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The Daily Collegian

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Panhel Could Use a New Election Plan

A Panhellenic Council committee started revision of the council constitution this week with an eye toward changing the rotational presidency clause.

As the constitution now reads, if a sorority is not able to provide a president when its turn arrives, that sorority forfeits its chance at the presidency until the cycle is completed among the campus chapters—a 22-year period.

As the amendment clause would read, if a sorority is not able to provide a president during its turn, that sorority has a chance at the presidency the following year.

The amendment would be an equitable move. However, it is not enough. Panhel, in working with this clause, has overlooked a chance to make a really worthwhile improvement in the rotation clause—its elimination. Why does not Panhel knock the clauses from its constitution and annually elect a president through representatives of each sorority?

The rotation clause provides that the presidency shall pass among sororities each year in order of chapter founding on campus, and that the president shall be elected or appointed by that sorority. This is certainly a way to prevent animosity among sororities. But what price is being paid to prevent such animosity? And is such expected hostility—infantile in this case—any reason to maintain an election process which is neither democratic nor wise?

By its rotation clause, Panhel endorses a somewhat haphazard selection of its leading officer. What reason is there to believe that an arbitrarily designated sorority automatically hosts the best presidential material in a given year?

Ideally, one might say that a sorority, for its own self-respect, pledges none but the best quality of person. This is not true. Furthermore, it is a paradox of human nature. Every sorority hits, occasionally, a "low tide" during which its members are not the best type of women to carry the presidency. Is there any guarantee that the turn at the presidency will not fall upon that sorority during that particular year? And if such happened, how many sororities

would admit they had no presidential material and forfeit their turn at office? Instead, they would probably produce the most capable woman they had, who would not necessarily be the most capable woman among all sororities.

There is no reason why some 900 adult-aged women should be subject to the leadership of one who may or may not be capable of office—her capability being relevant to the comparative capability of her sorority sisters.

In calling the present election process undemocratic, we refer to the representation of 22 sororities by a woman elected by one sorority—not even a representative minority such as a screening board or an all-sorority elections committee.

Sororities everywhere, Penn State included, have enough trouble answering charges of being undemocratic by their very definition of policy. Surely they wish to avoid any undemocratic policies within their own membership.

No other major governing body on campus elects officers by the means Panhel uses. Nor does any governing group off campus, in national or civic administration, employ such methods.

A rotational appointment to the presidency is fine in grade school where children know a minimum about legislation and jurisdiction. The value of such policies end at that point. Even high schools hold general elections for class and student council officers.

Imagine the state of affairs if the presidency of the United States was rotated automatically among the states. What type of All-College Cabinet would Penn State have if the presidency arbitrarily passed among the campus colleges? Even IFC, Panhel's brother organization, has by-passed the rotational presidency administration.

Panhel should use a general or representative election. Passiveness among sorority relations surely is not worth indifference and possible laxity in organization. Why fight fear of animosity, which should be absent in this case, with an equally immature and unnecessary election system?

—Peggy McClain

New Speed Limit: Experiment in Death

There are times when Pennsylvania's policies on highway safety are difficult to understand. Tomorrow, for instance, is scheduled the start of one of the least understood policies of all—opening of the four-lane stretch of U.S. route 22 east of Harrisburg to 60 miles an hour speed limit.

The opening of some state highways to speed limits of 60 miles an hour was authorized in the last session of the General Assembly on an experimental basis. During that same session, much criticism of the 70 mile an hour speed permitted on the Pennsylvania Turnpike was also brought forth.

The particular section of route 22 that has been authorized as a 60 mile an hour zone is admittedly one of the better pieces of highway in the state. The turnpike, on the other

hand, has been called one of the finest roads in the country.

Proponents of higher speed limits may cite fatigue, combined with speed, as one of the leading causes of fatal accidents on the turnpike, and the suitable section of route 22, is much shorter than the turnpike.

Safety authorities, however, have also noted that drivers traveling at high speeds frequently do not adjust to the required lower speeds when conditions demand it. The highway east of the four-lane section of route 22 is hilly, winding, and a rather narrow two lanes—not the best site for a race track.

The National Safety Council has cited statistics which point out that speed is the number one killer on the highways. Pennsylvania must want to find out.

