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The Daily Collegian

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Fall Platforms in Retrospect

In the hope that perhaps more interest will be generated in this spring's All-University elections and in student government and politics in general, we would like to take a look at some of the various aspects of the three.

Perhaps it may seem too early to talk about platforms, but we feel that if a student is to cast an intelligent vote on election day, then he should know something about what the election can mean.

To some of the disgruntled folk who have had all dreams of an informed electorate shattered by four years of apathy, even getting a sizeable voting percentage (50 per cent, say) would be a titanic accomplishment.

The "politics" season has officially begun. Last weekend political aspirants and those curious about the political set-up here got their general introduction from clique chairmen.

In the weeks to come the parties will be choosing candidates and shaping platforms. In some instances platforms can be a deciding factor. In most cases it is the personality of the candidate which decides for most voters. This may be indeed justified. However, there are times when a party may hit on a popular-sounding idea which all students go for. It is these occasions when a cleverly-worded plank may gain a large measure of the vote.

As some sort of preparation to the already-rolling political season, a look at last fall's platforms would be in good order.

Of course, Lion party must come under the closest scrutiny in this undertaking since they

won five of the six elected posts in the freshman and sophomore classes.

In the fall it was natural to have a plank concerning the football half-holiday. This was on everyone's minds in that season. Needless to say Lion party favored one. So far a permanent one has not been put on the University calendar.

The platform also backed the Supreme Court, another popular fall semester issue. As everyone knows the Court was favored by All-University Cabinet, but what has become of it we don't know.

Aside from the meaningless promises, Lion party said they would shoot for an extension of dormitory phone hours. This would be a good thing for the students. It was a noble aspiration. Hours have not been extended.

In the same line, there was also another pledge to work on giving freshman women two 1 o'clocks on weekends. As yet no results.

Of course, you must give the parties time to work on changing some of these conditions which have been in effect for many years. Then again when changes are made it is virtually impossible to divine exactly who was responsible for the persuasion.

Speaking realistically, these campaign promises have very rarely been carried out when they involved something really important. However, it will do well for those who vote to take a long look at the platforms before surrendering that precious vote.

—The Editor

NSA or Not NSA

NSA or not NSA. This is the question which All-University Cabinet will face soon. This, however, is not unusual since Cabinet every year hears the case of National Student Association.

The question which will confront Cabinet will be that of membership in the organization for the next year. The University has held membership during eight of the last nine years. During the spring semester of 1955 Cabinet voted to drop membership, but it was voted back again at the beginning of 1956.

NSA has contributed very little to the University and her student government during the many years of membership. This is partly because student government has always tried to conserve expenses and has never gone into it wholeheartedly. However, it is mainly because there is very little that NSA can give student government.

Since classes started in September the NSA committee has spent at least \$1200 and possibly more. What has the student body and student government seen in return? Very little.

In this the fault of the NSA committee or the NSA coordinator, Lawrence McCabe? No, it is the fault of NSA itself. McCabe has worked hard in an attempt to get good participation and return from NSA. The fact remains it is virtually impossible.

NSA is founded on nebulous and idealistic principles which make it very unwieldy and of little value for most of the members. Its very construction makes it difficult for schools to gain much from each other, either in the way of new ideas or information. What is good for one school is sometimes not at all advisable for most other schools.

It is true that NSA is composed of about 350 schools and represents about 750,000 students. But in what manner does it represent them? Actually any real tie of representation is almost nonexistent at most schools. The representatives who go to the conventions have very little, if

any, contact with the student body of the school that they represent. Most of the ideas discussed at NSA conventions are of little interest to most students.

Although the students in general have almost nothing to do with NSA—they pay for it, they support it and they send the other students to the conventions. We feel that they get almost nothing in return for their money.

Even those students at the University who are in favor of belonging to the organization say that it should not be done unless enough time and money is put into membership so as to give the University all possible benefits. This has never happened since it would be extremely expensive and time consuming. We doubt if the University would, even then, get anywhere near her money's worth out of the organization.

It is true that the few students who attend the congress and other conferences do get a great deal of experience and a broadening of ideas. But these ideas are not applicable to the University in many instances and are of almost no help to the average student. Yet the average student bears the expense.

After much delving into the volumes and volumes of printed matter which NSA circulates we finally decided that most of the material said nothing. In addition to this, anything it does say is so nebulous that any number of meanings could be taken.

NSA is considered by many to be extremely liberal. It backs national policy which sometimes does not agree with that of the University or its student body. It is generally opposed to the fraternity and sorority system. This has made many University students opposed to membership since they consider fraternities to be an integral part of Penn State life.

We hope that Cabinet members will consider the report of McCabe at Thursday's meeting and will subsequently drop membership in NSA.

