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The Daily Collegian

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Panhel Presidency: Crazy, Man, Crazy!

Panhellenic Council is now considering a modification in its method of choosing a president. The best modification Panhel could make in its present system is its complete elimination.

The presidential rotation clause now in effect provides that the office must pass from one sorority to the next, in order of chapter founding on campus. The modification would require a screening board for the Panhel vice president, and would allow a sorority to have its turn at the presidency a year late if it had no one able to assume presidency in the designated year.

The modifications are good ones. But the real modification is being overlooked, or purposely ignored. And that is a representative or general election of the Panhel president.

There can be only one reason for the rotational policy: to keep one sorority from getting ahead of another. True, there are by-products of such a system. This might be elimination of cooperative processes to put a few sororities in the presidency year after year, or similar actions. But what price this prevention?

As long as we have democracy, we will have attempts to control segments of the government. A democratic state is characteristically a competitive state. Much emphasis is placed on rising above the other person. Attempts at complete equalization, and possible reduction to a level of mediocrity, are characteristic of socialism.

The rotation process has been defended as more fair. The process may be mathematically proportionate, but it is not fair. It is not fair for the best qualified candidate to be forced to the sidelines merely because it is not her sorority's turn for the presidency. It is not fair that a president be picked from a greatly restricted number of coeds, none of which may be of real presidential calibre. And it is not fair to govern sorority women with an undemocratic system in a University and nation where democracy should be the watchword.

Panhellenic Council's only expressed defense has been that the system is democratic because it was legally enacted by the council in democratic procedures. This defense is no defense. Because a legislative body enacts a law does not mean it is democratic or desirable. It merely means the law was legislated in a democratic manner. The law itself may be completely undemocratic.

That is the situation here. Panhel has, by democratic process, instituted an undemocratic, and unwise, regulation. There is no "election" of a president. There is merely a "selection." The president of Panhel must logically be elected on the basis of qualifications, and not on the basis of whose turn comes next.

Panhel's present process is much like the hereditary succession of kings, or the case of children who play follow the leader. The only trouble here is that in playing follow the leader, there may be no real leader to follow.

Committee Heads: A Selection System

Student government embraces several thousand undergraduates. As a democratic system, it should be open to every qualified student who wants to participate. But when appointments are passed out—from WSGA committees to All-College Cabinet—an unhappy, though expedient, rut seems to prevail. The same few persons seem to get almost all the jobs.

There are reasons for this, of course. Persons appointed to important committees are those who have proved themselves in previous committee work—usually. Often, however, students get committee appointments because of interest they've shown and people they know. The result: a rut involving the same people, same ideas, same methods, time and again.

Aside from general stagnancy, such a system serves to kill the interest of many would-be good workers. The person with ability but without contacts has less chance of student government participation than the person with contacts and without ability.

We propose a new system—a system wherein persons interested in committee appointments, especially chairmanships, could formally apply for those positions and be selected for them by democratic process.

What would this new plan do? Primarily, it would inform the students that student government participation can be open to them. The only requirements would be interest and aptitude. A selections board, no matter how impartial, would not be free from bias; it cannot be expected to be. However, the initial step would begin with the student. And although he

may not get the position originally applied for, he has displayed interest—an interest, which, under the present set-up, could remain unknown to the few VIP's frantically seeking sincere workers.

Opening the field of committee activity to more persons automatically would open it to more ideas—and more energy. A student leader with an average class schedule, plus two or three committee jobs, no matter how qualified or enthusiastic, cannot be expected to turn out novel ideas and boundless energy with each job. As a result, the people working under him in various jobs get overloaded, the committee work becomes a chore, and he gets mononeucleosis. A new system bringing in new people, and new viewpoints, would be as much a boon to the student leader as the man without contacts.

How a student leader gets to be a Student Leader is another factor that might be altered with an application system. Patronage—the allocating of chairmanships to friends and acquaintances of organization heads—would be, or should be, definitely limited when more people are brought into the committee sphere.

One more point. Student leaders with more than one cabinet appointment are in the position of receiving money from more than one compensated job. Too many students are interested and qualified to allow for the status quo, where there are no limitations on how many compensated jobs a student may hold.

