

Editorial Opinion

True Debate on NSA

Debate on whether or not to affiliate with the National Student Association (NSA) is expected to rage in the USG Congress this week.

But, if the rules of the Congress are followed, the debate will be restricted for those who are not members of the Congress.

A by-law of the Congress states that "a member of the gallery is privileged to express his opinion for three minutes when recognized by the chairman or has had the floor yielded to him by a member of Congress."

We strongly urge that this rule be suspended for Thursday night's Congress meeting.

We believe that the Congress should have the opportunity to hear both sides of the question fully presented whether the statements come from Congressmen or from non-members.

Proponents of both views have indicated that they will bring up their "big guns" for this continuation of the debate.

Eugene Zaget, a vice president of NSA, is scheduled to appear for the second time this year before Congress to discuss benefits afforded a member school by NSA.

USG President Dean Wharton, an announced opponent of NSA, has said he will ask administrators who have expressed opposition to NSA affiliation to present their views to the Congress.

Such administrators could include Dean of Women Dorothy J. Lipp, William P. Fuller, manager of Associated Student Activities and George L. Donovan, coordinator of Student Activities.

We applaud the actions of the proponents of both sides of this question in their attempts to provide Congress with all available information on NSA.

However, these valiant actions will be wasted if non-Congressmen are limited to a 3-minute presentation of their views.

We propose that discussion be turned into a true debate with Congressmen directing questions to the proponents and opponents of NSA in an attempt to further learn both views.

In addition to these studies of NSA, we wholeheartedly endorse a plan, to be proposed by Murray Winderman, co-sponsor of the NSA bill, to send three Congressmen to the regional convention of NSA to be held in Pittsburgh this weekend.

The convention provides a perfect opportunity for Congressmen, who will ultimately decide whether or not our student government will join NSA, to see the organization in operation.

It will also give Congressmen a chance to speak with representatives of member schools and obtain direct information on the benefits and/or drawbacks which each school has detected in its affiliation with NSA.

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kaleidoscope

Crowded Calendar

by kay mills

The nation's calendar is currently overcrowded with months. I do not propose to abolish the regular 12 months but I do feel one could explore the worth of special celebrations such as National Weight-Watchers Month or Sour Cream Month.



MISS MILLS

In the past, officials have proclaimed special periods to honor ladders, home permanents, portable radios, slacks, contact lenses, domestic rabbits, mothers-in-

law old maids and popcorn farmers.

There are also "time-honored" celebrations for want ads or for returning borrowed books. And April, 1961, was observed as National Please-Be-Seated Month!

We in the United States have observed special times for kraut and frankfurters, bow ties, ornamental iron, odorless decorations and canned hamburger. (Canned hamburger?)

These special celebrations have stimulated magazine and newspaper spoofs as well as serious suggestions. Editorials have cited two objections to this mass of "holidays": misuse of the official proclamation

power and attempts to promote pressure group products. Charity drives which really do deserve publicity are often lost in the din of colliding weeks.

But as long as we remain careful about what we schedule when, we cannot afford to have Penn State overlooked by the wave of weeks.

Considering appeals to college students, I find that TGIF with all its ritual is one of the few days already enshrined here and across the country. Because of this scarcity of special days, our Alma Mater has lagged behind the nation.

We can easily have an Oldies But Goodies Night plus an Over-the-Hump Day, beginning at 5:10 Wednesday afternoon and continuing through Thursday.

Further, we could declare a Let's All Wear Our Madras Day or special times when all book bags, bluejeans, sneakers or black umbrellas should be on display. Transportation by motorscooter or bicycle could likewise be the order of that day.

We may set aside days, weeks or years to complain about the food or knock the administration. Indeed, some enterprising students might suggest a "Who's Prexy Week?"

Why not initiate an Enlarge Your Campus Vernacular Month for those of us who find that our cliches are even getting on our own nerves? Then there's always Cut Class Day or Wander to Wipples Week.

With so many professors — and I mean this seriously — attempting to help students by avoiding the June 7 or 8 final exam date, we could quite realistically undergo "D"-Day, the 6th of June.

The crowning touch would be a Down with Sentimentality Day, observed twice yearly — Thanksgiving and the Easter-Passover period.

When any ambitious student group declared these celebrations, it would need to add only a Down with 8 O'Clocks Day, to abolish Mondays and to create a week of Fridays; to build itself a legend the likes of which this campus has never known.

Letters

'Activities Club' Return Seen

TO THE EDITOR: Underlying the news made by the new officers of USG, the discussions at USG meetings, and recent resignations by important members of student government, there is a disturbing trend of thought which shows a return to the old "Activities Club" form of government!

