

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

"For A Better Penn State"

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Friday Morning, February 21, 1941

A Survey Of Government, Or, How Men Make History

Call this "Politics Stinks" if you like.

It is a story of "progress," the story of an idea most fair-minded men agree would help Pennsylvania government, and the story of their stymied efforts over a 18-year period to put that idea into their state constitution.

It is the story of narrow-minded men (we call them politicians) and almost a story of intrigue. That the idea has persisted is proof enough it is good.

As far back as 1923 the Pennsylvania Legislature was convinced that absentee voting was practical and desirable. That year it passed a law, which Governor Pinchot signed, setting up absentee voting for the state. Presently the state courts declared the law unconstitutional and said an amendment was necessary.

It is enough to set down here that an amendment takes a long, tedious time to secure.

The bill must pass both houses of the Legislature twice and in sessions two years apart. If that is accomplished, the citizens must approve the amendment at the next general election. Thus, the very shortest time to secure an amendment is slightly under three years.

Since 1930, this amendment has been proposed in every session of the Legislature but that in 1933. It is being proposed again to the 1941 Legislature. The various fates with which it has met are too gory to mention in detail. After a brief summary, we will burden you with only one.

The bill passed the House unanimously, 194-0, in 1931 then was choked in the Senate. In other years its offspring were murdered in all manner of committees, chiefly that on elections.

In 1937, it came up before a united Democratic Legislature and miraculously passed both houses, 191-1, and 22-2. When it came up for second passage in 1939, our gory story was begun. The Committee on Constitutional Amendments did away with Representative Dix's bill in the House. Senator Ruth, who originally sponsored the bill in 1937, took it before the Senate where a dissimilar fate was in store.

The first vote of the 1939 Senate on absentee voting exactly reflected the party alignments, 23 Democrats for, 23 Republicans against. To be passed it needed 26 votes. In a shrewd parliamentary move, Senators Ruth and Shapiro changed their votes to the negative. Under the rules, any two senators having voted in the negative may move for the reconsideration of a bill within the next five legislative days. No sufficient switching of votes could be obtained for final passage of the bill and it went into the records as defeated, 25-21. On April 12, 1939, the two senators in a last desperate effort to save their amendment had it re-committed to the Judiciary General but they never got enough votes to bring it out for successful reconsideration.

While the bill was being discussed in the Committee on the Judiciary General, the Republican members said they would oppose it on the floor because were it to pass there would be 40,000 voters who could not be controlled, which would be sufficient number to swing the election against the machine candidates!

This year the Legislative process is starting again, Senator Ruth and Representative Powers having introduced the bill to their respective houses. As college students we have a vital stake in this decision. Most of us can afford neither the time nor the money to leave classes for what is often our very first chance to exercise the franchise.

A letter to our representatives and our senators will do some good.

Suggestion On Government

Because too many student government conferences are attended only by senior leaders, who graduate before they can initiate any local governmental reform, it has been suggested by W. Lewis Corbin '41 that all political aspirants for the coming All-College elections attend these round table and forum meetings. By listening to the trading of ideas by experienced leaders, the politicians can better understand the intricacies of student rule.



COLLEGIANA

Tantalizing Toimites

Before I heard the doctors tell
The dangers of a kiss,
I had considered kissing you
The nearest thing to bliss.
But now I know biology,
And sit and sigh and moan;
Six Million mad bacteria—
And I thought we were alone.

Love's Labor Lost

I've never been dated,
I've never been kissed.
They say if I waited
No man would resist
The lure of a pure and innocent miss.
The trouble is this.—
I'm fifty. —Shippensburg S.T.C.

The Awful Truth

W-rabbits is a pe-cul-iar race
Their private lives is a dis-wgrace,
Why, you would blush if you but knew,
The awful things that w-rabbits do,
And often, too. —The Skidmore News

Student Of The Moment

He whose name begins with a B who turns up
The day after drop ads go through and the class
has been alphabetically seated.

I went to the movie
And what did I see?
The hat on the woman
In front of me!

When Alexander Pope wrote that "a little
knowledge is a dangerous thing," he must have
been cramming for a final exam.

Under the spreading chestnut tree
The smith works like the deuce,
For now he's selling candy,
Hot dogs, and orange juice.

—Daily Athenaeum

And while we're on the subject of vegetables, is
there anything so wonderful as that feeling of
mutual companionship which arises when you discover
that both you and your date rounded out
supper with an onion or six.

With ASCAP and BMI feuding over royalties
for the kings of swing, radio programs have had to
revive (or murder) many of the old classic—al-
though the composers would probably never re-
cognize them. If the thing goes on, we may expect
some day to be hearing "Carmen Through the
Rye." —Daily Athenaeum

Could Be!

Army Air Corps Lists Information

An information sheet for college students interested in applying as flying cadets in the Army Air Corps has been issued by the Chief of the Air Corps.

All candidates must be unmarried male citizens between 20 and 26 years of age inclusive. They must have completed two years of college work or pass an equivalent examination.

The period of training takes nine months and is broken into three month sections. The first period is spent in elementary training. On completing this training, cadets are sent to Randolph Field, Texas. Final instruction is given at Kelley Field, Texas.

All cadets are furnished government transportation from place of enlistment to the flying school and they receive \$75 a month plus a ration allowance of \$1 a day.

Dance Dates Changed

Student Union dances, which have been held only on Wednesday since the beginning of second semester, will now be held in the Armory every Tuesday and Wednesday from 4 to 5 p.m.

Read The Collegian Classifieds

CAMPUS CALENDAR

TODAY:
Newman Club, newly-formed Catholic organization, will meet at Phi Kappa, 9 p.m. Refreshments and dancing.

All graduate students are invited to attend meeting of Graduate Club, Sandwich Shop, 8 p.m.

PSCA World Reconstruction Committee meeting, Hugh Beaver Room, 8:15 p.m.

Collegian Dance, Rec Hall, 9 p.m.

Ice skating on tennis court rinks, 7 to 10 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Faculty members may file tax returns Monday and Tuesday, Room 305 Old Main.

INFIRMARY CASES

A checkup last night revealed that 15 persons are confined in the College Infirmary. They are: John F. Freet '43, Doris Jane Boller '41, Warren W. Scott '43, Alvira L. Konapka '41, Betty R. Marshall '43, Charles H. Seitz '43, Anna Ruth Flory '41, Charles A. Rossiter '44, J. Byron Swan '42, gripe.

Joyce F. Swan, graduate, Dora E. Colver '44, Mildred M. Taylor '42, Byrne P. Coleman '43, bronchitis; Henry J. Eavis '41, observation; Samuel A. Janney, Naval Reserve, measles.

Yale College was originally located at Saybrook, Conn.

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pays an unconscious tribute to Western Electric, maker of Bell Telephones.

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Western Electric
is back of your Bell Telephone service

TONIGHT—

WASHINGTON'S

BIRTHDAY

BALL

FOLLOWED

BY

The Corner

unusual