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# The Daily Collegian

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## Cabinet: Is It Really Useless?

A "just plain student" got up before All-University Cabinet Thursday night and bawled it out.

The student, James Clokey, freshman in physics from Allison Park, admitted he had never seen Cabinet in action before, but he felt the highest student body on campus wasn't doing its job. He emphatically said as much.

Clokey directed his criticism at Cabinet's seemingly endless spiels about parliamentary procedure. Cabinet has a tendency to lean on Roberts' Rules of Order a bit too much at times and to put aside issues before it in order to debate whether Roberts means what he says.

But, eventually, Cabinet does return to issues. And generally it takes its work seriously. Clokey also didn't like what Cabinet was doing and he was unhappy about what it was not doing. It wasn't serving the students, he said.

This charge, too, is partially true. Cabinet often gets so tied up in changing internal structure it barely has time or energy to legislate. This has been the case too often this year. The new Cabinet constitution, which was approved yesterday by the Senate subcommittee on organization control, engaged Cabinet's talents for a big part of the year.

But Cabinet also tackles constructive projects, efforts from which every student benefits. Spring Week, the Penn State Student Scholarship Fund, the student judicial system, student radio station WDFM, the new grading plan—all came into being through Cabinet encouragement.

Students must remember when evaluating Cabinet that, in matters affecting the University, Cabinet has power only to recommend. As such, its main function must be one of a sounding board for student opinion. It can and does bring the desires of students to the attention of the powers that be—the University.

Thursday, for example, Cabinet recom-

mended to the University Board of Trustees the creation of a new cultural program through which every student might gain.

By so doing, it formally brought to the trustees' attention what is presumably the desire of the student body. If students do not want the Penn State Series—and the accompanying \$1 assessment—Clokey's charges are correct. In that case, Cabinet wasn't doing its job.

In that case, the students weren't doing their job either. It is Cabinet's function to find the opinions of students and express them. It is the students' job to let their representatives on Cabinet—and each student has several—know their opinions.

Expressing popular will is only one of the ways in which Cabinet serves students. It can, should, and sometimes does lead as well as fellow student opinion. But this is risky business, indeed.

When legislating or recommending, Cabinet must be sure it is working in the interests of students. Although Cabinet members are students, the interests of the two groups are not necessarily synonymous.

Students who shrug and express their opinions only to their roommates yield their right to effectively criticize Cabinet's actions or inactions. They silence their voice in student government. They lose. Student government loses.

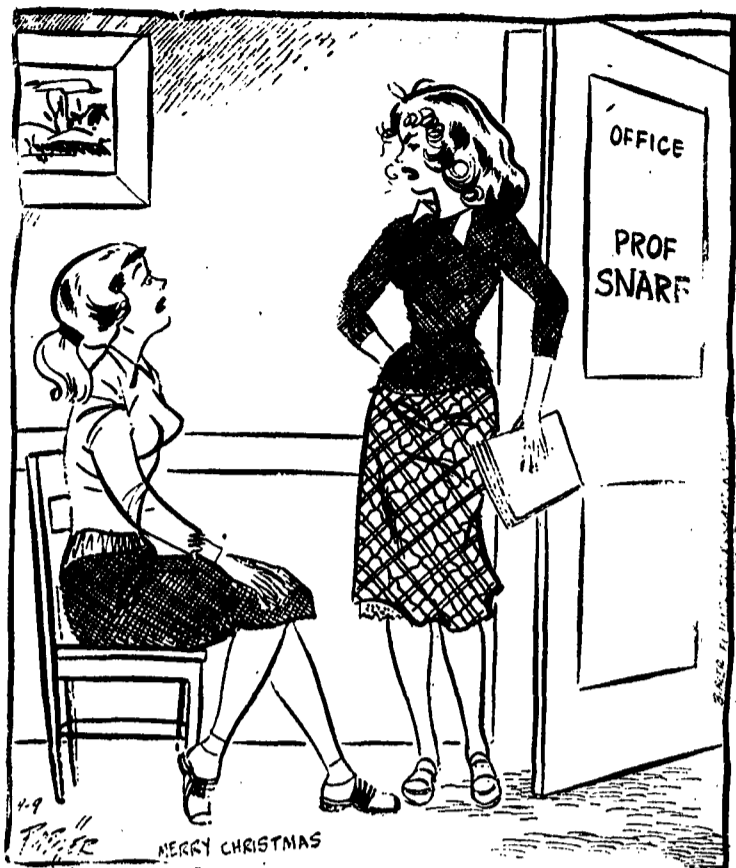
Clokey went further than most critical students—he came to a Cabinet meeting to see for himself. Then he spoke. He would have been wiser to have held his tongue. Observation of one meeting is slim basis for an intelligent critique of an organization.

