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# The Daily Collegian

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## Campus Political Platforms Are a Farce

While campus political parties are engaged in what has seemed relatively routine procedure this fall, it would seem to be a grand season for them to innovate a system of workable party platforms.

Party platforms at the University have rather clinging reputations of being merely convenient fronts for cliques and candidates who have little intention of carrying out, or even little knowledge about, their party's planks.

As such, party platforms here are a great waste—of the money spent to print them and of the time (scant though it may be) spent to formulate them. And perhaps even more important is the fact that these past platforms have been misleading to those student voters who believe, in all good faith, that such platforms are the conscientious aims of the winning candidates.

Elections at the University are more or less a symbolic endorsement of winning candidates' party platforms. Yet once in office, these same candidates seldom keep much affiliation with or responsibility to the parties and cliques that helped them into office.

For instance, of the nine planks listed by Lion and State parties in last fall's elections campaign, only three have been activated. But this action was taken by groups having little or no direct affiliation with campus political parties. Specifically, a shorter freshman customs program was put into effect, the orientation program was improved, and informal mixed recreational programs have been expanded.

All three issues were listed on party platforms. However, the first two changes were enacted by Hat Societies Council and the Orientation Week committee in conjunction with the Dean of Men's office and the director of student

affairs, and the last plank, stressing mixed recreational programs, was effected by the West Dorm Social Council.

We have seen no action taken on the remaining planks since their origin one year ago. These were, we assumed, the goals to which candidates had pledged themselves.

Such an arrangement could not possibly be in the best interests of student government. It would indicate that either campaigns and elections should be based on authentic party platforms, or that the system of platforms be dissolved, thus throwing the entire campaign onto a personality basis.

Obviously the latter is improbable. From all appearances platforms are here to stay. Thus we would like to see a unique feature inserted into political programs at the University—a workable list of party planks.

If student politicians feel they are capable of such a task, if clique officers consider themselves and their parties efficient enough to set up constructive and authentic platforms, we dare them to prove their ability and erase the well-earned stigma of "farce" from their present reputations.

—Peggy McClain

## Safety Valve— Defend 'Mr. State'

TO THE EDITOR: We are all aware of the value of constructive criticism; however, in the case of Miss McClain's editorial Wednesday, "Mr. State Contest Needs Revamping," we find very little constructive value.

We question the ability of a person with such a limited knowledge of the Mr. Penn State Contest to write such damaging criticism. The contest itself, as far as we know, is the most democratic contest in existence on campus at this time.

A group of highly competent and distinguished staff and faculty members select the five finalists of the contest. We feel that these persons are qualified to distinguish and evaluate the various points in question. I would like to quote Miss McClain: "Falling under the former category (promoting Penn State off campus) are such contributions as ROTC camps, conclaves, and academic course field trips, the majority of which are required of several hundreds of students at the University and merit very little special recognition for participants." Essentially, we feel that this statement is untrue.

We further uphold the democratic system by allowing the students themselves to give final approval to Mr. Penn State from one of the final outstanding candidates. Is this not the epitome of democracy?

Although we do not wish to divulge this information, we feel that we are forced to state that last year's winner, (Richard Lemyre) acclaimed by the audience at the dance, also received a wider margin of points from the judges themselves than any other contestant.

We do not feel that the student body is in agreement with Miss McClain's editorial. The fact that 30 per cent more applications were submitted this year than last year is sufficient proof of this fact.

