

The Daily Collegian

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An Attempt To Get Politicians' Views

This spring the Collegian hoped to pin political candidates down specifically on how they stood on issues of interest to the students. It attempted to achieve this objective by asking each candidate to give his answers to a series of questions, and then printing the answers of all the candidates side-by-side so that the reader could judge for himself.

THE RESULTS WERE a disappointment to us and, we feel, to students interested in campus politics.

None of the candidates seemed opposed to answering the questions, and, in fact, many said they thought the idea a good one. However, after reading their answers, we would tend to view their enthusiasm as that arising over the hope of getting more publicity for themselves in the newspaper.

To be frank, the politicians were too smart for us. Instead of giving their views, in most cases they listed simple "yes" or "no" answers, or else said they would do what the students wanted. Seldom did they express any definite viewpoints. And, in general, all the candidates gave substantially the same answers to the questions.

TO CITE AN EXAMPLE, the Collegian asked junior class candidates what they considered their most important objectives if elected, in order to bring to light any projects they might have in mind. The most substantial objective given was strengthening of the class.

All-College candidates were asked this question: "Do you think anything should be done regarding the present Student Union assessment if the government does not grant authority to build the SU? Five of the six candidates gave a simple "yes" answer and neglected to state what they thought should be done. The sixth said the fee should be dropped if approval to build is not given.

All of this turned out to be a frustrating experience, but we're not sorry we started it because, if it revealed nothing else, it showed that candidates, were given a chance, will do their best to dodge issues.

THE STUDENTS WILL HAVE a chance to question the candidates—to put them on the spot and demand concrete answers—tonight at the political mixer to be held in the TUB at 7:30 p.m. The mixer is sponsored by the Collegian, and members of the staff will be present once again to put these and other questions before the candidates. Questions from the floor will be welcomed and are to be encouraged.

We hope that tonight we will be able to accomplish what we failed to do earlier and get the politicians to really express their views.

Problems Of State Oath Legislation

There can be little doubt that if the state House of Representatives decides to pass the Pechan loyalty oath bill, in its present form, Gov. John S. Fine will be on the spot.

THE GOVERNOR WILL be on the spot because of the publicly or privately expressed opposition to the bill of a great number of responsible educators and students of government. Such men as Charles Arensburg, president of Pennsylvania Bar association; Dr. Millard Gladfelter, provost of Temple university; Gilbert White, president of Haverford college; John W. Nason, president of Swarthmore college; and Owen J. Roberts, former justice of the United States Supreme court, have publicly opposed the bill.

The loyalty bill is the product of those who profess love for democracy, but who would destroy it with their own zeal. It is hard to believe that the advocates of the loyalty bill and other similar legislation have confidence in democracy and faith in freedom of thought, one of the basic tenets of democracy. For if they did have faith in the superiority of democracy over any other form of government, they could not fear the free expression of opposition doctrines.

Sen. Albert R. Pechan, the author of the bill, has labeled those who have actively opposed the bill "subversives and pinks." No doubt he is aware of the opposition of the five distinguished gentlemen noted above. His fear has turned to hysteria if he dares to pin the subversive and pink tag upon their mantles.

THESE ARE FACTORS Governor Fine will have to consider if the bill is placed on his desk. But perhaps the greatest question facing the governor will be whether he—by his signature—is to say to the presidents and trustees of Penn State, Penn Temple, Pitt, and the 14 state teachers colleges, "Gentlemen, we don't think you are doing a good job as educators and administrators. We believe that you are allowing a pack of subversives to infest your institutions, so we have designed a piece of legislation that will clean house for you."

Senate Majority Leader John M. Walker stated the case ably when he said, "If there is anything wrong with our colleges, let the trustees work it out. No legislature should go snooping around the colleges. We have good trustees and a good president at Penn State; let them handle it."

So this is the decision the governor will have to make: Is he going to rebuke his own party and veto the bill, or is he going to rebuke the trustees and presidents of the commonwealth's colleges and sign it into law?

—Marv Krasnansky

Senior Lion Coats

For the past few years, student leaders have attempted to revive in the old, pre-war senior Lion coat tradition. Generally, however, seniors have shown little interest in the project.

This week senior class officers are at it again, still unconvinced that the tradition cannot be revived. Lion coats now are on sale at the Student Union desk in Old Main.

The tradition offers many opportunities for amusement and for advertisement of one's artistic abilities (the wearer is expected to decorate it). Seniors who do not wish to see an old Penn State tradition completely forgotten should purchase Lion coats at the Student Union now.

—John Ashbrook

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Little Man On Campus

By Bibler



"Ha, ha!—If you've read to here you've read over 18,000 words, ya big fat chair-warmer.—Tell ole Bill and Ed what Professor Smart said, Worthal."



You Name It

By HERBERT STEIN

'Go Downtown And Buy A Diaper'

Putting together a show like the Gridiron one last Thursday night is enough to make one believe in anarchy.

In the space of four hours and without any noticeable direction or guidance, a precarious stage was built, a faulty string of lights was arranged, ridiculous properties were gathered, and outlandish decorations were strung around a hall.

Like most term papers, the project had been studied for months but most of the work done on the last day.

SOMEHOW ALL THE PARTS came together into a show that most enjoyed, though I suspect the cast had more fun than anyone else. Of course it is debatable how much you can enjoy being rocked \$3 for a meal, topped off with insults in between the courses.

Probably the funniest act in the show was an unplanned high dive by Ray Koehler, Collegian sports editor and chronicler of Jimmie da Greek. Ray was lining up his chair on stage for a skit depicting the College senate when he found himself being pushed more and more toward the edge of a platform.

ed stage. As the skit was to begin, Ray reached the edge and the audience howled as he lurched into the wings pulling down streamers of crepe paper, electric wires, and an abashed John Dalbor.

BACKSTAGE WAS AN AREA about the size of a small bathtub, partitioned by crepe paper dividing the banquet guests from the regular diners of the Nittany Lion inn. The banquet diners were well screened from the quick changes of the 14 actors but not so were the regular guests. Somebody forgot that only glass doors with transparent curtains served as the dividing walls.

(Continued on page seven)

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