—Sue Conklin

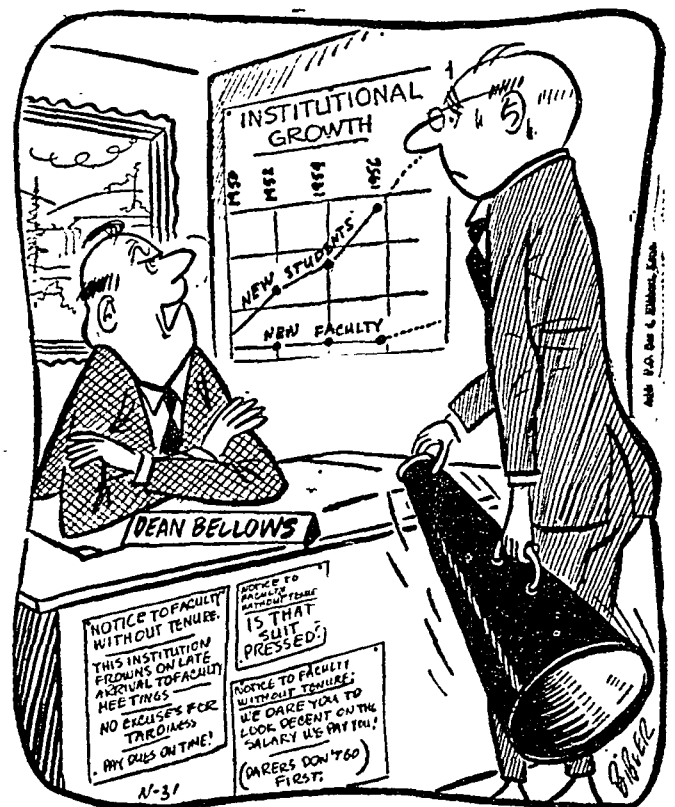
Gazette

TODAY
CENTRAL PROMOTION AGENCY—SENIOR BOARD, 7 p.m., CPA office
DAILY COLLEGIAN ADVERTISING STAFF, 6:45 p.m., Carnegie
DELTA SIGMA PI—Business Meeting, 7 p.m., Alpha Sigma Phi
DELTA SIGMA PI—Rushing Smoker, 8 p.m., Alpha Sigma Phi
GAMMA SIGMA Open Meeting, 7 p.m., 214-15-16 Hetsel Union Building
HAT SOCIETY COUNCIL and NSA—Hungarian Fund, 7 p.m., 102 Willard

NEU BAVARIAN SCHUEPLATTLERS, 7 p.m., 410 Old Main
PHI EPSILON KAPPA, 7:30 p.m., Phi Epsilon Pi
PSYCHOLOGY CLUB, 7 p.m., Pine Cottage
YIDDISH CONVERSATION CLASS, 8 p.m., Hillel University Hospital

Allen Actman, Arthur Aikin, Benjamin Amato, John Baldwin, Charles Bender, Anthony DeGeorgio, Kenneth Follweiler, Peter Gano, William Gordon, Alie Halawi, George Hawk, Constance Hindman, Stephen King, Stanley Levine, Nilda Lopez, Amalendu Majumdar, Louise Manifold, Thomas Mascarro, Gerald McConomy, Marlin Miles, Lanice Moore, Robert Newman, Ronald Raught, Robert Shutt, Carol Smith, Ira Starer, Ned Taylor, Judith Weiss, Anson Wright.

Little Man on Campus by Bibler



"I'm sorry professor Snarf—yer not the only one burdened with extra large classes this term."

Interpreting the News

Basic Red Policy Often Overlooked

By J. M. ROBERTS

Associated Press News Analyst

President Eisenhower, in his message to the world describing America's intentions in the Middle East, touched upon a point which has not been stressed enough in this country's propaganda against Communism.

He reminds that Communism, "according to all its

leaders, must be a system of international control and conformity. Thus, at its very heart, it is the complete opposite and enemy of any form of nationalism. Its avowed program is to destroy totally the world of every religion and culture, substituting control from Communist party headquarters.

That is a thought which has not been put over with many of the nationalist leaders of the newly emerging countries which the President said America wants to help.

They think they can remain neutral in the great ideological conflict which divides the world, taking handouts from both sides, and still preserve their nationalism.

A. Sukarno, after lavish praise of the United States following his visit last year, says his country is unable to approach democracy, and so sets up a dictatorship in coalition with the Communists of Indonesia. He forgets what happened to the democratic forces which tried coalitions with the Communists in Eastern Europe after World War II.

Egypt, Syria, India and others decline to remember what communism did to nationalism in the Baltic states.

The neutralists have just had a demonstration in Hungary of what communism does to nationalism. Yet they still orient themselves against the colonialism of the past rather than the Communist imperialism of the present and future.

Interestingly enough, the President spoke even as his new "ambassador" to the Arab states, King Saud of Arabia, was meeting in Cairo with the now recalcitrant Arab leaders.

Saud, on his way home from

conferences with Eisenhower, has been visiting Arab states along the way telling them that the American program for the Middle East is all right.

For that, he is under some suspicion in Cairo. Because his agreements with the United States tie his country's economy to the West, they are inclined to see him as a "kept Arab." But his word is worth something.

The President made a strong appeal, but two very practical matters will have more to do with how the new military-economic aid program will be received.

One is how the Israeli crisis finally simmers down, and the other is what will happen to Jordan in her reliance on Arab rather than British aid for her actual existence.

Jordan, Egypt and Syria are talking of a federation. This would probably mean that Syria and Egypt would merely swallow up Jordan, extending their encirclement of Israel and perhaps producing another violent outburst from that quarter.

Home Ec Council Will Meet

The Home Economics Student Council will meet at 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Home Economics Living Center.

Tonight on WDFM

91.1 MEGACYCLES	
6:50	Sign On
6:55	News
7:00	Simmons Lecture Series
7:55	Sports
8:00	Face to Face
8:30	Sounds In The Night
9:00	News
9:15	Review Of The European Press
9:30	Marquee Memories
10:00	This World Of Music
11:30	News
11:35	Sign Off

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OPEN MEETING

For All Women INTERESTED IN SERVICE

TONIGHT!

7:00 p.m. in 214, 215, and 216 HUB