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Mock Elections

Today we are holding a mock election for the student body in the lounge of the Otto F. Behrend Science Building to see how our opinions compare to those of the real voters tomorrow.

After signing of a clean campaign pact, it looked as if we could watch a political campaign with a minimum of mud-slinging. But despite the pact, the candidates for Pennsylvania's gubernatorial seat muddled each other.

The current Newsweek Magazine, in a spotlight report of the campaigns throughout the country, credited Democrat Milton Shapp with having the best-heeled glossiest campaign in the country.

Incumbent Raymond Shafer is aware of this, and has countered by criticizing the amount of Shapp's own funds that have been spent. They also attach Shapp's plan for free Higher education in Pennsylvania as being impractical, short-sighted, ridiculous, et cetera, ad infinitum and ad nauseum.

Likewise, Mr. Shapp attacks Lt. Governor Shafer's platform plank on labor, contending that Shafer's voting record as a state senator was in opposition to his present stance. Shapp attacks the present administration for failure to bring about better insurance controls, losing big business that had been in Pennsylvania, and numerous other things (also ad nauseum.)

But even under all the mud-slinging, all the campaigning, and all the promises there are many truths. The question is, though, will all the voters take the time to sit down, find all the facts, and evaluate them for what they are worth.

Many of us who are as yet unable to vote have spoken to those of voting age, asking what they thought of the candidates. Unfortunately, too often we get answers like: "I don't know. They're both pretty bad. Maybe I won't even vote." These people have failed to take the campaign and their rights as citizens seriously. They haven't tried to find any truths, but when the election is over, they are the ones likely to complain about the new governor in office.

Whether Shapp and Staisey or Shafer and Broderick are elected in the real election, we hope that students will take this Mock election seriously.

And hopefully, our students who are old enough to vote will vote wisely tomorrow.



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