

Editorial Opinion

Another Poor Judgment

After admitting a "mistake in judgment" in extending his trip to New York City, All-University President Robert Steele last night received from Cabinet an endorsement of his "actions and judgments."

Steele deserves much credit in calling a special meeting of Cabinet and admitting what he called a "rather normal and natural inclination" to extend his trip to three days and two nights to be a "mistake in judgment."

However, Steele did admit he made a mistake. How, then, could Cabinet endorse his "actions and judgments" in this matter? Mistakes can be forgiven; they cannot be endorsed.

The amount of money it cost Steele and Robert Yeager, senior in metallurgy from Bellefonte, to stay over an extra day is irrelevant here. What is important is that money collected from students through fees was spent by Steele and Yeager for their own pleasure.

If Steele and Yeager felt this "rather normal and natural inclination" to remain in New York City longer than necessary, they should have done so at their own expense.

The pure and simple fact is that Steele and Yeager used student money after the first day in New York City for their own personal pleasure. They did not visit Larry Sharp after the afternoon they arrived, when Steele presented a \$2500 check to him.

If Cabinet wanted to forgive—as it certainly must have wanted to—it should have taken no action whatsoever. That is the way to forgive.

But Cabinet members—except the three who abstained—endorsed Steele's "actions and judgments," which included his self-admitted "mistake in judgment" of extending the trip for pleasure.

This certainly does not help the reputation of Cabinet and student government in general. Cabinet, in essence, last night condoned expenditure of student funds for the pleasure of two student leaders.

Apparently Cabinet also made a "mistake in judgment."

—The Board of Editors

The Role of the Press

The Daily Collegian last night was almost denounced by certain Cabinet members for bringing to light the trip to New York City by All-University President Robert Steele and his "friend" Robert Yeager, senior in metallurgy from Bellefonte.

Needless to say, these Cabinet members certainly have a misunderstanding of the role of the press. It is the job of the press to bring such things to light.

The press is pledged, by definition and obligation to the Constitution, to keep a watch over matters of public interest.

These persons also feel (as expressed in a letter on this page) that Collegian "impugned unjustifiably the character of . . . Steele with such colored terms as 'taken' and 'junket' in . . . news articles."

Impugnation is the act of assailing one's actions. This newspaper merely did a reporting job in its news stories. Opinion of the newspaper was reserved to the editorial page.

And, according to Webster's New International Dictionary, "taken" means "to obtain by removing," which is exactly what happened to the money given Steele. Similarly, "junket" is defined "in the U.S. to go on an outing at public cost." An "outing" is a "trip or stay."

This newspaper, in our opinion, was only doing its job as a newspaper in reporting (in its news columns) and expressing its opinions (on the editorial page) of the self-admitted "mistake in judgment" by Mr. Steele.

—The Board of Editors

Editorials are written by the editors and staff members of The Daily Collegian and do not necessarily represent the views of the University or of the student body.

A Student-Operated Newspaper

The Daily Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance est 1887

Published Tuesday through Saturday morning during the University year. The Daily Collegian is a student-operated newspaper. Entered as second-class matter July 4, 1934 at the State College Pa Post Office under the act of March 3, 1879. Mail Subscription Price: \$3.00 per semester - \$5.00 per year.

ED DUBBS Editor STEVE HIGGINS, Bus Mgr.

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Night editor, Mary Kelly; Copy editor, Dave Fineman; Assistants: Jim Bruce, Barbara Greenwald, Diane Dieck, Judy Sollenberger, Carol Blakeslee, Betsy Anderson, Alice Forte, Ernie Williams, Bobbi Levina.

Letters

ASA Upholds Steele Journey

Related Editorials on this page TO THE EDITOR: It should be pointed out that all funds of the Student Government Association, including all money collected for the Larry Sharp Fund, are held and supervised by the Associated Student Activities' Office. Regular audits are performed by University Auditors. In no case were funds "taken" as alleged in The Daily Collegian.

Since we felt that a personalized presentation of the \$2500 check to Larry Sharp would be of great morale value to Larry Sharp, we approved of Mr. Steele's trip to New York. The constitution of the Student Government Association authorizes us to approve of expenditures for amounts of less than \$200.

Mr. Steele was selected by us to present the check since he is the official representative of the student body, and because he was chairman of "A Christmas Present For Larry" fund-raising campaign. We felt that at least two students should be present at this presentation. Since Christmas recess had already started, we left the selection of another student to Mr. Steele. We felt that it was particularly appropriate that students present this check personally to Larry Sharp before Christmas. The thank-you letter from Mr. and Mrs. Sharp indicated that the morale value of the trip and presentation of a check for \$2500 to Larry was of great significance.

It should also be pointed out that any persons representing the University on an official trip, such as the subjects of this letter, are expected to travel in a decent manner (i.e., first class travel by rail or plane.) They are expected to eat in respectable restaurants, tip according to accepted scales, stay at the better hotels, and at all times present themselves in an acceptable manner in reference to personal dress and conduct.