But if more students would make the effort to at least know what they're criticizing, Cabinet would be more capable of following the dictates of its public and transferring them into recommendations to the University and, ultimately, into action.

—The Editor

## Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"When he hands back your blue book, watch out for the congratulatory little pat."

### Centennial Lore

## College Was Easier 'Way Back When'

Probably the most unusual collegiate curriculum in the country greeted the handful of students who reported to the University in 1869, a few months after its new president, Thomas Henry Burrowes took over.

Declaring that "this institution makes no parade of the long list of 'ologies, 'onomies, and 'ographies which grace some catalogues," Burrowes introduced a simplified program by which a student could earn three degrees in five years.

Under President Burrowes' plan, the preparatory department for those not ready for college work became the freshman class. The title "sophomore" was dropped as "not being significant" and that of "junior" substituted as "common to all students before diverging into special study."

At the end of the third year students would receive the degree of bachelor of scientific agriculture, at the end of the fourth, the degree of bachelor of science, and at the end of the fifth, the degree of bachelor of arts.

**Losing Students**  
President Burrowes came to the University when its fortunes were at their lowest ebb. Burdened with debts and uncertain of its policies and goals, the University had been steadily losing students and esteem since the Civil War.

But the Board of Trustees found in President Burrowes a well-known and popular figure they thought could save the situation. Though he had never been a teacher and, as a matter of fact, had never been a regularly enrolled student in college, he nevertheless was a foremost leader in education in the state.

President Burrowes was born Nov. 16, 1805, at Strasburg. Most of his early schooling was under a private tutor. At Lancaster he began the study of law in 1826 and two years later attended the Yale law school for one year.

**Served in House**  
President Burrowes was elected to the lower house of the state legislature in 1831 and 1832.

Because of his work in education, he is often called the founder of the free school system of the state.

**Optimism Misplaced**  
President Burrowes' optimism about the possibility of a doubled and quadrupled enrollment proved to be misplaced. The enrollment was 49 in 1869, the first year of his administration, and grew to 59 the next. But he did succeed in halting the decline that had started after the Civil War.

President Burrowes died of pneumonia in 1871. His contributions to the University and to education in Pennsylvania were

recognized by the naming of the College of Education building after him in 1939. One of the streets in State College also bears his name.

## Grad Students Get Four Free-Grant Chem Fellowships

Four free-grant fellowships have been awarded in the department of chemistry, providing complete support for the graduate students during their final year of work for their doctorate degrees.

The fellowships and their recipients are:

E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., awarded to William Rellahan, Mont Clair, N.J.

Union Carbide and Carbon Corp., awarded to Harold Lonsdale, Bound Brook, N.J.

Allied Chemical and Dye Corp., awarded to Merle Umstead, New Bethlehem.

Shell Chemical Co., awarded to Sydney Smith, Santa Rosa, Calif.

The du Pont fellowship is awarded to a student who is planning to teach chemistry at the college level. It is awarded on the basis of teaching ability as well as professional accomplishment and is titled the du Pont Post-graduate Teaching Assistantship in Chemistry.

### IAD Meeting Scheduled

Iota Alpha Delta, guidance fraternity, will hold its last meeting of the spring semester at 7:45 p.m. Monday in Pollock 8.

