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The Daily Collegian

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Decentralized Voting: Worth the Price?

Consideration of a decentralized voting system—to increase student participation in spring elections—looks good on the surface, but there are a few considerations that bear further investigation.

The All-College elections committee is studying a plan for decentralized voting, with thoughts of employing the system in the April All-College elections. Decentralized voting was discussed at the September Student Encampment.

In past student elections, voting has been carried on at a central polling place, usually the Old Main lounge. The idea behind decentralized voting is to provide more than one polling place, and thus put more students in touch with the election. The original idea was to provide a poll at both Old Main and Temporary Union Building. Now, some would put a polling place in every college.

Attempts to increase the voting percentage are to be admired, but we wonder if this attempt is worth the trouble or the risk. Introduction of the decentralized process might increase the vote percentage 5 or 10 per cent. But difficulty involved in running eight or ten polling places, and the amount of error that might creep in, do not seem worth that increase.

Decentralization on this wide scale would preclude the use of automatic voting machines, used last spring. Thus, every ballot would have to be hand counted. And too, voters would not have the experience of using the machines.

Another problem would be that of the student who would vote at every polling place. This could be stopped only if engineers were forced to vote in one building, education majors in another, and so on. The difficulty here is that students enrolled in one school might have more reason to pass Old Main than the building where their vote could be cast.

Perhaps the major problem in decentralization is the amount of extra work involved for

the extra 10 per cent vote. Each of eight polling places would need at least three students from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for two consecutive days. This would involve 24 students an hour. Centralized voting may be carried out with less than half that number.

The slowdown that would result from the manual voting process might discourage many from voting, and thus anticipated increase in percentage could be lost. Then too, it is obvious many more errors may creep into eight manual polling places than could enter into one polling place using automatic machines.

One reason for not instituting decentralized operation last fall was lack of time to prepare for such an election. Yet there is now less time before spring elections than there was last year before fall elections.

It is questionable, too, whether we should carry the voting place to the student. A centralized voting place has always been within easy reach of every student wishing to vote. The student who is interested in voting is able to walk to the polling place. There seems little need to take the polling place to the student. And the additional percentage of voters that might be secured through decentralization would probably be disinterested voters, to say the least.

If we must have decentralized voting, however, the best time for introduction is the fall election. This election involves only two class offices, and errors in the system could be ironed out with less repercussion. The spring election involves not only two classes, but All-College officers. Faults in this election should be avoided if possible.

At first glance, the faults of decentralized voting seem to greatly outweigh the advantages. In our attempt to slightly increase the vote percentage, we must not sacrifice accuracy and efficiency. And we must avoid plunging headlong into an operation we are not relatively sure will work.

On Consideration

Though no action has been taken by the University library to close the periodical room due to recent magazine thefts, the issue has not been settled, and the possibility of closure still exists.

Ralph W. McComb, University librarian, reported Thursday that no plans have been made to close the periodical stacks, though the situation was being watched. The extent of losses of unbound magazines was reported only as "heavy," though the severe loss of magazines can be seen.

So, here we are: more or less at the crossroads of consideration—consideration, that is, for others, since the theft of a magazine precludes the possibility of someone else's reading that magazine.

It's difficult to understand the motivation of the student who willfully betrays the trust of both the administration and his fellow students. But, as so often happens, the many will have to suffer for the few if the periodical stacks are closed. The great convenience of the stacks remaining open will be lost to the entire student body.

The only hope is that those few will recant, and simply stop stealing the magazines that are placed for all to use on an equal basis. With every privilege also comes a responsibility.

—Len Goodman

A Rushing Idea

The inauguration by Panhellenic Council of a series of fireside discussions on sorority life is a notable step toward a more intelligent rushing program.

Although Penn State women are not rushed by sororities until their sophomore year, numerous rushees have complained of the ignorance of Greek affairs with which they have entered rushing.

If the freshman year is to be a preparatory period for prospective rushees, information on the functions, expenses, advantages, and disadvantages of sororities should be available to them. The formal rushing period early in the fall of the sophomore year is too short and too concentrated to provide a complete overall view.

