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The Daily Collegian

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Political Platforms: Thoughtful Vacuums

With elections for freshman and sophomore class officers in the offing, both campus parties have, out of tradition, come up with their platforms. Similarly, out of tradition, this semester's political platforms say little, or nothing.

For at least the past four years, political platforms have been vague and ambiguous pieces of nothing calculated to get votes. Campus politicians themselves often admit platforms mean nothing. Students know they mean nothing. Yet platforms continue.

A glance at the new platforms proves this point. Both parties have pledged to support a shorter customs program with elimination of dating restrictions. This appears desirable until it is understood the Joint Customs Board will probably enact such changes next year anyway, with or without either party's support. Thus this merely becomes a "we're in favor of sunshine" plank.

One party recommends conversion of an East dorm into a recreation building. This has been a plank before. The same party also "will actively work for" expanded decentralized clique registration. This is an idea from the 1953 Student Encampment.

The other party pledges to strengthen the relationship between dorm men and women and town men, but does not suggest how. The same party also promises to provide a more workable and efficient resident counseling system. This is something the College is continually trying to do, and this party can probably do little, if anything, to provide such a system.

This party also will encourage improvement of a centralized bluebook file, something that can be done only by the students, not by any party. This party also proposes a central information bureau in the new Student Union, which is only a transfer of the present desk in Old Main. Finally, the party promises to work for a more efficient Orientation Week program.

Appearance Counts

The freshmen and sophomore election campaigns this year will be characterized by leniency of restrictions concerning the placing of posters, something not permitted in the past. Cliques will be allowed to place posters in specified areas on campus grounds.

Previously it had been the practice to restrict posters to the Temporary Union Building and bulletin boards in the West Dorm lounge area. The thought exists that with posters restricted largely to merchants' windows in town the effectiveness of the posters is lost.

The easing of the restrictions will permit the political parties a greater chance to reach the student voter. It will also provide a greater temptation to violate the existing restriction in the All-College election code.

The election code was set up as an instrument to guide elections so that campaigns will not only be conducted along ethical lines but to protect campus and town property as well. The code was not set up for the sport of seeing how often it can be violated without being caught.

Penn Staters have every right to be proud of the appearance of the campus. They also have the right to expect that the appearance of the campus is not marred by the overuse of political posters.

-Dick Rau

Gazette...

- Today NEWS AND VIEWS STAFF AND CANDIDATES, 6:30 p.m., 14 Home Economics. STUDENT EMPLOYMENT Experienced waiters, dishwashers and assistant waiters for on and off campus. COLLEGE PLACEMENT SERVICE The companies listed below will conduct interviews on campus. Schedule interviews now in 112 Old Main. CONTINENTAL OIL CO. will interview Jan. B.S. graduates in Petroleum Production Engineering on Nov. 5 and 6. WAGNER ELECTRIC CORPORATION will interview Jan. B.S. graduates in ME and EE on Nov. 9. AIR REDUCTION COMPANY will interview ChE, Chem., Fuel Tech., and Metal. on Nov. 9. SPERRY GYROSCOPE CO. will interview Jan. B.S. graduates in Phys., Math., Aero.E, EE, and ME on Nov. 10. BENDIX AVIATION CORP. will interview students, at all levels, in Aero. E, EE, ME, CE, IE, Metal, Phys., and Engr. Phys., for the following divisions: Bendix Radio, Bendix Products, York, Research Laboratories, Scientella Magneto, Eclipse Machine, and Eclipse-Pioneer on Nov. 10. The York Division is also interested in undergraduates desiring temporary summer employment for the 1954 season. CARTER OIL CO. will interview Jan. B.S. graduates in P.N.G., Chem.E, EE, and ME, and M.S. candidates in Geology and Mineralogy who have completed at least one semester on Nov. 10. AMERICAN CYANAMID CO. will interview Jan. B.S. graduates in ChE, and ME; M.S. candidates in ChE, and Chem. who have completed at least one semester, and Ph.D. candidates in Chem., and ChE expecting to receive their degrees in 1954 on Nov. 10 and 11. OHIO BOXBOARD CO. will interview Jan. B.S. graduates in Bus. Adm., Arts and Letters and IE on Nov. 11. THE BUDD CO. will interview Jan. B.S. graduates in ME and ChE on Nov. 11. PHILCO CORP. will interview Jan. B.S. graduates in ME, EE, and Ceramics who have completed at least one semester on Nov. 11 and 12. ELI LILLY AND CO. will interview Jan. B.S. and B.A. graduates in Chem., IE, ME, ChE, Bus. Adm., Secretarial Science (women), and Bacteriology (women); M.S. and M.A. candidates in Psychology and Chem. who have completed at least one semester; and Ph.D. candidates in Organic Chem. and Bio-Chem., expecting to receive their degrees in 1954 on Nov. 11. They are also interested in Junior Bus. Adm. and Engineering students desiring summer employment for the 1954 season. UNION CARBIDE AND CARBON CORP. will interview Ph.D. candidates in Chem expecting to receive their degrees in 1954 on Nov. 12 and 13.

This is also something the Orientation Week committee is continually doing, with or without party help. Support of the plan to use East Dorm dining halls as study halls is another example of jumping on the band wagon.

Political platforms are traditionally as useless as this semester's. They are characterized by such hackneyed phrases as "strive towards," "work with someone to improve," "strongly support," and "promote." Absent are such dynamic words as "we will do," "we promise," and "we will carry out."

