A.S.G. NEWSLETTER

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Associated Student Government
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A.S.G. INITIATES NEWSLETTER

This is the first issue of what will, hopefully, become a regular newsletter from the Associated Student Government. The major goal of the newsletter is to increase communication among the students of Western. Included in the newsletter will be such topics as: information on current or upcoming events on campus, innovative academic or student governmental programs, advance notice of ideas to be proposed at future ASG meetings and opinions on student-oriented issues.

The ASG functions for the benefit of the student and this newsletter is intended to serve as a liaison between ASG and the student body. It is ASG's contention that more students will show an active interest in student government if they are made more aware of the issues.

This is your student government. Become involved and make it the best.

Any suggestions would be welcomed in the suggestion box located at the information desk in Downing Student Center. If you are more vocal, attend the ASG meetings, every Thursday at 5:00 in Downing 305, and voice your opinions. Better yet, you can sign up for any committee in the ASG office (745-1354). We urge everyone to take an active interest in the ASG and, through your suggestions and help, hope the ASG will function as efficiently as possible.

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WHAT'S GOING ON IN CONGRESS?

Most of the student body at Western is totally unaware of the Associated Student Government, Congress meetings and their accomplishments. Congress meets every Thursday at 5:00 pm in Room 305 of the Downing University Center. Students are urged to attend Congress meetings and participate in the discussions.

The agendas for Congress meetings consist of roll call, approval of minutes, standing committee reports (activities, financial, rules and elections, legal rights, student discount, environmental, student opinion survey), old business, new business, non-Congress member speakers, announcements, and adjournment.

In the past two weeks, Congress has been concerned with Homecoming and its activities, and the activities of the standing committees. But, Congress has also passed a resolution in favor of being able to have X-rated movies shown in the Student Center, unanimously approved the proposed Resident Hall Hearing Board appointments, presented the Associated Student Government budget for entertainment and social programs, and invited Dean Charles Keown to speak to Congress concerning a Black Student Affairs office.

Congress meetings are positive action on the part of ASG. What's Going On? Come to the Congress meetings and find out.

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HOMECOMING ACTIVITIES

The Associated Student Government is sponsoring several events during Western's Homecoming. These activities include:

Friday November 3, 1972
Beach Boys Concert, 8:30 pm Diddle Arena
Tickets: $2.50 in advance, $3.00 at the door

Saturday, Nov. 4
Homecoming Dance, 8 - 12 pm, Garrett Ballroom
featuring Reggie Saddler Revue, Admission: $2 per couple

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BUDGET

$30,000 has been budgeted toward the two free concerts, one each semester, this school year. The Chicago concert had a net profit of $4767 after expenses and the fulfillment of the contract with the group. The other free concert will be spring semester.

Three concerts, including Jethro Tull and Beach Boys are to be self financed with admission charged everyone. The other paid concert will be spring semester.

Other entertainment and social programs include a Bluegrass Festival in the spring, mini concerts, the dances and Cellar Coffeehouse.

Our total operating budget amounts to $3,357.50. This money is spent on hiring secretaries, membership in the KY. Student Association, National Entertainment Conference, newsletter, and office supplies. This is a small amount of our total budget, in comparison to $3,543.50 spent on entertainment.
E N V I R O N M E N T A L  R E P O R T

The Environmental Committee of A.J.G is involved presently with starting a recycling program on the Eastern campus. The committee members have gone to various administration and faculty members and students to inform them of the upcoming project. The committee has a reporter on the Herald staff to help relay information to the public, also. The recycling program will involve the collection and recycling of paper and later the recycling of bottles and cans.

A few of the committee members recently took a trip to Vanderbilt and got information on the recycling program there, which started in February. Committee chairman Joe Cheek has recently submitted a list of proposals to the Physical Plant to obtain containers designated for the recycling project. If things go according to plan, recycling stations will be established on campus within the next few weeks and an Environmental Day will be planned to launch the project. Start saving your old paper now!

