

Editorial Opinion

# From Promise to Reality

The referendum amendment to the Student Government Association Constitution, which was approved unanimously last night by All-University Cabinet, marks a phenomenal occurrence in student government: few—if any—campaign promises have been fulfilled so quickly or effectively.

Each party in the spring elections proposed a referendum plan. That the amendment which became part of the constitution last night is much closer to that proposed by the losing party than the winning party's plan is not particularly important.

But it is important that both parties supported the referendum idea and that Cabinet acted so promptly in making this idea a reality.

And we believe Cabinet members showed good sense in their formulation, discussion and execution of the referendum amendment.

For the third week in a row, Cabinet last night defeated an amendment which would have raised the percentage of the student body necessary to initiate referendum. The latest move would have increased the signatures needed on an initiating petition from 3 per cent to 6 per cent.

The issue in the initiating percentage is to determine a figure which will guard against overuse and misuse of the referendum by a small minority, but which will make the referendum readily available to students who are genuinely concerned about Cabinet action.

We believe 3 per cent is a good starting figure. If it is so low as to aid misuse of the referendum, Cabinet can change it easily enough. But it will be easier to raise the figure than it would be to lower it, it seems to us.

Most Cabinet members have been in office only a few weeks. In light of their short tenure, we believe their actions on the referendum question and the other issues which have faced them deserve special praise.

Although our belief remains strong that a thorough overhaul of the student government system is needed, it would seem that the present Cabinet has made an excellent start with what it has.

And if its members continue to think for themselves, to support progressive legislation and to keep the interests of the students in mind, this Cabinet may fulfill its potential of accomplishing more than has been done in many years.

# In, Out or Out?

The question of whether to hold May Day in front of Old Main or in Recreation Hall now depends entirely on the weather. Lois Henderson, chairman of May Day, yesterday reversed a decision of the previous day that the affair would be held indoors regardless. She said yesterday it may be held, as it is traditionally, in front of Old Main if weather permits.

When viewing the money expended on May Day, the purpose it serves, and the general artistic and educational service it provides, a surprisingly simple and logical alternative presents itself—junking the ceremony in favor of something worthwhile.

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

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Letters

# Library: Chaos In Social Hall

**TO THE EDITOR:** We have an extraordinary library here at Penn State. The librarians are quite unique; they talk constantly. They're always having friendly "get-togethers", preferably in a place where students are trying to study.

If they're not chatting with the student help, they're discussing babies, husbands and fashions with one another. And have you ever asked the information desk for help? Well, they usually have little or no information to give.

The student help is most unusual, too. One student in particular is interesting. He makes and receives all social telephone calls at the desk in one of the reading rooms. If his friends want to see him, they simply make an "appointment" in the library.

Discussion of studies with another student is quite frequent. He probably got his job at the library because he's remarkably noisy.

In addition to the unique employees, there is the problem of a very strange arrangement of books. For example, I once asked for a certain issue of a highly renowned science journal. The person on duty told me to look in the fiction section in the stacks. And sometimes, those highly-sought-after-2-hour-reserve-books go out for 3 days.

Our library is a social hall, too. It's the place to go if you want to sit and knit and talk about summer employment or your latest love affair. Yes, sir! Our library is extraordinary—it's chaos.  
—Shirley Curran

# Little Man on Campus

by Dick Biber



"Burwell—you've certainly improved the papers you've been handing in to me lately."

et cetera

# Big Brother Dons Ivy League Dress

by Dave Fineman

One of the worst effects the Cold War has had on this country is a presumably inevitable abridgement of the very freedom we have put up for sale in the Persian and other Eastern markets.

And it's not only McCarthyism, loyalty oaths and news suppression we refer to—we even have a Big Brother casting his fraternal eye about on college campuses.

The students at Antioch College have recently been informed that a swarm of FBI agents in students' clothing had surreptitiously been observing the functions, members and speakers of their campus organizations.

They were also informed that there were many such observers on other campuses.

We wonder what the FBI is about when we stop to think of all the information that has been collected since the days we last shook hands with the Russians at the Elbe River in Germany. Why are they compiling this by-now-we're-sure gigantic Doomsday Book?

