

Rafetto Becomes First Woman Prexy; Okuda Pens Fatherly Letter of Advice

Nancy Rafetto, the first woman in college history to become student Council president, will take over the reins of student government next Tuesday evening. She carried slightly less than a 100-vote margin over Pvt. Bill Burton in the final elections held on April 5. The count was 641 to 547.

Another woman and three unit men won the other four contests. All nine civilian men originally seeking office were defeated. Mary Lou Scarborough won as Vice-President - Social Chairman; Pvt. Bill Girouard took the secretaryship; A/S Dave Swartz was elected treasurer; and A/S Al Hermann captured the Honor Court Chairmanship.

Tabulate Ballots

The tabulation of votes is: Scarborough 608, Polly Comegys 569; Girouard 789, Doug Perry 390; Swartz 880, Tony Belknap 303; Hermann 656, Pat Sweeney 520. The number of ballots cast, 1200, approximately equaled the number turned in at the primary elections the previous Tuesday.

Officers will be installed at 7:30 Tuesday night at the "Y" building in a meeting open to the student body.

Will Enlarge Membership

Miss Rafetto, a junior, will attend school this summer to carry on her duties. She will graduate next February. Her past experience includes membership both on the Student Council board this year and on the WSGL board for two years. She is a counselor at Gulde House.

In fulfillment of her platform promises, the new president plans to begin immediately to press necessary steps to enlarge the council membership from seven to fourteen, adding four representatives of the unit and three civilians-at-large. She predicted that the plan would go into effect in July.

WILKINS OUT OF TOWN

President Wilkins will be out of town on Navy business next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

NEW PRESIDENT



NANCY RAFETTO

An Open Letter

To Nancy Rafetto:

Congratulations on your election to the presidency of the Student Council, Nancy. As you face the college year ahead, there is much to be done.

At each election time, the major campaign cry is against "student apathy," for better student faculty relations. But "student apathy" is a vicious thing; it can be the rationalization device by which we only look idly at the problems and fail to act, particularly if this "apathy" envelops the Council. There are no "best" ways to create student interest, but it is the function of the Council to strive for that goal.

Is Expansion Necessary?

One of the major items on your platform was the enlargement of the Student Council, which requires a constitutional amendment. It seems that one of the students' greatest joys is to amend constitutions, any one which comes into sight. Doubling the size of the Council will not make it any more representative, and may cut down its effectiveness. Representation is not and cannot be measured by the number of persons on the Council,

RAFETTO PLATFORM

1. Double the Student Council membership by providing four representatives from the unit and one sophomore and two freshmen from the civilian body.
2. The setting up of a joint student-faculty committee to air student-faculty opinions, suggestions and misunderstandings.
3. The working of the Student Council members toward a closer integration with the student body to find out the campus opinions on important questions.
4. The council must become the organizing power for working out the will and aims of the students — a rejuvenated social program, active participation in the Convention, more power independent of the faculty.

but by their willingness to draw ideas from others, to offer constructive suggestions, and to be able to put in the time and effort necessary to do a good job. I think that any constitutional agitation now will serve no effective purpose and will only be an artificial device to create student interest.

Concentrate instead, Nancy, on such suggestions as that of Bill Burton for a monthly student forum. Work effectively with the Non-Partisan Convention to make the 1944 Convention the biggest event to hit the Oberlin campus. The Council also can very effectively strive for closer cooperation and understanding with the residents of Oberlin and the local organizations.

Student government can be meaningless or effective depending upon the attitude of the Student Council and the general interest of the Student body. The challenge is yours to meet. Here's wishing you the best of luck.

—Kenji Okuda.

