

Editorial

Pennsylvania Legislators Owe Us The Right To Vote

Pennsylvania has no excuse for not providing its citizens with absentee voting.

Its failure to do this each year disenfranchises thousands of voters, students, traveling men, and others necessarily away from their place of legal residence on Election Day.

Its failure to do so can have no excuse, although two have been given: (1) That administration of absentee voting involves a terrific amount of red tape, and (2) that in the 42 states which do provide absentee voting only a small proportion of the citizens use the privilege.

The draft should effectively do away with the excuse about administration. The state constitution already requires that soldiers be given the right to vote even though they are not at their legal residences. To enfranchise the others who are now unable to vote on Election Day will mean merely that this machinery must be expanded.

The second excuse is no better. We haven't thought of doing away with primary elections because only 25 per cent of the voters take part in them. Too, our apathetic attitude toward the vote is changing. Registration throughout the United States is higher than it has ever been before. Still, thousands of Pennsylvanians who would vote if they were at their home polling places are going to be denied that privilege because their presence is demanded elsewhere.

A lot of college students—and there are 2,000 of them at Penn State alone who could vote—will spend five dollars or ten dollars to travel home and vote. But the vast majority will be able to afford neither the time nor the money and because of that will lose their rights as citizens.

It is too late now to do any more than urge as many students as possible to go home to vote in this election.

It is not too early to begin thinking about next election.

It is not too early to demand to know whether the candidates for office in this election will enfranchise these thousands of voters in the next.

It is not too early to write to our homes and urge those friends of ours who will vote to cast for candidates they know will be in favor of absentee voting.

It is not unfair to ask every candidate for the General Assembly (which must decide on this matter of absentee voting) to tell where he stands. And it is not unreasonable.

Now is the time to do it. Now is the time to send postcards and letters home. Now is the time to demand opinions and definite stands.

Once the election is over we can again ask our representatives to take a stand, can renew our bid for their support.

The time to take the first step is now.

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

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Managing Editor This Issue—George Schenkele '41 News Editor This Issue—John A. Baer '42 Women's Editor This Issue—R. Helen Gordon '42 Sophomore Assistants—Richard S. Stebbins, Samuel L. Strub



TODAY: German Club picnic group meets at corner of Atherton street and West College avenue at 5 p.m. Phosphorus food exhibit in Room 209 Home Economics.

Pi Gamma Alpha presents "Painting a Portrait" at 7:30 p. m. in 107 M. Engineering. All invited.

Business staff of Engineer in Room 314 Old Main at 7 p. m. Editorial staff meets in same room at 7:30 p. m.

Meeting of the editorial candidates and staff of the Penn State Farmer in Room 308 Old Main at 7:30 p.m.

TOMORROW: Paul Moritz will speak in the Home Economics auditorium at 8 p. m. on "Will China Survive?"

NIBBLING AT THE NEWS

J. GORDON FAY

Confusion

If one of Orson Wells men from Mars were to drop in on us today, not to make war upon us, but to find out just what is going on here on this planet, his reports to friends at home would probably begin, "You figure it out—I can't!"

Of course, it wouldn't take the little fellow from outer space long to understand that Germany, having taken over a large section of Europe, is doing her best to add Britain's to her list of scalps, and that Great Britain is so far putting up a pretty good scrap to prevent just that happening.

From there on, however, the daily news reports would leave our Martian friend pretty well confusde. He would first read that Japan has signed a mutual assistance pact with the Axis powers then he would learn of Russia's concentration of troops on the Nazi-held Rumanian border and Stalin's proposed pact with Turkey, a country supposedly on Britain's side of the fence.

So far all would be clear, but on turning over the page and reading the headlines, SOVIET-JAPAN PACT IS THOUGHT LIKELY; he would probably begin to wonder. Reading a story one day of the sinking of the English cruiser, Ajax, by Italian ships, and reading the next day that the Ajax has sunk three Italian warboats would not help his confusion.

A hectic flush would appear on the Martian correspondent's face as he learned that the United States was releasing previously withheld tools to Soviet Russia at the same time that the Communist party, the party of Russia, was being barred from election lists all over the country.

About the time that he saw the news of an isolated country, surrounded by several thousand miles of open sea, making defense preparations to conscript several million men, but lagging behind in ship and aircraft production, the little fellow from Mars would probably tear his hair and go home.

Most newsmen who are covering international affairs wouldn't blame him.

Letters to the Editor—

Semi-Formal Hop Draws Reader's Ire

To the Editor: What's this business about having Soph Hop semi-formal (Penn State style)? This idea is crazy. It doesn't give our function the distinction it should have. One may compare it with any other All-College function that will follow from time to time. This, no doubt, is the work of a bunch of half-baked Independents.

