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The Daily Collegian

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STAFF THIS ISSUE: Night-editor, Herm Weiskopf; Copy editors, Nancy Fortna, Don Shoemaker; Assistants, Ron Gatehouse, Cynthia Bell, Mike Moyle, Nancy Showalter, Ed Martinez, Anita Oprendeck. Ad staff, Tod Adams, Cindy Manarin.

I. Campus Politics: An Interesting Semester

(First of four editorials on campus politics)

This is an unusually big year for campus politics—and campus politicians. There have been plenty of fireworks. Most students are watching the fireworks with amusement, as well they might. The tragedy, however, is that the situation is not funny. It is pathetic.

Politics in the spring semester has had an interesting history. And the All-University elections committee has had quite a time. Perhaps the hardest part of the election is over for this committee, and the campaign has not even begun.

First came decentralized voting. Critics said it would allow, perhaps encourage, error. Advocates said it would increase interest in student government. The elections committee voted in favor of increased interest in student government.

Next came rotation of offices between fraternity and independent students. Some said it was unfair, others it was wise. The elections committee decided no fraternity student would face an independent for office.

Next, one party tried to run a junior for All-University vice president. The elections committee said "no." The party said "we will decide." Result: a junior is not running for All-University vice president.

Next, a party's All-University presidential candidate withdrew from the campaign one night, re-entered the next day. This provided interesting comment.

Then, some students decided they would clean up politics. This is something students have been deciding since time began. This time, they had a meeting. They said the meeting was to stop dictatorial practices and one-man parties. Those who attended either liked dictatorial practices and one-man parties, did not believe they exist, or did not like cleaning up student government. Those who attended the meeting turned against the cleaners-up. The meeting did nothing but convince many students politics is a joke.

Next, All-University Cabinet was presented with a proposal to charter campus parties, form

a new elections board, and set up a permanent elections code. This was sent to committee. There was some question as to whether these were wise proposals.

After this, one party refused to remove a plank from its platform. The elections committee said "remove the plank." The party said "we will not remove the plank." The party removed the plank.

And while all this has been going on, there have been charges against parties, clique leaders, and candidates. This has led some students to believe campus politics is in a worse situation than ever before. It ain't necessarily so.

No one can be sure whether campus politics is in more of a mess than usual. Most students do not care. The big problem, it seems, is that things are not going the way some old politicians want them to. It seems they are shocked because some students have succeeded in doing what they could not do—gain strong control on a party and its candidates.

This does not mean the parties have been right in what they have done. It merely means the pot is calling the kettle black, as it so often does. It merely means some students are stepping on the wrong toes.

Everyone involved, waving the blue and white flag, is shouting "Better student government" and "Better Penn State." Yet, in all the shouting, better student government and better Penn State are being overlooked.

Party leaders have taken unfair control of parties. Old politicians have made unfair charges and held an unwise meeting on the problem. Both parties and their critics could stand some improvements.

Campus parties are still avoiding issues. Platforms released last week are little more than mouthwash. If parties want better student government, they must employ the best candidates toward the best ends. The best ends are being overlooked. Platforms are, as usual, meaningless. Again, elections will end in a popularity contest. An analysis of both party platforms will follow this week.

Little Man on Campus By Bibler



"Rumor has it, Worthal, that you don't think much of your fraternity life."

"By the Beautiful Sea"

Whispering Gallery

By CHIZ MATHIAS

Theatergoers who have been eagerly awaiting the arrival on Broadway of the new Shirley Booth vehicle, "By the Beautiful Sea," will be doomed to disappointment unless the musical comedy at the Forrest Theatre in Philadelphia undergoes a complete overhauling before reaching New York.

As seen in the Philadelphia production the period piece about the Coney Island of the early 1900's lays a golden egg. The star's name alone is enough to lure the wary ticket buyer into the theater. Advance sales were fantastic. However, this is not enough to insure success.

