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The Daily Collegian

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Political Party Defiance: A Wise Move?

Tuesday morning quarterbacking indicates two campus political parties have made an ill-advised move in publicly defying the All-University elections committee.

Last week the elections committee incorporated in the spring elections code a provision for the rotation of All-University offices between independent and fraternity students. In so doing, the committee felt it was merely codifying what has for years been an unwritten gentlemen's agreement between campus parties.

Both parties, however, attacked the committee as acting beyond its jurisdiction. Both parties have denounced the committee for meddling in internal party affairs, and both have refused to obey the decision.

It was a natural reaction for the parties to balk at this regulation. But was the reaction a wise one? The parties can only retain freedom they already have, but they could lose much prestige. A wiser decision, it seems, would have been for both parties to appeal privately to the elections committee in attempts to solve the matter.

Both parties have now shown their hands, and opposition to the party stand may form. Had the parties kept this discontent silent, they may have been able to enlist enough power on the cabinet floor to strike down the regulation.

The parties have said they will not obey the committee ruling, but that they will obey cabinet.

inlet. This means the parties are saying nothing. Since committee action must be approved by cabinet, the parties must obey or defy cabinet. They cannot obey or defy an elections committee as such. A better choice for both parties would have been to seek compromise or solution with the committee, rather than to defy the committee when defiance can profit them little.

Whether the committee was right in codifying the rotation policy is hard to decide. Parties have traditionally adopted the rotational policy of their own volition. It is natural for them to want to retain this freedom. It is also natural for the committee to want to make sure this rotation policy continues. The policy was made to prevent an all-out fraternity-independent fight. On other campuses, this has deeply harmed student government.

Some argue that, if the policy is to be in operation, it should be a ruling. Others say if the policy is to be in operation, there is no reason for a ruling. Parties have been faithful in this rotation. But what assurance is there the rotation will continue? More basic than this, is rotation desirable?

Unless something happens at tonight's elections committee meeting, this problem could develop into a cabinet floor fight. Unless the parties reach effective compromise, they must take the problem to cabinet. If they do not, they must obey the elections ruling. And then, their defiance will have been so much wind.

This is the position in which the parties have put themselves. If the problem comes before cabinet, a decision will be forced on an important issue. The wrong decision could seriously handicap student government.

I. Elections Committee: The Past

(The first of three editorials on relations between the All-University elections committee and campus politics.)

With spring elections about six weeks away, it seems a good time to review past experiences with election procedures and determine if these procedures worked properly.

Past elections have been devoid of campaign excitement. Candidates have not been willing to attack the opposition. While this may lead to a better Penn State by eliminating bad blood from the campaigns—it has not necessarily led to better student government.

The elections committee, by its control of elections, has eliminated chances for such competition to exist. Platforms are meaningless because the elections committee makes them so. The elections committee has repeatedly withheld planks which are not feasible.

Because of this, little has been added to the development of new projects by student government. If a party adopts an unfeasible plank, it should be the duty of the opposition party to charge that plank is unfeasible, and possibly make a counter-proposal. If the opposition party failed to do this, it would discredit itself. In other words, such a system would keep parties on their toes and eliminate unrealistic planks. The party should endorse its platforms at the meeting of the party. The elections committee should not have total power over what the party says in the platform, as it now has. The elections committee, by establishing unfair campaign practices in the elections code, has gone far in

stifling the competitive spirit in campaigns.

In theory the elections committee is an umpire, placed by All-University Cabinet to referee elections. However, it has not only been an umpire, it has also become the director. It has eliminated a basic reason for political parties: the combination of persons seeking office to further the principles of the group. The parties are now only an avenue whereby individuals seek glory for themselves. Parties cannot differ in opinion if they are forced by the elections committee to eliminate any real differences.

An entirely new approach must be set forth in the elections code. This code should include a system that would permit more student identification with a political party, develop a continuing party organization, establish a system of primary elections, and delegate the elections committee to a smaller—but more important—duty.