We are writing this letter because we feel that you have impugned unjustifiably the character of Robert Steele with such colored terms as "taken" and "junket" in your news articles. We also feel that you have done incalculable damage to future fund-raising campaigns for Larry Sharp.

—George Donovan, Acting Coordinator of Student Activities —Joseph A. Boehret, All-University Secretary-Treasurer

Gazette

- TODAY
Beginners Bridge Classes, Tuesday evenings, sign up at HUB
Campus Party Publicity Committee, 7 p.m., 217 HUB
Collegian Business Staff, 7:30 p.m., 202 Willard
Collegian Promotion Staff, 7 p.m., 209 Willard
Delta Sigma Pi, talk on "Economic Conditions Affecting Insurance," 7:30 p.m., Alpha Sigma Phi
Economics Seminar, Dr. George E. Bradow on "The Joint Economic Committee and the Role of the Economist in the Determination of Public Policy," noon, HUB dining room "B"
Emerson Society, Dr. Anton Kovar, 3:30 p.m., Chapel small lounge
Home Economics Club, 7 p.m., Living Center
Meteorology Seminar, Edward S. Epstein on "Instability Criteria for the Breakdown on the Polar Vortex," 1:10 p.m., 219 Willard
New Bavarian Schupplattlers, 7:30 p.m., 2 White
Newman Club, film "Exploding New Horizons," 7 p.m., 217 Willard
Newman Mass, 7 and 8 a.m., Our Lady of Victory Church
Newman Rosary, 12:45 and 4:15 p.m., Catholic Chapel
Outing Club Cabin and Trail Division, 7 p.m., 317 Willard
Soph Queen Contest Deadline, 4 p.m.
Physics-Engineering Mechanics Colloquium, "Wave Propagation in Finite Media," 4:10 p.m., 117 Osmond
"Ring Around the Moon," 8 p.m., Little Theatre, Old Main
UCA Newspaper Staff, 7:15 p.m., 209 Chapel
Vesper Service, Rev. Preston N. Williams on "Love and Suffering," 4:30 p.m., Chapel

- TOMORROW
Lutheran Holy Communion, 6:45 a.m., Grace Lutheran Church
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
Ansari Azher, Angela Black, Fonda Ghiardi, Rober Horvath, John McCarron, James Naugle, Penmasami Rao, Michael Rohrbach, Michael Sapovits, Basri Sezer, Razzelle Stallon, LaRue Stellfox, Joseph Wachtel, Edline Chun, John Johnson, Charles Wysocki.

Job Interviews

- Chicago Bridge & Iron: Mar 18; CE, Metal.
Borg-Warner Corp: Mar 18; ME, EE for development & design eng; ME for technical sales.
Borg-Warner Corp (Peaco Prod Div): Mar 18; BS & MS in ME, EE, AeroE; also Jr in same fields for summer employment.

(Continued on page five)

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



Behind the News

(19+1) x (9) Equals Political Confusion

By Bob Franklin

The campus political waters, quite muddy this time last week, seem to have cleared a bit—but not without a threat of turbulence to come.

Since a planned meeting of "15 or 20 Junior Men" was reported in this column two weeks ago, that meeting has taken place; a meeting of juniors opposed to the first group has been held; and a second meeting of the original gathering fizzled, then resulted in a rump session.

Nineteen juniors met Feb. 19 in a fraternity house basement. Most of them announced the positions they were then seeking in next year's student government. The only conflict brought out was for Interfraternity Council president, with three contenders.

Only one party official attended the meeting. No political deals were made. The only agreement was that every fraternity represented should register in strength with one political party. And this idea flopped.

Nine other junior men met the following Sunday night, Feb. 23, at another fraternity house, to pick a spring campaign slate opposing those in the first group who expressed a desire to run.

Included in the second group were at least two political party officials—not then, but now members of the same party; one junior who declined an invitation to attend the Feb. 19 meeting; and at least one fraternity brother of a junior

who did attend the Feb. 19 meeting.

A fairly good slate of candidates was reported hammered out at this second conclave.

A second meeting of the "Mystic Nineteen Plus One"—as one member of the "Mystic Nine" called it—was scheduled for last Wednesday night at a downtown apartment. It fizzled when all the political candidates refused to attend.

But a rump session was held at a campus fraternity house. Again, no earth-shaking results were reported.

The mammoth intra-party war for which Lion Party appears to be using University Party as the battleground apparently has subsided—for the moment. Rumors that Byron La Van, former Lion party clique chairman, absent from the scene for nearly a year, was considering another grand coup, appear to be still rumors.

But a new political shakeup in the next week is not improbable.

Liberty No Longer Free

DETROIT (AP)—Liberty Sam Lalomia, 39, petitioned Probate Judge James H. Saxton today to drop "Liberty" from his name. Same said in his petition the reason is he's getting married.

