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The Daily Collegian

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Voting Begins Today—Let's

Last year several of the candidates in the spring elections said that they were shooting for at least a 50 per cent voting turnout. They got 29.6 per cent.

It is quite probable that candidates have been hoping for 50 per cent turnouts (or higher) for quite a number of years—and being similarly disappointed.

Here are the voting percentages for the last few years: 1956—29.6; 1955—37.7; 1954—46.8; 1953—44.9; 1952—44.3. Voting percentage has never topped the 50 per cent mark. 1953 was the record year.

One can see that the turnout has gone downhill since 1952. At the same rate it will be at a very critical point in five more years.

The apathy seems to act in a vicious circle. Whether or not it started with the general student body or with student government isn't important. What is important is the fact that practically all the enthusiasm has gone out of student government. There are really very few student leaders today who are genuinely enthused about student government. The ones who are, and who aren't laughed at, are even fewer. These student government enthusiasts are usually stronger among the freshmen and sophomores. But by the time they complete their career in student government they are hopelessly disillusioned.

This disillusionment has even reached the upper echelons of the organization. All-University President Robert Bahrenburg told Cabinet Sunday night that he had received a great deal from student government, but that he was glad he was getting out. His reason? Only 14 Cabinet members showed up for Sunday night's meeting—a bare quorum.

We have noticed a change in the editorials which have appeared on this subject of voting in the past years. There was a time when they sounded like the typical Elections Committee poster: Get Out and Vote; We Need YOUR Vote! RAH! RAH! There was a time when this kind of thing affected some students, also.

Now, however, the editorial writers have apparently tired of this method. Finding that it didn't work, they turned to a mild form of cynicism and sarcasm and anything else they thought might catch the students' eye or might spur him to unexpected action.

Nowadays everyone is blasé. If a novice comes into student government with high faluting ideas about how good it is, it is quickly pointed

out to him by the "veterans" that it is actually a large farce and that no one really believes anymore that student government ever accomplishes anything. This eases the novice's mind and the inevitable relapse into apathy can be made with a great deal less pain.

When we first came to Penn State the big complaint was "apathy." Everyone was angry because the students just didn't care about what their student leaders were trying to do for them.

Now the kick is student government's ineffectiveness. The source of the problem? The unwieldy administration. Most snags student government runs into these days are finally attributed to the fact that students can do nothing unless the administration wants to do it anyway. That is, students can bring absolutely no pressure to bear upon the administration. Many specific cases can be cited which will back up this statement.

However, in a way, we can't blame the administration. Many student demands involve weighty decisions on the part of the administration. The whole matter of apathy and poor voting percentage and ridiculing of student government efforts makes the decision relatively easy. How can some of these radical (to the administration) changes be granted when the University officials aren't sure the views they hear from student leaders are the real views of the student body?

You see, there is an answer to the excuse which is now growing thin—that of no cooperation from the administration.

This editorial is a good example of what is happening to student interest in their own elected representatives. It has been quite discouraging to find that no matter what path is taken, students don't want to even take enough time to stop in the Hetzel Union Building to vote.

We find ourselves at a complete loss for words.

There are no campuses where there is a 100 per cent voting turnout. Penn State is not distinctively apathetic. There are similar problems on other campuses. The voting turnout for the national elections is poor also.

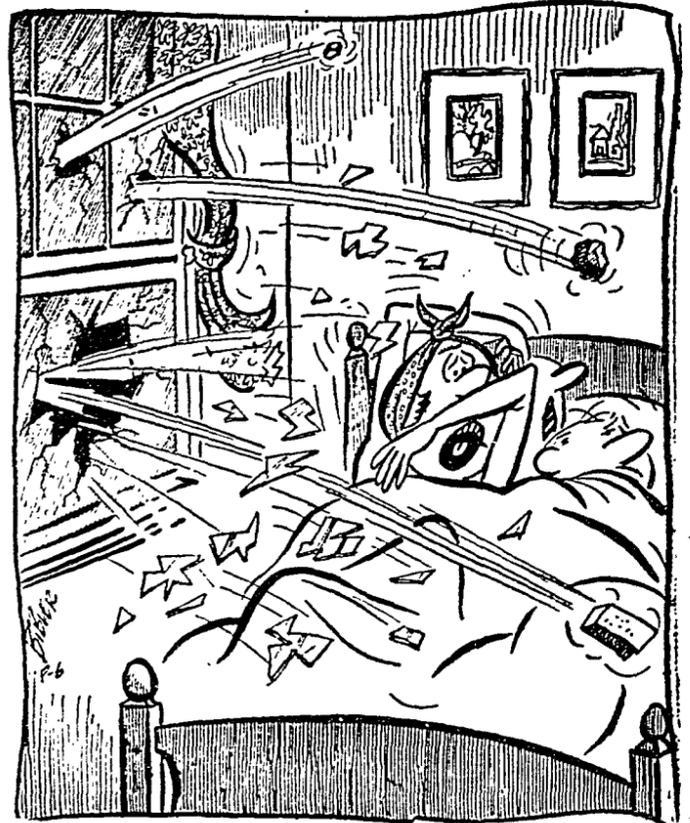
So, all we can say is we hope everyone turns out to vote. All the pleadings in past years, no matter what off-beat tack they have taken have all gotten around to this one basic plea on the eve of elections:

DON'T LET THE LONG LINES AT THE HUB DISCOURAGE YOU. VOTE!