—Theo Balabanis  
President, Penn State  
Hotel Greeters

## Gazette...

- Today**  
**CHICKEN CLUB, 8 p.m., TUB**  
**WRA HOCKEY CLUB, 4 p.m., Holmes Field**  
**WRA LACROSSE, 4 p.m., Holmes Field**  
**WRA RIFLE CLUB, 3 to 5 p.m., 7 to 8 p.m., Rifle Range, White Hall**
- UNIVERSITY PLACEMENT SERVICE**  
**McDONNELL AIRCRAFT CORP.:** B.S. in Aero. E., CE, EE, ME, Math., Phys., IE & Arch. E., M.S. & Ph.D. in Aero. E., EE, CE, ME & Math. Oct. 18 & 19.  
**STANDARD OIL OF INDIANA:** B.S. in Ch. E., M.S. & Ph.D. in Chem. Oct. 19.  
**DU PONT:** Ph.D. in Ch. E., Chem., Phys., ME, Ceramics & Metallurgy Oct. 19, 20, & 21.  
**MALLINCKRODT CHEM. WORKS:** B.S., M.S. & Ph.D. in Chem., Metal., Ch. E., ME, EE & Comm. Chem. Oct. 19 & 20.  
**OHIO DEPT. OF HIGHWAYS:** B.S. in CE Oct. 20.  
**NORTH AMERICAN AVIATION (Los Angeles):** B.S., M.S. & Ph.D. in Aero. E., CE, Arch. E., EE, & ME Oct. 20.  
**NORTH AMERICAN AVIATION (Columbus):** B.S. & Ph.D. in Aero. E., ME, CE, EE & Arch. E.; M.S. in Math., Aero. E., ME, CE, EE, Arch. E. Oct. 21.  
**NORTH AMERICAN AVIATION (LOS ANGELES):** B.S., M.S., & Ph.D. in Aero.E., CE, Arch.E., EE, ME on Oct. 20.  
**HAWAIIAN SUGAR PLANTERS ASSOCIATION:** B.S. in Ch.E.; M.S. & Ph.D. in Org. Chem. on Oct. 25 & 26.  
**WEST VIRGINIA PULP & PAPER:** B.S. in Chem., EE, IE, ME & Sanitary Engr. on Oct. 25.  
**U.S. NAVAL ORDNANCE LABORATORIES:** B.S. in EE, ME, IE, Ch.E. & Metallurgy on Oct. 26.  
**BOEING AIRPLANE COMPANY:** B.S. in Aero.E., CE, EE & ME; M.S. & Ph.D. in Phys. & Math. on Oct. 26.  
**NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AERONAUTICS:** B.S. & M.S. in Metallurgy; Aero.E., ME & Ch.E.; Ph.D. in Ch.E. & Phys. on Oct. 26.  
**THOMAS A. EDISON, INC.:** B.S. in ME, EE, Chem.E., Chem., & Physics; M.S. & Ph.D. in Chem. & Phys. on Oct. 27.  
**THE DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY:** B.S. in Bus. Admin. & Lib. Arts for sales only; Chem.E., Comm. Chem., Phys., Science, EE, IE, ME, & Metallurgy; M.S. & Ph.D. in Chem.E., Chem., Comm. Chem., Phys., Science, EE, IE, ME, & Metallurgy on Oct. 27 & 28.

## Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Louise told her you would be a swell date, but she must have found out about you anyway."

## Marcie Beaucoup

By MARCIE MacDONALD

Homecoming is coming, the most confusing, convulsing, and presumptive (not tubercular) weekend of the year. A record-breaking capacity crowd will swarm into Beaver Field, just like last year, and the year before that, and the year before that. And still there will be one whole section containing only eight or ten people, and nobody will be quite sure just who is supposed to sit there—unidentified visitors or State College grade school children or visiting firemen from Kansas City or the Mountaineer cheerleaders.

The football team will play its collective heart out against a tough opponent while the crowd cheers for Frothy and the Lion. Huge quantities of coke will be absorbed by the thirsty onlookers; a few of the older grads will shed a salty tear for the good old days in the Nittany vale. The half-time festivities will go on with the usual hilarious mishaps, and the Blue Band will play on, the pride of the finest.

Let's look back quietly a bit at the history of this celebration. This weekend marks Penn State University's (nee College) 34th Homecoming day. That would make its year of origin 1920. Well, naturally! When else would something like this have started? Ever since then, the autumnal influx of alumni has filled every house, hotel, barn and tent within a 70-mile radius of State College.

Streets will be jammed with floats, cars, and delivery trucks from the Creamery as Miss Homecoming is spirited through the crowds, waving a delicate, gloved hand. In the evening, the boys go back to their old fraternity house and sip cider with the up and coming generation.

Meanwhile, back at the campus, sad-faced little clusters stare at Whitmore Lab, the HUB, and some even the Library, and ask passersby just what this new edifice is. The freshmen can tell them, but often they get superior stares as answers from upperclassmen.

In keeping with this unfortunate circumstance, the lawn displays this year will illustrate some of the major and minor changes that have taken place during the past five years. This could get very interesting. Some house might even build a whole new student union quicker than the original down on Pollock road. So far there have been no jurisdictional strikes among fraternity men here, at least as far as building construction is concerned.

And so here comes Homecoming. Have a good time everybody; this won't happen again till next year, and a lot of us won't be here next year.

## Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES

- 7:30 \_\_\_\_\_ Statlite Serenade
- 8:30 \_\_\_\_\_ Marquee Memories, "South Pacific"
- 9:15 \_\_\_\_\_ News
- 9:30 \_\_\_\_\_ The Master's Palette
- 10:30 \_\_\_\_\_ Sign Off

## For Your Specially Decorated Cakes



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Remember your roommate or best friend on their birthday with one of our mouth-watering cakes. They are hand decorated for that extra-special look.

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## roller skate tonight



• Enjoy a fun-filled evening where there's music, skates and laughter. A great recreation for all.

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