You recall that after a tough election in the Spring of '61 the hat men and status seekers were thrown out of student government. The government that coordinated the recognition groups, the government of the self-styled "campus leaders," was replaced by a sober, representative group of student-oriented students. Members of USG did not call each other "leader," nor did they constantly give awards of recognition to one another.

The USG Congress hasn't bought pins or hats this year; it has been too busy at work with sound proposals for new ideas and projects for the student body.

And now we have a reversal by the new officers: You see Dean Wharton with a bone strung around his neck and a hat society pledge sign which reads in bold letters—USG

PRESIDENT. The highest student officer wears a sign which degrades his office, as if USG PRESIDENT were nothing more than another qualification for real big-time status.

Mr. Wharton's vague and uninformed opinions on the National Student Association seem to hold little weight with the Congress. He plans, then, to bring persuasive administrators to the meeting, to help defeat the move to join NSA. I say let this be settled among the students (whom he represents).

Tuesday, Allen Feingold, Elections Commission Chairman and a politically neutral person, resigned all his student government posts in disappointment and apparent disgust at the new people in USG, with whom he "had worked for years," and who were now only interested in "status."

The only hope is that the Congress will influence the new USG president and officers to prevent the return of yes-men, the back-patters whose primary interest is personal advancement and not the welfare of the student body.

—Bruce Harrison '62 USG Congressman

Politano's Views Answered

TO THE EDITOR: It is good to see Mr. Politano's letter of reply, for he is undoubtedly sincere and well read in this field. Unfortunately he neglects a few considerations which I will point out.

Admittedly, our tests only add a small amount of radiation and fallout to the atmosphere. However, Linus Pauling estimated that approximately 3,000,000 neonatal deaths will result from the additional 1% radiation in the atmosphere (N.Y. Times; April 15). From this figure, it is easy to estimate results of future test series.

As for our 1,500-mile rockets not being able to reach the mainland, a quick look at a map clearly shows that Christmas Island is surrounded by other smaller islands, the main group being the Hawaiian Islands 1,300 miles away. Also, in preparation, are missiles with a 2,900-mile range. But besides this, accidents could occur at any of our missile bases

in Colorado or bordering Russia.

Just because one of our commanders acted wisely, does this mean that commanders of other countries (who have and soon will have nuclear weapons) will act with the same caution and not press the button whenever a group of geese fly south?

Also, I am not sure that all of our commanders have that discretion for psychology and "choice of commanders" has not been developed to a sufficient degree of perfection yet.

Two final points are:

• There were marchers at the U.N. and the Russian Embassy immediately following Russia's first blast. This fact was not played up by the newspapers.

• The children were at the demonstration to make the policy planners aware that they are playing with millions of lives—children, adults, and unborn.

—Arthur Ravitz '62

Cheerleading Tryouts Called 'Hoax'

TO THE EDITOR: Sunday evening (May 6) after supper I went to Rec Hall to observe the annual tryouts for the cheerleading squad. Possibly I should call it a hoax instead of a tryout because the frosh who had worked for two weeks in front of Old Main were duped into believing that final judging would be based on their cheerleading ability and spirit and not on their Greek affiliation.

I would like to empathize with those contestants who in my estimation as an amateur

judge were eliminated before they "got their feet off the floor." Unlike the regular judges who seemed to have super-eyesight, or should I say super-insight, I was unable to distinguish among the various pledge pins from my seat in the stands.

Now that this year's fiasco has "bumbled" to a close, and assuming that it is too late to make any adjustments, my only hope is that next year's frosh will not have to suffer the discouragement of a similar distinct deception.

—Todd Lehman '63

Letters

Feingold Supported

TO THE EDITOR: Coming down to breakfast Tuesday morning, I glanced at The Daily Collegian to see what was happening in this sordid world of ours (on campus and off). Low and behold there in stark, bold, black letters was the headline: "Feingold Resigns Posts In Student Government." "Feingold resigns," I thought, "This can't be so!"

Al Feingold, a person who has been quoted more by The Daily Collegian than even President Walker, a person who in his three years at Penn State has worked hard to bring honest and fair administration of student affairs, a person who has divorced himself from the petty whims of politicians and has done a tremendous job as Elections Commission Chairman.

Who are these people who are only interested in status, prejudiced in favor of their own close associates and who do not have the interests of the students in mind? Let's find out who these people are and banish them from student government so that the Al Feingolds of this world will not find it distasteful to serve their school. This we must do for a better Penn State.

—David S. Trager '62  
—Harry Rauch '63