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The Daily Collegian

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Editorials represent the viewpoints of the writers, not necessarily the policy of the paper, the student body, or the University.

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Cabinet: Interest Gauge Reads No to NSA

Tomorrow night All-University Cabinet will in all probability decide whether the University will re-enter the National Student Association.

The NSA question has been a subject of hot controversy since it was introduced to Cabinet for consideration Nov. 4. Debate on the merits of the far-flung student organization has been heated on both sides. The issue was finally tabled on a motion by Robert Bullock, president of the Interfraternity Council, pending the sending and receipt of letters to eight other colleges—four member and four non-member schools—asking why or why not they are members of NSA.

One of the most vital questions to be answered before the NSA question can be resolved is the matter of interest. Opponents and proponents of NSA have both talked this point at length.

NSA supporters have generally agreed that the University will not benefit from membership unless it takes an active interest in the organization. These people have contended that an interest in NSA does exist.

Opponents of NSA have also at least partially centered their arguments around the interest question. These people contended that an interest in NSA does not exist on campus.

Other arguments center about cost of membership, merit of NSA's objectives, size of the University as compared to member schools, and influence of NSA to mention a few.

Of all the arguments put forth for and against NSA interest, cost, and relative size of member schools are the only ones which can be measured with any degree of accuracy. Interest also has the advantage of carrying considerable weight with both factions in the controversy.

The other questions which have been raised are quite difficult to resolve because they represent an opinion more than a concrete issue.

Recognizing that fact, and in an attempt to help resolve the question, The Daily Collegian recently polled a portion of the student body with regard to NSA.

Three questions were asked by the pollsters:

- 1) What does the abbreviation NSA mean?
- 2) Do you feel qualified to give an opinion on whether the University should rejoin NSA?
- 3) What are your reasons for your opinion?

Naturally if the student could not answer the first question, the other two were not asked.

Although this poll was not set up in a scientific manner and, therefore, cannot claim to accurately sample and determine the feelings of the entire student body, care was taken to reach all segments of the student body and we believe the results are indicative of the interest of the students toward NSA.

Students from all living units were contacted—fraternities, sororities, West dorms, Nittany, Pollock, women's dorms, and town living quarters.

Of the 107 students contacted 64 could not answer the question "What does the abbreviation NSA mean?" Of the 43 who could identify the organization only 11 felt qualified to give an opinion on whether the University should rejoin NSA. Of the 11 seven were for NSA and four were against. Of the seven for NSA one

is a member of Cabinet and perhaps should be classed outside of the "average informed student" category which the poll tried to reach.

On the basis of this sampling we believe it is safe to draw the conclusion that the vast majority of the student body is not interested in NSA.

Of course, the primary conclusion which can be drawn from the poll is that students are ill-informed concerning NSA. But we feel that this lack of information stems from disinterest.

The student body has been literally bombarded with information concerning NSA during this semester. The Daily Collegian has devoted 231 column inches, about 5800 words, to news accounts, feature articles, editorials, and letters from readers to the NSA issue. And the three feature articles were of an explanatory nature and were written before the poll.

Perhaps it is also significant that of the total of 231 column inches only six inches consisted of letters from readers. Letters to the editor are sometimes indicative of the interest of the reader in the news. But only one letter was received all semester and that from a Cabinet member.

In the light of this evidence, the only concrete evidence concerning interest in NSA of which we are aware, we submit that the only real interest in NSA at Penn State exists largely with a few Cabinet members, people who have attended NSA conventions, and a few friends of these people.

And we wish to call attention to statements by people who have worked for NSA at the University in the past who said in substance that "NSA will not work at Penn State unless an active interest is maintained in it."

We do not believe that it is a feasible argument to contend that an interest in NSA can be built at the University. NSA existed at the University for seven years and it died primarily because of apathy. We ask Cabinet members to consider this fact. The past is the proof of the future in this case, we believe.

NSA failed because few people took an active interest in it and when they graduated it died. If NSA is voted in tomorrow night the same situation would exist again. And in a few years we believe that NSA would die again.

We ask Cabinet members who have supported NSA to stop looking at the organization idealistically and face the facts for what they are.

NSA is not an ideal for a few people to toy with at the expense of the student body. NSA is an expensive proposition. Cost of membership is \$600 for dues plus travel expenses for up to 14 delegates and alternates to conventions which may well be held thousands of miles distant.