Although she is better known for her comic ("My Sister Eileen") and dramatic ("Come Back Little Sheba") roles, Miss Booth made her debut in musical comedy as Aunt Cissie in "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." She was so good as the brassy blond that producer Robert Fryer had the Lottie Gibson role in "By the Beautiful Sea" tailor made for her. Writers Herbert and Dorothy Fields, who did the original "Tree," have collaborated on the book.

Lottie, a Vaudeville comedienne and theatrical boarding house owner, is smitten with a down-on-his-luck Shakespearean actor, and changes her booking to follow him to the Brighton Beach Theater in New York. Naturally, he must stay at her boarding house, by the beautiful sea. (Actually it's about 12 blocks from the ocean, but Lottie thought the name sounded more romantic than By the Hot Dog Stand!) The actor's first wife and child are also staying there, by coincidence.

His frustrated 17-year old daughter, Baby Betsy Busch, is disguised as a 13-year old, because she plays juvenile roles on the stage and to keep up appearances.

When Lottie learns that her dreamboat is broke, she forces him to accept a \$1000 check for money she doesn't have. Papa has been doing a little speculating with her funds. She's desperate and sets out to raise the money by doing a parachute jump from a balloon at the height of 300 feet. For this marvelous venture she collects only \$87.50 because some slob got himself shot out of a cannon and drew her crowd away. The slob turned out to be the redeeming Papa and all is saved.

Meanwhile back at the boarding house the actor's wife runs off and leaves him to look after his daughter, who immediately develops a father-fixation and "refuses to share him" with Lottie. But never underestimate the power of a woman! Lottie knows how to handle the brat and it

all comes out happily, and rather dully, in the end.

As the Shakespearean actor Dennis Emery, Wilbur Evans, star of the London company of "South Pacific," is still in fine voice but rarely has the opportunity to use it to full advantage. Indeed, his role is more that of a stage prop than anything. He does a nice job of "Alone Too Long," which he sings to Lottie in a boat going through the Old Mill.

The real show-stealer is Mae Barnes as Ruby Monk, house-keeper at By the Beautiful Sea. With her buck and bounce routines during the "Happy Habit" and "Hang Up," she has the whole gallery and orchestra shaking in sympathetic vibration. It seems rather strange that song writers Arthur Schwartz and Miss Fields did not provide her with encore verses for "Hang Up." She had to repeat the same routine to appease the enthusiasm of the audience.

Perhaps overshadowing everything else in this colorful, and yet pitifully mediocre show, are the wonderful settings by Jo Meilziner. His midway, showing the exit from the fun house with coy chorines sliding down the tongue and out through the mouth of an enormous face complete with roving eyes at stage right and the Old Mill at stage left, brings back all the false glamour of the old-time amusement park "In the Good Old Summer Time." Even more clever is the Dreamland Casino with the roller coaster tracks in the background. With the aid of light flashing along the tracks and recorded screams and spinning car wheels, the roller coaster takes the audience right to the track. Almost as spectacular as Cinerama!

The musical score unfortunately never quite electrifies the audience, even in the title song and the "Alone Too Long" number which comes closest to being a hit. (Continued on page five)

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES	
7:25	Sign on
7:30	BBC Concert
8:00	Spotlight on State
8:15	Guest Star
8:30	Women's Angle
9:00	Lest We Forget
9:15	News
9:30	Masterworks Hour
10:30	Sign Off

The Class Gift

Two groups of students—seniors and non-seniors—may have a part in selecting the senior class gift. The responsibilities of both are vital to the selection of one that is worthwhile.

Both groups may submit gift suggestions at the Student Union desk in Old Main. Only seniors may participate in final voting.

Underclassmen should be concerned with the usefulness and need of the gift since they may benefit by it before they are graduated. Therefore, underclassmen should exhibit interest by submitting suggestions. These suggestions should be carefully considered.

Seniors who for four years have paid the University-assessed damage fee, from which the class gift money is derived, should be interested in where their money goes. In addition, it is to be expected that through longer experience at the University, seniors will have more and possibly better ideas concerning areas of need a class gift could fill.

