

Editorial Opinion

Back to Basics

Let's get back to the basics of democratic governmental theory.

For four nights the SGA committee of the whole has tossed the ideas of representation back and forth going off first on one tangent, then on another.

As all these viewpoints are aired and evaluated the committee must not lose sight of its target.

It is trying to structure a government that will have complete and final responsibility to all those governed.

The election of representatives from the living areas is the fundamental method which would bring student government as close as possible to each student on campus.

Critics of this method of representation say that Assembly members will not be "close" to their constituencies. Assemblymen will be living with their constituencies. How much closer can you get?

To those critics of the plan who contend that it doesn't give a definite or varied constituency, we might point out that the responsibility for meeting and talking with the voters best with Assemblymen.

With residence area representation, an SGA member could set a definite weekly meeting time to meet with his fellow residents for discussion and suggestion.

Another loud objection that has been raised to this system of representation is "will the best qualified and most interested people be elected."

These objections are referring naturally to persons who have taken an active part in other activities on campus and are interested in student government.

The best way to insure that the talents of the persons who have a background in government and have been elected as leaders of various important groups on campus is to put them on Cabinet.

This would include the college council presidents and heads of such organizations as Panhel, Leonides, ISA and AWS.

Cabinet then could be a storehouse of ideas for programs and action that SGA could take. Cabinet should be able to introduce such ideas or programs on the floor of Assembly, but all programs must have Assembly approval.

This system would utilize the people who are supposedly the most interested or best qualified without allowing any special interest groups to control student government.

56 Years of Editorial Freedom
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 5, 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.
Mailing Address - Box 261, State College, Pa.

JOHN BLACK
Editor

CHESTER LUCIDO
Business Manager

City Editor and Personnel Director, Susan Linkroom; Assistant Editor, Gloria Wolford; Sports Editor, Sandy Padwe; Assistant City Editor, Joel Myers; Copy and Features Editor, Elaine Miele; Photography Editor, Frederic Bower.
Local Ad Mgr., Brad Davis; National Ad Mgr., Hal Deisher; Credit Mgr., Mary Ann Crane; Assistant Credit Mgr., Neal Keitz; Classified Ad Mgr., Constance Kiesel; Co-Circulation Mgrs., Barbara Nolt, Richard Kitzinger; Promotion Mgr., Elaine Michal; Personnel Mgr., Becky Kohudic; Office Secretary, Joanne Huyett.

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Headline Editor, Susie Eberly; Wire Editor, Joan Mehan; Assistant Copy Editor, Polly Dranov; Assistants: Phyllis Hutton, Sandie Wall, Arlene Lantzman, Catherine Hall, Jeanne Yeagle, Toni Baurnes, Myra Harris, Tucker Merrill, Joanne Phillippi and Wren Wheeler.

Letters

Complaints On System Of Grading

TO THE EDITOR: The conception that general knowledge is the main goal of the university student was not challenged in the letter of April 7 concerning the five point grading system.

But, has Miss Gluskin, in her letter of April 11, considered the basic arbitrary nature of the present grading system? Many of the students here at the University desire to further their education by attending some form of graduate school. These graduate schools are highly competitive and most difficult to get into.

When the grad school sees the present arbitrary grade, they have no idea whether it falls in the low, medium, or high category.

Let us be realistic. A 79 point grade would receive many more times weight than a 71. An 89 would receive more weight than an 81. The graduate school would be able to give the student applying for admission a fairer break than under the present system.

To quote Miss Gluskin: "... notice that the superior students simply work hard and don't find it necessary to bicker with their professors for every extra available point." Let us correct this assumption. The superior student has his difficulties in obtaining admission to a grad school. We wish to provide a more accurate representation so that these schools can objectively evaluate students.

Also, we have never claimed that this would be a system which would benefit "goof-offs," nor did we wish to use it as a bickering point for grades.

All we want to do is give the Penn State student a "fair shake" grade-wise. We wish to eliminate an OUTMODED, ARBITRARY GRADING SYSTEM.

It is about time that the ease of programming an IBM computer is subordinated to the welfare of the student body.

—Richard Leedes '63
—Richard Goldberg '61

Walking on Grass

TO THE EDITOR: Some people call Penn State a "country club" and some people would like to see our lawns look like a country club golf course; but, even on golf courses people are permitted to walk on the grass.

—Linda Fenner, '64

Gazette

- TODAY**
Accounting Club, 7:15 p.m., Pi Kappa Alpha, 417 E. Prospect Ave.
AIM, 8:00 p.m., 203 HUB
AWS, 6:30 p.m., 203 HUB
Career Day, 8 a.m.-11 p.m., ground floor HUB
Chess Club, 7 p.m., HUB card room
Eng-Arch Student Council, 6:45 p.m., 103 Osmond
English Colloquium, 7:30 p.m., Nittany Lion Inn
Freshman Class Advisory Board, 6:30 p.m., 203 HUB
Investment Club, 8 p.m., 214 HUB
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 213 HUB
Phi Epsilon Kappa, 9 p.m., 214 HUB
Placement, 8 a.m., 203, 212 HUB
Priestley Lecture Series, 8 p.m., 119 Osmond
Prof. Snarf, 9-5, 1 at floor HUB
Psychology Colloquium, 12 noon, HUB dining room A
Riding Club, 7 p.m., 212 HUB
Senior Class Advisory Board, 8:15 p.m., 215 HUB
Slavic Club Film, 7 p.m., HUB ballroom
Special Orientation Committee, 9 p.m., 215 HUB
Sports Car Club, 7:30 p.m., 107 Boucke
Sociology Club, 9 p.m., 216 HUB

HOSPITAL
Jean Arnold, George Blevins, Francis Carey, Judith Ceccoli, Nancy Crane, Charles Drum, Barbara Elser, Mary Lynn Englerth, Ruth Feldstein, Barbara Ann Fritz, Ronald Goldstein, Elizabeth Guibord, Thomas Holland, Edward Keifer, Mohammed Khan, Ingrid Leunis, Nancy Little, Gaeton Longo, Ramachandra Mohanty, Suzanne Myers, Harry Mumma, Richard Myers, Susan Newby, Lawrence Parsons, Linda Raup, Diane Richard, Frank Risch, Barbara Sacks, Beverly Schane, George Scheuchenzuber, Neal Sincov, Darlan Smith, Frederick Werner, Robert Wilson.

