

Make this year count

It's not very likely that anyone could ever forget his first term as a college freshman — especially the freshmen who entered Penn State this summer.

Those of you who came to the University ten weeks ago already have witnessed during your college career a historic event: the resignation of a president of the United States. You have watched the nation experience a period of crisis and begin to recover. And perhaps it helped shape your opinions just a little.

The shake-up in Washington wasn't the only news item that marked your first term. This summer saw the beginning of many local events which will affect Penn State students for a long time to come.

Probably the event most immediate to students is the Undergraduate Student Government insurance suit. Because of confusion over which of two insurance companies USG legally designated to provide its annual insurance plan, many students may be left without insurance coverage this year.

While most Penn Staters were busy studying their books, State College Borough Council has spent long evenings studying the proposed human relations ordinance. The proposal not only caused a controversy over this specific ordinance but also raised the question if government has the responsibility to guarantee certain groups their rights at all.

Students on campus this summer may have seen the beginnings of a major conflict between two student organizations over how they can best solve the problems of landlord-tenant relations. They have seen two local government bodies change their tax policies because of the student population. They have seen student government launch a statewide petition drive to force an audit of the University's books.

Students are usually quick to give credit for worthwhile accomplishments. They are equally capable of criticizing stupidity or mistakes when they have worked against student interests.

This term students have criticized their leaders when they felt they were not achieving the students' best interests and pledged not to let

similar situations happen in the future.

There is only one way they can keep this promise. Every student must commit himself while he is at the University to work toward improving the quality of life and education at Penn State.

During the summer new students usually concentrate on their studies to get a head start before campus life moves into full swing in the fall. Similarly, student organizations use the summer as a time of preparation for the fall, when their services will be in greater demand.

This term few student groups have been working at their usual pace. But next term, more than 300 registered organizations — fraternities, sororities, recreational clubs, service groups and professional societies — will be active and seeking new members.

When you return to campus next term, take serious stock of how your interests and abilities will enable you to participate most fully in campus life. Then pick out the organization that best fits your talents and become involved. Make the coming year count.

BELOW OLYMPUS By Interlandi



"Please, keep President Ford open, straightforward, candid and decent!"

Sir George at the Round Table

By STEVE OSTROSKY of the Collegian staff

George, Sir Nuisance, strode into the hall and moved to the head of the round table.

"Lords, ladies, peasants," he said. "You have become members of the Undergraduate Student Round Table through me. But let us get one thing straight. This is my round table and I'm the boss, so we'll play by my rules."

"Now. First on the agenda is the report from her Ladyship the Maid Marian. Please proceed, m'lady." Maid Marian stood up, blushed a little and said, "Oh, your Lordship, something dreadful has happened. Somehow I have lost my report, and I can't do a thing without it. So, my Lordship, I humbly crave your forgiveness for not being able to give my report."

"You're excused, Marian," Sir Nuisance replied. Leaning over to one of the knights, he whispered, "Good work, Harry. That saved us a lot of trouble. Did you burn it or use acid?"

Speaking to the gathering, Sir Nuisance said, "On to my report. The first item concerns the audit we are asking the parliament to do on the books of the Duke of Oswald."

"Everyone knows we have received top-secret information on where our tax money is going in this dukedom and that we have a special contact in the House of Lords in Harrisham. He has sent a messenger with tidings for us all. You, messenger — what news have you brought from your master, the Earl of Milesham?"

"Greetings, my friends and countrymen," the messenger read. "I have good news and bad news for you. My vassals and I have made up the list of expenditures for the Duke and combined it with your ideas for his spending of our shillings. But my inkwell is almost empty and I do not have enough helpers to make enough copies. If you and your round table could do it,

it would speed things up."

"Take a message to the Earl," Sir Nuisance said. "Tell him that my followers and I will do his bidding."

Just as the messenger left, a peasant asked, "If I do understand this correctly, thou and the Earl are drawing up the expenditure figures?"

Sir Nuisance nodded.

"Well then," said the peasant, "I have an actual expenditure which should be added as an unneeded spending — paying for your castle."

Two hefty knights, brandishing their blades, chased the peasant out of the room and down the hall.

"Now for the next item of business," Sir Nuisance said. "As you know, we have had a little trouble over the insurance plan for my subjects, what with these two companies bickering over which one I gave my pledge. This dispute is holding up getting any insurance plan for my subjects and you of the Round Table, as well as — never mind."

