

## THE CONSTITUTION - AN EXPLANATION

If you wanted to characterize the present school year in one word, the most appropriate word would be ambiguity. By far the most ambiguous word thrown around this campus recently is CONSTITUTION. What happened?...Why did it happen?...What is being done now? These are just a few of the questions many of the students are asking themselves. They are forced to ask themselves for no one else seems to know. To help dissipate the ever growing cloud of confusion concerning this new constitution; what follows is a summary of what has happened concerning the document beginning Spring Term 1967.

Practically one year ago today, elections were held for the office of President of the SGA for the upcoming year and the Vice-President and Treasurer were also to be selected at this time. Under the 1964 Constitution which was in effect, the President, Vice-President and Treasurer were to be selected from the four "carry-over" members. As it turned out, only two of the four members would be enrolled as full-time students for an entire school year. There were three positions to fill and only two candidates available. Because of this situation several students pushed, shoved and finally ratified an amendment which would allow students (other than "carry-overs") to run for the office of President.

Under this amendment the elections were held and Ron Batchelor, Bill Benko and John Jackson were elected. The events that followed the election have led to all of the confusion present today.

The Committee on Student Affairs reviewed the amendment and found it to be unconstitutional in many respects. At the SGA meeting held during the summer, the committee formally declared the amendment unconstitutional and also revoked the 1964 constitution, partly because of ambiguous phrasing. Therefore, because the amendment was unconstitutional so then was the election; but the committee realized the need for student leaders elected quickly and responsibly. Using the election as a basis, the committee appointed Ron Batchelor as President, Bill Benko as Vice-President and John Jackson as Treasurer. The other SGA positions to be filled by applicants who would be screened and appointed by Student Affairs. The committee also requested that the new SGA begin the writing of a new constitution as soon as possible.

Thus the school year (1967-68) began without a constitution and with officers appointed by Student Affairs. As soon as the SGA had its full complement of members a committee was formed to write a new constitution.

In the following months the Constitutional Committee worked diligently to prepare a workable and acceptable document that would best fit the needs of an expanding campus. After much discussion and review the SGA proposed that the constitution be sent to the Student Affairs Office for ratification. This took place at the February 22, 1968 meeting of the SGA.

Now you ask - why don't we have a constitution by now it has been at least three months? I can safely say that a group of students cannot write a perfect constitution. Because of the students' inexperience there were many essential points that they did not realize were necessary. These students, along with the help of the faculty and the Student Affairs Committee, are working to make this document as perfect as possible - and perfection takes time.

I have heard a few students state that the non-student members of the Student Affairs Committee are trying to kill the constitution by drowning it in time. Nothing could be farther from the truth, and as a member of this committee I can testify to this fact.

This is where the constitution stands now, in the hands of Student Affairs. There is only one more section of the constitution to be reviewed and ratified by the committee and after this is done ratification seems inevitable.

I hope that through this article students will have a better understanding of the events occurring on campus. Look for another article next week.

Bill Benko

## SGA ELECTIONS

Wind torn, rainswept posters and sighs of relief on the part of both the winners and losers are all that remain after a week of hard campaigning for the May 15th SGA elections. An Election Committee composed of Ron Batchelor, Mike Kosares, Sherry Mayer, Bill McCloud and Dianne Regan deserve many thanks for their fine effort in setting down procedures running the election, and counting ballots.

Preceding the Election Day, speeches were to be heard during the common hour in the Reed Lecture hall. A poor showing did not discourage the candidates. They moved their speeches to the cafeteria lounge to reach a larger part of the Student Body.

After tedious counting, the results were factual at 6:50 late Wednesday. In the Student Body President race, Arnie Caldwell was on top for that hard fought position. Arnie, who is treasurer now, campaigned on his experience, and his plans for Behrend in relation to its future.

In the election for Treasurer, Jim Burger pulled ahead in what might be called one of the biggest landslides in Behrend's election history. Jim campaigned on his knowledge of the difficult office and willingness to work in filling it.

The election of the off-campus representatives proved the most interesting race, since all of the candidates appeared on about half of the ballots. Those pulling in the leading four positions were: Gary Lacovick, Claudia White, Deann Balmer and Paula Ignasiak.

Congratulations are in order to all of the winners for their efforts and willingness to serve next year's Student Body.

Concetta Rizzo

All candidates wish to express their sincere thanks to all student voters who made the Election a success.