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The Daily Collegian

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Council Fee: How Good Are Returns?

Students are giving 25 cents a semester to their respective student councils this year, but no one seems to really know where that money is going.

Whenever they have been questioned, most student council officers have mumbled generalities about mixers, coffee-hours, open houses, and newsletters. They have not dealt in specifics.

Students are paying the 25 cent council fee as a result of the University's fee consolidation plan which went into effect this year. Before the consolidation, councils collected varying amounts for annual operation. This variance, and others, prevented the University from immediately collecting student fees.

All-University Cabinet was given the task of deciding how to level the council fees. The College of Agriculture collected 75 cents, College of Home Economics 25 cents, and the other six councils, nothing. Cabinet decided to assess every student 25 cents, thus equalizing the fee and allowing fee consolidation.

Few will quarrel with the consolidation idea. The University has benefited from it, and students have not suffered—other than through this new assessment. The real issue is this: Why should each student be forced to pay 25 cents a semester merely to level the fees? A better plan would have been to eliminate the council fee altogether.

The Home Economics Student Council does not benefit from the fee, since it collected 25 cents prior to the new system. The Agriculture Student Council's losing 50 cents per student, since it previously collected 75 cents. The Engineering Student Council said frankly it could not use money it would get from consolidation. The Business Administration Student Council did not exist at the time. The other

five councils passively said they "could use the money." Naturally, they could use more money. The question is, did they need it? Indications since tell us the answer is "no."

Perhaps primary among these indications is the newly-approved All-University Cabinet budget. Last year, without the fee, cabinet gave the councils \$1500. This year, with the fee, that grant was cut to \$900. This can only mean the councils this year had even more money than they could use.

Another indication has been the vagueness with which the councils have treated the affair. Mixers, coffee-hours, open houses, and newsletters sound nice. But they are not always of real value to the student, and they are not always successful. Many coffee-hours have flopped, and council newsletters characteristically have been of little merit. The value of open houses to the student is not certain.

This student council fee is the type that adds unnecessarily to the cost of an education. The cost of education is already too high for many. There is no need to make it higher in this way. And although 25 cents is, in itself, not much, this fee illustrates a philosophy which is not good. The idea that a student must pay a fee for every service is not healthy, and, in this instance, the fee is not warranted.

Some defend the council fee by saying councils will return the money to the students. This is only a good defense if benefits of the return are great enough to warrant the fee. As yet, they have not been. There is no indication they will be in the future.

A better plan would be for All-University Cabinet to seek removal of the fee, and to return to the councils the \$1500 they originally had. Most students certainly would rather spend the 25 cents themselves than have their councils spend it, somewhat questionably, for them.

AIM Amendments Need Further Study

Two amendments to the Association of Independent Men's constitution, approved on a second reading by the AIM Board of Governors before spring recess, reflect sound judgment, and should be approved. The other two do not meet the standard.

One amendment calls for a reorganization of the executive board of AIM. If the amendment is passed, the board would consist of the executive officers of AIM together with the presidents of the four living areas. The board, as it now stands, is composed of AIM officers, the editor of the Independent Newsletter, and chairmen of the athletic, social, and project committees.

Another amendment calls for the establishment of five standing committees: social, projects, publicity, elections, and National Independent Student Association.

Both amendments seem more than constructive. The first will certainly make for a more integrated organization with various living areas directly represented on the executive board. The second amendment will provide more work-

ing groups within AIM on a more permanent basis.

A third amendment, which would reorganize the AIM Judicial Board, deserves further study before it is approved. The amendment provides that eight board members be appointed in the spring at large by the AIM president. It also provides that the chairman be a fifth or sixth semester student at the time of appointment.

Although members of the Judicial Board do not need to represent the living areas, since the members are to be impartial judges regardless of their own living area, the proposed amendment does not meet the problem. The proposed system would be too liable to abuse, with appointments made for political reasons. Also, it gives the AIM presidential candidate a wider basis for making promises.

The fourth proposed amendment also deserves further consideration. It provides for the payment of \$225 in compensation to the officers of AIM. Such compensation seems totally unnecessary, and the money could be put to more constructive uses—even if it meant a social affair for the independent men.

But the first obstacle seems to be getting a quorum for an AIM meeting, judging from Wednesday evening.

—Len Goodman

An Open House

The University Library Open House, scheduled for 7 to 9 tonight, offers students a good chance to get a real behind-the-scenes look at the operation of our library—complete with the new wing.

It will be the first official open house sanctioned by the library since the completion of the wing last October. Three guided tours and special exhibits will be featured in the open house.

The addition of the \$1.2 million wing has allowed the expansion of existing sections of the library, and has provided new space for reading rooms and study desks.

This represents an opportunity for students to acquire complete inside knowledge about the functions of a building which has been called the key to all academic knowledge.

—George Bairey

Faculty Luncheon Club To Hear Discussion

Four faculty members of the College of Business Administration will conduct a panel discussion on "The Administration Approach to the Current Unemployment Problem" before the Faculty Luncheon Club at noon Monday at the Hotel State College.