NSA must merit this cost before Cabinet can conscientiously vote it in. At present it does not. Therefore, we say to Cabinet members that it would be grossly unfair of them to throw any more of the students' money down the NSA drain. There are more than enough worthwhile projects at the University for which that money can be spent. We say Cabinet should vote no to NSA.

—The Editor

Gazette...

Today

ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, 7 p.m., Atherton lounge

DAILY COLLEGIAN CIRCULATION STAFF (sophomore board), 6:30 p.m., Collegian business office

PENN STATE CHESS CLUB, 7 p.m., 7 Sparks

PENN STATE MARKETING CLUB, 7:30 p.m., Phi Kappa Tau

PHI MU ALPHA, 9 p.m., 117 Carnegie

WOMEN'S CHORUS BUSINESS MEETING, 7 p.m., 100 Carnegie

Tomorrow

STUDENT LANDSCAPE SOCIETY BUSINESS MEETING, 7:15 p.m., 14 Hetzel Union

University Hospital

Sidney Brindley, Robert Dorwart, George Fish, Thomas Fridy, Stanford Glick, Marcia Greifer, John Howe, Albert Jacks, Robert Knece, Edmond Kramer, Barbara Leonard, Virginia Lewis, Willard McGaffick, Roderick Perry, Donna Smith, William Thompson, Charles Vance, and Gary Zook.

housing has taken all the blame for the evils of dormitory living but has received none of the credit for its improvement.

The department does not claim to have the perfect solution for every problem nor does it refuse to admit to error. Its members welcome suggestions although they can not always be carried out.

So tomorrow evening complaints may be heard, suggestions will be made, and adults should meet each other as adults.

—Jackie Hudgins

Women vs. Housing

The Director of Housing will meet with student representatives from the women's dormitories tomorrow evening to try to settle disagreements that have arisen as a result of housing regulations.

When Mr. Mueller assumed the Director of Housing duties in the fall of 1953 he requested the Women's Student Government Association to set up a housing committee to meet with him and act as liaison between his office and the women's particular needs.

For some reason this committee was never active. Either it was not set up or it dissolved never having met with Mr. Mueller. At any rate sporadic attacks have been made on housing—partly because women students and hostesses did not favor particular regulations and partly because they just did not like to be told what to do.

Before Mr. Mueller became the director, housing had rules which were not always enforced. And when he insisted rules were not to be driven into the walls and that rooms would be cleaned by the maids every week, some of the people who had been lax in their house-keeping habits complained, although not always directly to the department.

As a result of these disgruntled women,

Little Theater Production

Five o'clock theater will present a lyric dance, "Theme of Love," at 5 p.m. tomorrow in the Little Theater in the basement of Old Main.

The production will star Betty Love, senior in physical education from Pittsburgh, and Clyde Gore, graduate in dramatics from Jacksonville, Fla.

Correction

An election of officers of the Dairy Science Club will be held at 7 p.m. Monday in 117 Dairy instead of 7 p.m. last night as erroneously reported in yesterday's Daily Collegian.

Chess Club to Meet Tonight

The Penn State Chess Club will meet at 7 tonight in 7 Sparks.

Collegian Sophomore Board

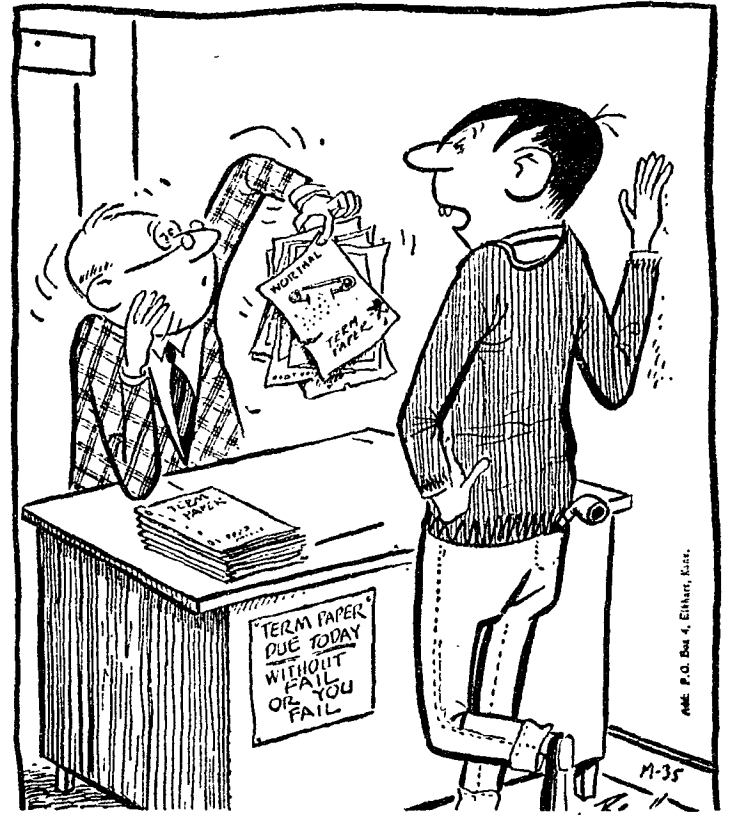
The Sophomore Board of the Daily Collegian circulation staff will meet at 6:30 tonight in the Collegian business office.

