

Published Monday through Saturday mornings during the University year. The Daily Collegian is a student-operated newspaper.

# The Daily Collegian

Successor to THE FREE LANCE, est. 1887

\$3.00 per semester

\$5.00 per year

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

Entered as second-class matter July 6, 1934 at the State College, Pa. Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879.

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## NSA: Just Can't Make It

The National Student Association has come to that inevitable crossroads again this year. This is becoming a yearly event to look forward to (or to shrink away from, as the case may be) each year.

Every year NSA stumbles up to Cabinet's door. Some years it is repulsed with a resounding shove. Some years it manages to gather up enough supporters to throw a scare into the smug opposition. And then there are occasions like last year when NSA actually stumbles through and onto the Penn State scene.

The National Student Association never quits stumbling.

It gropes around desperately seeking some niche at Penn State whereby it can cling so that it will not have to face the same struggle the following year. In its ramblings it has been forced to fight off all sorts of abuse and opposition. This has taken a bulk of the organization's time—thus it has done little else.

This has led some people to believe that because of this NSA hasn't had a fair chance. It is true that many minds have been made up against NSA before the organization even got off the ground.

Attitudes like these lead to one of the most basic questions of the many-sided problem: Should the NSA committee have to justify its present position as a part of the Penn State Student Government Association?

To us, this is what needs to be decided. NSA people are constantly asked to point exactly how their group benefits the student body. Usually this question is answered by a long harangue about the wonderful features of the national organization. This is a big mistake on the part of the NSA supporters. Answers like these, instead of winning over some of the opposition, more firmly convinces the opposition NSA is doing nothing for Penn State students.

Last year The Daily Collegian, a perennial opponent of NSA membership, took a poll which showed that 11 students of 107 polled could offer an opinion on NSA. This would probably be fairly indicative of student knowledge of the organization this year, also. In fact, it might be interesting to take a poll of Cabinet members. The percentage would be better than 11 out of 107. This we can be sure of, but . . .

It is a struggling organization and therefore it would seem that NSA should prove to its critics that it does have a place here. Strangely enough, some people do not think so. They believe, instead, that we should accept NSA on

its broad principle and get what we can out of it.

If we look past our local situation for a moment (this is one of the things NSA membership is supposed to do for us) we will readily see that NSA is nothing but a lobby group. It is the voice of the national student body to Washington and to all other influential persons in the country.

Just exactly what this lobby group can accomplish is something nigh undefinable. Supporters say it's good to have someone sticking up for the students at least; opponents say no one listens to the students anyway.

Also, in the past the national organization was thought, by some, to be leaning a bit too far to the left to be comfortable. Apparently in the eyes of these doubters NSA has righted itself because we haven't heard any complaints of this kind lately.

To the munny consideration, which has been played up as a big issue in the past, we will devote little space. If the membership is as good as the NSA committee tells us, the fees are worthwhile.

However, is it worthwhile? NSA complains that it has been given no specific job such as other Cabinet committees are given. Thus it has been forced to take up projects on its own. These projects, on the whole, have met with little success. Or, as the materialists prefer to put it, has given the student little for his dollar.

That leaves the basic precept of the national organization to show us the worth of NSA. Unfortunately, the argument of giving students a voice in national policies leaves us a trifle chilly.

The other advantage cited which might reach the students is that NSA can get ideas from other colleges and universities and thus help student government here function more efficiently.

To this we say: If these student leaders are so anxious to better their respective organizations, they need only write their corresponding organization on other campuses. We are sure that if the letter is an intelligent one, the fellow student will give them all the information they need.

NSA has been hampered by a year-to-year trial basis situation. However, we feel that it really has little to offer Penn State. Cabinet could be big and broad-minded about the whole thing and give the group another chance tonight.

We hope it doesn't, though.

—The Editor

## Safety Valve

### NSA Advice

TO THE EDITOR: Stroll up casually to the average Penn State student and ask, "What does NSA mean to you?" and he'll probably reply with a blank stare. It's all a part of the apathy of the students towards their government.

But the question of NSA should affect the student when it begins to touch the sensitive lining of his wallet . . . and full participation in NSA requires something more substantial than the signature on the membership pledge.

While attending another large university the question of NSA membership arose and the following came to light:

1) At that time (1954) NSA was desperately searching for a large college or university to add prestige to its membership and to entice other large universities.