A plan to reform the powers of the committee will be presented in following editorials. Under this plan, the elections committee could handle cases of fraud and other voting irregularities. The committee, in this way, could become the prosecutor before judicial bodies of students who violate the code. The committee could retain its power to watch campaign financial matters and supervise the elections procedure.

The elections committee does have a place in campus politics, but reform is needed to give it that place.

—Phil Austin

Gazette . . .

Today

- ACCOUNTING CLUB, 7:30 p.m., Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity
ALL-UNIVERSITY ELECTIONS COMMITTEE, 7 p.m., 103 Willard
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, 7:30 p.m., 105 Mechanical Engineering
ARNOLD AIR SOCIETY MEETING, 7:30 p.m., Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity
BELLES LETTRES CLUB, 7 p.m., North West Lounge, Atherton
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE ORGANIZATION, 6:45 p.m., 304 Old Main
COLLEGIAN AD STAFF MEETING, 7 p.m., 102 Willard
COLLEGIAN AD STAFF CANDIDATES, 6:30 p.m., 102 Willard
COLLEGIAN BUSINESS STAFF MEETING, 6:45 p.m., Business Office, Carnegie
COLLEGIAN CIRCULATION STAFF MEETING, 6:30 p.m., Business Office, Carnegie
COLLEGIAN EDITORIAL CANDIDATES MEETING, 7 p.m., 111 Carnegie
DE MOLAY CLUB, 7 p.m., Alpha Zeta fraternity
HOME ECONOMICS CLUB, 6:30 p.m., 105 White Hall
PENN STATE CLUB MEETING, 7 p.m., 411 Old Main

INFIRMARY

Audrey Arbuckle, Terry Bechakas, Richard Chandres, Marsha Felman, Jerry Hassemer, Joseph Humphreys, Raymond Klodziej, Joseph Mitchell, Frank Norris, Virginia Norton, Joan Pollock, Jeanne Riddle, Ronald Solovitz, Anthony Spinato, Stanley Stirman, Charles Stone.

PLACEMENT SERVICE

- PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT CO. will interview graduating seniors in EE & ME on March 15.
PITTSBURGH CONSOLIDATION COAL will interview graduating seniors in Chem., Fuel Tech., & ChE; and M.S. candidates in the above fields who have completed at least one semester on March 15.
ROME AIR DEVELOPMENT CENTER will interview graduating seniors in physics (non-nuclear) and EE (interested in electronics work) on March 10.
NATIONAL TUBE DIVISION OF U.S. STEEL (Lorain) will interview graduating seniors in EE, ME, and IE on March 15.
PHILADELPHIA GAS WORKS will interview graduating seniors in ChE, CE, EE, IE, ME on March 15.
PRUDENTIAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. will interview graduating seniors in Bus. Adm., L.A., and Math. (actuary work); M.S. candidates in Finance who have completed at least one semester on March 15.
FEDERAL TELECOMMUNICATION LABORATORIES will interview graduating seniors in EE and Phys.; and M.S. candidates in the above fields who have completed at least one semester on March 15.
PENNSYLVANIA THRESHOLDERS & FARMERS MUTUAL CASUALTY INSURANCE CO. will interview graduating seniors in Bus. Adm., Journalism, L.M.R., Ed., and A&L on March 15.
PHILCO CORP. will interview graduating seniors in EE & ME; and M.S. candidates in the above fields who have completed at least one semester on March 15 & 16.
PENNSYLVANIA FARM BUREAU will meet with seniors interested in discussing employment opportunities at 7 p.m., March 2 in 105 Forestry. A schedule of interviews will be set at this time for the following day.
CINCINNATI MILLING MACHINE CO. will interview graduating seniors in ME and IE and a few Metal, and EE on Mar. 4.
KURT SALMON ASSOCIATES INC. will interview graduating seniors in IE, and M.S. candidates in IE who have completed at least one semester, on March 5.
KOPPERS CO. will interview graduating seniors in Chem., and ChE; and M.S. candidates in ChE who have completed at least one semester, on March 5.
CONTAINER CORP. OF AMERICA will interview graduating seniors in ME & IE, on March 5.
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF RETAILING will interview graduating seniors in Bus. Adm., Acctg., Eco., Finance, Insurance & Real Estate, Marketing, Secretarial Science, Trade & Transportation, Education, Psychology, Home Ec. (women), A & L, Advertising, L.M.R., Languages, and Math. on March 5.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



... Then on the other hand I never was sensitive about anyone seeing my bluebook grades.