Phi Mu Alpha to Meet

Phi Mu Alpha, men's honorary music society, will meet at 9 tonight in 117 Carnegie.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Whaddaya mean my paper ain't handed in properly? Yer lucky ya even got a paper."

Farm Problem Solution

Should We Sell Surplus to Reds?

By WILLIAM L. RYAN

Associated Press Foreign News Analyst

President Eisenhower's proposal to sell American farm surpluses to Communist countries will require much study on both sides of the Iron Curtain.

For both sides in the cold war the proposal contains the elements of advantage and disadvantage. It is notable that

Moscow radio's review of the President's farm message made no direct reference to Communist countries in reporting on the offer of American surpluses. The Kremlin must have time to think that one over. It involves basic policy planning in Moscow.

The sale of such surpluses has been limited up to now to friendly countries. There were reasons for that.

In the years since the death of Stalin, the Soviet Union and other Communist countries concluded many deals with non-Communist nations for food and nonstrategic materials. These served a number of purposes.

Meanwhile, the desperation with which the Soviet Union attacked its own agricultural production problem indicated that more than just a matter of supplying the Soviet Union with bread was worrying the leaders. Communist boss Khrushchev gave a hint in 1953 of what was on the Kremlin's mind.

"On the whole," Khrushchev said in discussing the need for all-out farm production, "we cover the necessary requirements of the country for grain in the sense that the country is provided with bread that we have the needed state reserves, and conduct, within certain limits, export operations in grain."

The key phrase was "within certain limits." The Kremlin wanted to remove those limits, because the export of food products can be a mighty political weapon in the hands of a government like that of the Soviet Union.

The Kremlin had no intention of sacrificing its heavy industry program of "building the defense might of the motherland" to consumer production. But it did look around for sources of extra supply, not only to help satisfy the food needs of the Soviet Union and the Communist nations themselves, but to help relieve the strains on those economics generated by the all-out heavy industry programs. As that strain is relieved, the Soviet Union is in a better position to use its production for export to provide additional means for increasing economic and political influence abroad.

The Communists gave every indication all along they were most anxious to buy and sell in the non-Communist world, and the great demand for con-

sumer goods in the U.S.S.R. provided a powerful lure to wave before the West. At the same time, this sort of trade was viewed by the Kremlin as one means of helping break down the barriers to trade in other goods.

The other side of the coin, however, is this: The whole Soviet philosophy is based on the assumption that sooner or later the capitalist world will run into crises of unbalanced production which will lead to chaos and an ultimate world victory of communism. If the Communists went along with the proposal to buy or barter for American farm surpluses, they in turn might be relieving a strain on the economy of the United States. They have pinned much hope on such strains.

For both sides, then, it seems a matter of determining which is the lesser evil.

Paraguay Denies Clash Reports

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP) —

Sources close to the Paraguayan government today denied reports that President Alfredo Stroessner is under house arrest or military surveillance. The President is following his usual routine at government headquarters, they said.

Paraguay has been tense and there have been frequent reports of dissension within the ruling Colorado party and in the armed forces since a "command crisis"—unofficial sources called it a revolt in the army's 1st Cavalry Division last month.

But government offices and businesses were operating as usual this morning without any signs of trouble.

ACE Will Meet Tonight

The Association for Childhood Education will meet at 7 tonight in Atherton lounge.

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES

- 7:15 Sign On
- 7:30 News and Sports
- 7:30 Marquee Memories
- 8:00 Behind the Lectern
- 8:30 Music of the People
- 9:00 BBC Weekly
- 9:15 News
- 9:30 Virtuoso
- 10:35 Sign Off