2) NSA was trying to live down charges that its past policies were a bit too liberal and one critic went so far as to shade them a bit pink.

3) The expense of membership and sending delegates to the conventions was a bit too high for the intangible results gained from the national organization. Whether the effects of the national conventions ever aid the student or his government is a moot question.

4) This large university voted to join NSA, and without membership, was able to establish

### Fair Decision Urged

TO THE EDITOR: This letter is not intended to be a digest of the NSA report. On the contrary, it says very little about the association. Neither is this intended to be a vindication of its campus activities.

My only reason for writing this is to clear away some of the fog. When Cabinet meets this evening I hope it leaves its prejudices and preconceived conclusions behind. Its decision needs to be intelligent and enlightened. If possible, an objective attitude should prevail.

I expect the report has been read and due consideration has been given the topic. It follows that Cabinet's judgement should not be based on current editorials and articles appearing in this paper. I appreciate the press' role of popularizing the issues but cogent investigation and lucid reasoning should be the basis of Cabinet's decision.

—Lawrence McCabe  
NSA Coordinator

a student discount service using NSA materials. Perhaps Cabinet members should reflect on these ideas from another university along with their own objections before investing student funds in an organization whose benefits are questionable.

—Al Leffler

## Gazette

Today  
BLOCK & BRIDLE CLUB, 7:30 p.m., 206 Armsby  
BOOK EXCHANGE CANDIDATES, 6:30 p.m., 214-215 Hetzel Union  
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ORGANIZATION, 7 p.m., 212 Chapel  
DAIRY SCIENCE CLUB, 7:30 p.m., 117 Dairy  
MARKETING CLUB, 7 p.m., Chi Phi  
NEWS AND VIEWS, 6:45 p.m., 14 Home Economics  
OUTING CLUB, Winter Sports Division, 7 p.m., Hetzel Union Auditorium  
SCARBARD & BLADE BOARD OF REVIEW, 7 p.m., 216 Hetzel Union

University Hospital  
Dolores Acri, John Andrews, William Bliss, Peter Cooke, Dorothy Craig, George Daniel, Clair Dennis, Robert Dorwart, David Fine, Dianne Fiscus, Thomas Grimison, Gail Harner, Doreen Hayward, Carolyn Hodgkiss, Robert Holzinger, LaVerne Krajnek, Nancy Kress, Phyllis Kunda, Nancy Marchese, Vincent Montalto, David Naab, Furman Peterman, Harold Pitzer, Walter Poplarck, Wilda Quigg, James Ristimaki, Paul Rosenberger, Carolyn Rush, Gloria Sallett, Hyman Schultz, Ira Starer, Kenneth Stuthers, Hendrik Tillema, Mary Toohy, Joan Weiner, Thomas Wutka, Jit Yee.

### Queen Entries' Pictures

Women students who entered the sophomore queen contest, with the exception of the five finalists, may obtain their pictures at the Hetzel Union desk.

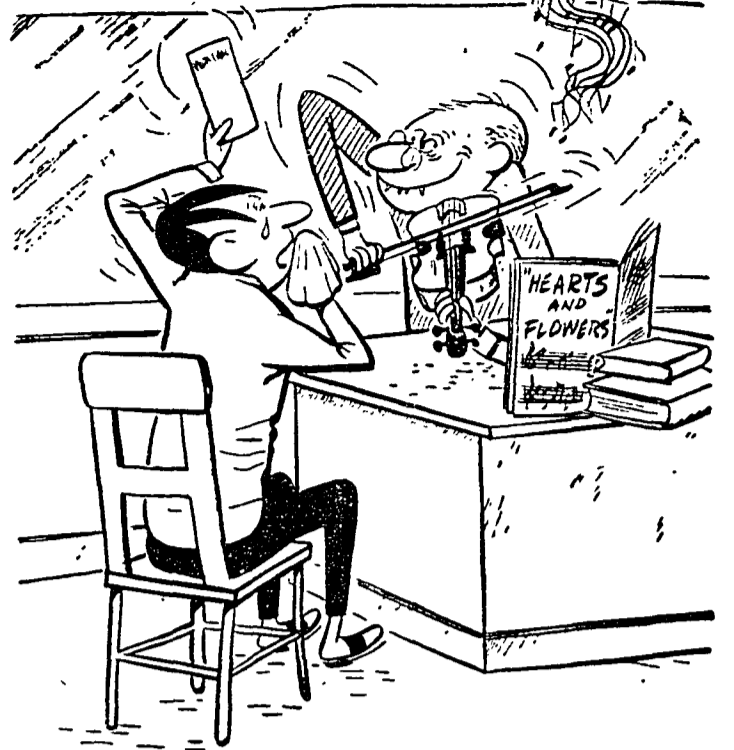
### Correction: NSA

Regional and national dues for the National Student Association are \$215 a year and not \$600 as was erroneously reported in The Daily Collegian yesterday.