A \$9000 gift is an object for serious consideration. A wise selection can only be made from a variety of good suggestions.

—Nancy Ward

On Honors Day

Honors Day died last week, but it will not be missed. For few but the honored ever attended.

The honors program, designed to recognize outstanding scholastic and professional achievement, was discontinued because of "lack of interest."

Apathy, apathy, apathy has been denounced before. Perhaps, then, those institutions that meet with apathy should be eliminated. Or better yet, those deserving honor should be recognized in programs which already attract the public's eye.

We have honored the ugly, beautiful, and talented with pennies, votes, and cheers. Because a special Honors program per se did not appeal to students, the just-plain-smart were met with little more limelight than midnight oil.

Handling the honors awards in established, well-attended functions, as will be done this spring, will give recognition to those entitled to it.

Discontinuing Honors Day was a realistic acceptance of conditions. Certainly the empty auditorium characterizing the honors program did little more than substantiate the theory that it pays to be ignorant.

—Baylee Friedman

Safety Valve ... Explains Sing Move

TO THE EDITOR: Many people have been questioning the reason for the change in location of the Interfraternity Council-Panhellenic Council sing finals.

Schwab Auditorium was engaged the second week in February from Thespians. At that time they agreed to allow us to use Schwab on Sunday, March 28, from 7 to 8 p.m.

The first week in March, Thespians informed me the stage would be occupied, but that we were free to use the portion of the stage in front of the curtains. To this I agreed . . . Saturday last I was informed Thespians would be working on the stage . . . Monday noon I was told the sing finals would have to be moved . . .

Fortunately, Jo Hays, supervising principal of the State College High School cooperated fully and hence the IFC-Panhel sing finals will be held there . . .

—Alexander Zerban
Sing co-chairman

N.Y., on April 1; Camp Kiwanis on April 2; Camp Conrad Weiser on April 7. Sign up for interviews in advance.

UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT

This is a partial and unofficial listing. Complete information on placement may be secured at 112 Old Main.

SEABROOK FARMS CO. of Bridgeton, N.J. will meet with freshmen, sophomores, and juniors interested in summer employment on March 30 in 105 Forestry to arrange interviews for March 31. Seniors interested in employment upon graduation will also be interviewed.

THE KROGGER CO. will be on campus March 31 and April 1, to interview interested students. Names should be listed with G.N.P. Leetch, 112 Old Main.

Gazette ...

Today

AMERICAN SLOVANIC ORGANIZATION, 7:30 p.m., Home Economics Living Center
CENTRAL PROMOTION AGENCY, 7 p.m., 119 Carnegie

HAT SOCIETY COUNCIL, 7:15 p.m., 204 Old Main

MINING ENGINEERING SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m., Mineral Sciences Auditorium

NEWMAN CLUB DISCUSSION, 7:30 p.m., Catholic Student Center

PENN STATE GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, 7:30 p.m., 218 Mineral Science

PENN STATE GRANGE, 7:30 p.m., 100 Horticulture

PERSHING RIFLES, 7 p.m., Armory—Class A Uniform

PHI UPSILON OMICRON, 6:30 p.m., Home Economics Living Center

PLAYERS' ADVERTISING WORKSHOP, 7 p.m., Schwab Auditorium Loft

PSCA "RELIGION AND THE ARTS" SERIES, 7 p.m., 304 Old Main

INFIRMARY

Annette Bair, Ervin Baker, Joan Blissman, William Cramp, Elizabeth Elliott, Joseph Gordesky, Theodore Jackson, Joyce Kerr, Janet McKinley, Kenneth Meredith, Sylvia Pence, Cecilia Poor, Robert Waltemeyer, Harvey Wolfson, Rebecca Zahm.

STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

The following camps will interview at the Student Employment Service, 112 Old Main: Abington YMCA Camp on March 24; Camp Onawanda on March 26; Camp Menotomy, Maine, on March 29 and 30; Clear Pool Camp,