F. Lloyd Convers '43

Dr. Butler Explains And Steps Down

To the Editor: On October 4th, President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University, in an address to the faculty, made statements that caused general alarm among leaders in education, youth organizations, and committees for academic freedom. The Columbia faculty members and the executive committee of the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom immediately, in an open letter to Dr. Butler, stressed the need for clarification of points raised in his speech. Dr. Butler replied as follows:

"It surprises me that anyone who has been so long, a member of the Columbia University family should share, in any degree, the very obvious and mystifying misinterpretation in the press of my address to the General Assembly of the Faculties on Thursday last. Academic freedom is and has long been so firmly established at Columbia that no one should have the least fear that our University opinion would permit its abandonment or qualification.

"Are not the answers to the questions which you put quite obvious in any institution where academic freedom prevails? Our faculty members are certainly at full liberty to think and to talk as they please upon any subject which interests them, whether it be popular or unpopular. Moreover, it is clearly our duty to protect the opinion and judgments of minorities. Majorities can usually take care of themselves.

"We and our associates constitute the Columbia University of our day and generation. We make its policies and we control them. Therefore, the University is not a foreign and remote thing; it consists of ourselves. This is why we ask for University freedom as a group, as well as for traditional academic freedom as individuals.

"Of course, the student body should enjoy freedom. With us it does so in highest degree. That freedom is described by me as student freedom and not as academic freedom, since the latter term, now two hundred years old, has always had very definite meaning and application to the work of professors and scholars."

The Columbia members of the Committee thanked Dr. Butler for his statement and expressed their desire to maintain the high degree of student body and academic freedom that now exists.

Thus apparently ends what at first seemed a problem of great concern.

A Reader. Editor's Note: Collegian editorially concurred with the expression mistakenly laid to Dr. Butler. However, the views it expressed were its own. Although it must apologize to Dr. Butler for mistaking him, it still agrees with what it thought he said.

LION TALES



Knowing full well that the most enthusiastic followers of the "dirt" columns are coeds and in view of that the fact that the Cwen Dance was the chief social event of the weekend, I humbly dedicate this column to the girls.

Dear Diary:

Came home from classes Friday all bushed but managed to revive in time to enjoy a delicious meal. Had to cut short a grand bridge game to come home and dress. Must have gained weight over the summer because my roommate had to zip me into my dress. Arrived at White Hall fashionably late. Jean Craighead's painting of a medieval lady knocked me in the eye as I walked in. Understand that henceforth it will be found in Vera Kemp's room.

Saw packs of people I knew. Lots of thetas—Benny and Gertie Hellmers with phi-gams, also Sally Searle with a new hairdo and John Currier. Posie Williams took Jack Cunningham, SAE; and Rowena: Godshalk came with Tommy Kelly, beta. Eleanor McLaughlin took Peter Cramer and she wasn't the only Kappa with an SAE. There were several Alpha Chis with Sigma Nus. Chi O's Patton and Beuchle took Billy Myers and Tommy Robinson from the beta house, and Margie Roberts, who wrote Co-Edition's editorial on how to ask a man to the Cwen Dance arrived with Sammy Sly in tow.

Guys and Gals Together

Can't put them all down but I also saw Millie Schmidt and Harry Wolf; Janie Ryan and Jack Brand, DTD; Mickey McFarlane, alfachi, and Dave Sharp; Phi Delt; Louise Miller, AOpI, and Gray Ek Dahl, AXP; Kappa Sally Miller and Tommy Allison, DU; Jane Blackburn, DG, and Jim Sturgis, SPE; Joanne Palmer and Carl Hippensteel, Phi Psi; Jean Craighead and Joe Scalzo; ZTA Kay Walters with Frankie Horpel, KDR; her roommate, Lynn Wolf and cheerleader Walt Sotung, Theta Xi; Marion Eberts, AOpI, and Earl Johnson, AZ; Bobbie Tear and runner Billy Smith, ATO; Millie Austry, Phi Mu and a man I didn't know (chalk one up for her); Gamma Phi Madeline Richardson with Bob Lane, Phi Tau; and Hazel Strophe with trackman George Reinbold, Phi Mu Delta.

The freshman girls did well for themselves. Jeanne Little took Bob Koch, Sigma Nu; Betty Lou Schaeffer took Homer Haff, AKpi, over for an orchid; Betty Christman took Tommy Backenstose; Mary Lou Uillon asked Bill Smiley, Phi Gam (I think); and transfer Janie Taylor came with Hoppy Seigal, KDR.

Advertisement for Jack Harper featuring a grid of silhouettes and the text: 'A college man's clothes should come from a college shop. This store knows what you want and the price you should pay. A Visit Here Will Convince You. Jack Harper. BETWEEN THE CORNER AND THE MOVIES.'

Advertisement for Boalsburg Auto Bus Line Inc. with text: 'NOTICE! To have guaranteed transportation between State College and Lewisburg's main line of P. R. R. on Oct. 25, make reservations at the State College Hotel before above date. SPECIAL BUSES LEAVING STATE COLLEGE AT 11:20 A. M. 12:30 P. M. AND 3:15 P. M. OCTOBER 25. DIAL 9-2731 BOALSBURG OR 733 STATE COLLEGE HOTEL. Boalsburg Auto Bus Line Inc.'