It is to be expected that the Panhel discussions will emphasize the "pros" of sorority membership since the existence of Panhellenic Council implies by its existence that Greek groups are worthwhile.

The wise freshman will weigh what she hears with her own values in deciding whether to enter rushing next year. Since freshman women are, as freshmen, "independent" they may compare their present mode of campus life with what they learn of the implications of Greek affiliation.

Panhel has begun a trend that may well be continued and expanded.

—Nancy Ward

Gazette . . .

TUESDAY

BELLES-LETTRES, English Literary Club, 7 p.m., McElwain lounge.
COLLEGIAN BUSINESS STAFF candidates, 7:30 p.m., 105 Willard.

INFIRMARY

Sidney Brindley, Milton Frey, Leo Henry, Daniel Light, Barbara Lordly, Myrtle Mason, Surendra Mathur, Michael Moyle, George Olmstead, Bruce Spengler, William Stiffler.

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: Delwood—Feb. 17; Barree—Feb. 24; Trail's End—Feb. 27; Hiram House—March 2; Abington YMCA—March 16.

PLACEMENT SERVICE

THREE DIVISIONS OF U.S. STEEL CORP. will interview graduating seniors in Chem., Phys., ChE, Aero, E, CE, EE, IE, ME, SE, & Mng. E, Math., Ceramics, Geology & Mineralogy, Min., Prep., Metal., PNG, and for sales Bus. Adm., Industrial Psy., and L.A. on Feb. 18.

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 Ro-

mance), 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. Mngt., 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, 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.

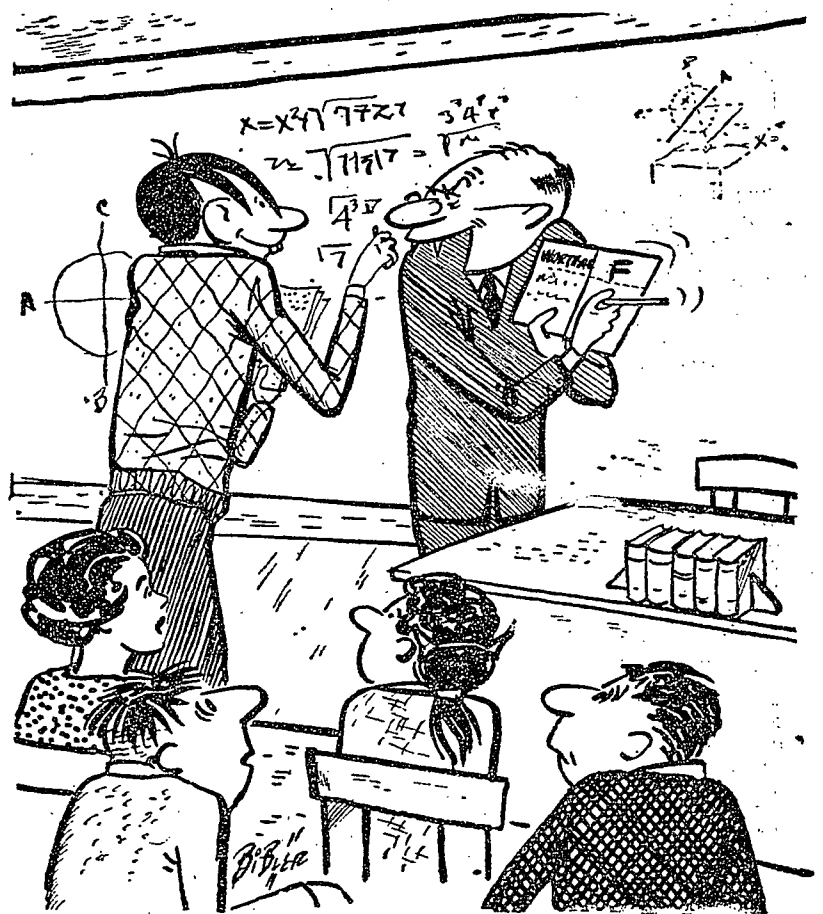
CIAS. PFIZER & CO., INC. will interview graduating seniors in Chem. (Analytical), ChE, and IE; and M.S. candidates in the above fields who have completed at least one semester on Feb. 24.

