

On And Off Campus

by Gill Rock

After receiving several comments concerning the N.S.A. I am prompted to try to further explain my hesitations concerning this organization.

To be eligible for N.S.A. membership a college or university must have a student government elected by the student body. Out of the 2011 schools eligible 378 have membership in the organization. N.S.A. claims to represent the American college student with a membership of less than 20% of the nation's colleges. N.S.A. is geographically divided into 22 regions with 2 representatives from each to serve on a National Executive Committee (N.E.C.) Also serving as members of the N.E.C. are five students elected from the National Congress. All executive officers come from this body. The responsibility of this committee is in its implementing policies approved by delegates at the National Student Congress and to make "emergency" policies in between meetings of the congress. These emergency powers also include the accepting or rejecting of all resolutions proposed by the congress, which it itself was not able to conclude due to lack of time.

Of the 83 resolutions adopted at the 1962 National Student Congress, 55 of the resolutions (65%) were never considered by the session as a whole. Instead they were adopted by the N.E.C. sometimes with a few as 10 members voting on a resolution. Likewise, back in 1960 out of 97 resolutions considered by the congress only 13 were debated and acted upon by the congress. The remaining 84 resolutions were determined by the N.E.C.

So the voice of a million students who send their delegates is actually the voice of a small compact executive committee. In many cases the N.E.C. will make "emergency" resolutions such as the one concerning the sit-in in 1960. The N.E.C. passed a resolution supporting the sit-in movement and issued it as the feeling of all American students, i.e. its members. Many of its members had in the meantime gone on record as opposed to the sit-ins. These schools were not informed of the N.E.C.'s action and did not find out until it was released in their local papers.

Some other political positions taken by the N.S.A. in the name of American students are:

1. Condemned the involvement of the United States gov-

ernment in the Cuban refugee invasion of April, 1961.

2. Opposed the Cunningham Amendment which prohibits the distribution of Communist propaganda through the mails at subsidize rates.

3. Strongly urged that the House Un-American Activities Committee be abolished.

4. Repeal of the McCarran Act which regulates the activity of the Communist party.

These positions were strongly supported by Daniel Rubin, editor of the Communist View Point, who says in his October '62 edition, "The Congress indicated that U.S. students as a whole are moving leftward and are beginning to cut through some of the worst cold war propaganda. As N.S.A. moves in this direction, the most active and liberal students understand their stake in N.S.A.'s continued growth."

I feel that we can question the validity of Mr. Rubin's conclusions that the leftward movement and the resolutions out of such a move as mentioned above are going to end the Cold War. It is further questionable if these resolutions and similar others represent the ideals held by all N.S.A. members or St. Andrews Students.

N.S.A. Service to Member Schools

I mentioned in ON AND OFF CAMPUS (May 7), that one of the services offered by the N.S.A. is an information bureau where member schools could write for information. This all sounds good, but in the mass organization of the N.S.A. organization appears to have been lost, when a member college writes for information concerning class government and 6 months later receives his reply. Jim Grosse, president of the Student Body at Ohio State, holds the same position that I do in that a greater efficiency and cooperation concerning collegiate problems can be reach-

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ed in regional organizations. Commenting on N.S.A., Jim says that "his administration received little information of value from N.S.A., although many constructive ideas were implemented as a result of participation in the Big Ten Student Presidents Conference.

No one can deny the need for some type of student organization where different schools can pool their problems and suggestions. In our case the N.S.S.G.A. is the best possible organization for St. Andrews to be affiliated with. We share the same regional problems, and can maintain a closeness among members which can greatly facilitate a working organization. It is unlikely that we will ever have the same problems as, say, the University of California or the University of Portland, which are both thousands of miles away. What then can we receive from N.S.A.? The national political resolutions passed by the N.E.C. that will speak for St. Andrews. The information we might receive within 6 months.

In joining an organization there must be a purpose. Either you gain something from it or you feel that you can give it something. It is clear that we would be giving one thing to N.S.A. and that would be money. But as for receiving any true utilitarian value from this organization only a negative answer can be given.

LIGHTS TO BE INSTALLED

In the near future lights will be installed on the rest of the tennis courts. This is being done in answer to the many requests for more space for tennis at night.

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(Letter, con't.)

of their clothes and furnishings at home, quite naturally; and if you give to the church, that too goes to the one back home as a rule.

A small college town can be a very lovely thing, with an atmosphere and a certain feel about it, quite lacking in other small towns of like size. However, this does take time, and mutual respect. Pray God that the citizens of Laurinburg can overlook your continuing snide remarks, and that the despised OLD GRADS (who do not mix in college affairs except to serve as a link with your past as a college, going back to 1896- whether you like it or not and to help recruit better students and raise money for St. Andrews) - that they also may not feel too let-down by your remarks and publications to continue their efforts in behalf of an institution that will some day be "old and hoary" as you will be; full of tradition, built by your successors, and predecessors, as well as by yourselves.

Most of all, I hope that the much maligned "administration" you talk about so much, be granted the continued patience and good sense to work with you demanding young-

sters; and more and more that you, as a student body, show maturity and understanding enough, and even admiration for them, for you to give the "Devil his due" when you speak or write about your advisors.

In conclusion, let me say that for me personally, the accident that I am classed as an alumnus does not at all account for my own concern with St. Andrews. I am, first of all, a Presbyterian, and am interested in our church-related colleges wherever they are. As a graduate student of Columbia University's Graduate School of English; as a former student of both the University of North Carolina and Duke; as well as a member of the Dean's staff at Northwestern University, doing a major in Psychology, and with the equivalent of two graduate degrees, I am quite free from any petty clinging to the colleges that make up your college. You owe them much more than I do!

Look forward by all means; but look backwards a little too, that you may know "the mettle of your pasture" from which St. Andrews sprang. (Shakespeare; King Henry V, Act III, Scene 1).

Sincerely and concernedly,
Ye Hoary Olde Grad.

THIS WEEK - END
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