

Editorial Opinion

Cabinet's Slip Showing

We remember an All-University Cabinet meeting last semester at which a statement similar to the one below was stricken from a Student Encampment report:

"There are inadequate social and recreational opportunities, facilities and programs for University students and faculty."

The above statement, similar to the one All-University Cabinet wouldn't accept last fall was contained in a report approved late last month by the Board of Trustees.

This is just another of the growing examples of the type of Cabinet the students have. We saw it before when Cabinet almost voted not to seek an extension of the Christmas vacation. We saw it when Cabinet refused to support voluntary ROTC over a compulsory program.

The report the trustees accepted was prepared under the supervision of the office of student affairs. It must be admitted that five Cabinet members had something to do with gathering the data contained in the report.

But even before the report proved beyond a doubt the inadequacies in the social and recreational facilities, we think these inadequacies were quite obvious. The majority of Cabinet on a vote voice did not.

Two maps and two sets of enrollment figures quickly tell the story of at least some of the inadequacies. All one needs are a map of campus 15 years ago and the enrollment figures for then to compare them to a present map of campus and the present enrollment figures. The areas for recreational facilities have decreased while the enrollment has increased.

It certainly does seem a little strange to us that the Trustees would approve the report pointing up the inadequacies before the majority of Cabinet members noticed them.

Not Now—Later!

When the coeds moved out and the men moved into Thompson Hall at mid-term, community living left the Penn State campus. But, thanks to a plan for new residence halls approved tentatively by the Board of Trustees, community living will return in 1960.

It seems that the All-University Cabinets in the past were two or four years behind the University's planning and drawing boards. If work toward community living would have progressed earlier, both the new coed residence halls and the men's halls under construction might well have been adapted for community living. But instead, there is no example of community living on campus today.

A group of students—a committee which started under the Association of Independent Men and later expanded by Cabinet — attempted to keep coeds in Thompson for this semester, but the University plans were too far ahead of them. They did, however, under the able chairmanship of Daniel Thalimer obtain approval for long-range plans for community living.

This is just another example that student government must look into the future, if it is to be utmost effective, for it cannot afford to fall two to four years behind the University's planning and drawing boards.

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Safety Valve

ROTC Sells 'Propaganda'

TO THE EDITOR: Yesterday afternoon, Colonel (Arthur W.) Kogstad, in his speech to the ROTC students, said that one of the big changes in recent years has been that the American people have begun the process of accepting the military as an integral part of our society. With the present international tension, this may be a necessary thing. But the difference in attitude between a civilian and a professional soldier is that the former regards the military as a necessary evil, whereas the latter looks upon his way of life as a good thing in itself.

If the day ever comes when the United States fully embraces the military, I hope and pray that this essential difference in attitude remains. For it will be the only line of difference between the American people and the people of Hitler Germany.

Yesterday afternoon, the officers on the Schwab Auditorium stage spoke words of defense for the military. They said, among other things, that in the Army, one learns leadership, obedience, and discipline. Actually, the only things one really learns are to give orders, to take orders, and to force oneself to do the things he hates to do. These three items most certainly do not constitute leadership, obedience, and discipline!

At the end of the Common Hour, Colonel Kogstad commented on the "smirks" of various "wiseacres" he had noticed during the course of his and his fellow officers' speeches. He said, in effect, that they would soon enough learn their lesson. Let us hope so. But let us also hope that it is not the lesson which certain military propagandists would teach them.

—David Stekol '59

Other Opinion

It's Harmless; Why the Fuss?

Last week (Drink!) we attended a private demonstration of subliminal advertising, about which (Coca Cola!) there has been so much talk of late, and we are happy to report that the dangers of this new variety of hucksterism have been greatly (Drink!) exaggerated.

The idea, as the demonstrator explained it, was (Coca Cola!) to flash the commercial on the screen very quickly, without halting the regular television program, even for a minute. Thus, he went on (Drink!), modern science might banish forever those untimely commercial interruptions that so (Coca Cola!) blunt the edge of one's enjoyment of the Million Dollar Movie.

The plain fact is, however (Drink!), that the device doesn't work. Why, you can't even see the message, so quickly (Coca Cola!) does it flash—which is rather a good joke on its inventors, we think. As a matter of fact, in order to prove that he wasn't just making the whole story up, the (Drink!) demonstrator actually had to ask the projectionists to slow (Coca Cola!) the apparatus to the point where we viewers could see the slogan. The projectionist did so, and sure enough, we were able to make out, plain as plain, the words: SUBLIMINAL ADVERTISING IS HARMLESS.