P O S I T I O N  O F  A S G  O N  T H E  " F L Y "  A P P E A L

It is important that the student body be brought up to date on the status and progress of the lawsuit filed last March against the University by four A.S.G. officers on behalf of the student government. Before the hearing, held last May, the then newly elected A.S.G. president and vice presidents also joined in the suit as plaintiffs.

For those who are new at Western this year, the case involves what the plaintiffs feel to be a violation, by the University, of a basic constitutional right of the student body. The charge was made after some University administrators would not allow a scheduled movie, which they had reviewed and found objectionable, to be shown on campus. The plaintiffs felt that this act of censorship on the university campus must be barred through the courts.

The case was heard in Federal District Court in Bowling Green on May 12, and the judge ruled in favor of the University twenty days later. The plaintiffs then appealed the case to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati because we felt and still feel that the case involves such a very fundamental and important right that it could not be dropped.

Such an assertion of administrative censorship power is violative of the first amendment rights of the student body, which Associated Students seeks to represent, and of the rights of the entire University community.

T H E  F R E E  U N I V E R S I T Y

In recent years, many schools across the nation have recognized a need for an alternative to the standard, structured curriculum. The result has been the adoption of the "Free University" concept. Under such a system, students indicate areas of interest which are not offered by the school and then qualified individuals who are willing to donate their time are found, whether they are students, faculty, or local citizens. There is no cost involved for the program, since it is voluntary and no credit is given. There is not the traditional teacher-student relationship, for there are no tests, grades, or papers. The student simply learns as much as he wants to learn. In short, the Free University brings together those who want to learn with those who are willing to share.

The University of Kentucky has such a program established and the A.S.G. is working to establish one at Western. To illustrate the possibilities of topics, here are a few included in the U.K.'s program: The Cities Game, Political Power, Analysis and Potential, or about Jesus, Photography. The possibilities are unlimited. If you are interested in a Free University at Western, please indicate that interest by stopping by the A.S.G. office in Downing and letting us know.

A C A D E M I C  B A N K R U P T C Y

A resolution was recently passed in A.S.G congress to recommend the initiation of "Academic Bankruptcy." Under this program a student is permitted to exclude one semester from his or her cumulative grade point average. This allows students to eliminate a mistake from their records and adds incentive to do well in college academic work.

At present, the concept of Academic Bankruptcy is being considered in the Scholarship Committee of the Academic Council. Considering the benefits of this program, A.S.G proposes the establishment of and the implementation of an Academic Bankruptcy Program at Western in the near future.
ATTENTION!

Steve Atlas of Nader's Raiders will speak Tuesday, January 23 at 5:00 p.m. in room 305 of the Downing University Center. His appearance is sponsored by the Associated Student Government.

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ACTIVITIES REPORT - CONCERTS AND LECTURES

A.S.G. plan to present two major concerts during the spring semester. The first concert will feature Billy Paul, who recently held the number one position on the record charts with "We and Me... Love," and Stevie Wonder, whose many hits include the current top single: "Recreational." Along with these two artists will appear Stackie McKearin, a singer who has been performing with Motown groups since the mid-50's. The show promises to be a great one. Stevie Wonder recently finished a tour of the U.S. with the Rolling Stones, where he received tremendous reviews. Showtime is 8:00 p.m., Feb. 13 at Middle Arena. Tickets will be $2.50 in advance and $3.00 at the door.

The second concert will be in March or early April and will be the free concert for the semester. The concert is still in the planning stages, however, and no group has been contracted at this time.

In other activity news, A.S.G. will co-sponsor with the university a lecture by Buckminster Fuller, the world famous social critic, urban planner, and architect. The program is scheduled for Feb. 27 at 8:00 p.m. in Van Meter Auditorium.