—Dick Rau

The Wrestling Team: Win, Lose, or Draw

The eyes of the sports world watch the newest wrestling National champions—Penn State. And pre-season drum beaters have been inquisitive in true Penn State tradition. But insiders wonder whether wrestling-conscious Nittany Lion fans will tend to continue to back up this team when it falls under its first defeat.

The Recreation Hall seating plan has been put into effect for one reason: when the Lions drop their first game in any indoor sport, the number of fans decrease considerably. The student body is no longer attracted.

Wrestling, however, has had little trouble in crowding Rec Hall with eager Penn State fans who view the mat sport at its best.

In fact, college wrestling in recent years has been visioned by spectators throughout the country as a sport with potentialities. And crowds have been on the upgrade. Still, we at Penn State believe it is mainly because the Lions are winning. The students should see the grapplers not only for the latter reason but for school spirit and for love of the sport.

Although Penn State has a murderous wrestling schedule, we do not feel the Lions will have a terrible season, or even one loss. On the contrary, we feel they will finish with flying colors. Nevertheless, there is always that possibility which cannot be overlooked.

We hope that when the Lion wrestlers do drop their first dual meet—either tonight, two weeks, or months or years from now—the student body will not look at this team as a poor team. Instead we should look at its opponent as a stronger and finer squad which defeated not "cheese champs" but a team that is human.

In concluding, however, we must remember that no wrestling team has had more ardent fans than Penn State during the last four years. From the President of the University to the incoming freshman, the fans have been a loyal, colorful clan. And that's why the Nittany Lion matmen have gone all the way.

—Sam Procopio Sports Editor

Gazette . . .

Monday COLLEGIAN, INC., 4 p.m., 9 Carnegie. BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS, 7 p.m., 107 Willard.

FLYING CLUB, 7 p.m., 209 Willard. NITTANY COUNCIL, 6:30 p.m., Dorm 20.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT Camp Delwood in the Poconos will interview students who are interested in counselors' positions on Feb. 16. Interested students may sign up for appointment at the employment office.

Camp Ken-Mont and Ken-Wood, Kent, Conn., will interview men and women on Feb. 12.

