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The Daily Collegian

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Let's Keep Athletes Out of Politics

With spring elections just around the corner—they are usually scheduled for late in March—the three campus political parties are busy looking for candidates. And, they can't find them.

The party workers have been scurrying about looking for qualified and interested students to be candidates for the nine positions available this spring: the three officers of both the junior and senior classes and the all-University officers. With three parties, which must by rule run full slates, looking, this means 27 nominees must be found.

As noted above these candidates can not be found; there seems to be a lack of students with student government experience who are willing to run in the all-campus campaigns. This is causing the parties to turn for possible candidates who have made their names in other fields, and the chief sources are the athletic teams.

If nominees in the spring elections are taken from the athletic arenas rather than the political arena, it will not be the first time. Periodically, campus offices have been filled with athletes. Often, also, these students have done fine jobs; their leadership in sports seemed to carry over to leadership in student affairs.

We feel this is in general a very poor policy, however. Both student government and athletics at the University this Centennial year are too "big-time" to be combined.

Penn State student government has had the

good fortune to be blessed with good leaders who could combine both athletics and student affairs in the past. That is, most of the time. And, this year for example, two All-University officers, President Jesse Arnel and Secretary-Treasurer Robert Homan, are also captains in their respective sports and are doing creditable jobs in both positions.

In future years, as in some of those past, this envious condition might not exist, however. It may just be the individual, if elected, would not be able to handle both jobs. He might easily win the election on his athletic popularity while having no student leadership ability.

To go back to the "big-time" element, we must note that it is today hard to serve both masters at the University. The programs of intercollegiate sports competition and student government at a school with an enrollment of 12,000 students are both too demanding to be pursued at the same time by the same people.

It appears to us that today's student has a rough time participating in both athletics and student government—and carrying an academic load too. We also feel there is too great a chance of poor student leaders being elected on their sports reputation.

This is the year of decision; student government must go elsewhere than to the athletic fields for leaders. We demand that in a desperate grab for candidates, which seem in short supply this spring, the parties do not turn to athletic heroes.

Is There Honor Among University Students?

In the oft-mentioned honor system, the school has the honor and the students have the system.

So goes the old saying. Despite many attempts by schools throughout the country, the honor system seems to have survived in very few of them. Often the school is afraid to try putting the students on their own, and more often, when an honor system is tried, the students spoil it by taking advantage of it.

Currently at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute the Class of 1958, now freshmen, are working on a plan which they are asking the school to try during their three remaining years.

Simply, the plan is to have a board hold closed hearing on any student who is alleged to have cheated on two different occasions. The proceedings, which are hearings rather than trials, amass evidence which is turned over to the administration and then the Board of Trustees. The honor board has no power to expel a man.

The proposed system would not apply to the use of fraternity files, old examinations, or papers as reference material. Nor would it cover any school work except tests, quizzes, and exams. When a man has completed a test he will state on the paper that he has neither given nor received any assistance during that

exam and to that statement he will sign his name.

This last part of the plan, the signature which will verify the integrity of the student, is the key. Any elaborate plan for getting the signature, apprehending offenders, or holding hearings and meting out punishments, will be just so much paper if the honor is not there.

Actually, the question we would like to raise, for the lebehty-lebenth time, is: would the honor system work at Penn State?

The immediate reaction is no. Most students think the University is too large, and, therefore, students could get away with inurder under this plan with the large classes.

It seems to us that anyone thinking thus is forgetting the essential part of the plan—honor. The functioning of the honor system does not hinge on size of the school, type of school, or class of school; it involves the honor of the students. And, we believe students can have just as much honor at one school as another.

No matter how you look at it, the honor system is theoretically an admirable thing. Looking into it, however, has made us think our initial statement was backwards. The school should supply the system and the students the honor.

Would it work at Penn State?

Politics: Open Field

Campus politics take on a more formal aspect this weekend when two of the three parties, Lion and Campus, hold their first clique meetings of the semester Sunday night. State party hasn't as yet announced its first meeting, but we assume it too will join in the schedule shortly.

Sunday night is as good as any for students to get in on the campus political scene. Closed-mouthed as the parties have been the past month or so concerning new policies, constitutions and the like, they seem to be embarking on somewhat changed-about programs. In the first place, they are going to have to behave themselves this semester—they're under the University Senate's wing, which group admittedly packs a sounder wallop than All-University Cabinet has ever ventured.

The parties, and those potential party members now looking over the picture, have a few other points to their advantage. The addition of the new party—the Campus—indirectly might benefit campus politics quite a bit. The more parties—the more competition for good candidate slates and platforms. And normally, competition produces quality. On the other hand, the fact that the new party administration is made up primarily of post-Lion or State party members might lead to some degree of friction and possible mudslinging.