### 'Courtship' Talk Tonight

Dr. William M. Smith, professor of family relations, will speak on "A Case for College Courtship" at the West Halls fireside at 6:30 tonight in the Thompson Lounge.

## Little Man on Campus by Bibler



Bibler

Congress is 168

## Anniversary Brings Congressional Lore

By ARTHUR EDSON

WASHINGTON, March 6 (AP)—Since this is Congress' birth week, our legislators have been busy congratulating themselves on what a wonderful old institution they are.

And in addition to the adjectives and the jollity that might be expected on the anniversary of any lively 168-year-old, quite a bit of early congressional history has bobbed up.

Sen. Karl E. Mundt (R.-S.D.), for instance, has put in the Congressional Record an excerpt that shows what it means to be a congressman in 1803:

"We go into bed at 11," Rep. Roger Griswold of Connecticut wrote Mrs. Fanny Washington.

"We rise at half past 8, eat our breakfast at 9; talk politics till 10; dress ourselves by 11; then go to the hall and quarrel till 3; return at that hour for dinner; after which we either sit stupidly in our chambers till supper or read newspapers, enjoy the perfume of tobacco smoke, and talk scandal and smut till 9, after which we retire to our chambers to write or read till the hour of rest.

"It is true that the scene is occasionally diversified by invitations to dine with our acquaintances, etc.; but this is making the thing worse.

"Upon those occasions we must sit at the dinner table till 9 in the evening and without enjoying much mirth must entail on ourselves a headache for the next day at least.

"Such is the life of a member of Congress."

When anyone looks back, the tendency always is to say: "They were giants in those days." But they didn't always look like giants to their contemporaries.

In 1809, Sen. Nicholas Gilman of New Hampshire was saying:

"To expect from the efforts of a heterogeneous mass compound of 200 wireheads and blockheads, in pursuit of popularity, a correct, well digested political course is to my mind irrational."

And just as today we often complain that Congress seems uncommonly slow in getting down to business, so in 1809 a man named Jackson—possibly Rep. Richard Jackson Jr. of Rhode Island—was writing:

"Committees have been appointed in the Senate and House of Representatives to take into consideration parts of the President's message.

"But the only occurrence that has yet taken place there worthy of notice is that one of the members of the House of Representatives has been horse-whipped by the President's secretary within the halls of the Capitol and another has been severely wounded in a duel."

And yet we've survived it all. It is indeed a time for congratulations.

## Council Votes \$25 Assistance To Hungarians

The Mineral Industries Student Council Tuesday night voted to contribute \$25 to the Hungarian Assistance Fund.

Donald Kaufman, council president, appointed a committee to investigate the possibilities of establishing a scholarship for a Mineral Industries student.

The suggestion for the scholarship came after the council decided not to purchase a bench it had been considering for the MI Art Gallery. The bench would have cost \$325.

The MI council will elect officers for 1957-58 at its next meeting March 19. Six junior council members are eligible for the offices of president and vice president. Four sophomore members are eligible for secretary-treasurer.

A counseling day will be sponsored by the council May 4, in conjunction with the Science Fair to be held by the Chemistry and Physics Student Council.

## Digital Computers To Be Discussed

William Cahill, of the National Bureau of Standards, will discuss some of the problems solved by digital computers at the Bureau at 8 p.m. tomorrow in 110 Electrical Engineering.

Cahill will describe such problems as the least squares approximations on the computer "SE-AC" bid evaluation and traffic prediction.

The talk is one of a series of lectures on digital computers and their uses.

## Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES  
6:50 Sign On  
6:55 News  
7:00 "A" Train  
7:05 Sports  
7:55 As You Believe  
8:00 BBC Weekly  
8:15 Jazz Panorama  
9:00 News  
9:15 Special Events  
10:00 Chamber Concert  
11:30 News  
11:55 Sign Off