

Election Bureau Investigated

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that petitions can be legally collected (February 27th at 12:01 a.m.), he showed up at the office at 8:00 a.m. with all the signatures he needed and more. Then C. Dolores Tucker (Pennsylvania State Secretary) came out to shake his hand for the news cameras."

"How come it never occurred to her to ask where he got all those signatures so fast?" asked Andrea.

To press the blade of education a little deeper, Andrea said, "We also had the case where a man (later identified as Philadelphia County representative Freeman Hankins, Democrat) came in with his aide and his petitions for election."

"The signatures were all there, they were all notarized, but the attached circulators' affidavits were left blank (which state who collected the signatures and that swear to the validity of the signatures). That makes them invalid petitions and all illegally notarized," she said.

"Sue Besch," another intern, "complained that she couldn't accept the petitions in that form. Then Lou Mete, state commissioner of elections, came out to see what was wrong."

According to Andrea, this is what transpired:

Lou Mete informed the staff that Mr. Hankins was a member in good standing of the State Appropriations Committee, and that his petitions were to be accepted and that the aide was to be permitted to fill in the blanks, immediately.

According to the Committee meeting minutes and the interns, two days later, on February 13th, Commissioner Mete and C. Dolores Tucker went before Representative Hankins' Appropriations Committee to ask for their Bureau's yearly stipend. They received it with no difficulty whatever.

Andrea cites example after redundant example of such methods and practices, but finally, she said, she stopped complaining when she and other interns were taken out to lunch at a Chinese restaurant.

Andrea: "We left at eleven and didn't come back 'til three."

Q: "Your supervisors took you?"

Andrea: "Yes."

Q: "And paid for it out of their own pockets?"

Andrea: "No. When a candidate wanted to challenge the petitions of other candidates, he paid one dollar for every copy made. We were taken out to lunch on that money."

Q: "Doesn't that money belong to the state?"

Andrea: "Yeah. But I guess I finally got to benefit from some little piece of graft."

Andrea's account of these events was not the first one the C.C. Reader had heard, but it was a representative one.

The original knowledge we obtained on the activities at the Bureau of Elections was brought to us voluntarily by interns Susan Besch and

Christine Cox who heard we were doing a feature on internships for our March 4th issue.

As it happened, staff writer Ray Martin interviewed Urban Term student George Crowell on his internship at the Bureau of Elections for that article, and Crowell said, at that time, he was satisfied with the program there.

When Cox and Besch heard of Crowell's remark, they came to the Reader office to voice contrary opinions of the quality of the internships at the Elections Bureau and to fill us in on what actually happens in the day-to-day operations there.

Their recounting of incidents adhered closely to ones we heard later from other students, like Yelverton. However, they were able to add significant details relating to the Freeman Hankins incident, which were corroborated by other interns and officials at the Bureau itself.

According to the Cox/Besch account, on the morning that Commissioner Mete and Secretary Tucker went before the Appropriations Committee to ask for the Bureau stipend, Irv Jaffe (Republican), a candidate for state auditor general, came in to file his election petitions.

When Jaffe presented the petitions, Lou Mete rejected them for having one blank space in the circulators' affidavit.

Mete's action caused the interns to voice their complaints on the spot and to ask: If Hankins petitions had been accepted two days earlier with considerably more wrong with them, why was Jaffe's being rejected? □

The interns' questions caused Robert Grant, Mete's assistant who was not present during the Hankins filing, to take his superior aside and ask exactly what he thought he was doing.

After a brief consultation between the two, Grant, Jaffe and Mete retired to Mete's office.

When the three emerged, Jaffe's petitions were accepted. Debbie Hoffman, another intern at the Bureau of Elections, verified this incident and added another:

During the period when petitions may be obtained for the presidential primary, Shapp was permitted to send a substitute representative to pick up his delegate petitions. Indiana Senator Birch Bahy, a Democratic primary candidate in the same race with Shapp, was not permitted a similar privilege. Instead, Bahy had to follow the law, which requires that petitions be picked up in person by the individual delegated to that responsibility--no substitutions.

The implication here is that the Pennsylvania State Bureau of Elections showed favoritism to Shapp. However, we were unable to verify the truth if this

After observing the activity at the Bureau for six weeks and with two weeks of their internship remaining, several Capitol Campus

students withdrew from the program with the Internship Program Advisor Dr. Robert Bresler's consent.

When asked for verification of the students complaints, Bresler said he was examining their internship reports which give their assessment of the situation at the Bureau.

On May 5th, this Reader staff writer met with Grant at his office in Harrisburg to get his response to our file of statements, interviews, rumors and horror stories.

Grant was asked for copies of the petitions of Representative Freeman Hankins and Candidate Larry Hochendoner.

Grant replied that all the petitions had been moved out of the office just the day before and relocated in the State Records Office.

Before going to the State Records office, Grant was asked some further questions:

Q: "Were you present when Freeman Hankins tried to file his petitions for election?"

Grant: "No. I wasn't there, but I heard about it."

Q: "Were you here when Irv Jaffe tried to file his petitions for election?"