In the long run, however, this year's campaign will depend on the attitudes of the entire clique memberships. And now is the time for students to make up cliques to their likings. Lion party will be electing a new clique chairman Sunday night and State party needs a new vice clique chairman. Campus party must elect an entire slate of All-University clique offices and within the next few weeks, the student body can vie for 20 class clique offices in the new party. Students interested in politics have no excuse this semester that they "couldn't break into the groups."

—Peggy McClain

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Where do you buy your leotards, Miss?"

Marcie Beaucoup

By MARCIE MacDONALD

Curiosity got the best of two senior dieticians we know; they have taken steps toward enlisting in the Army. They say they'd like to find out what Army life is like.

That's one answer to the problem of what to do when the inevitable graduation day comes and the man-behind-the-pen-behind-the-checkbook turns us out into the cold, cruel world.

It seems like more and more students hereabouts are putting off the day of reckoning by wheeling just a few hundred more from their chancellors of the exchequer for an extended trip to Europe. But then what are we going to do?

An ingenious professional loafer once suggested a revolution in the social system whereby retirement would begin at birth and end at sixty-five. If still alive at this age, we would all dash out to the placement service and sign up for interviews.

This great mind said that such a system could be financed by transferring the billions spent on defense to a great big old social security fund, to which workers (those past 65) would contribute much in the same way as is now done.

And what about defense? It is obvious, after our loafer friend explained, that with all men of fighting age in retirement, we would have no armed forces. A brave step forward in the disarmament of the entire world, indeed.

Thus, with the eventual obsolescence of war, we could all enjoy the wonderful civilization we have developed through the centuries. Even the employment which would come eventually to most, would be accompanied by pleasures of life not enjoyed by society today.

Very lovely idea, this plan, but we must all loaf together or we all work separately.

One of those characters who reads all newspapers with an acid eye and tongue writhing with criticism recently jarred McElwain Hall with an accusation that the editorial "we" is a very poor device by which one person can spread unpleasant reactions to his written word over an entire staff.

"Nobody," Old Critical fumed at us, "really thinks that a column represents the combined efforts of the staff of writers." (At least she called us writers.) We don't think you do, either. We each know that each of us is one of "us," and hence we are "we" to us, and you might as well start thinking of us as "we". Did you hear about the lady journalist who stood at the altar and bravely faltered when her turn came, "We do"?

of all things

By MIKE FEINSILBER

What would student government do with itself if—just for once—it quit revising, rewriting, or drawing up brand new constitutions?

Startling question?

Look at the record. At this moment, an off-hand count shows 10 groups, soundly concerning themselves with the business of revising or accepting new constitutions.

One of the two traditional political parties just finished; its new charter is being analyzed by University Senate committees. The other party is still in the process. The Campus party will hear its first constitution read Sunday.

Town Council, West Dorm Council, Pollock Council, and their parent group, the Association of Independent Men, are in the midst of constitutioning. Women's Student Government Association has been revising for weeks.

An All-University Cabinet Constitutional Revisions Committee has been meeting behind closed doors in presumably smokey rooms, doing what comes naturally.

(And the new constitution of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, for comic relief, has just completed a new constitution which has been approved by military advisers in Washington, D.C.)

Is this good or bad? It would be good if these constitutions were here to stay or if they improved the constituted groups.

But at the amazing rate constitutions become outdated, this apparently isn't the case at all.

So it's bad. Time spent changing constitutions is time that can't be spent improving the ultimate lot of the student.

Let's get on to New Business.

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES

- 7:25 Sign On
- 7:30 Adventure in Research
- 7:45 As You Believe
- 8:00 Contact Camoes
- 8:30 Just Out
- 9:00 Guest Star
- 9:15 News
- 9:30 The Master Palette
- 10:30 Thought for the Day

Gazette...

- Today
- AIM JUDICIAL, 7 p.m., 204 Old Main
- DAIRY SCIENCE CLUB, 7 p.m., Dairy
- FENCING CLUB, 7:30 p.m., North Corridor, Rec Hall
- NEWMAN CLUB, Daily Rosary, 4:30 p.m., Church; Discussion, 7:30 p.m., 304 Old Main
- NITTANY GROTTTO, 7:30 p.m., 121 MI
- PENN STATE RADIO GUILD, 7:30 p.m., 312 Sparks
- WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE MEETING, 7 p.m., Old Main
- W.S.G.A. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, 6:30 p.m., 312 Sparks