—The Editor

Little Man on Campus

by Bibler



"Have you turned in mid-term grades ALREADY this semester?"

From Here

By Ed Dubbs

Tranquilizers

Newspapers and magazines have been carrying quite a few stories on tranquilizers, which in 21½ years have mushroomed into the second most commonly prescribed drug in the United States.

All of the reports I have seen have been favorable, and a check of a borough drug chain showed that some students are apparently using them with satisfaction.

The drug chain spokesman said "some" students were using them but said they were "few" in comparison to the total number of students. The number of prescriptions for them increases around examination time, he said. He also said he had several prescriptions from the Dispensary.

Dr. James G. Miller, a psychiatrist at the University of Michigan, has described tranquilizers as a "possible answer to America's problem of modern day tension," according to the Associated Press.

But, warned Dr. Miller, "there are still many questions to be answered."

At a meeting of the Michigan Clinical Institute, he said "our tests show there is no effect on a person's reaction while under double the normal dose of 'Miltown' or 'Equanil'."

"Miltown" and "Equanil" are two common brand names for meproprobamate, the type of tranquilizer prescribed for common nervousness. "Miltown" is manufactured by the Wallace Laboratories of New Brunswick, N.J., and "Equanil" by the Wyeth Laboratories of Philadelphia, two large chemical firms).

They are designed to relieve mental tension and relax muscles without the dangerous effects of other habit-forming drugs such as narcotics.

In Dr. Miller's experiment at the University of Michigan, 50 persons were fed double the normal dose of "Miltown" with var-

ious controls ranging from whiskey to harmless sugar pills and dexedrine.

"Alcohol," Dr. Miller said, "significantly worsened performance as expected, but subjects given alcohol plus meproprobamate were no worse than when given alcohol alone."

"I see no reason why people should not take tranquilizers for their whole life if they feel better for it," said Dr. Miller. "But, it's always better to try and arrange our lives so we do not need artificial help to calm our nerves."

In the words of the immortal Alfred E. Newman: "What, me worry?"

Music, Humor Program Scheduled by WDFM

"For People Only," music and humor show, has replaced "Scott Unabridged" on WDFM, the student radio station.

The show is broadcast from 7 to 7:55 p.m. Mondays. Jon Campbell, junior in psychology from Butler, is master of ceremonies.

Tonight on WDFM

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

Out You Go

Sick or not, you've got to go. This is what Dr. Herbert R. Glenn, director of the University Health Service told three students in the infirmary yesterday according to David Peffer, freshman in business administration from Erie.

Peffer said that he and two other students did not return from the sun porch to their rooms for the doctor's visit because no one told them that he was coming. He admitted that when they saw him they should have returned to their rooms in the hospital, but that they did not.

Peffer said that on this basis Dr. Glenn refused to look at them and said they must leave the hospital. Peffer said that this was particularly unfair to one student who had not yet received a medical examination.

Sanford Meade, freshman in electrical engineering from Philadelphia, said that he was discharged for not being in his room and had never been given a medical examination.

The third student had entered the infirmary on Saturday night with a temperature of 104, but it was almost normal by today. When asked to leave he said he would go but that he would like some medicine to make sure that his temperature stayed down. Peffer said that Dr. Glenn refused to give him medicine because he was being given a disciplinary discharge.

When asked to comment Dr. Glenn said that the students should be courteous to the senior medical officer and that these three students had been quite rude by not going to their rooms. He said that the three students all had normal

temperatures and it was alright to discharge them, but he also said that he thought the students should be discharged because he saw no reason why he as the senior medical officer of the hospital should take such rudeness from the students.

Dr. Glenn also said that the student had been examined—in fact that all three students had been examined.

We do not wish to credit or discredit the statements of the students or Dr. Glenn, but we do feel that, in view of the fact that the students were sick, Dr. Glenn could have been a little more patient with them. It would not have been a great deal of trouble for a nurse to get the students to come into their rooms.

We think it is poor practice to refuse students medicine as a disciplinary measure. If Dr. Glenn wanted to turn the students out he could have at least given them medicine if they needed it. Here we must agree with the students.

It is virtually impossible for anyone to get any figures on what percentage of the student's fees go to the health service, but whatever the figure is, the parents pay it with the thought that it will guarantee their child of at least a minimum of medical care.

Ordinarily the hospital and the dispensary seem to give adequate service. We hope that a situation where students are refused medical care as a disciplinary measure does not occur again. We believe that the dean of men's office is capable of handling all disciplinary problems.

—Sue Conklin

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Player's Production

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