Grant: "Have you seen this! This is the Pennsylvania State Elections Code. Section 2936 states that petitions may be amended at the time they are presented. This avoids tying up the courts with petition challenges."

Inquiries on the part of the Reader as to why these petitions must be amended inside the Commissioner's closed office, came to no avail.

The final product of the search was this: After obtaining photostatic copies of the petitions in question, Larry Hochendoner came up fairly clean. The mysterious signatures acquired between 12:01 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. were the result of a vigorous door-to-door campaign conducted at 1:00 a.m. This was determined after talking to petition signers.

However, on examination of Freeman Hankins' petitions revealed they were all notarized by someone with the last name Hankins, and all the blanks on the circulators' affidavits were filled in, with what appeared to be the same typewriter. All of them that is, except one. It had an odd blank spot.

Try It One More Time?

It has become apparent that many students have misinterpreted the revised course repeat rule which became effective Winter term 1976.

A course in which a grade of A, B, C, D, or F was received may be repeated provided the student receives written permission from his advisor and program chairman.

All grades received for the course will be averaged into the student's cumulative grade point average. However, a student may not receive duplicate credit for passing the course more than once.

Under Rule M3b, a student may petition to repeat a course in which an "F" grade was received.

If he/she then receives a grade of "C" or better, only this last grade shall be used to compute his/her cumulative grade point average.

All grades earned, however, remain on his/her permanent record. A grade of "D" or "F" in the repeated course is averaged in the usual way.

For a student to exercise this option, the following conditions must be met:

--The student must have failed the course prior to the Winter term 1976. Courses taken on a pass/fail basis or courses in which a "D" or better grade was received are not eligible for repeat under this rule.

--The student must register for the course according to procedures outlined in the

Master Schedule for the term in which the student expects to repeat the course.

--The student must file a Course Repeat Notice form with the Records Office on or before the 21st calendar day of the term in which he/she will repeat the course. If the Course Repeat Notice is not filed, all grades received for the course will not be used to compute the student's cumulative grade point average.

A guide to Rule M3b is printed in the 1975-76 Policies and Rules for Students.

Courses failed after the Fall term 1975 are not eligible for repeat under this rule. However, they may be repeated under the procedures outlined above.

Flying High: Aviation Day



Al Murrer takes the controls of Pegasus' DC-8.

By John Leierzapf
Staff Writer

The morning was brisk, the sky blue with puffs of clouds scattered here and there.

The wind was a bit gusty at times but the conditions combined to make it a great day for flying at Harrisburg International Airport.

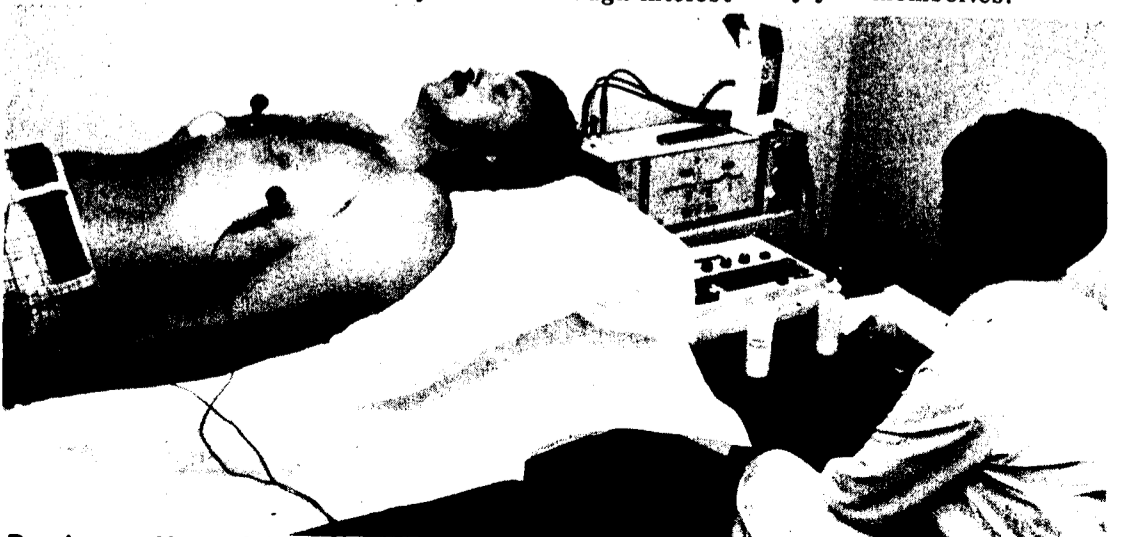
Those people who took advantage of the plane rides were rewarded with a panoramic view of the state capitol, Middletown and Capitol Campus.

The control tower was open for inspection to anyone with enough interest

and stamina to make the long steep climb to the top. Two aircraft Controllers were on duty and explained the tower's operation and procedures.

Pegasus International had their DC-8 on display and most people took the opportunity to sit at the controls on the flight deck and dream.

Aviation day was only a modest success compared to last year because few planes were on display. However, Larry Schrader, club president, said that everyone who took part enjoyed themselves.



Dr. James Knestrick gets his battery checked during the medical screening held here.