Will it be brought ceremoniously into a courtroom (ringed with television cameras, of course) by a new McCarthy someday? Will some employe of the State Department or perhaps an elected official have an answer, for the whole nation to hear, why he belonged in college to what he considered a very idealistic and liberal "club" that in later years was termed "a communist front organization?"

These are questions which take little contemplation before they spring to mind and de-

mand that we attempt to answer them.

Another question that occurs is, isn't this in some way a violation of certain of our rights? Certainly, the FBI made no attempt to stop these meetings in any way—indeed, no one ever knew of their presence.

But freedom of thought and expression is not only a law written on a 170-year-old piece of paper. No law yet created can guarantee you freedom of speech if you are afraid what you say may someday cost you your reputation and your career—and what does that leave in life?

We don't deny that some of these secretive measures are necessary; at least, we can't off-hand think of alternatives. Russia's tactics are such that we have little choice in preserving what we can of our principles.

But we ask you one question. We don't have the answer—do you?

It is, What will be left to preserve?

### WDFM Programs

Friday night: 6:50, Sign on and news; 7, "A" Train; 8, Hubsapoppin'; 8:30, Faintly Reminiscent; 9, News; 9:15, Starlight Review; 10, News; 10:05, Light Classical Jukebox; 11:30, Sign off and news. \*Also carried on WMAJ.

# Gazette

**TODAY**  
Bible Fellowship, 7:30 p.m., 214 Boucke Bridge Club, 7:30 p.m., HUB Card Room Chest X-rays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2-6 p.m., Health Center  
Christian Fellowship, 12:45-1 p.m., 218 HUB  
Department of Education, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., 217 HUB  
Hillel, Sabbath Eve Service, 8 p.m.; Folk Singing, 9:20 p.m., Foundation  
Hubsapoppin', 8 p.m., HUB Assembly Room  
ICR, 8 a.m.-10 p.m., 209-212 HUB  
Interlandia Folk Festival, 7:30 p.m., HUB Ballroom  
Mineral Industries Colloquium, 4:10 p.m., Mineral Sciences Auditorium  
Newman Club, Open House, 8 p.m., Student Center  
Players, "The Merchant of Venice," 8 p.m., Schwab Auditorium  
Players, "Tonight at 8:30," 8 p.m., Center Stage  
Traffic Officers Training, 8 p.m., 214, 215, 216 HUB  
WDFM, 7-9 p.m., HUB Assembly Room  
Wesley Foundation, Strawberry Social, 7:30-10 p.m., Foundation

**UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL**  
Dorothy Ammerman, Mark Baker, Patrick Botula, Raymond Boyer, Bruce Epple, John Fuller, Gaye Lenker, Louis Lopreato, Betty McAllister, Stuart Monroe, Barbara Morrow, William Nelson, Juan Perez, Agnes Rollins, Deborah Smith, Dale Tuttle, Bruce Weiner, Brenda Vogel, Richard Weeden, Howard Babriel, Paul Tassie, Edward Grossman, John Timony.

# Journ Society Initiates Dennis

Lawrence E. Dennis, vice president in charge of academic affairs, and 14 graduate and undergraduate students have been initiated into Kappa Tau Alpha, national journalism scholarship society.

Dennis was chosen because of his service as a member of the School of Journalism faculty.

Four of the 14 student initiates are graduate students in journalism—Margaret D'Ardenne, Charles Seller, Frances Davis and Winifred Sullivan.

The undergraduates are Linda Ely, Jean Hartley, Ralph Manna, Mary Ann Romano, John Shenk, Mary Reid, Charles Reiser, Laurel Durtout, Mary Kelly and Jeanette Saxe.

James W. Markham, director of graduate studies in the School of Journalism and national secretary of Kappa Tau Alpha, was in charge of the ceremony and the coffee hour that followed.

# Xi Sigma Pi Honorary Initiates Six Members

Xi Sigma Pi forestry honorary fraternity, has initiated six members.

Four were awarded active memberships. They are Wilber Wolf, Donald Rotell, Loring Huslander and Anthony Procopio.

Dr. Charles L. Fergus and Dr. Norris D. Blackburn became associate members.