"To solve this dilemma, I talked to another insurance firm whose plan seems fine with me, and I have given it my pledge. In fact, Sir John Smith is here today as a representative of the company — Long, Ingram, Adams and Robertson — with who I have signed the contract. "It is our hope that all these problems have ended. If anyone has any questions for either Sir John or myself..."

A dozen hands shot up.

"They should take them to Little John, our castle executioner," Sir Nuisance ordered. The hands came down.

"Summon the Lord of Town Affairs," Sir Nuisance ordered.

Lord Clifton walked into the room and began his report.

"Well, your Lordship, we're coming right along with the tenant unions. Last week out at one of the inns four

people told us they would join a union if we set one up. Now that may not sound like much out of the 300 peasants we talked to, but last month we only got two positive responses out of 350 people. So we're gaining."

"The only problem is those (expletive deleted) over in the kingdom of Otis. They're giving us real problems, especially that Lord Sweitzer. But this week we're going to burn him in effigy, and if that doesn't teach them a lesson we'll burn him at the stake next weekend."

"Good, Clifton, good," Sir Nuisance said. "Now my loyal and willing subjects, is there any new business?"

"A peasant in the back stood up. "With humblest apologies to my Lord for speaking here, but I have an idea you may wish to dwell on," he said. "I just moved here to your fiefdom last month, so I am not on the Round Table, but I have heard of the wonderful new work you and your new bureaus and lords have been doing. I have an idea for a new bureau for your Lordship's consideration."

"What is it?" Sir Nuisance asked. "Out with it."

"Well, my lord, I think you should create a Bureau of the Duke's Affairs to coordinate and control the action of the Duke of Oswald just as you did in town."

"Brilliant, just brilliant," Sir Nuisance roared. "Now why do I have to think of everything myself?"

"You," he said, pointing to the peasant. "where did you come from?"

The servant replied, "From a small town called Gate of Water in the kingdom of Richard."

Ah, yes. I have heard of its outstanding reputation," Sir Nuisance said. "How would you like to be my righthand man?"

Bless you, my lordship. And I thank you."

"It's nothing," Sir Nuisance said. "Now your first job will be out of town. I want you to build me a country club

"DID I DREAM IT ALL, KITTY, OR WAS IT REAL?"



Letters to the Editor

Caught in the middle

TO THE EDITOR: We feel as students here at PSU that we are being treated unfairly by our own University Student Government. What we are speaking of is the health insurance program problem. We would like to know: should we or should we not be able to count on USG to be looking for our best interests?

If the president of USG, George Cernusca, has such high feelings as was stated in the Aug. 12 Collegian, that "there will be a plan this fall come hell or high water," why has this problem not been resolved? What Mr. Cernusca should have thought of beforehand is that there are students such as ourselves who definitely rely on this coverage as our only means of receiving health care. Both of us are without fathers, which means that we are not covered under our father's insurance policy through his employer, as most students are.

Through the University health insurance program, it would cost slightly less than \$50 per year for coverage. Through the Nationwide Insurance Program, comparable coverage would cost between \$137.76 and \$193.08 per year. This is \$85 to \$140 more expensive. Being full-time students, we are not able to afford the extra expense. Also, being fatherless, we have no means of support from which to attain the funds.

Unfortunately for us students, we are caught in the crossfire of a legal battle. Why is there such a legal battle?

USG was given the privileged responsibility of choosing a competent insurance program. Why have they failed us? At the

time this letter is being written, there are 17 days left to the current policy, after which if the problem is not resolved, those of us not covered will be vulnerable to the whims of the great God of the uninsured.

If USG is not mature enough to handle such a serious matter as health, we suggest that the task be placed in more responsible hands.

Jeffrey Watson
7th-rehabilitation education
Perry Yastrov
1st-pre-med

Praising this season's plays is the same as praising WABC Radio in New York for playing the top 20 hits. The University community should expect more from its summer theater and should be willing to support the best in American theater, not just the most popular fare.

Mal Klugman
WPX-TV staff

Selection of plays

TO THE EDITOR: The Aug. 12 editorial praising this season's Festival of American Theatre may be giving more credit than is due. Even if all the productions of the four plays were really good, it would not detract from the fact that the selection of plays was extremely lame.

Here at a major university with incredible facilities, it should not be too much to ask for more than the best-known plays to be performed. After all, this is not Warren, Ohio or the Valley Forge tent theater. Penn State should be presenting some unusual works in addition to the tried and true box-office hits. After all, America is now producing important plays by natives such as Sam Shepard, Michael McClure, David Rabe, Joseph Chaiken, Douglas Turner Ward and many others.

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