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\$1000 Is Cheap

Is affiliation with the National Student Association worth an annual \$1000 appropriation from All-College Cabinet?

Recently this question has been posed by several student leaders, but the entire student body deserves the facts on which to base the answer.

Every student on this campus is a member of NSA, but its programs are implemented by an open committee of Cabinet. NSA is limited because it cannot function independently as it does on many campuses.

As a national organization composed of nearly a million students in 265 colleges and universities, NSA operates independently and cooperatively.

It has achieved a far greater scope of activities than any other intercollegiate organization. As a close federation of campus committees working with student governments, of regional assemblies and of national congresses, NSA has consummated many of its objectives.

The only concern of Penn State students is, however, the extent to which this national affiliation has been translated into concrete and vital accomplishments on their own campus.

Improvement of student government is of paramount importance to the campus committee. NSA is now planning a program of student leadership training, to acquaint students with the functions and problems of their government and to provide Cabinet with a reservoir of well-trained, experienced workers.

Student welfare is NSA's most vital concern. To ease the continual and annoying drain on the student purse created by campus charity drives which do not reach their goals, NSA has studied the possibilities of a campus chest, a consolidated relief drive.

Groundwork for an area purchase card system has been completed and a Cabinet-approved plan is expected to be instituted in the spring. "PSC" is an expedient to reduce student cost of living and has proved highly successful at other colleges.

Student-faculty forums scheduled for the next two months will give students an opportunity to work for the improvement of the advisory systems and curriculum requirements. National faculty-rating forms are available for the use of the school student councils.

In the brief year of NSA's recognition by Cabinet, it has found, the hard way, that its programs and proposals must be backed by facts and statistics, not by the conclusions of debates.

If students who question NSA's value would assist with its projects or attend an occasional committee meeting (times and places are announced in the Collegian), NSA will be far more successful at Penn State. —Janie Schwing.

Spirit --- Dead?

We find it hard to wax as indignant as some of our colleagues over the lack of "class spirit" that characterizes the present senior class.

Only in the matter of apathy toward the choice of a class gift can we sincerely join those who chastise the seniors. It is our hunch, however, that a reasonable majority will, when the crucial moment arrives, want to have their votes in the tally which will determine the disposition of the significant \$7000, or more.

As for the flop of last week's mixer, isn't it likely that most of the 2416 seniors who passed up the free fun did so because they felt their time would be spent to better advantage elsewhere?

This may be the "wrong" attitude. It certainly is deplorable that the preparations for entertainment were largely wasted. But the most casual observer could scarcely accuse seniors or any other class of being averse to fun.

Basketball games, movies, campus dramas, and musical events receive quite enthusiastic student support, considering the crushing demands modern college life makes on the time of most pursuants of a degree.

We predict, though those schooled in college tradition of a bygone era may stone us for it, that school spirit as expressed in "rah-rah's" will have a tough time making a comeback.

Sports may become the focal point of this battle between old and new. Present-day students—including those fresh out of high school—come to Penn State for some purpose other than cheering in unison at the command of two or three of their fellows.

An unwholesome development in college sports is the tendency to boo a team or player who doesn't turn in a championship job every time. Here is where we would like to see a return to the days when the "important thing is not winning, but how you play," as idealistic speakers have put it.

It is clear that college life is subject to change, just as government, business and social life change despite the desperate efforts of some to hold the status quo.

We hope the changes will always be for the better. The evolution of student attitudes toward "class" and "school spirit" may be part of something more important and bigger than any institution.

Whatever happens to these phases of collegiate living in the next few years, it will be most interesting to watch, at least for those of us who do not have an abiding fondness for tradition. —John Bonnell.

Faculty Representation

Recent generations of students at the College have found numerous occasions to contend that their interests are poorly represented by the Board of Trustees. The original failure of the co-op store measure, and the pigeon-holing of last year's senior class gift, toward a student press, are contemporary cases in point.

A suggestion that students be granted ex-officio representation on the Board to inject student views into their deliberations, however, borders on the ridiculous. Only by a vast stretch of the imagination might students be considered to have any legitimate prerogative even to direct ex-officio Board representation.

Actual or projected plans for organized electioneering by recently graduated classes to select, after the three-year cooling-off period, trustees inclined to the student viewpoint, are legitimate, but delaying.

One agency to which students may turn in their frustration is the faculty. Despite occasional moans from the recalcitrant few, faculty aims are almost always sympathetically related to student aims. Aims ranging from a Student Union to keep-off-the-grass campaigns are advocated as sincerely, if not as vocally, by the faculty as by students.

More significantly, measures which improve the lot of the prof reflect themselves to the good of the student. Better paid instruction is better instruction. Moreover, the faculty doesn't graduate after a three-year tenure.

Through the medium of the College chapter of the American Association of University Professors, the faculty has asked for consultative membership on the Board of Trustees. With consideration of the proposal due at Saturday's meeting, the time for organizing support is short. —Malcolm White.

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