

Editorials and columns appearing in The Daily Collegian represent the opinions of the writer. They make no claim to reflect student or University consensus. Unsigned editorials are written by the editor.

## Vote on Merit, Not Party

Admonitions about the value, necessity and duty of voting have been printed by the page in any newspaper worthy of the name, serving any democratic institution.

Possibly much harm has been done in the name of democratic representation, in the process of glorifying the act of voting per se, without regard to the more important and significant aspects of the quality of voting.

**STRAIGHT PARTY OR BLOC VOTING** are generally conceded to be foolish and futile, but at Penn State either are actually ludicrous.

Consider the make-up of All-College Cabinet, which substantiates the previous statement. Of 22 voting seats, only 6 are politically elected, and one of these, being chairman, can vote only to make or break ties.

How can any party conceivably claim exclusive credit, honestly, for the accomplishments of Cabinet? True, they can claim origin and support of an idea, but not its eventual materialization.

**FROM ON-THE-SCENE OBSERVATION** we know that student government has operated on an individual, not a clique, basis during the past year, a condition which has reputedly held true in recent years.

This is a healthy state, and one that should be

maintained if the prestige, influence and effectiveness of student government is to continue waxing, and not wane.

A comparison of the party platforms reveals that five planks are held jointly. They support in general, worthwhile programs that are now in progress, namely AIM and Leonides, establishment of a student press, the B-X, student work agency and elimination of discrimination.

**COMPARABLE PLANKS PROPOSE** means of strengthening student government, and improvement of student orientation and advisory programs. There remains only one plank on each platform which differs essentially from that of the rival clique, and these are about different subjects, hence non-controversial.

We have shown two significant facts; 1. that officers work as individuals after election, and 2. that clique platforms contain no "issues."

**HENCE THE ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION** is that voting should be done on a strictly individual basis, since that is the basis on which the functions of student government will be fulfilled. The difference between candidates is one of personal ability, integrity and sincerity.

## The Safety Valve

Letters to the editor must be signed for inclusion in the Safety Valve, although names will be withheld on request. Telephone numbers and addresses must be included to facilitate verification of authenticity of signatures. Letters exceeding 200 words in length may be cut when required by space limitations.

### Tongue in Cheek?

**TO THE EDITOR:** Congratulations! Tuesday's Collegian Staff, whether by design or otherwise, practically hit the "Students for Russia Co." nail on the head. The author of the "War or Peace" letter must have had tongue in cheek using such old agitator's cliches as "the Wall Street clique," "professional militarists," "blood and ruin" and "blood bath"! All that was missing was the charge of Fascism and a footnote on the source: Soap Box, Washington Square, New York City.

Tuesday's cartoon "Cardboard Curtain" couldn't have been better exemplified.

—G. Migdon.

### Persistent Effort

**TO THE EDITOR:** We wish to take issue with a campaign claim made by one of the campus political parties which states that "through persistent effort on the part of Cabinet, the quality of food served in the dorm dining rooms has been greatly improved." It might be interesting to note that it took the Nittany and Pollock Area Food Committees approximately five weeks to point out the inadequacies of the food situation which had not been rectified by the first Cabinet Food Investigating Committee, and this was done only after a referendum had been taken in both the Nittany Dorm and Pollock Circle Area. Also, the only "persistent effort" shown to maintain adequate food conditions has been shown by the Area Food Committees, through the normal representative channels.

Furthermore, it has been the policy of this Council neither to become affiliated with, nor to seek the assistance of any campus political party on problems which it feels can be handled within the internal structures of the Council. Whenever such assistance is desired, this Council has moved, and shall continue to move, through the regular student representative channels set up for such purposes.

—Executive Committee, Dining Hall Committee, Nittany Dormitory Council.

### Any Justice?

**TO THE EDITOR:** Study hour is actually beginning to become a farce. In the past few weeks there have been numerous parades. I guess that's what they call them, and they always manage to distract everyone from their studies. As I sit here writing this letter (9:30 p.m. Monday) there are about 15 automobiles (horns blowing), a noisy group of instruments (just making noise), and boisterous people shouting from the street and the cars. To add to the confusion there is another group of men yelling out the windows—"knock-it-off" "study hour," etc. Just what does all this accomplish? I'm so completely perturbed right now that I'd do the opposite of what they were trying to tell me to do.

If there's any justice to the students who try to study can't we have our performances on weekends?

—Jerry Scrivens.

## The Daily Collegian

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## 'What This World Needs —'



## Behind the Wheels

By Loretta Neville

The boys at the Phi Sigma Delta house are still telling the one about Merv "Snag" Snyder. It seems Snag got a "one" out of a course that he thought for sure he had "twoed." He went to see the professor about it and the professor very benevolently told Snag that it was a very, very, strong one.

"To hell with the strong one," Snag cried, "couldn't you have made it a very, very weak two!"

What's in a name? The Alpha Chi Sigma house has 14 brothers whose first names are Bob. Someone yells "Bob!" and half the house shows up.

Seen in the main library: A book, Mac Beerbohm's "Mainly on Air," is labeled with one of those tags that says, "This book may be kept 7 days only. It cannot be renewed because of special demand." The dates marked on the charge sheet—May 23, 1947 . . . October 9, 1948 . . . April 7, 1949. Some urgent demand!

Dave "Igor" Mitchell is thinking of selling his Crosley. He can never find the darn thing. The boys are always lifting it up and putting it somewhere new. Now a ruling on the Phi Delta bulletin board reads, "No Crosleys above the first floor." Guess the dean of women objects to females upstairs.

Sid Simon's late 1927 Chevy . . . the one that was all decked out for "Bring Back My Wingback" . . . is now owned by Sid Manes and Dave Schmuckler. Some of the playful Phi Sigs somehow managed to get the old boat up on the front porch and laughed gleefully the next morning when the new owners came out to find "Baby" resting mournfully on the front porch.

Professor William L. Werner tells this one. Seems he ran into a man in a city where one of the undergraduate centers exists, and this fellow had the idea that that particular Center was really the central and main part of the Pennsylvania State College, with probably a little branch somewhere up near Bellefonte.

## Very Brief

State College streets look 1000 percent better since they've been cleaned of trash for painting. The appearance of the campus could likewise be improved by "delittering."

Seniors who expect to graduate in June, but who have to pass the final exam hurdle first, nevertheless order caps, gowns, invitations, and announcements this week. Who says faith is dead?

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