form of student government, and the spirit and traditions of a progressive educational institution.

It sounds easy. But the hundreds of small details involved prove that it will be anything but that.

Ex-officio members from our various service groups will be sought to serve on Cabinet. Their relations with the College will be furthered. Student representatives will be more than their names have implied in yesteryears. They will become public relations officers in this rehabilitation of the College.

In their experimental attempts to integrate student and serviceman interests, there will be mistakes made. There will be inevitable room for criticism.

But realizing the task of the group, we hope that students will consider this body the axis of the College . . . the pivot on which all activities and deeds of the students revolve.

If an attitude of this kind is prevalent, student suggestions will come to the attention of Cabinet before or during the time that discussion on that subject is scheduled. Ideas will be expressed then. Conscientious objectors to the theme of student government actions will be brought to the fore as they go along, not when the scene is cleared.

In other words, the job of cabinet is that of the student and service body. Cabinet directs, puts into action, but the duties are essentially those of a unified, interested group of enrollees of this College.

This attitude would have been a luxury in normal times. It is a necessity now. Only in this way, can each person be satisfied and can administration, student leaders, and each significant student and serviceman feel united and strong as they fight on the Penn State front for this war's objectives and that of every sensible-thinking individual of the world.

Strangers No More

A uniformed harmonica specialist and a burlesque "queen" from the Engineering Barracks wowed cheering on-lookers, a brush-topped Marine came forth with a bit of classical piano mastery, a quartet from Company D collaborated for some sweet harmonizing—and Penn State's first Variety Show smashed through to complete success.

The success of that Variety Show—and the part the servicemen had in it—should be the "clinch" in proving something that becomes more evident each day: that the time is completely past for conjecture about the effect of having so many "strangers" on campus.

Though our welcome to the numerous uniformed groups was quite sincere, it must be admitted that there was a measure of understandable foreboding as to exactly how such an overwhelming number of strangers would fit in with traditional Penn State standards and customs.

Time for all foreboding is past, for the "strangers" are with us no more.

Instead, we have with us a gang that is making valuable contributions in almost every phase of Penn State activity, and helping compensate for any possible inconveniences they might have caused. If they've helped cause a leisure-time problem, their contributions to the first Variety Show demon-

strates that they're ready, willing, and able to help whip it. Reports from sports squads are filled with news of standout athletes among the servicemen; men of the Navy and Marines have already worn Penn State's blue-and-white in inter-collegiate competition and Coach Higgins is counting on servicemen to form a large part of the football team that will represent Penn State this Fall. Players, Collegian, Thespians, the debate squad, and varied other groups have made valuable additions to their forces from these men who—a few weeks ago—were strangers who "might not fit."

Already they have entered wholeheartedly into campus life, taken a full turn at serious academic pursuits, and balanced it with activity in traditional Penn State extra-curricular fields. And they're doing it with a spirit of cooperation, ambition, and devotion to duty that is typical of the best in Nittany tradition.

Nittany "oldguards" can well be proud of these new Men of Penn State. They do fit. L.T.C.

TAPS

Day Is Done, Gone The Sun . . .

Fisher, Reiter, Hower, Barkoss, Cartin, Bloomgren, Smith, Reese, Gee—they're gone forever from the campus they loved.

From The Lakes . . .

Kalmanowicz, Brachbill, Fassett, McCurdy, Staller, Gundel, Malasky, Thomas, Charles, Mayo, Lerman, Stevens, Henderson—they too gave their lives for the continuance of democracy and freedom at their College and in their Country.

From The Hills . . .

Freed, White, Love, Hollis, Hunsinger, Cuthbert, Kerns, Oughton, Brogan, Martin—lying "in some corner of a foreign field" that is forever a part of Penn State and of America.

From The Sky . . .

Chase, Conger, Broderick, Nichols, Harper, Dean, Urquhart, Sypherd, Schank—proud Americans, true Penn Staters, every one. They died to preserve rights and privileges we still enjoy, and for whose eternal defense we are now training.

All Is Well . . .

Walker, Davies, Gardner, Elliott, Megrail, Clark, Ellstrom, Radcliff—the roll of honor, and of death, mounts steadily—dragging the war from far-off battlefields to our very campus, and making this struggle for existence an ever more personalized fight.

Safely Rest, God Is Nigh.

These men of Penn State have left an unfinished task that we as Americans and Penn Staters must help complete. Their trust is in us.