Excursion 3: Pinball Era

Walden Sea

By LEN GOODMAN

I wonder, when the epic of America is written, how great a role will be assigned to the cultural contributions of the pinball machine—mainstay of modern living, epitome of modern life.

It's interesting to note the vast number of these coin-eaters disgorging noisy sounds and bright flashes in bars and restaurants today. Even more, it is significant to note the number of males deeply engrossed in playing these machines.

Can one ask "Why?" without stepping on the dangerous ground of guesswork to support a generalization? Probably not; caution must be the watchword.

Roughly, the crux of the matter seems to be this:

Beset by pressures from all sides—pressures of a vacation, the draft, and passing bluebooks—the men in question seem to have sought for outlets of a "repressed" (in the jargon of the specialist) desire to rebel. To rebel; but also to control events, and to make themselves the "masters of their own destinies," so to speak.

What a satisfaction comes from maneuvering that steel ball, or watching one's fortunes ride, for the greatest number of noises and the greatest number of flashes. And what a prize—a whole free game! Which, in a roundabout fashion, brings me to my thesis.

Once upon a time liberalism was fashionable in the U.S. It seems no longer to be so. The prevalence of the modern pinball machine is only one of the outcomes of this demise. No longer has the individual that balancing mechanism that both plans ahead, and rises to the occasion. The individual seems to be lost—but lost—in a sea of public opinion.

"Liberalism," has become a nasty word, the whipping boy from both the extreme left and the extreme right, especially the right in the U.S. Many times the professed liberal has made a poor showing for himself when asked to account for his actions.

For these reasons, among others, a re-evaluation of the term "liberalism" has become necessary, along with a re-evaluation of liberalism in American society, and its interconnections with our friend, the individualist.

A modern-day liberalism must be that movement dedicated to the fuller development of the individual based upon an abiding belief in the worth and potential of the individual. That our individualist must hold this view seems rather obvious—by definition of liberalism. But, this view will result, it seems, only if the individual feels an abiding faith in, and a personal responsibility for, society. It is a two-way proposition.

The "liberalist" might be defined as the "pretender to liber-

alism with a very foggy notion of the role of the liberal." He has been seen bewailing his fate at one time, and deprecating society at another. A few have been seen before Congressional committees—others, on those committees.

Maybe to prevent a smear campaign of these two newly-defined words, liberal and liberalist, we should have taken them from the dictionary at the outset, hid them for a more understanding age, and used mathematical symbols devoid of all emotional overtones to signify what we meant.

But, what is to prevent those symbols from gaining emotional significance? Nothing, absolutely nothing, and we are back where we started.

Leader Training Registration Set

Registration for the annual leadership training program sponsored by All-University Cabinet will begin at 7 p.m. tomorrow in 110 Electrical Engineering, Charles McClintock, program chairman, has announced.

The six-week training program is especially designed for freshmen, sophomores, and juniors aspiring to campus offices. The program will consist of six 90-minute instruction sessions.

Topics to be covered include the responsibility of leadership, parliamentary law, floor leadership, structure of Penn State student government, reports, records, correspondence, publicity and public relations, delegating responsibility, working with advisers, and program content.

Chess Team Tryouts

Tryouts for the chess team will be held at 7 p.m. tomorrow in 3 Sparks, Peter Betley, president of the Chess Club, has announced.

Tonight on WDFM

Table with 2 columns: Time and Program Name. Includes 91.1 MEGACYCLES, Sign on, Record Review, UN Story, Call Card, Tops in Pops, Campus News, Radio Nederland, Music Hall, Sign off.