

Editorial Opinion

Selection of Chairmen Must Be Done Fairly

Are committee chairmen appointments going to be based on experience and interest or will the trend turn to interest alone? This question is posed in view of a recommendation that will go before the Assembly tomorrow night.

The Executive Cabinet will ask the Assembly to approve a recommendation it has made for the Elections Commission chairman of the 1959-60 academic year.

And this recommendation directly conflicts with one made by this year's commission chairman, Lynn Ward.

This action is unfair both to Miss Ward and to Stanley Foster whom Miss Ward had recommended. While a chairman can only recommend a successor, she is the most qualified person to say who can best fill her position.

The differences between Foster and Vincent Marino, Cabinet's choice, are not those of character and personality. The most outstanding difference, that which qualifies Foster for the position, is that he has served for two years on the commission—a certain indication of his knowledge of the committee's functions.

While Marino has expressed the desire to head the commission and would do his best in that position, he has never served on it. It is questionable that Marino's best would or could exceed the knowledge of its workings that Foster now has.

In view of these facts, Cabinet, by going against Miss Ward's recommendation, has indicated that it does not feel she is capable of naming a successor.

Action such as this, which puts a person unfamiliar with a commission as its head, will certainly result in a lack of initiative on the part of its members to strive for the chairmanship. If persons are chosen from outside a committee's membership, there is a certain injustice prevalent in this selection, provided there is someone well-qualified for the position within the commission.

Experience is the best pre-requisite for any job which entails leadership. And recommendations are usually made by the chairmen for the person whom they think could best serve in that capacity.

If this pre-requisite is disregarded, as it has been in this case, Cabinet is placing itself in a position to judge qualifications without actually having been acquainted with the performance of the recommended person.

Cabinet has turned thumbs down on a worthwhile recommendation. It has given to itself the power of determining chairmen by capability alone and not past performance. It has taken away from the committee chairmen their right to determine qualified successors.

And what is worse, it can give no substantial reasons for having acted as it did, since it has no substantial evidence against Foster.

It is up to the Assembly tomorrow night to investigate this recommendation and to then act accordingly.

Unless there is complete justification for Cabinet's recommendation, the Assembly should see to it that the chairmanship goes to the most qualified person. And experience is a qualification that cannot be disregarded if the Assembly wants to have a smooth functioning Elections Commission.

Letters

Soph Defends 'Smuggler'

TO THE EDITOR: It was with interest that I read of today's "smuggling" episode in The Daily Collegian. Previous to today's edition of the Collegian I had talked to the girl in question, and I got quite a different story.

There was little reason to disbelieve the story that the girl related to me, for the same had been related to friends on her floor and the head hostess. The story in the Collegian appears to be an amusing distortion of what really happened.

While talking to the person who "faces charges of smuggling"—, I learned that at least three members of the staff of the Collegian are residents on the same dormitory floor as she, but no attempt was made by a Collegian reporter to interview the girl.

The news story appears to have been gathered from hearsay or rumors. The least that could have been done to obtain a reasonable account of the disturbance would have been to call or interview the girl herself.

Sensationalism might be gotten from hearsay or rumor, but is news obtained in this manner? Apparently the Collegian "reporter" who "covered" the story believed so. Perhaps the senate subcommittee on student affairs will get the story straight!

There is also something to be said about the girls who reported their classmate. Normally we expect human beings to help other humans who are in difficult situations, but in this case we hear of two coeds being child-like and irrational.

Had these two girls asked a few questions and more seriously considered their course of action, the situation might not be as grave as it appears to be.

Certainly a method of getting rid of the intruder might have been improvised and carried out, but two of the so-called "women of Penn State," not thinking of the gravity of the situation, saw fit to make an attempt at destroying the good name of one of their classmates.

—Matthew J. Hillsman, '61 (Editor's Note: Dean of Women Pearl O. Weston said last night that the information in the Collegian story agreed with that which the coed told her during a private interview.)

