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The Daily Collegian

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On Election Day: Let's Look at the Record

Today and tomorrow are the days of decision for campus office seekers. Nine days of campaigning are at an end, and the rest is up to you, the voters; if you vote. Your part is small compared to what they have done.

As you go to the polls today and tomorrow, we would like to summarize with you just what the three parties have offered, particularly in the nine-day campaign period and since they have released their platforms.

It must be remembered these platforms are only campaign promises and are very hard to put to work even if All-University Cabinet approval is obtained, since many must also go through the administration. They are, however, the chief indication of a party's intentions and the intelligence of the suggestions and the forcefulness with which they are supported by the candidates should be noted.

The other main factor is the candidates themselves, with enthusiasm probably being the prime requisite. Also, it is desirable they be versed in campus affairs and have a background in student government, and certainly, they should be able to give intelligent answers to questions you, the voters, put to them.

We here and now are going to steer clear of personalities, but we would like to look at the platforms since the parties have had over a week to develop them.

Alphabetically, the Campus party comes first. This group, the youngest in politics at Penn State, has no formal platform and is basing its appeal on an open letter to students in which it wants to put student government in the hands of the students and make "higher authorities" more accessible to students.

It is proposed to have student officers in the Hetzel Union Building at all times so as to be available to talk with students about student problems. Another idea is to have a grievance committee set-up to carry the complaints of individual students to the proper authority rapidly and through the proper channels.

Availability of student officers in the new HUB offices seems logical even without a promise, but the grievance arrangement sounds good. A plan urging committees in each college to consider academic grievances is to go to Cabinet tomorrow, and it seems a similar committee might be feasible on an all-University basis.

Lion party proposes a more equitable registration system, improved distribution of student committee appointments, and extension of the period of library use until 11 p.m. during finals.

The first, while good, is going to be hard to obtain since top administrators claim they have not received complaints from students. Lion proposes to have seniors register prior to the other classes rather than having all together

as it now is. Cabinet has also expressed concern, but nothing has been done.

Concerning distribution of student appointments, the Lion candidates seem to want to enlarge the scope of Cabinet Personnel Interviewing Committee which now screens the members of all Cabinet committees, excluding chairmen. As to library hours, the party is pressing an idea which originated in the Liberal Arts Student Council and which sounds very good.

An unofficial plank seems to have been added to the platform by the campaigners; sell new books at the Book Exchange. This is used as a perennial vote-getter and, while not wrong to advocate, has little chance of success. Steps in this direction other years have been vetoed by the Board of Trustees.

State party runs on four planks: a student government guide booklet, one-way traffic in front of Simmons and McElwain dormitories during return-the-date hours on Fridays and Saturdays, phone service to women's dorms until 11 p.m., and voting for the Senior Class gift at spring elections.

The booklet sounds fine, but it is doubtful if the cost would be balanced by the few students who would actually use it. A booklet of student leader reports was dropped, some years ago because it was financially a poor thing. The late phone hours sound worth working for if the University will go along.

One-way traffic in front of Simmons and McElwain dormitories was recently dropped by a Cabinet Traffic Committee because Capt. Philip A. Mark of the Campus Patrol said it would not work. He said icy conditions in the winter and lack of patrolmen to enforce it were against the plan.

Voting for the Senior Class gift at spring elections to get more participation is puzzling. Presently, all seniors are given a ballot when they pick up their yearbooks late in May and there is a ballot box right there. Only those who put the ballot in their pocket or vote unwisely, lose the value of their vote.

The campaign and the conduct of the candidates so far seems to be above average. Materials used are in good taste insofar as they contain no written slurs at the opposition or do not degrade the areas of their display. Most of the talks we have heard have been of a positive rather than a negative tone.

One thing that has been apparent in some quarters is the bull which some of the politicians have been throwing about rather indiscriminately. It is the kind of stuff that is not a falsehood but neither is it the truth. This "shaded" material is strictly political hogwash, and as such it is not illegal but should not blind the voter to the facts.

May the best candidates win.

Constitution Good: Needs Two Changes

Penn State has a new All-University constitution—and it's a good constitution.

Probably its chief merit is its coherency. For the first time in many, many years the University student government has a document that is readable, consistent, and lacking loopholes.

Thanks to the Constitution Revision Committee and the All-University Cabinet "contributing amenders" the next Cabinet will have a fairly firm basis to work on.

There are two specific considerations we'd like this new Cabinet to think about.

1. Eliminating the seats for the chairman of the Board of Publications and Board of Dramatics and Forensics from Cabinet.

2. And the wisdom of allowing Cabinet to go into closed executive meetings.

The above mentioned boards have no pertinent place on a legislative body such as Cabinet. They are there now by virtue of receiving fees from student assessments regulated, to a degree, by Cabinet. But we can think of no sound explanation why fees should be either a prerequisite or a reason for representation on a legislative body.

As the system of representation now exists, Cabinet is an "amalgamated brain trust," with an overlap of representation to the extent of waste. To be realistic, Cabinet should be composed of subdivisions of student government. Dramatics, forensics and publications do not fall into this category.

The second consideration—reversing Cabinet's allowance for closed doors—should need little justification. The chief area related to this would be "impeachment processes" behind closed doors.

We must, of course, recognize the need of legislative bodies to practice discretion in par-

ticular areas—in our national government, these recognized areas include investigations by grand juries, criminal investigations and matters dealing with insane asylums.

We see no parallel between any of these and an All-University officer. We do, however, see the danger of hasty and shortsighted charges against officers when these charges are assured the privacy and protection of a closed door.

