

Haber Aims to End Communication Gulf

Richard Haber, Student Government Association president, has written the following letter in an effort to establish more effective communications between the student body and SGA and to make "student government a living reality."

As president of the Penn State Student Government Association, I am often called upon to act or speak for you. Every day I begin at least a half-dozen letters with the words . . . "on behalf of the Student Body of The Pennsylvania State University" . . . thus I am speaking on your behalf. In this capacity, I not only initiate matters in your name, but also assume the responsibility for your actions. Due to our large student body, communication with each of you is most difficult.

However, for us to move forward, I will concern myself with methods of improving communications between the student body and its representative, the student body president.

There are several media open to our use. The Student Government Association office provides one location where we might get together to better improve our lines of communication. (Office hours are posted on the door of room 203 HUB.) SGA coffee hours extend an open invitation to each of you to attend and informally discuss student affairs. The open meeting of the Student Government Association Assembly on

Thursday evenings affords an opportunity for you to be heard by your student legislature.

Why is it important for you to be heard by student government? Simply this . . . every day a member of the Student Government Association is called upon to express an opinion on behalf of the student body. The subject involved might be a disciplinary case, a revision of calendar and class schedule, a policy of academic honesty, the approval of a charter for a student organization, or perhaps an election of the president of the Penn State Alumni Association.

Your Student Government Association is the group recognized by the administration, faculty and other universities to be the official voice of the student body. I consider it my primary function to represent you. As for the assembly, it represents you as well as you support it . . . that is to say that the assembly has all the power you alone give . . . you are the ones that strengthen or weaken the voice of the assembly.

Now that we understand the problem involved with communication and cooperation, we must work together to solve them. The fact that the University is growing more aware of a need for better communications is exemplified by President Walker's recent talk with the Assembly, the greater circulation and expansion of The Daily Collegian, and the attempt to strengthen ties with our Commonwealth Campuses through the Organization of Student Government Associations.

One step which you as students might take in the immediate future is that of fulfilling your obligation by voting in the Fall Student Government elections. It is through the strength of your ballot that the voice of student government will be heard.

Leaders To Discuss Party Issues

Student political leaders will debate party issues and platforms at 9 tonight on WDFM-WMAJ's "Forum of the Air."

Representing the University party will be Walter Darran, party chairman, and Michael Lazorchak, campaign manager and vice chairman. Campus party representatives will be Dennis Eise-man, vice chairman, and William Laman, candidate for junior assemblyman.

Leslie Lewinter, secretary-treasurer, and Wayne Ulsh will speak for the Liberal party.

Following statements by the party representatives, there will be cross-discussion and inter-panel questioning. The leaders will also discuss the role of student government on campus at present and its status in the future.

Also on tonight's Forum will be Dr. Richard R. Renner, director of the Latin American Project for the University. He will discuss the program scheduled for the 21 Latin American educators who have come to the University to observe American teaching and administration methods.

Political Parties Come and Go

By DICK LEIGHTON

Rallying around cries of "Get the Greeks out of politics," "Keep the Indies out of government" and "We will show you how it's done," campus political parties have led a hectic, but comparatively short-lived, existence at this university.

Student political parties, as we know them now, came into their own when the Campus Clique, a fraternity-backed organization which had the reputation of controlling University politics, did not reorganize after World War II.

Since the fall of Campus Clique in 1944, the University has seen at least 10 parties organized and has watched many more student groups try vainly for acceptance.

The Nittany-Independent and Campus-Key parties were the first to go the polls after the war. The Independents made such a thorough sweep in that 1945 election that Campus-Key never recovered.

After sweeping their second election (1946), the Nittany-Independents were considered kings of campus politics. Independent officials openly laughed when a new group which called themselves the State party said they would run in the next election.

The Daily Collegian added to the Nittany-Independents' confidence when it openly endorsed the incumbent party on its editorial page. (Collegian policy now is not to endorse either party or candidates.)

The fall election of 1947 will long be remembered by many of the University's alumni, for

the new party won all but one office and caused the complete disruption of the Independent party, which soon died.

The next two elections were dominated by the State party which won all but one office in each election from the newly formed Lion party. A brief stir was made during this time by a third party which complained about Greek domination. This party failed to become organized sufficiently to run any candidates.

Campus politics remained a battle between the Lion and State parties for the next few years. In 1954 student parties became officially recognized by the student government All University Cabinet. Up until this time they were unofficial groups working in accordance with an elections committee.

This power of approving parties was later given to the University Senate Committee on Student Affairs, thereby giving the groups official University recognition.

The year 1955 was a big one for new parties. Three new parties — Campus Campus-Key University — made their appearance that year and although Campus-Key and Uni-

versity parties were dissolved before the spring elections Campus party went on to win every single position from the State and Lion parties.

State party, suffering from many desertions to the new Campus party, dissolved that year and once again the University had a two-party system.

Lion and Campus parties battled each other for two years before another party entered the race. University and Blue and White parties arose in 1958 but Blue and White disappeared after a few weeks because it could not elect a chairman. The campus once again had a three-party system.

History repeated itself that fall when the newly recognized University party captured four out of the six available positions. This was too much for the aging Lion party. With a final roar at its deserting members it too faded away.

And so the political scene has remained; University and Campus battling each other for the past two years and as of late the new Liberal party has begun its fight for recognition.



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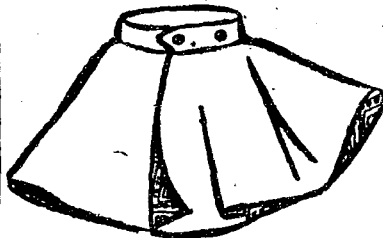
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