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A Milestone

A milestone in student government-administration relations was passed last week when members of both groups met to discuss the delegation of authority to All-College Cabinet, and to attempt to delineate its fields of action.

Student government should be strengthened and become more effective as a result of the meeting, since the results were more far-reaching and basic even than the promoters of the meeting had hoped.

Cabinet's forte is the beneficial influence it exerts upon both the administration and the students, according to James Milholland, acting president.

Various speakers augmented this view-point by explaining that student leaders who become well-known and respected by deans or officials in pleasant times are in a better position to obtain assistance when needed to solve problems, than individual students who are comparative strangers.

Among the major handicaps of effective student government is student apathy and lack of concern about it, until it does something unpopular.

Students can strengthen their own government in at least three ways. First, by active participation; second, by learning the candidates and their qualifications and voting intelligently; third, by expressing their opinions to Cabinet, school and dorm council members.

Several valuable suggestions for future action developed from the spirited give-and-take of ideas at the conference. Included were such topics as training of student leaders, increasing participation in elections, assuming responsibility in maintaining campus beauty.

Although the word "government" may be a misnomer, in the strictest sense, still the existence of student government is important and worthwhile.

It can be truthfully said that the "power" and "authority" of Cabinet are neither absolute nor final, but that power is real and significant.

Mature and reasoning students, possessed with a sense of responsibility, can and have accomplished many things for the welfare of all students, and for the benefit of the College.

Signs of increasing student awareness in self-improvement seemed to have impressed the administration. Student respect for Cabinet must be gained and kept by definite and significant action.

Happy Family?

Once upon a time an abundance of that stuff called "class spirit" permeated the Nittany Valley. All Frosh passing through the area were infected with it during the course of class meetings and upperclass hazing, and were never completely cured of the wonderful disease of unity. Year on year, Homecoming found the symptoms intensified.

Mysteriously the wonderful disease is being wiped out. Its last vestiges are viewed by the old timers, who cry into their beverages, "It hain't the same."

How has it been "cured"? You can't exactly put your accusing finger on one incident or individual. The old class spirit faded into the backstage when student leaders and student publications substituted in its once revered place, a Pandora's box of world problems, which they pretend to be able to solve.

Of course it is wrong to ridicule the noble attempts of a more mature post war mind as it attempts to better the condition of the world in general. But are such things as class yells, class meetings, impromptu rallies, dance queenships, and hot campus political campaigns too sophomoric and mundane to demand interest?

There are many who preferred the past "one-big-happy-family" status to the present condition in which Penn State attempts to mold itself into a panacea for all the ills of the world.

"We're getting too big," is one explanation. Yet is the influx of a few thousand additional students responsible for the change in atmosphere? Are they really the cause of the de-emphasis on the lighter side of college? Might any of them be interested in such typically collegiate things as a "Who's Dating Who" column in their college daily? Do they really prefer reading constantly of world-shaking drives to the occasional reading of simple human interest items, such as a pin-ball tournament at Grahams?

What is the road back to the good old days? The initial route is through more and better class meetings. And until Student Union is realized, the mammoth classes can be accommodated by alphabetical divisions into, say, Schwab, 121 and 10 Sparks.

Before too late, we should stop trying to change the shape of this planet, and start making Penn State less like a factory with cold assembly line education.

—Jo L. Fox.

The Daily Collegian

Successor to THE FREE LANCE, est. 1887

Published Tuesday through Saturday mornings inclusive during the College year by the staff of The Daily Collegian of The Pennsylvania State College. Entered as second class matter July 6, 1934, at the State College, Pa., Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879. Subscriptions — \$2 a semester, \$4 the school year.

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'Ach, won't this peace EVER end!'



Our 'Civilized' Era

Nothing could be less civilized than the sight of society's raising a constant hue and cry over the wanton murder of some of its members and then gaily doing nothing about it. Such is the case with traffic accidents, one of the leading causes of death and maiming in our modern, "civilized" era.

Always, preceded by loud lamenting, we hear the complaints of those who wish us to drive more safely, that the little children might live, that old ladies might pass through their superannuation without being ground under the wheels of the demon juggernaut. The liquor manufacturers implore us not to mix drink and driving. The automobile manufacturers urge us to operate their products with caution and responsibility.

But what do the automobile manufacturers do about designing and producing safe vehicles?

This is a hurried world—so the manufacturers produce and sell automobiles capable of speeding over 100 miles per hour. The fact that few drivers, even given a suitable highway, can control an auto at that speed does not deter them. The fact that modern highways are unsafe at such speeds concerns them not. A fast car has a strong selling attraction, and the higher the sales, the higher the profits.

Not only are the modern cars too fast, they also are structurally designed for danger. For example, the Montreal Star claims, "Many drivers have found the seats too low and the hoods too long. It is impossible to see enough of the road in front of the car." In addition, the American Medical Journal has stated, "Automobiles should be redesigned to stress safety rather than speed and appearances. This suggestion has often been made, but has religiously been disregarded by automotive engineers and manufacturers."

Slanted windshields look nice, but are not conducive to good vision. Chromium trimming also is pleasant to the eye—except when it produces glare that unnerves the driver. The new look in automobiles may sell cars, but it does little to provide safety for the driver, his passengers and the pedestrians. In some new models, according to a Pittsburgh newspaper, it is impossible to fit chains to the tires in bad weather. Truly, we have created a Frankenstein monster.