The panel will include David H. McKinley, Lawrence E. Fournaker, Morris Mendelson, and Howard A. Cutler.

Weather Station Predicts Showers

The University may be in for a rainy weekend, according to the Weather Station of Meteorology department.

The station reported cloudiness and cooler weather for today and a chance of showers tonight. Tomorrow may be partly cloudy and warmer with scattered showers and thundershowers at night.

Lakonides Will Hold Teacher Discussion

Student teachers will tell of their teaching experiences at the Lakonides meeting at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at the WRA room in White Hall. Women in the School of Physical Education may attend.

Lakonides recently tapped five new members. They are Juanita Hudson, Patricia Olkkanon, Virginia Sturm, Gertrude Weidmann, and Sara Jane Fague.

Gazette...

Monday
INTERCOLLEGIATE CONFERENCE ON GOVERNMENT, 7 p.m., 108 Willard

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
Philadelphia YMCA will interview students April 29 for jobs in the Philadelphia area.

PLACEMENT SERVICE
Women interested in nursing as a career may talk with Miss Mary Florence Taylor of the University of Pittsburgh the afternoon of April 27. Arrangements for interviews may be made in 112 Old Main.

INFIRMARY
William Banfield, William Craven, Dorothy DeMay, Harry Eberhart, Theodore Goobic, Louis Grieco, Harry Nelson, William Nye, Brigitte Reinkraut, Richard Weigel, James Watt.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Oh, I wouldn't worry too much about passing, Miss Freeman—as long as I'm grading on th' curve."

Interpreting the News

American Criticism Angers French

By J. M. ROBERTS JR.
Associated Press News Analyst

Roger Seydoux, minister plenipotentiary at the French Embassy in Washington, said in a speech at Fargo, N.D., Wednesday that American attacks on so-called French colonialism were fanning the "get out of Indochina" fires in France.

The Seydoux thesis is that France no longer has any material interests in Indochina or hope of profit from staying there.

He said, France, with American help, is carrying a heavy burden of human and material losses in the war for the sole purpose of preventing Southeast Asia from falling to the Communists.

"In all frankness," he said, "France is tired of all the accusations of colonialism one reads in the American press."

Other Frenchmen say repeatedly that, if the United States doesn't understand and doesn't like the way the French are doing things, they will be glad to get out and let America take over the problem.

But Americans ask "if France is not materially interested, if she has actually forewarned colonialism, why doesn't she make the same promises to these people for after the war that Britain made to India during the last war? Why doesn't France tell them that, when they are no longer in danger of Red conquest, they can have complete independence, within or without the French Union as they may freely decide? Because the French don't do this, isn't America becoming tainted throughout Asia? Isn't her traditional anti-colonialism being sidetracked, by association with France in this war?"

The new "independence" treaties with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia do not meet American specifications. Not so much because they retain military command and the conduct of foreign affairs for France, but because they do not guarantee ultimate self-determination.

There may be an explanation for the French position, and a good one, which they are unable to publicize themselves because to do so would defeat an important policy purpose.

France has an army fighting in Indochina. Its losses are heavy, and especially in officers the casualties are running ahead of production at St. Cyr, French West Point. Because of this, France has been unable to attend properly to her own security in Europe.

The material costs of the war in three months are equal to the entire remaining French commercial investment in Indochina, which has been heavily liquidated in recent years.

The burden is being carried by the army and by the people at home very largely because the war is for a part of the

French Union. The government understands the other purpose, the containment of communism, but a war in far off Asia for this purpose alone produces no more enthusiasm among the French army and the French people than did such a war in Korea among the American army and people.

Thus, removal or the definite promise of removal of Indochina from the French Union might finally cripple the government in conduct of the war.

However correct this estimate of the position may be, the French are in no position to publicize it. For that would carry the inference that Indochina was being retained in the French Union only as a sop to army and people, to be turned loose when the crisis is over, and the result on morale would be the same.

It is unfortunate that France does not have the political stability to face such problems as Britain did. But you will remember that defense of India itself was not the whole nor even a major problem in that war.

French political instability is a fact of her existence, just as are the powers and leadership which she must contribute if the free world resistance to the Communists is to be a success.

Another fact of life is the prolific American expression of opinion, wise or foolish.

The two countries might as well adjust themselves to these facts.

This Weekend On WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES

Today	
3:00	From the Lion's Cage
3:15	Baseball—Penn State vs. Lafayette
7:30	Music of the People
8:00	Jazz Moods
8:30	Paris Star Time
9:00	Light-classical Jukebox
10:30	Sign Off
Tomorrow	
3:00	Men's Glee Club Concert
7:30	Third Program—Student Recital
10:30	Sign Off
Monday	
7:25	Sign On
7:30	Sportlight
7:45	Broadway in Review
8:00	Top Drawer
8:15	Hamburger Stand
9:00	Just Out
9:15	News
9:30	Symphony Hall
10:30	Sign Off