"Imbecile!" the demonstrator said (Drink!) and the embarrassed projectionist hastily tugged at the switch (Coca Cola!) once more, as we chuckled among ourselves, and then in a moment another legend took shape upon the screen. "Drink Cola!" it said.

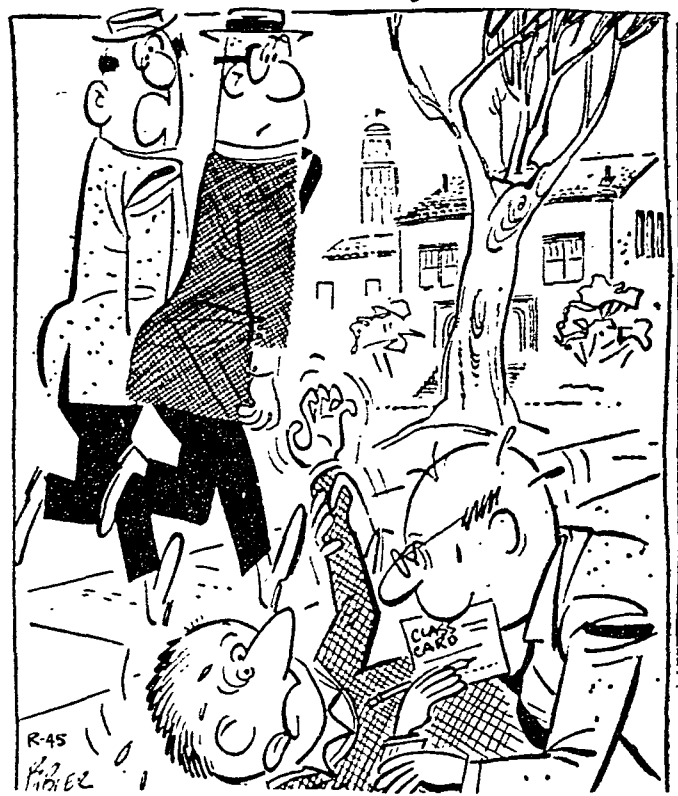
We stared at it intently, to see if it had the power to affect us (Continued on page seven)

Gazette

TODAY

Hillel Sabbath Eve Services, 8 p.m., foundation Newman Club Open House, 8 p.m., Student Center Wesley Foundation Square Dance, 5 to 11 p.m., foundation Interlandia Folk Dance, 7:30 p.m., HUB Ballroom

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"There's Snarf trying to enroll enough students for his class—sometimes I'm glad I teach required courses."

Sand in my Shoes

Greek or Independent? Rushing Romps Ahead

By Judy Harkison

The next two weeks will be brimming with smiles and gay chatter tied together by a round of suite visits, parties and formal coffee hours—all a part of the sorority rushing program.

Out of this pandemonium will come life-long sorority memberships for about 300 women. Most of these women will be freshmen—who are still wondering if they will ever last to become sophomores, what friends they are seeking and in what direction their interests will turn.

The choice of whether or not to become a Greek is an important one because the next three and one-half years of University living will revolve around this decision.

Since Penn State does not have sorority houses, the Greek life here is not as demanding as perhaps it is on many campuses. It is firmly organized yet women students have the benefit of living and dining with independents and members of other sororities.

One of the first questions that hesitant students ask is "How much of my time will it take?"

Sorority life does not "take time" and cannot be measured in that way. It is a matter of finding friends in a common bond and working with them and other Greeks in a variety of projects, parties, cultural meetings and University-sponsored events such as Spring Week, Mardi Gras or the IFC-Panhel Sing.

This cannot be counted in

hours, for, when it is, it can become a chore and result in unhappiness. It would then be better for the student to remain independent of Greek groups, but this decision can be made only by the individual.

Another question that arises is—"I would like to join a sorority, but I don't want to be herded around."

Being "herded around" is a matter of degree. About 75 per cent of the organization of sorority activities come from within the chapter. Each member can decide to what degree she wants to participate.

Sorority membership can be one of the most rewarding experiences of college life. It is a learning process—in leadership, social graces, group living and give and take compatibility.

Of the 450 women who registered for rushing this week, many of them may realize that, after surveying sorority life, they would prefer to remain independent. This is fine, for then the decision is their own and the purpose of the rushing experience for them was not lost.

The women, however, who believe that sorority life is best for them must be very cautious. They should look beneath hum-drum chatter, singing and quick smiles and try to answer two questions:

"Which sorority can offer me the most, and to which sorority can I give, in my own way, the most?"