Applications for chairmanships, therefore, would open student government to more students, more ideas, and more democratic action. —Baylee Friedman

Gazette . . .

Today

DELTA SIGMA PI, business meeting, 7:30 p.m., Kappa Sigma.

INFIRMARY

Sidney Brindley, Monroe Frey, Leo Henry, Daniel Light, Barbara Lordly, Myrtle Mason, Surendra Mathur, Fred Montanari, Michael Moyle, George Olmstead, Robert Rohland, Bruce Spengler, William Stiffler, Alice Thornton, David Wedekind.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

Graduate student in EE wanted for part-time laboratory work.

The following camps will interview prospective counselors. Students may sign up at the Student Employment Service: Ken-Mont and Ken-Wood—Feb. 12; Delwood—Feb. 17; Barree—Feb. 24; Trail's End—Feb. 27; Hiram House—March 2; Abington YMCA—March 16.

PLACEMENT SERVICE

WESTINGHOUSE ELECTRIC CORP. (Research Labs. & Atomic Power Div.) representatives will interview Ph.D. candidates in Chem., Math, Metal, Phys., ChE, ME & EE expecting to receive their degrees in 1954; and M.S. candidates in the above fields who have completed at least one semester on Feb. 19.

E. I. DUPONT will visit the campus to interview graduating seniors in Chem., Comm. Chem., Phys., Science, ChE, EE, IE, ME, and Mining Engr. on Feb. 22, 23, 24.

EASTMAN KODAK CO. will interview graduating seniors and M.S. candidates who have completed at least one semester in Bus. Adm., Acctg., Bus. Mngt., Eco., Finance, Trade & Transportation, Chem., Phys., Science, Math., ChE, EE, IE, ME on Feb. 22 and 23.

FEDERAL AGENCY ENGAGED IN NATIONAL SECURITY WORK will interview graduating seniors in Bus. Adm., A&L (Eco., History, Pol. Science), Languages (not Romance), Geography, and Secretarial Science on Feb. 22 and 23.

BETHLEHEM STEEL CO. will interview graduating seniors in ME, CE, ChE, EE, IE, Mining Engr., Metal, Ceramics, and a few students in Purchasing, Acctg., Finance and Industrial & Public Relations on Feb. 22 and 23.

CLEVITE CORP. (Cleveland Graphite Bronze Co. and Brush Electronics Co.) will interview graduating seniors in Acctg., Bus. Engr., Chem., Phys., Metal, ChE, EE, IE, and ME on Feb. 22.

WESTINGHOUSE AIR BRAKE COMPANY (Industrial Products and Air Brake Divisions) will interview graduating seniors in ME and a few outstanding EE on Feb. 22.

GENERAL RAILWAY SIGNAL CO. will interview graduating seniors in EE, IE, and ME on Feb. 23.

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO. will interview graduating seniors in Bus. Adm. and Liberal Arts on Feb. 23.

HOUSEHOLD FINANCE CORP. will interview graduating seniors in Bus. Adm., Liberal Arts and Education on Feb. 23.

AMERICAN SUGAR REFINING CO. will interview graduating seniors in ME, IE, Chem., Engr., Acctg., and A&L on Feb. 23.

MAGNOLIA PETROLEUM CO. will interview graduating seniors in P.N.G., and Mining Engr. on Feb. 22.

PITTSBURGH PLATE GLASS CO. (paint div.) will interview graduating seniors in Chem., Commercial Chem., Bus. Mngt., ME, ChE; M.S. candidates who have completed at least one semester in Chem. and Chem. Engr.; and Ph.D. candidates expecting to receive their degrees in 1954 in Chem. and ChE, on Feb. 23.

NORTH AMERICAN AVIATION, INC. (Downey, Calif.) will interview graduating seniors in Phys., EE, ME, CE, Aero. Engr., and General Engr.; M.S. candidates in the above fields who have completed at least one semester; and Ph.D. candidates in the above fields expecting to receive their degrees in 1954 on Feb. 24 and 25.

AMERICAN STORES CO. will interview graduating seniors in ME, CE, EE on Feb. 24.