Some campus politicians will defend their vague phrases because they cannot promise anything as long as the College has final say. But platforms could and would be much more effective, and worthwhile, if they were the result of crying needs rather than last minute conferences.

To the freshman and sophomore classes, then, there is only one thing to say: Disregard the platforms and elect the candidates as individuals. It is unwise to bank on what is promised. It is more wise to bank on what has been done. Freshman and sophomore candidates have had little chance to really do anything. Their personal qualities, then, must determine their abilities.

If those who go to the polls Nov. 12 consider candidates and not platforms, they are less likely to be disappointed when the academic year is over.

Safety Valve... On Football Plays

TO THE EDITOR: In regard to the article appearing in the Daily Collegian on Tuesday, concerning the disputable Penn State-West Virginia football game, I am wondering what is happening to sportsmanship here at State. Is victory so much for us that we must denounce officials, opposing players and coaches, or anyone else concerned with a defeat?

The article written by Mr. Procopio appears to have been written from sheer emotion with complete disregard for facts...

How is it your statement (that a West Virginia player was offside and blocked a Penn State kick) is in disagreement with articles written in at least two syndicated newspapers which tell... it was impossible to tell, by movies, whether (the West Virginia player) was offside...? How is it that from a point about 50 yards downfield... you can see better than a man in a position of perfect sight to call a play?... Your derogatory remarks concerning the officials really irked me... The head linesman... (is) one of the most capable officials in college football.

... Don't you think it would be pretty hard for a T-formation quarterback to be in motion and still receive a clean pass from center?

Having read much about the bad name given to our school by the actions of different students, I wonder if said article may do more harm to Penn State's name than students... in a Philadelphia hotel...

... Could you tell me, is a football blown up or stuffed?

-Charles Teyssier

Letter to...

Little Man on Campus By Bibler



"They're ready but I think they're wise to our early-morning-duck-hunt-They wanna know if we're takin' guns."

Short 'Change

By GUS VOLLMER

Yes, sir, I guess every one has his troubles.

The University of Oregon's Daily Emerald recently carried a feature regarding a proposal to rebuild the concrete "O" on top of one of the campus buildings, the "O" being sort of a local Nittany Lion.

It seems last spring, after the "O" had received its usual spring cleanup and paint job, some pranksters set off several dynamite blasts, to turn the "O" into a "C" and spray neighboring lawns with rubble.

Not content with this little gem, which caused 123 indignant citizens to present a petition requesting removal of the "O," the pranksters then painted the "O" orange. The whole foul deed was blamed on Oregon State students.

Chances are the "O" will survive, though. Since it was built in 1909 it has been dynamited three times, tarred and feathered by OSC students in 1911 and estimates show it has received some 120 coats of paint.

Sounds like relations might be just a bit strained out on the coast. Just off-hand, I wonder how many coats of paint our Lion has had?

Here are some brief items carried in a Michigan State News column headed "As We See It." "Expensive shoes should come in threes so you could eat one of them."

"An unworkable budget means an overdrawn husband."

"It's hard to look squarely at well-rounded objects."

"Work is the ruin of the drinking class."

"The last payment on your home is usually made with your first social security check." and "We're sitting on top of the world," is what Rand said to McNally."

Should undergraduates living in private apartments be allowed to entertain young women in their quarters?

This is a problem of controversy currently brewing at Cornell University, where student and faculty groups are discussing proposals to permit apartment parties only under "certain conditions."

As the situation stands at present, the committees have prepared a provision stating that "undergraduate males with a two or more room apartment may entertain unchaperoned women, other than freshmen, provided that two or more couples are present."

The main contention is that any law affecting this situation is that it may be passed without a vote of the entire student body.

One student expressed his thoughts on the matter by saying, "Whether or not these provisions are good or bad is not the point of the question." Another summed the whole sit-

uation by observing that it "may greatly alter social life here."

Here's a novel idea. At Brown University, students go to free movies during final exam week.

The student board of governors schedules cartoons and short motion pictures to relieve the pressure of studying for examinations.

I wonder if they get free popcorn, too...?

There are college queens and sweethearts for almost every occasion these days, but the best one I heard of is at Syracuse University. It seems 60 girls were entered and one was chosen for the honor of being GOON, yes GOON sweetheart of the Jiminy Cricket Ball!

Ex-Presidents Of Blue Band Will Perform

Four former presidents of the Penn State Marching Blue Band who are now directing high school bands will participate in the Band Day program tomorrow.

The former presidents are Elliott M. Treese, Hollidaysburg; F. W. Hunsicker, Bedford; Bruce I. Garner, Bellefonte; and Walter James, Huntington.

Sixty high school bands will take part in the fourth annual Band Day.

An hour long parade will begin at 11 a.m. tomorrow. The high school bands will join the Blue Band, for a routine during half-time of the Penn State-Fordham football game on Beaver Field.

Eighteen bands will participate in the program for the first time. Twenty-three of the visiting bands are directed by graduates of the College. Twenty other directors took graduate work at the College.

More than 4300 musicians, majorettes, and baton twirlers will participate in the program initiated in 1950 by Dr. Hummel Fishburn, professor of music and music education.

42 Leave College

Forty-two students have withdrawn from the College. Reasons given are personal 20, financial seven, military service four, illness six, scholastic one, employment one and other two.