

NEW COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

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FURMAN C. ARTHUR — INFORMATION

NEW COLLEGE STUDENTS MANAGE OWN AFFAIRS

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The word "extra-curricular" has a special meaning for five students at New College. They are members of the Multi-Purpose Committee, an interim student government which involves them with many added hours of work each week.

They chose the name Multi-Purpose for their group because their functions involve many aspects of the campus life. Members are apt to find items on their weekly meeting agenda dealing with student dress, meals, a residence hall matter, or almost anything about campus life that involves students.

Five students serve along with three members of the faculty and several members of the Administration. Students bear the major responsibility, the voting rights, and the chairmanship of the Committee.

A Kansas student, John Cranor of Hutchinson is elected head of the five-student group. An articulate, serious student of the Social Sciences, he has been almost continuously involved in the management of student affairs since his arrival on campus in September.

For Cranor and his fellow committee members, overseeing students affairs is seldom a matter of only several hours in a meeting once a week but often means nearly twice that in individual conferences and conversations outside of the meetings.

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Students working with Cranor are Esther Lynn Barazzone of Port Charlotte, Fla.; Bruce Lamartine, Naples, Fla.; Kenneth Misemer, Springfield, Mo.; and Allan Whitt of Miami, Fla. Faculty members are Professor George Curry, Professor Robert S. Long, and Tutor Arthur McA. Miller. Acting Dean of Students Robert J. Norwine also serves with the group and educational coordinator Dr. Nell P. Eurich and others often sit in with them.

All of the students are members of the first class at New College, which opened in September as one of the nation's newest colleges of the liberal arts and sciences.

Students evolved the Multi-Purpose Committee in April after trying and then discarding several other committee forms for their own government. While the MP group now effectively deals with all campus affairs, another group of students and faculty is working on recommendations for a formal student government.

Cranor and his fellow members were elected by the student body at large and the Kansan admits that one of the committee's most difficult functions is to deal effectively with divergent viewpoints among the student body.

"But I think that student respect for the Multi-Purpose Committee is good," said Cranor.

He said that the committee calls on students to enforce their own regulations but that his group is ready to step in at any time.

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"I imagine we're rather unpopular in some quarters right now over a disciplinary ruling we made indirectly," Cranor said, shrugging it off with a philosophical attitude that would do credit to an experienced political figure.

He said that it had been difficult to work out a new government.

"When you step into a ready-made situation, you know what the limits are and what is expected of you," he said, "but here we were the first students and so we have had to develop more slowly."

A serious student of campus government and students affairs, Cranor recently attended a special symposium held on the campus of the University of Florida.

"Students are picking up the responsibility now to act as the watchdog of society," he observed, "and at New College more students seem to be interested in social, political, and economic affairs than on some other campuses."

John is anticipating the day soon when a report is made on planning a full student government but the forecast is that he and his Multi-Purpose group has many more hours of work ahead of it still.