Snowed

A Call to Arms

by joel myers

If the United States and the free world are to ultimately survive the onward march of Communism, they must enter the Laotian conflict at once.

The time of warning is past, the time to fight is now.

Eleven years ago Red China took a chance on capturing Southeast Asia, but lost the gamble when we entered the war in Korea. Being the most powerful nation on earth and possessing a huge lead in nuclear arms at that time, we could have subdued Red China without fear of Russian intervention.



MYERS

But one of our closest allies — England — protested so vehemently that President Truman backed down from the strong position he had taken earlier and we fought the long, drawn-out and inconclusive Korean conflict.

Since World War II, our allies — France and England — have become more squeamish. They have drifted closer to an isolationist position typified by this nation prior to World War I.

As they use their restraining influence on our foreign policy, the Communists continue to advance.

The time has come to act, not only in Laos but with respect to France and England, the has-been powers that are exerting too much influence

on our foreign policy. We must not sacrifice the Southeast Asian countries just to preserve the deteriorating NATO alliance a little longer.

If the Communists are not stopped, they will overwhelm Southeast Asia and all its peoples, resources and territory will go with it. But, perhaps more important than these tremendous tangible gains, will be the furthering of the Red psychological philosophy that Communism will eventually overspread the globe.

The fall of Southeast Asia could stampede some of the politically unstable countries of South America, Africa and the Middle East into the Red stable. In short, the survival of freedom would look darker than it has for 200 years.

Without further delay the United States must seize the initiative and with the support of Thailand, Philippines, Formosa, South Vietnam and Australia, we must push the Communist back to the North Vietnam border.

The sun has set on the British Empire and the once-powerful empire of France has disintegrated into rebellious colonies. The United States is by far the strongest of the western democracies, so it's up to us to lead the cause of freedom, for if we don't, no one will.

Letters

Lobby Committee's Report

TO THE EDITOR: This report is being presented in hope that it will arouse the students so that they will write to the governor and the Hon. William Green, House Office Building, Washington 25, D.C., in regard to the full appropriation for Penn State.

The governor in his address to the Joint Session of the Legislature on Monday revealed what has long been noticed — the lack of firm executive leadership in Harrisburg.

When the radar bill, fair housing, etc., came up for floor action, David Lawrence left town each time. He has repeatedly washed his hands of the educational problem on the grounds that he didn't wish to influence the Governor's Educational Committee's report. Now the committee has made its report.

His speech was an attempt to make it appear to the public that he was doing something and in his speech he shifted the blame onto the Legislature. He also announced that he will set up a committee to see what parts of the report can be carried out by executive action. This is truly irresponsible.

Dr. Robert Christie and Lieutenant-Governor John Morgan Davis both served on the committee and know this already. It is apparent that this is another tactic to put off any decision on education.

It is a great illusion to think that special committee studies can solve or even expedite the answers to serious public questions.

The governor has repeatedly said that he is hopeful that the heavy tax load confronting the State for educational purposes would be eased by federal help. From this it is apparent that he did not read the report of the committee. Pennsylvania citizens must pay \$1.68 in federal taxes for each dollar in federal aid that we will receive.

Hi Andrews, speaker of the House, has repeatedly said that he doesn't believe that the people or the legislature will be willing to sacrifice for education. "Education is the sacrifice of things, of time, of money, and of enjoyment," he said.

Andrews stated that it was

unfortunate that the governor's committee didn't set up priorities for action in its report to the Legislature. Andrews said, "Why, this report is a hodge-podge that is impossible to approach without more study. The Legislature should know what it can do now without new taxes or money and what must be put off until later. To drop something like this into the legislature's lap is almost unthinkable."

On new taxes Andrews added, "If they're (the legislators) are so scared of their constituents they can't act sanely on tax matters they ought to adjourn sine die (without date) and all resign." Andrews proposed a 3 per cent tax on everything that is sold at retail, but doubted that it would pass because, "it is so sensible it probably won't get anywhere."

It seems very ridiculous to us that a committee must be set up to study another committee's report (which cost us \$300,000).

Our legislature is also continuing its game of dodging the big issue. How long can they run? They gave the responsibility for education to a committee which studied the needs of education. Studies were made and led to nothing but more studies — each of which was promptly pigeonholed.

The legislators have the choice of raising taxes or turning away from the largest problem which faces Pennsylvania. If they turn away from this problem, then they should take Speaker Andrews' advice and resign.

It is clearly apparent that the State has just about reached the end of its financial rope under the present tax structure. The constitutional way must be cleared for a graduated income tax. The only alternative is for the local communities to pay for the ever-increasing bill with higher wage and real estate taxes.

If sufficient pressure is put on the Governor and the General Assembly they will act. Write today and save yourself from an increase in tuition and save Pennsylvania from a horse and buggy educational system.

—Lobby Investigating Committee