Gazette

- TODAY
Ag Ed Wives, 7:30 p.m., Home of Mrs. Glenn Z. Stevens
Agronomy, 6:15 p.m., 215 HUB
AIM, 7 p.m., 203 HUB
AIM Judicial Board, 7 p.m., 218 HUB
ASAE, 7 p.m., 206 Ag Eng
Cabinet Social Committee, 5-15 p.m., HUB
Chess Club, 7 p.m., 7 Sparks
Christian Fellowship, 12:30 p.m., 218 HUB
CPIIC, 7 p.m., 213 HUB
Freshman Advisory Board, 7 p.m., 217 HUB
Marketing Club, 8:15 p.m., 212 HUB
Nittany Grotto, 7 p.m., 121 MI
Rock Climbing Division PSOC, 7 p.m., 317 Willard
Sociology Club, 7:30 p.m., 214 HUB
Women's Choir, 6 p.m., Hetzel Union assembly room

HOSPITAL

- Irwin Blank, Albert Berger, Vincente Chi, John Coldren, Joan Foss, Caroline Gillespie, Evelyn Gustavsen, Lois Henderson, LeRoy Ishler, Gordon Jones, James Kridel, Roland Lessard, Victor Makowski, Lester Mabeley, Hal Miller, Randall Quinn, Getard Ryan, Harriet Shapiro, Barbara Shepman, and James Swartzwelder.

Perkins Says --

(Continued from page one)
mitting students to live in unapproved residences is the lack of available room. Until recently, the construction of dormitories on campus has been mostly the replacement of old buildings.

If students were forbidden to live in all the places where standards have not been met, he said, enrollment would be forced to decrease.

When questioned about the borough housing standards, Alvin R. Grove, borough health officer, said State College follows the standards set by the state. These standards were last approved Sept. 21, 1923. The standards themselves are quite obscure and have been interpreted in many ways in the past.

Grove said the borough is directly responsible to the State, but is willing to cooperate with the University in any way possible.

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"Are we around to grading finals again Professor Snarf?"

Reader Cites Students Hit Wife's Aid Photo Policy

TO THE EDITOR: This letter is devoted to these silent, seldom seen little women who are as much a part of Penn State as those of us holding matric cards and in many instances more so.

Degrees are passed out to us at "State" in recognition of our accomplishments, but how about the wives who help their husbands obtain this degree? They come and go unnoticed and unrecognized, and I think unwilling to accept any praise.

About to close five years of college life successfully, I look back now and realize how much my loving wife has done for me. As a matter of fact, I'm just finding some available time to sit and talk to her. I realize that I have been ignoring her through these years that I may have an education.

There have been many thankless times that she stayed up late at night with me so that she could help prepare for the classes I would be attending. She left her work to listen to my speeches, review history, give encouragement and comforting comments on my progress; she worried and she prayed with me.

When the daily study sessions ended, I retired leaving the table covered with papers, open books and notes. The morning comes and everything was neatly in order. Misplaced items could be had in a matter of seconds.

Wives understand so well what we husbands are going through that they try to overlook our tensions and thoughtless tempers at exam time. They are relieved when the tests are over, because more than anything else they want (Continued on page five)

TO THE EDITOR: I read with interest your editorial concerning the ejection of a photographer from E. E. Cummings lecture last Friday.

It would seem that the Collegian is more interested in standing up for its "rights" than it is in maintaining its standards of good taste.

As stated in your editorial, the photographer had a right under the law to take his pictures. However, a newspaper in exercising these rights assumes the far greater responsibility of not abusing them.

Mr. Cummings had expressed a strong desire that no pictures be taken of him during his visit to the campus.

Whatever his reasons for this wish, they should have been respected unless the public interest demanded otherwise.

If the Collegian editors considered the event so newsworthy, one should think they might have devoted at least a few words to it in their Saturday paper. The only coverage I have found since the lecture is the above-mentioned editorial.

—Frank C. Eliot, '60 (Editor's Note: It has been frequent Collegian policy to use only a picture as coverage following an Artist Series publication.)

TO THE EDITOR: You are first a student at Penn State and second a "newspaperman." Therefore, taking pictures of E. E. Cummings is not a question of legality, but whether or not we can extend common courtesy to a distinguished visitor. Apparently, some of us cannot.

—David McGrew, '60

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PEANUTS
DEAR PENCIL-PAL, FORGIVE ME FOR NOT WRITING SOONER.
I HAVE DECIDED THAT I HAVE BEEN WASTING TOO MUCH TIME WATCHING T.V.
FROM NOW ON I WILL PUT MY TIME TO BETTER USE DOING THINGS LIKE READING BOOKS & WRITING LETTERS.
I AM GOING TO HAVE TO CLOSE NOW BECAUSE MY FAVORITE PROGRAM IS COMING ON. YOUR FRIEND, CHARLIE BROWN