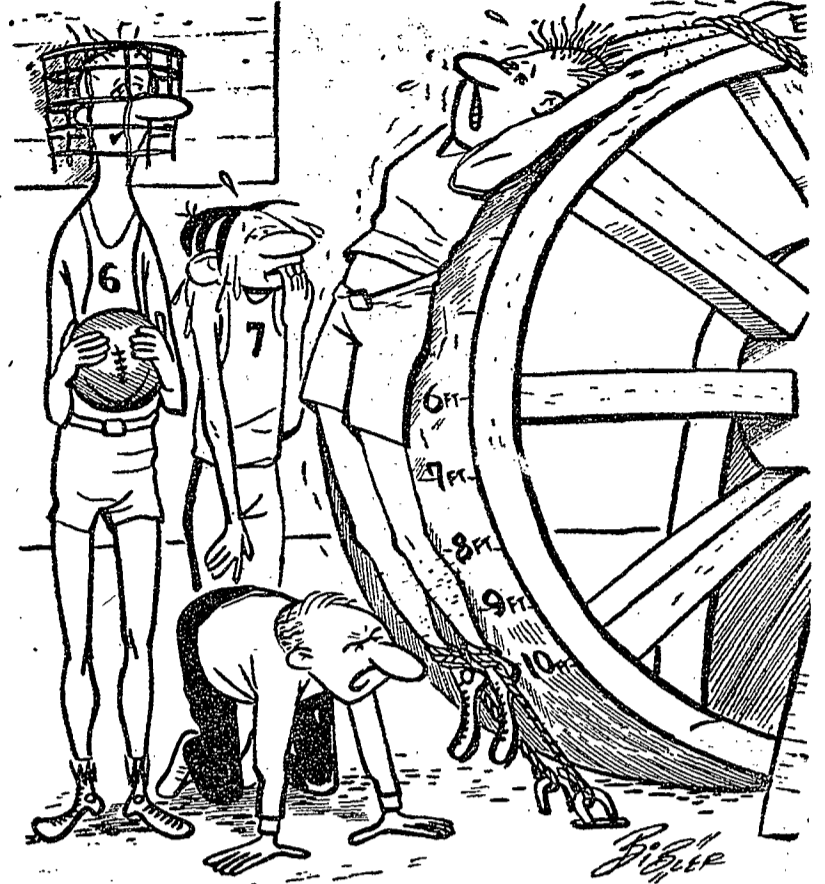
PLACEMENT SERVICE

LOS ALAMOS SCIENTIFIC LABORATORY representatives will visit the campus Jan. 13 to interview Ph.D. candidates in Physics, Math, Chem. (Inorganic or Physical) and Metal, expecting to receive their degrees in 1954, M.S. candidates in Phys., Math., Chem. (Inorganic or Physical) and Metal, who have completed at least one semester, and graduates in the above fields who wish to consider summer work.

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO. will visit the campus on Jan. 14 to interview Jan. graduates for positions as trainee in life insurance sales. Also, trainee position for cashier in Johnstown—must be exempt from draft.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



... 9 feet 11 inches. OK, that's enough, Elmer. NEXT MAN!"

Interpreting the News

Russians May Try For French Amity

By TOM WHITNEY Associated Press Staff Writer

As the four-power meeting in Berlin approaches, the Soviets are making a big play to interest France in closer relations with the U.S.S.R.

The Russians are relying on traditional French fears of German aggression to try to win them back to the traditional French policy of this century—alliance with Russia against Germany.

It seems likely that the Soviets will make use of the Berlin meeting of foreign ministers Jan. 25 to carry their courting of France a bit further. Implicit in this is a threat to the structure of Western European unity built with United States support at such difficulty over a long period.

Through the press and by other means the Soviets are attempting to keep the suggestion before the French that a reactivation of the French-Soviet treaty of alliance, signed in 1944, and directed against Germany, is a practical and advantageous alternative to French participation in a European army alongside the Germans.

The most significant public step in this campaign was the editorial published by Pravda Dec. 10, ninth anniversary of the signing of the French-Soviet pact. In previous years this anniversary was not noticed. This time Pravda came out with a three-column front page editorial flattering to France and stressing collaboration between France and the U.S.S.R. against the "danger" of "revival of German militarism."

The treaty, said Pravda, is "called on to play a great role in defending French security." It added:

"The Soviet Union consistently has supported and is supporting all efforts to solve the task of France's national revival."

Pravda's compliments to the French reconstruction effort jibed poorly with other Moscow articles portraying alleged misery in France under Marshall plan aid.

France's word now carries weight in European affairs and in world politics," Pravda said.

It suggested there are possibilities for closer cooperation with the U.S.S.R., and said:

"Time will show to what extent France will take advantage of these opportunities."

Pravda's editorial was not the first nor the last sign of what the Russians are planning. Recently a headline read: "The interests of the nations require the revival of the French-Russian alliance."

Premier Georgi Malenkov in the Supreme Soviet last August mentioned French-Soviet friend-

ship "of many years' standing" and the blood shed by both countries in the struggle against the "common enemy—the German militarists." He declared the Soviets do not forget their treaty with France.

It is obvious Russian blandishments toward the French are intended to add fuel to the flames of opposition in France to ratification of the European army treaty. This is a short-term tactical aim. But is that all there is to it?

Maybe the Malenkov government is interested from more than a viewpoint of temporary tactics. Certainly in many different ways on many different occasions, the Malenkov government and Malenkov himself have stressed the "danger of revived German militarism." The tone of expressed fear of Germany in these pronouncements seems more pronounced than in the postwar Stalin era.

Tube Failure Causes WDFM to Leave Air

The failure of a tube in the main control panel of Station WDFM caused the station to go off the air for approximately 55 seconds Thursday night.

The failure, which occurred at 8:29 p.m., affected three studio microphones and disrupted broadcasting, although the station transmitter remained in operation. A switchover was made and broadcasting continued.

This Weekend On WDFM

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes Sign on Prevue, Jazz Moods, Paris Star Time, Design for Dancing, Hi Fi Open House, SUNDAY, MONDAY, Serenade in Blue, Spotlight, Record Prevue, Top Drawer, Seque Session, Semi-Pops, News, Symphony Hall, Sign off.