It would be far better, when Cabinet wishes to practice discretion, to send reports and such into committee for discussion, rather than shutting the entire Cabinet off from its public.

We urge the new Cabinet, when it takes office, to give these matters serious consideration. Remedy of these two situations would complete an otherwise good document.

—Peggy McClain

Gazette...

- Today
- AIM-LEONIDES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES, 8 p.m., McElwain Study Lounge
- ARCHERY CLUB, 7 p.m., 202 Engineering B
- INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS RESEARCH ASSOCIATION, 7 p.m., 208 Willard
- M.I. COUNCIL MEETING, Wednesday, March 30, 7:30 p.m., 209 Willard. Election of Officers
- NEWMAN CLUB, Daily Rosary, 4:30 p.m., Church; Novena, 7 p.m., Church; Choir practice, after Novena
- NITTANY GROTTTO, 7:30 p.m., 121 Mineral Industries
- PERSHING RIFLES, 7 p.m., Armory, Class A Uniform
- PLAYERS, Advertising meeting, 6:45 p.m., Schwab Auditorium 1st
- WOMEN'S CHORUS, 7 p.m., 1 Carnegie

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
John Arnet, John Barry, James Bates, Stephen Behman, Richard Brown, James Brubaker, Lucille Buck, James Garrett, Dorothy Hancock, Norman Knopman, Frederick Liedtke, Milton Linnal, Phillip Matin, Marjorie Miller, David Millner, Teresa Netcher, Richard Phillips, Richard Rigling, Harriet Steinman, Joseph Tomel, Robert Wainscott, George Weinbaum.

Senate Will Meet Tonight

Women's Student Government Association Senate will meet at 6:30 p.m. in the WSGA room in Willard. Agenda revisions of the WSGA rules.

Classical Film Showing

Drama 61 and Hillel Foundation will present the film "Walk in the Sun," the third in a series of classical films, at 4 and 6:30 p.m. today at the foundation.

Panhel to Elect Officers

Panhellenic Council will elect officers for next year at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow in the McElwain initiation room.

Little Man on Campus

By Bibler



"Worthful stumbled over Prof. Snarf in Bellefonte the other night—seems he carries that camera every place he goes."

Ideas: Rent or Borrow

Adam's Other Rib

By PEGGY McCLAIN

Either the old adage "Great minds run in the same..." holds true for Penn State student affairs, or there's some fancy "borrowing" of ideas running rampant on campus.

We refer here generally to projects and recommendations introduced by local governing groups and showing up on party platforms, and party planks that show up eventually as reports of local governing groups.

We refer specifically to the party plank to "make Shortlidge Road a one-way street on weekend nights" that was transformed a few days later into a pending recommendation from the Traffic Committee to All-University Cabinet.

This particular incident, while causing a small amount of commotion among concerned groups, was eventually chalked up to the "great minds run in the..." theory. Supposedly the recommendation was a left-over from last year's traffic court. And, curiously enough, it was taken off the Cabinet agenda.

The situation touched upon the humorous when a second party came out with a plank calling for extension of library hours to 11 p.m. during final exams. Prior to this, Liberal Arts Council had agreed to try to have library hours extended to 11 p.m. during final exams.

With all this support behind it, it seems almost inevitable that the library must stay open until 11 during finals.

It seems rather fine that parties and governing bodies are thinking on such common ground. If planks are being put through before elections are even held, and if parties are so enthusiastic over goals proposed by their fellow student leaders that they incorporate them into their own slates of promises, then the goals themselves must be fairly terrific. Either that or ideas are scarce and are being spread thin over campus organizations.

In the long run, it probably doesn't matter who puts an idea into effect, so long as the idea makes the rule book. This may even be a good omen for concurring opinions among student leaders this next year.

But for those groups or parties preferring to put their own ideas into effect, we suggest they start patenting their ideas. So be it.

Correction

Enrollment in the Reserve Officers Training Corps at the University is a University requirement, not one stipulated by the Morrill Land Grant Act, as was incorrectly reported in yesterday's Daily Collegian. The act stipulates only that land-grant institutions offer military training.

Students to Tour Red Cross Center

Student members of the Red Cross blood drive committee will leave for Johnstown tomorrow morning to tour the Red Cross blood center there. The University blood group operates through the Johnstown bloodmobile program.

A blood drive has been scheduled for April 26-27. Coeds interested in serving as hostesses for the drive may contact Jean Yemm, co-chairman of the drive.

WMAJ to Broadcast Monthly AAUP Program

The first of a series of monthly radio programs sponsored by the University chapter of the American Association of University Professors will be heard over WMAJ at 8 p.m. Thursday.

The half-hour program will include news of higher education, a report on the recent national meeting of AAUP, and a discussion of the role of faculty members in college and university government.

Students' Cars Banned From HUB Driveway

University regulations prohibit students from parking in the driveway at the main entrance of the Hetzel Union Building, according to Capt. Philip A. Mark of the Campus Patrol.

The driveway is to be used only as an unloading area, he said, not as a place to leave a car while making use of the building's facilities.

TIM to Meet Tonight

Town Independent Men will meet at 7:30 tonight in 103 Willard. On the agenda for the meeting is the second reading of a proposed amendment to the TIM constitution. The amendment would change the word "schools" in the membership clause to read "colleges".

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES	
7:25	Sign On
7:30	Stand By
8:00	Open to Question
8:30	Masterworks from France
9:00	Call Card
9:15	News
9:30	Light Classical Jukebox
10:00	Thought for the Day