We've been given a job to do . . . a full time job. L.T.C.

Home Front Problem

The recent outbreak of vandalism on the campus poses a difficult problem for College officials.

When "youngsters" impeded the extremely important physical fitness military program at Recreation Hall and made off with valuable equipment, some of which can not even be purchased in these days, officials lost patience. And when older boys and girls stole and damaged other valuable campus equipment (including, believe it or not, an American flag) and showed their disrespect for property in other ways, the breaking point was reached.

Isn't it a reflection on community young people and on their parents that such an ultimatum had to be made? Parents who tell visiting friends about the beauty of the campus and the efficient management of buildings should be proud enough to do at home their part in helping remedy the situation. And children and parents alike should remember that the College has important trust in preserving property that really belongs to the public.

After Adolf Yells "Uncle"

Why not start now to plan for one of the biggest reunions in our College's history—the reunion of the "war class" of Penn State?

Our accelerated program has torn down regular class walls, and decreased civilian enrollment has permitted a more complete intermingling of students of all classes. Together we've witnessed vast changes in the emphasis of college training and college life, and we've shared experiences which are certain to give us a special and lasting common bond.

Our last few semesters have seen the development of one of Penn State's most closely knit student bodies—working together with a special vigor under special conditions, and at a very special common task. But when that task is done—when Adolph and Tojo yell "uncle" and the Lions come marching home again—the time would be ideal for a "class" reunion of the entire Penn State wartime gang.

We're working together now. In some spare moment this summer, why not get together on plans for having fun together later? —L. T. C.

We, The Women Tradition Or Expediency?

Sometimes it's difficult to decide whether tradition or expediency shall take precedent in a given situation. Take for instance the problem of this semester's crop of freshman coeds.

According to tradition, wearers of the green ribbon must be in dormitories by 9 o'clock week nights. When that rule went into effect, and for succeeding semesters up to the present, it met adequately the need for regulation of underclassmen without causing them undue inconvenience.

Then came the summer semester, an innovation of last year, when the 9 o'clock curfew became less pleasant, but not unbearably so.

This semester's problem is somewhat different, and the usual freshman griping, if there is any, we think, more legitimate. It is the problem of an evening greatly shortened by swing-shift dinner. With the meal finished at 7:15, there remain less than two hours in which to accomplish any activities slated for the evening. As one frosh coed pointed out, this rules out movies and most evening entertainments, and makes a visit to the library almost too short to be worth the walk.

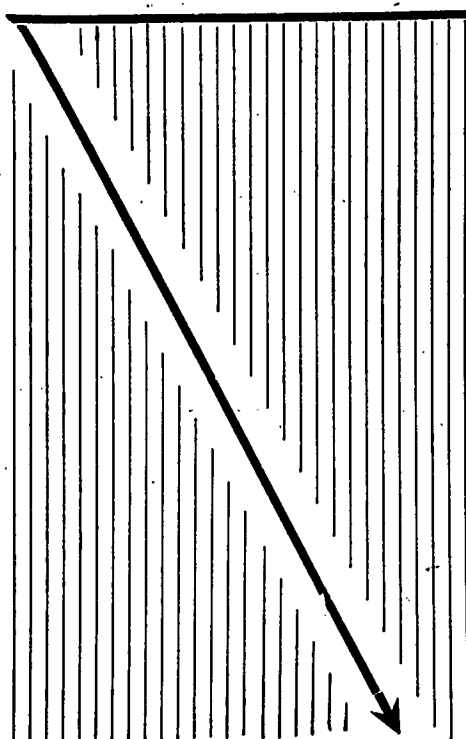
Last term, when a similar situation of discontent became apparent, WSGA Senate met it in a way which revived our faith in student government. Representatives of freshman living units attended a meeting of Senate to plead the case of their classmates.

The decision reached, a slight change in hours, satisfied both the women's governing group and the plaintiff. Moreover, it did a lot to convince the freshmen that Senate was not just a group of upperclass-women who sat at a long table and said "you have to do it because we had to do it." If the meeting had resulted in nothing except a lessening of that attitude, it would have been worth the effort.

What we propose, and what we are sure the frosh would like to see, is that Senate call such a meeting again this semester to consider the current problem. Perhaps nothing can be done to alter the situation as it stands. However, it seems likely that knowledge that their government is willing to hear their case, and to make any possible alterations, would bring increased cooperation from the lower class.

A.R.F.

A Penn State Tradition



The Corner
unusual