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The Daily Collegian

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Party Chartering: Long Overdue

It is a slow mill, but it grinds exceedingly fine.

The political pot has been boiling at a fast rate since the student government set-up as we know it today began to evolve prior to World War II with the beginning of All-University Cabinet and the implementing party system. Since then the entire program has grown and improved rapidly and the mill was not able to keep up with it.

In most cases this rapid growth was not bad. The components of the governmental system were under charter of the University Senate or they were directly responsible to the student body. Thus all moves made were legitimate and all progress was towards a better Penn State.

A lone exception to this pattern developed, however. This was the complete freedom allowed in the development of political parties. It was left to the students controlling them to channel their efforts along democratic lines and to make them part of a progressive political science laboratory for students.

For several years this worked. First the building of political machines was retarded by the overtones of World War II. After this they were kept within student influence by their instability and the number of new groups cropping up each election. These included, besides the now-present Lion and State, the Nittany Independent, Campus Key, and College. They

were often pressure organizations for campus groups and led short political lives.

Our two present-day parties emerged from all this, probably through passing the test in a survival-of-the-fittest battle. They proved themselves strong and versatile parties and had the student support because they offered what the students wanted.

With the fight for survival won, the party members then found time for internal manipulations. There was little way to block this since they were not responsible to anyone through charter and this freedom enabled them to write constitutions, better-called organizational codes, which put them outside pressure from the student body. The result was the self-righteous parties today who think themselves above improvement.

The parties are arrogant. This is shown by their failure to comply with All-University Cabinet demands that they revise their organizational codes and presenting ones containing provisions specifically prohibited in the Elections Code. Again it was shown by their presenting these farce codes to Senate subcommittee which was looking into their request for chartering.

Finally this arrogance is shown by the failure thus far of both parties to make any overt, publicized move to set up revisions committees. They feel they are above all this. They are not. The mill will overtake them.

Students Arrested

The imprisonment of 65 university students by the Argentine government last month has strengthened opinion that Argentine President Juan Peron has set up a fascist regime in that country. The action was denounced by the International Student Conference in Istanbul as a "pattern of suppression of academic freedom and university autonomy" and distortion of free educational practices.

The 65 students were accused of plotting terrorism and have been held by the government "at the disposal of executive power," under arrest for an indefinite period without trial. Under the existing "state of internal war" regulations in Argentina, this form of administrative arrest is possible.

The trouble started on Oct. 5 when the Engineering Students' Union of Buenos Aires held its annual meeting and presentation of awards. The Union is a faculty member of the Federacion Universitaria Argentina, the recognized national student organization. The Peronist regime in Argentina has long been antagonistic towards the FUA, having itself set up the officially sponsored Confederacion General Universitaria.

Police intervened at the meeting of the Engineering Students' Union and attempted to arrest the union president. A series of student strikes and demonstrations resulted. After six days of student demonstrations, government posters appeared accusing student leaders of plotting terrorism, being shiftless and immoral characters and being paid agents of the Communist Party.

By Oct. 25, FUA reported, 61 students had been arrested by the government and held indefinitely without trial. Among those students arrested were most of the union presidents, including the heads of the social sciences and medicine unions. One union president escaped to Uruguay, where he is reported to be in touch with those FUA leaders who have gone underground in Argentina.

As a result of the arrests, a general student strike was called in Argentina, followed by a "sympathy" strike by students in Uruguay.

On Christmas Parties

Once again campus groups and organizations are making valuable contributions to the Christmas spirit by sponsoring parties for children in State College and surrounding areas. These functions are to be highly commended.

Parties such as these are good for two specific reasons: when they are given for needy children, they offer these children the fun, excitement, and joy their own homes usually cannot afford to provide them with. When the parties are given for children who are not especially needy, they serve to promote good will between the University and townspeople.

It is seldom University students have the opportunity to associate directly with local residents. Greek Week projects are probably the only other such chance. Christmas parties for local children are an ideal way to foster harmony and have fun at the same time.

The parties, of course, are not entirely fun for the sponsoring groups. They involve the expense of gifts and refreshments, the work necessary to plan programs and games, and the time devoted to the party itself. At a time when academic schedules are so overloaded and final exams loom so near, it is encouraging to see students forget personal troubles to provide pleasure for several hundred children.

-P. M.

Gazette...

Today
CHEM-PHYS STUDENT COUNCIL, 7 p.m., 105 Osmond
DAILY ROSARY, 4:30 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church
NOVENA, 7 p.m., Our Lady of Victory Church
NEWMAN CLUB BUSINESS MEETING, 8 p.m., 303 Willard
UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CLUB, 7:30 p.m., 105 Agricultural Engineering
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Raphael Belford, Paul Brown, Harris Coleman, Ellen Cur-
rier, Robert Fisher, James Foyle, Sheldon Freedman, Wil-
lam Frenzel, Joseph Held, Melford Hershey, Walter Hoopes,
Margaret Hoover, Milton Koffs, Ronald Lis, Polly Moore,
Josiah Morrill, Anargiros Patellis, Thomas Poponey, Har-
vey Reisman, Charles Torrence, Edward Walsh, Philip
Young, Marilyn Zabusky.

Statements of support for the action have been made by students in South Africa, Costa Rica, England, Wales, Northern Ireland, France, and the United States National Student Association.

-Peggy McClain

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Her system is to study books—I study the professors."

Who, Us?

Adam's Other Rib

By PEGGY McCLAIN

Few persons are not curious about others' opinions of them. And yesterday afternoon gave rise to a sounding board for what foreign students at the University thought of the United States and Penn State in particular.

The event referred to was a tea for foreign students, given by Mortar Board, senior women's society. Approximately 35 special students, from countries including Formosa, India, Australia, England, and Belgium gave Penn Staters a run-for-their-money in a two-hour discussion of "Life in the new country."

The men and women at the tea, the majority of whom are working on graduate degrees, showed a somewhat paternal attitude toward this country. They indicated an amazing amount of understanding of the customs and problems of the United States, and while many of them did not agree with parts of the American way of life, they assumed the attitude of spectators rather than crusaders or condemners.

Discussion started out with a comparison of the Penn State method of student government with that of universities in Europe and Asia. The chief difference, the special students said, was the restrictions placed on women in American universities. Many of the guests, before coming to Penn State, had never realized that women were required to be in the dorms after a certain hour at night.

Another student was astounded at the number of organizations, fraternities, and honorary societies in American universities. You students can't get away from them, he said; they get you coming or going.

Discussion moved from student government to universities in general. The greatest difference found between American and other universities was the emphasis placed on scholarship and academic studies. American universities place much emphasis on

social life, a man from England pointed out. Here, students save all their studies for vacations; in England, they study during the school term, and on vacations they really "vacation."

Group discussion brought out the opinion that this difference was due to the relative all-inclusive policy of American universities. In this country, opportunity is given to students from almost every social and economic class; in many of the European and Asian countries, only the more brilliant or wealthy men and women may attend universities. Also they said, a maximum of technical study such as engineering and some of the sciences, has produced a form of mass-production education in America.

The guests also attributed this mass-production method to the economic conditions of the country. The nation has risen rapidly to the place where it can offer education to almost every man; when other countries reach this point, they probably will have much the same method, they said.

The informality of American universities made a deep impression. (Continued on page five)

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES
7:25 Sign On
7:30 Sports Roundup
7:35 Stand-by
8:00 Open To Question
8:30 "Should Schools Teach Religion?"
8:30 Masterworks from France
9:00 Call Card
9:15 News
9:30 Light Classical Jukebox
10:30 Sign Off

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Monday, December 27, 1954

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