The Medical Journal concluded, "If we are to become more civilized, we must place the value of human life above the prestige value of speed and appearance in motor cars."

So, when do we become civilized? When do we stop moaning, with fancy verbiage, about safe drivers and start demanding safe automobiles?

—L. D. Gladfelder.

The Best Present

At Christmas time—
You all are glad
To get back home
To Mom and Dad.

The question though—
Is what to get
To make them happy
And you can bet—

They'll look for something
Very nice
So when you buy
You best think twice—

And get the present
The very thing
That the greatest joy
At home will bring.

Now here's a thought
And gift as well
So please pay heed
When you we tell

Use the utmost care
When you drive home—

The life you save
May be your own.

Be sure to drive
Most carefully.

For good things on Earth
Are very few—
So be careful always
What you do.

Lest Death your holiday
Should take
And cause your dear ones'
Hearts to ache.
The most precious present
You can give
To those you love
Is just to live

And keep yourselves from
Harm each day—
And arrive home safe
For Christmas Day.

—Capt. Philip A. Mark,
Campus Patrol.

The Safety Valve

Clarification

TO THE EDITOR: The statement of policy which appeared in yesterday's Collegian under the heading, "Objections to Another Barber Shop," was the opinion of the executive committee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and not mine alone.

Furthermore, since our article was not submitted with the intention of quarreling with any group which has the same objectives as we have, it may be regarded as a statement of NAACP policy on the vital question of discrimination in State College barber shops.

To that extent, the heading was misleading, so this letter is an attempt to eliminate any misconceptions in the minds of Collegian readers.

—William Meek, President, NAACP.

To Formulate Ideas

TO THE EDITOR: You will recall that when I spoke at the forum last week, I threw out the suggestion that the students should get together (a representative group of them) and discuss some of the points I raised in regard to sexual behavior. These points were as follows: (1) Do you believe that premarital sex relations can take place and have the kind of society you want to have? (2) Do you feel that premarital sex relations are compatible with being a good parent and a good citizen? (3) Do you accept the fact that there can be no privileged group in premarital or extramarital sex relations, and that each person's behavior in this regard contributes to the sum total of our morals and customs? If you agree to this, what would be your suggestions in the way of setting up a code of behavior for the undecided to follow?

I think it should also be made plain to the student body of a college that some of them already are the parents of today and that many of them will be the parents of a very near tomorrow. Consequently, as long as a great many people are concerned about sexual behavior, it seems important for young people on the verge of social responsibility to formulate their ideas on this important matter. This could serve as a record and to make it even more valuable, the same people could after twenty-five years of living and maturing in the social structure return to a discussion of the same topics and their deliberations of twenty-five years ago and decide, or try to decide the wisdom of their previous formulations. After all, I think college students should consider themselves a group of responsible people. They may have more wisdom after twenty or twenty-five years of living but that still does not say that they have not a great deal at present or should have a great deal. Consequently, I will be sorry if there is not some follow-up along these lines on the matter of the Kinsey Report and its evaluation by many people of whom I am only one. One of the best books evaluating the report for those who wish such opinions is a Signet Book called "About the Kinsey Report" and edited by Donald Geddes.

It was a pleasure being with you the other night and I hope something will come of this forum discussion.

—O. Spurgeon English, M.D.

Collegian Gazette

Wednesday, December 8

STUDENT HANDBOOK, 304 Old Main, 7 p.m.
HOME EC CLUB, Living Center, 7 p.m.
IFC, 405 Old Main, 7:15 p.m.
SKULL and Bones, 418 Old Main, 7:30 p.m.
AMERICAN CERAMIC SOCIETY, Alpha Tau Omega, 7:30 p.m.

College Hospital

Admitted Monday: Martin Friedman, Donna Haley, Sally Lees, Luba Meshberg and Richard Schmick.

Admitted Tuesday: James Jubelirer, Mary Conahan, Nessa Posner, James Shaffer and Eleanor Trunick.

College Placement

Boy Scouts of America, December 8, eighth semester men interested in working as field executives.

Institute of Textile Technology, December 10, seventh and eighth semester men in Chem Eng, Chem, Commercial Chem, Physics, and ME.

Joy Manufacturing Co., December 13 and 14, eighth semester in EE and ME. Should have inclination for design and development in heavy machinery.

E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., December 14, eighth semester men, accounting.

Army Security Agency, December 13 and 14, eighth semester students in EE.

Hagan Corp., December 15 and 16, eighth semester men in EE, ME, Sanitary Eng, Ceramics, Chem Eng, and Chem.

Long Island Lighting Co., December 18, eighth semester, in EE and ME for public utility work.

Piaseck Helicopter Corp., December 17, eighth semester men in AE and ME.

Supplee-Wills-Jones Milk Co., December 17, eighth semester men in Dairy Husbandry.

Sperry-Gyroscope Co., December 13, eighth semester, EE, interested in communications.

Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal Co., December 16, eighth semester ME, EE, Mining Eng, Architectural Eng, CE.

Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., December 16, eighth semester, IE, EE, ME, Chem Eng, and Ceramics. Training program in industrial engineering. Will lead to factory technical assignments. Few openings in maintenance.

At the Movies

CATHAUM—Three Musketeers.
STATE—Red River.
NITTANY—Kiss of Death.