CHAS. PFIZER & CO., INC. will interview graduating seniors in Chem. (Analytical), ChE, and IE; and M.S. candidates in the above fields who have completed at least one semester on Feb. 24.

COMBUSTION ENGINEERING, INC. will interview graduating seniors in Fuel Tech., ME, and ChE on Feb. 24.

SPERRY GYROSCOPE CO. will interview graduating seniors in Phys., Aero Engr., EE, and ME on Feb. 24.

WEITON STEEL CO. will interview graduating seniors in Metal, and ChE on Feb. 24.

WAGNER ELECTRIC CORP. will interview graduating seniors in ME and EE on Feb. 24.

ALLIS-CHALMERS will interview graduating seniors in EE, IE, & ME on Feb. 25.

MONSANTO CHEMICAL CO. will interview graduating seniors in Chem., ChE, EE, ME on Feb. 25.

Little Man on Campus By Bibler



"Well, they don't wear hearing aids in my classes, and they insist on sitting at the back of the room."

Interpreting the News

Pitfalls Described In Indochina

By J. M. ROBERTS JR. Associated Press News Analyst

Defense Secretary Wilson is much more optimistic about the possibilities of a French military victory in Indochina than a lot of Americans and Frenchmen who have studied the situation there.

That does not mean that he and President Eisenhower are wrong in clinging to the hope that the matter can be fought out, either on the ground or at the conference table, without getting American troops involved.

For one thing, no matter how the dice fall, there will always remain the possibility that American troops, by bringing direct intervention from Red China, would defeat their own purpose.

For another thing, Indochina is not Korea. It represents a highly important strategic matter, but many of the elements of principle which took the Western Allies into Korea are not present.

The Indochinese rebellion, originally a domestic affair, now has become of international importance because it has been taken over by the Communists. It does not represent nearly so clearly as Korea did a direct attack, sponsored by aggressor nations. Nor are the states of Indochina direct offspring of the United Nations as is South Korea.

Also, direct American intervention in Indochina would be judged in Asia as support for a colonial system which, no matter how the French seek to revise and rectify it, is bitterly resented throughout the area.

All these things bear on whether the United States could or would send troops if the French seem about to fail.

Whether the billion dollar annual aid now being given the French war effort will bring military victory, however, is another matter.

For seven years the French have not quite held their own against the Vietminh forces. But they do still hold the major objectives which the Communists must have to win the war. Those are the major food areas, especially the Red River Delta.

But to win the war the French must drive the Communists out and close the China border. That is a large order in an area where a large part of the population supports the rebels. Some observers even state that a majority of the people are more anti-French than anti-Communist. This has not greatly affected the Vietnamese army, in which soldiers follow their leaders as soldiers usually do. But it is reflected in defections among militia and irregular forces.

Many American observers remain highly critical of French military tactics too, despite re-

cent improvements. Correspondents and military men alike, on the scene, doubt the ultimate result. This, coupled with French censorship and restrictions on American military observers at the fronts, has resulted in cleavage between the French and American allies as well as between the French and the people they are trying to protect from the Communists.

Wilson's remarks come, too, at a time when the military (Continued on page five)

Loyalty Oath Again Upheld By High Court

The Pennsylvania loyalty oath has again been declared constitutional.

The State Supreme Court passed down this decision in a case involving a Philadelphia nurse, the Associated Press reported yesterday.

The nurse, Marie S. Fitzgerald, was fired in April, 1952 for refusal to take the oath. She appealed in vain to the Civil Service Commission. Then she filed suit in the court of Common Pleas. The oath was upheld.

The case was brought before the Supreme Court. It upheld the decision again.

Miss Fitzgerald had maintained the loyalty oath is an infringement of the rights of free speech and peaceable assembly, free communication of thoughts and opinions and freedom from interference with the rights of conscience.

In the court's opinion, Chief Justice Horace Stern wrote:

"Certainly the constitutional rights thus asserted . . . do not extend to freedom to meet with others knowingly and deliberately, for the discussion of plans to overthrow the government by force or violence."

Tonight on WDFM

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Programs include Sign on, Marquee Memories, Record Prevue, Just for Two, Semi-pops, Campus News, Dance Party, and Sign off.