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.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Thank you, Worthal, for pointing out to the class just where and how I was wrong—I really appreciate your help."

Collegiate Chatter

By LORRAINE GLADUS

Hi there!

As the new exchange editor of the Daily Collegian I shall be making the rounds of various campuses via the printed page and will come back with items which might interest us in the Nittany vale. Last weekend I was fortunate enough to make a real trip up to Dartmouth to witness the 44th Winter Carnival. It is one of the three big weekends of the entire school year and is quite a production.

Carnival began on Friday and continued through Sunday. The program was full with athletic events scheduled during the days and dances, skating exhibitions, and house parties at night. Two of the events I found especially fascinating were the ski jumping competition and the hockey game with Harvard. I had never seen a hockey game before and was impressed not only with the speed and mechanics of the game but also with the spirit of the teams.

Another thing which stands out in my mind is the enormous snow statue of the Dartmouth Indian that was on the main campus. The Indian was beating a drum and symbolized the "Call to Carnival." Snow statues similar to this one were seen in front of all fraternities and prizes were awarded in much the same way as with our Homecoming displays.

Friday night Outdoor Evening was held on the golf course. We stood in the snow and watched skiers with flaming torches glide down the slope to a snow castle on the edge of a skating rink. Skaters then enacted the story of an American tourist who skates to the castle in search of his dream girl. The coronation of the Queen of Snows, or queen of the carnival, climaxed the program.

Probably the most spectacular, and at the same time the saddest event in all carnival history, is the tragedy which occurred several years ago when, according to legend, two students were killed after taking a ride down the ski jump in a baby carriage.

At Ohio State a new and somewhat painful craze has invaded the campus, and with it a new champion. Don Glendenin was officially declared the king of the world's gum chewers when he bravely chewed 50 standard sticks of gum for four hours. Glendenin tried his experience after reading of a boy in Canada who claimed to be gum chewing king by munching 48 sticks for three hours.

"I can do better," he boasted and he did.

"The first two hours were the hardest," he said, "because of the gum's tendency to swell."

If you don't think a gum chewing contest is the limit, how about this? A Co-ed Milking Derby is being held on Ohio State's campus. This unique contest is open to girls who have a way with

cows. Cows for the contest will be supplied by the university dairy farm. The winner of the contest will be the girl who can extract the most milk from her cow in a period of three minutes. Prizes will be a trophy and a blue ribbon.

The Villanovan on our educated collegians:

A college education is a marvelous thing. Here are some of the errors that turned up when a general information test was given at the University of Oregon: Fjord—a Swedish automobile; Iran—Bible of the Mohammedans; Nicotine—the man who discovered cigarettes; Scotland Yard—two feet, ten inches; Concubine—when several businesses combine.

At Ohio State sororities reward good scholars at scholarship banquets. A common form of recognition is holding a "steak and bean dinner." A specific cut-off grade for fall quarter is set as the dividing line for the chapter. Women above this mark, usually a 2.7, are treated to a steak dinner, while their less scholarly sisters eat beans for supper.

A different plan follows the theory that clothes make for comfort, or lack of same. Special costumes are set for each point-hour, providing that women with high grades may wear slacks, shorts or bathing suits to dinner. Members with low grades must dress up in hose and heels or, for the lowest, formals.

There's nothing so hopeful as a new semester which brings the opportunity to start anew and really make that list rather than just zipping through. We have found that the student who can

(Continued on page five)

This Weekend On WDFM

7:25	Sign on
7:30	Music of the People (BBC)
8:00	Jazz Moods
8:30	Paris Star Time
9:00	Designed for Dancing
9:30	Hi Fi Open House
10:30	Sign off
Sunday	
7:25	Sign on
7:30	Masterworks from France
8:00	Radio Nederland
8:30	Opera House (Rigoletto)
10:30	Sign off
Monday	
7:25	Sign on
7:30	Serenade in Blue
7:45	Spotlight
8:00	Record Preview
8:15	Record Preview
8:30	Seque Session
9:00	Semi-pops
9:15	Campus News
9:30	Symphony Hall
10:30	Sign off