The A.S.G. will also sponsor three mini-concerts during the coming semester, due to the great response to this type of programming in the past.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The recycling process has been initiated on Western's campus but has had a close shave with termination. After a dismal turn-out on Environmental Day, the recycling containers were placed on campus at several locations. The first two weeks of the project over a ton and a half of recyclable material (mostly newspaper) was collected. It showed a concerted effort by the students on this campus to fill these containers and also their concern for improving their environment. There was optimism among the members of the Environmental Committee at the beginning of this semester but when they returned a crisis arose concerning the entire project. The Alton Box Board Co. could not pick up or receive any of the paper in the containers because a city ordinance was pressuring them about being behind in their work. This caused great concern among the members and a possible ending of the project before it could really begin and show its great value. Members of the committee were activated by this and conferred with many individuals of Alton Box Board, the administration at Western, and officials in Bowling Green about the fate of the project. The committee members collected more material to keep the containers from overflowing, but they did not have an adequate place to store it or transportation to pick it up regularly. A plea to the student body was in the Herald recently commenting on the problems of the project. Fortunately, at press time, Alton Box Board is catching up and probably will be emptying the containers again. It was a close call but the project will survive.

On a lighter note, plans have been made to recognize the Environmental Committee. The divisions will be established, one concerned with engineering which will maintain the recycling program and expand it, and another division concerned with the public relations aspect to accent the recycling project and plan activities such as field trips to stripmining areas like Paradise, Ky. and ecology courts and to generate interest in the Free University course on the environment taught by committee advisor Dr. Rose of Engineering Technology. These divisions will be coordinated together to generate more interest and appeal on the part of the students in the Environmental Committee of A.S.G. and its various projects.
A. S. G. PLANS FOR SPRING SEMESTER

During the Spring Semester, A.S.G. will place special emphasis on a great variety of programs such as the Free University. The purpose of this is to provide an open forum for discussion and learning in areas not covered by the usual academic curriculum of a university. Classes will be offered in such fields as bicycle repair, yoga, quilting, and power in society.

Other areas that A.S.G. will be giving attention to are: the establishment of a campus radio station, the creation of a campus park, an increase in counseling available to Western students, and an increase in projects by its environmental committee.

One other important area that A.S.G. will emphasize this semester is that of communication with the students. Symposiums will be held in every dorm on campus and will be attended by various members of student government. The goal of this effort is to make more students aware of A.S.G., how they can help it function better, and the inputs they can make.

KENTUCKY STUDENT PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

As we move into the second semester of this year the Associated Student Government is ready to pursue one of the most interesting and far-reaching programs in its history. This program has been labeled as K.Y.P.I.R.G., a public interest research group based on a concept developed by Ralph Nader. The goal of the organization is to provide an autonomous state-wide student group that will, with the assistance of a full-time professional staff, engage in research, citizen action and litigation on behalf of the public and student interest.

This project has been successful in seventeen (17) states across the nation. All of these research groups have been highly successful, but only because of the total support it has received in each of these states. These research groups have been concerned with such issues as environmental preservation and consumer protection, racial and sexual discrimination, and government and corporate responsibility. All of these issues concern you, the student, so let's get out and support this very worthwhile project.

All people who are interested in this or any other of A.S.G.'s activities please contact the A.S.G. office at 748-1331.
Environmental preservation, consumer protection, race and sex discrimination, and corporate and governmental responsibility are only a few of the issues which should concern each and every citizen. But, concern is not enough. Action must be taken to deal with these issues before it is too late.

Students are the ones who must take the responsibility for this citizenship activity, for no other group possesses as much imagination and flexibility.

Many students, however, feel that they can have no effect on the system and thus are skeptical of their ability to produce change. They forget that students have accomplished in the past with little organization and few funds. Who began the civil rights sit-in movements which led to new laws? Students. Who made the nation truly aware of the environmental crisis? Students. Who helped turn American policy toward withdrawal from Vietnam? Students. Who helped get the 18-year old vote? Students.

Students can indeed have a major impact on society, but the meetings, rallies, and protests of the 1960's are not the way to do it. Today's issues are more complex and thus require new methods. Sit-ins and marches will not make huge corporations stop polluting rivers.

Recognizing this, consumer advocate Ralph Nader developed the idea of PIRG, a student public interest research group. He felt that with a minimal contribution from each student on campuses across a state, students would have the resources to hire a full-time professional staff to carry out projects. Student researchers working with professionals—lawyers, scientists, economists, and engineers—could investigate issues in their state and local communities and effectively do something about them. Nader's idea grew and there are now PIRGs functioning in 14 states.