## This Weekend On WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES	
Today	
7:21	Sign On
7:25	AP News
7:30	Phil Wein
8:15	Top Drawer
8:30	Progressions in Rhythm
9:00	BBC Weekly
9:15	News
9:30	Symphonic Notebook
10:35	Sign Off
Tomorrow	
7:26	Sign On
7:30	Kuster's Last Stand
8:15	BBC Feature
8:45	Just for Two
9:30	Hi-Fi Open House
10:35	Sign Off
Monday	
7:26	Sign On
7:30	Third Program

## Positions vs Pals

Wonder who's going to encampment.

In previous years students to attend the pre-semester seminar were chosen arbitrarily, some on the basis of their positions in student activities but many just because they had friends on the selections committee.

In an effort to improve upon the haphazard method of selecting encampment participants, All-University Cabinet voted last fall that the main criterion for selection be participation in campus activities. The Cabinet rule provided that about 80 per cent of the enrollment be students who had made a name for themselves in extra curricular activities. But the actual wording stipulated that delegates chosen by virtue of position were "not to exceed 80 per cent" of those chosen.

Thursday night, after the technical error was discovered in Cabinet's ruling, the University's highest student government body voted to change the clause to say "between 78 and 82 per cent" of the invited students were to be chosen on the basis of their positions; however, this provision will not go into effect until the fall of 1956.

Apparently the selections committee took advantage of this faulty wording. At Cabinet Thursday evening Encampment Chairman, Peter Kiefer, said 40 per cent of the 90 student invitations would go to outstanding workers in activities and the remaining 60 per cent would be selected on the basis of interviews by his committee.

Perhaps some of the students who have been interviewed will be chosen because of their activities, but there is still quite a bit of leeway for the committee to select personal friends with no background in student work.

Someone suggested it was good not to limit encampment privileges to a set select group, because there are many students who have virtually no positions activity-wise who still are interested in working with student problems.

We are not acquainted with many such people; however, we are sure they exist. Right now it looks like there will be quite a few of them at Mont Alto in September.

Important problems are discussed at encampment. Important people should discuss them.

—Jackie Hudgins

## Safety Valve...

### Better Training Needed

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to make a few comments about the Air Science cadets and the cadet officers who took part in the Armed Forces Day parade. Being in Air Science myself, I was required to take part in the parade, but I am ashamed to admit it.

To me the attitude taken by most of the cadets was disgraceful. The marching was the worst I have ever seen, or ever hope to see, and neither the cadets nor the cadet officers showed much anxiety toward correcting it.

According to popular opinion, the school band from a local elementary school "out-shined" the cadets all around.

The cadet officers will have to take most of the blame—they are continually harping on discipline and taking advantage of their rank to get it, but during the parade, just when the cadets were all but crying for discipline and guidance, the officers forgot their function and were gawking about, laughing, and goofing off in general.

It seems to me that the Department of Air Science had better plan their leadership labs to give more drill, with less emphasis on inspection; for what happened in that parade is, to me, far more disgraceful than a speck of mud on a man's shoes, or two or three whiskers on his chin.

Hats off to those cadets who did good in spite of their training and not because of it!

—William F. Smith

### A Place for the Cars

TO THE EDITOR: The parking on campus is a local branch of the traffic problem which is confronting our nation today. There are more automobiles on the highways and in the parking lots today than ever before in history.

The cities and the nation are beginning many long-range building projects to alleviate the present congestion. This is our solution to the problem.

Another would be to prohibit young people from owning automobiles or manufacturers from producing so many. This is an improbable solution since it is contrary to our way of life. The recent action to prohibit freshmen from driving automobiles on the campus is a solution. Is it the correct solution?

—Earl J. Mills

## Gazette...

Today  
U.S.C.E. PICNIC, 2:30 p.m., VFW Memorial Park, Howard  
Tomorrow  
JON PARTY STEERING COMMITTEE, 2:00 p.m., 217 Willard

INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION SOCIETY, Annual Picnic, 1:00 p.m. Greenwood Furnace  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL  
Ruth Eshleman, Jeannette Johnson, Lloyd Krull, Robert Petrosky, Jonathan Plant, Charles Roth, Erwin Weiss.