

Cabinet notes

HOLLI HADDIX

The Cabinet has recently completed a thorough self-evaluation. All Cabinet members as well as their advisors Dean Claytor and Peggy Johnston, prepared statements that included strengths and weaknesses of the Cabinet as a whole in reference to the duties and responsibilities as outlined in the SALTIRE as well as in relation to the student body. Among the strong points are the efficiency of the Cabinet in its meetings and the effectiveness in the way the members work in a group, showing mutual respect for one another and commitment to their responsibilities. A major weakness the Cabinet is a lack of energy displayed at meetings and a failure to poll individual leadership skills.

Many ideas on how to improve the effectiveness of the Cabinet resulted from the discussion of the evaluations. They include:

1) In order to further open communication between students and administration and faculty, the Cabinet will hold monthly meetings with Dean Crossley and President Perkinson to informally discuss student and administrative concerns. Each Cabinet member will also receive minutes from the Student Life Committee meetings, whenever questions or concerns arise concerning the SLC, the Cabinet will meet with Emily Ellsworth, SLC Chairperson.

2) In order to make students more interested in and excited about running for offices, the elections should be made more visible. This

could be done by having present Cabinet officers talk to students about the responsibilities required by their jobs so that students will be more aware of their duties that each job involves. Also, instead of requiring students to make public speeches (which might intimidate otherwise effective candidates/leaders and thereby prevent them from running for office), it was suggested that the LANCE publish statements submitted by candidates including information about themselves and their plans for what they intend to do if elected.

3) It was agreed that the Cabinet should continue to undertake activities (i.e., book store surveys, study days, etc.) other than coordinating duties.

4) To make the Cabinet, Senate, CUB, CCC, etc. more visible, Dean Claytor suggested developing the student handbook to include not only information about each organization and each position within it, but also pictures and information about the individuals presently occupying these positions.

The Cabinet is satisfied with its self-evaluation and feels that it gives a clear, objective picture of the Cabinet's effectiveness. Also, as is apparent, many productive ideas have resulted from this evaluation that will benefit the student body as well as the Cabinet.

All students are encouraged to supply any additional comments that will add to the Cabinet's effectiveness.

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U.N. Trip

BY TOM LANGHORNE

St. Andrews is joining the United Nations! Well, not exactly, but almost. Professor Larry Schulz is taking a group of eight students to New York City on April 15-19 to participate in Haverford College's National Model United Nations. At a cost of \$100.00 per delegate, the trip counts partially toward course requirements in Politics 365 for the 1981 spring term. The lucky eight were chosen among approximately twice that number who applied by a long and complicated interview process. Those students who survived the obstacle course were then asked to leap additional hurdles, such as weekly group meetings and the preparation of background position papers on subjects ranging from national development to disarmament.

Once the St. Andrews group arrives, its members will be afforded the opportunity to visit the U.N., talk to actual delegates, simulate with other students from other

schools across the nation the official sessions of the Security Council, the General Assembly, and much more.

S.A. will be representing Burma, a small Southeast Asian nation located between Bangladesh and India on the West, and Thailand on the East. All one hundred and fifty-four member nations will be presented by a different college delegation.

Schulz knows what the priorities for his students in New York should be. "It is my hope that participation in this program will enable the students to achieve a new appreciation for the patience required in trying to resolve issues which effect us and our allies, and will help them learn skills in diplomacy and negotiation," he says. Equipped with a clear-headed resolve to make the journey an educational experience, Schulz and his tiny band of international scholars should come away from the forum with their view of the world greatly enhanced.

Need Financial Aid? Don't Panic, But...

PAUL J. DOSAL

For those who don't know, President Ronnie Reagan has initiated an austerity program which will directly affect many of us students. In his drive to bring the national economy out of its stagnation, he has proposed cuts in all areas of the federal budget, except in defense (or is that offense?). Consequently, our Financial Aid Director Jim Stanley expects approximately a 25% cut in federal assistance to students. This means that St. Andrews will receive less federal funds for college Work-Study, NDSL loans and SEOG grants. These cuts are quite substantial, considering that the average financial aid per student here is \$3,000 per year, and \$700,000 of the total \$1.7 million financial aid program comes from the federal government.

If Reagan's proposed reductions pass Congress, a

pro rata reduction schedule will be used, in which case everybody's aid will be cut down. However, Jim Stanley believes that these cuts will hurt middle income students especially. Also, the social security financial assistance program for students with retired parents may be terminated. The result of all these cuts is that Jim Stanley and the administration will have to look elsewhere for money.

Fortunately, Jim is already looking for a new means of servicing students in need. About two weeks ago he attended a conference in Birmingham, ALA. of the Southern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. He is also an influential member of at least five other such organizations. Although not giving details of the methods he was considering to replace the lost

federal funds, he assured me that the administration was not going to let us students suffer because of the cuts. Thanks to the relentless work of President Perkinson, the Trustees, the Development Office, (and himself,) he feels they can continue to service those students receiving financial aid. The first priority, he maintains, is to keep the commitment to those already in school, while at the same time bring in new students with financial enticements. If all goes as anticipated, we have good reason to applaud the work of our administration in this critical area.

Yet I can find no reason to praise the Reagan administration for these proposed reductions in Federal assistance. I asked Jim about tuition tax credits, a Reagan alternative to financial aid programs.

"Tuition tax credits are a joke," Jim flatly responded. Under this program, parents would receive a reduction in income tax, meaning that the parents would get the money on April 1. Consequently, tuition tax credits would barely cover a minimal amount of school expenses.

I can't understand how an administration so economically oriented can overlook a simple truth: Investment in students and education is a wise investment. Not only are students a reliable borrower, being that college graduates typically make more money, but we need to expand educational opportunities for the benefit of our national economy. Industrialists, businessmen, and all employers strongly encourage educational programs because they benefit from a more knowledgeable work force.

Even though I may agree with the general principle that spending must be curtailed, education expenditures must never be decreased. Education is much too valuable, for moral, philosophical and economic reasons to warrant reductions. Thus, Jim Stanley urges students to write their Congressmen (he will furnish addresses) to let them know we want to continue the advances we have already made. I can't agree with Jim more. But let us not forget that our administration intends to replace lost federal funds through other means and deserves our respect and gratitude. Other students may not be so fortunate. So don't panic—even though our federal government is short sighted and regressive, our administration is far sighted and progressive in educational policies.