Various PIRGS across the country have accomplished a great deal in the short time they have been functioning. The PIRG in Minnesota helped stop U.S. Steel from clear-cutting timberland in the boundary-water canoe area. Massachusetts' PIRG went to federal court to force the state to provide consumer representation before the public utility commission, and in Oregon, PIRG's investigation into "bait-and-switch" tactics by auto dealers led to a suit by the Oregon Attorney General to stop that action.

State wide efforts are now being made at organizing a Kentucky Student Public Interest Research (KYSPIRG). Plans call for campus organizers to collect the names of more than 50% of the students at a university on a petition calling for the establishment of a PIRG to be funded by a $2 fee, no more than one would pay for a good meal. The fee would be refundable to those students not wanting to support the organization. After petitioning, student organizers would seek university approval.

In a short time you, the students of Western, will be asked to sign these petitions. Western's participation is essential to the success of KYSPIRG. If you are concerned with the problems that face our nations today, if you want to take an active part in combating these problems, if you want to bring about social betterment in the interest of all citizens, then sign these petitions! SUPPORT KYSPIRG!!

What is KYSPIRG

The Kentucky Student Public Interest Research Group is a group of students from a number of Kentucky colleges and universities who are organizing to fight for governmental responsibility, environmental preservation, equal rights, consumer protection, corporate responsibility. Students are being asked to support a state-wide group with its own professional staff of researchers, attorneys, and ecologists, through a voluntary rise of $1/year in student fees.
Why is KYSPiRG needed?

Many important decisions involving governmental responsibility, environmental preservation, and consumer protection are made on the state and local level. On the state level, although hundreds of lobbyists represent private interests, there are very few public interest activists. Companies continue to pollute our rivers, dangerous toys are sold in Kentucky stores, and consumers are bilked by second hand appliance companies. The need is clear. KYSPiRG can make a difference.

How will KYSPiRG differ from other student activist groups?

Unlike most student groups, KYSPiRG will have its own staff of researchers, attorneys, economists, and ecologists.

Why is a professional staff needed?

Student public interest groups, without a full time staff, are hampered by a lack of continuity and a lack of expertise.

Student projects are always interrupted by vacations and exam periods. The activities of polluters continue year round. As long as those in authority can count on student interest to wane in a couple of years or vanish when this particular group graduates, students will not be taken seriously. Students are also limited by a lack of expertise. Even when they identify a problem, they do not have the ability to take the problem to court or to effectively lobby. Full time staff will provide both continuity and expertise.

How will the money be raised to pay a full-time staff?

Through a voluntary rise in the student fees of Kentucky students. Students on area campuses will be asked to sign a petition which indicates that they are willing to contribute $4/year to KYSPiRG through their student fee. When, and only when, a majority of students on a campus support KYSPiRG, the campus KYSPiRG chapter will gain approval of the funding approach from the Board of Trustees.

How will the rights of the students who do not support KYSPiRG be protected?

The $4 collected from any student who does not support KYSPiRG will be refunded upon request to the student at a public office on campus and at an advertised time during the third week after the fee is collected. On some campuses a negative check-off may be used.

Will KYSPiRG continue if students do not support it on a campus?

No. If refunds rise above 50%, all the money will be refunded to all students at that campus.

Will KYSPiRG be controlled by students?

Yes. Each campus will elect representatives to sit on the KYSPiRG Board of Directors. This Board, all students, will hire staff and determine all policies.

What will KYSPiRG do?

KYSPiRG will organize public interest actions similar to projects already being successfully undertaken by PIRGs in 14 states. For example, Connecticut PIRG uncovered the fact that Colt Firearms was cheating the government on the M-16 rifle. The Oregon PIRG uncovered and documented shocking unsanitary practices in meat packing plants and fraud in the repair of autos. New Jersey PIRG discovered that drug store prices varied between $1.40 and $6.00 for the same prescription in the different stores. Minnesota PIRG fought for the establishment of community health clinics in unserved areas. KYSPiRG will pursue similar programs in Kentucky.

WORK WITH KYSPiRG. WE WORK ON SOLUTIONS.