

Editorial Opinion

Replacing Vote Docking

Everybody complains about vote docking, but nobody does anything about it—mainly because no better system seems to have been proposed.

To see why it's no good, perhaps we should take a look at just what is to be accomplished. There are certain rules governing campus elections which are defined by the All-University Cabinet Elections Code. The Elections Committee, besides formulating these rules, has the responsibility of enforcing them. To accomplish this executive chore, the Elections Committee must have a set of sanctions it can apply in case of a breach of the rules.

The basic sanction available now—and which has been in use for years—is vote docking. Under this system, a candidate for office found guilty of breaking the Elections Code is docked a prescribed number of votes. If no one candidate in the party ticket can be proven guilty, then all the candidates can be docked.

In the very nature of the system rest its two faults. The first of these faults is its doubtful effectiveness. Vote docking is always done before the vote is counted; consequently, there is no way of knowing if a reduction of a number of votes will actually penalize a candidate or candidates. A decision of Elections Committee may dock 25, 50, 100 or any number of votes, whereas a candidate may have won by 26, 51 or 101, and thus would not be penalized at all.

Its other fault, of course, is, that by docking votes Elections Committee is denying the right to vote to a number of students equal to the number of votes docked.

We suggest for consideration an alternative sanction—one which will be both more effective and more just—and ask for the demise of vote docking.

A set of sanctions exists now for breaches of other rules. These sanctions are recommended by the judicial groups on campus and applied by the dean of men or women. They range from simple office probation to expulsion, and they are used in such instances as drinking in the dormitory, destructive action and cheating.

Is cheating fellow students in an election less of a crime than cheating fellow students in an examination? We think not.

We suggest, then, that these same sanctions be used to enforce the Elections Code, and in much the same way as they are applied now—through a judicial body.

Who should try elections cases and apply the sanctions then? Probably not the existing judicial groups, since the problem of jurisdiction is a tough one, and they cannot be expected to know the Elections Code well enough.

One answer would be that Cabinet appoint a special judicial committee to handle elections cases. This, however, would end up as a do-nothing committee because of the infrequency of such cases.

Two possibilities are left: Elections Committee and that dormant concept, Supreme Court.

For Elections Committee to act in a judicial capacity goes against the philosophy of separation of powers, since in setting up the Code the committee acts in a legislative capacity.

As for Supreme Court, who knows if the judicial investigating committee appointed by All-University President Robert Steele will ever get around to that problem?

Of all the possibilities mentioned, Elections Committee seems to present the least objection, but maybe a better group could be decided upon.

We believe this suggested plan to be far more fair and effective than vote docking and hope that Elections Committee and Cabinet will give it thorough consideration and study.

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Mideast Policy Must Consider Nasser's Plan

By WILLIAM L. RYAN AP Foreign News Analyst

Federation of Iraq and Jordan probably means that eventually—and possibly before too long—Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt will be the master of 40 million Arabs in the Middle East.

American policy, if it is to get anywhere at all in the area, must soon make up its mind to live with this probability and plan for it.

Nasser is well aware of the potentialities in the current situation. His undisputed mastery over Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen and Egypt depends upon the withdrawal of Iraq from the Baghdad Pact, and that seems to be in the cards. If and when Iraq withdraws from the American-supported alliance, a full reconciliation between Iraq and Egypt can only be a matter of time.

The fever of Middle East Arab nationalism forced in a brief period of a few weeks events which many had said would take years to develop. There are two federations in the Arab East now.

One is the Iraqi-Jordan merger which, though a loose federation, tends to appease the nationalist appetite for Arab brotherhood.

The other aims at being a firm union under a single government—the United Arab Republic of Egypt and Syria. The latter forced the former into being in rapid time.

But the Iraqi-Jordan federation will be plunged into chaos unless it offers additional appeasement to the nationalist appetite. The nationalists far outnumber their opponents in the Arab East.

Arab nationalism is expected to push more and more toward Nasser's embrace.

This is not necessarily bad. There are some hopeful aspects to it. For one thing, there is hope that some Arab stability will result. In the turbulent Middle East, that would be all to the good.

If American policy attempts to counter and fight this nationalism now, it will generate more explosions in the Arab East.

There is nothing inherently bad in Arab nationalism. It is a force, at any rate, which cannot be stopped. The best American policy can hope for is that it will channel itself into constructive paths.

The United States could assist such a process. It could make a (Continued on page eight)

Little Man on Campus by Dick Bibler



"I'd like some of you to think of this term paper due Friday as a 'Do-it-Yourself' project."

Washington Beat

Schwartz Keeps Reporters Busy

By Arthur Edson

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (AP)—This sort of thing could go on forever.

After an inquisitor has been asking a lot of questions, fire him and toss him into the witness chair.

That's what happened in Congress yesterday, only as usual it wasn't that easy.

Bernard Schwartz, fired Monday as chief counsel for the House Legislative Oversight subcommittee, was hauled back to testify before his former employers. Committee members wanted to know what he knew about an alleged payoff involving the Federal Communications Commission.

Well, it looks simple enough. You know the room number, Jack. Drop around and let's have the lowdown. But that's not the way things work out in Washington.

Schwartz was served with a subpoena, asking him to appear at the committee hearing room, on the third floor of the new House office building. But interest increased so much that the hearing was switched to the much larger Ways and Means Committee room, on the main floor.

So Schwartz had been ordered to show up at a room where the hearing would not be held. What to do? Cool heads reached a decision. Let the committee meet briefly upstairs, and then move the whole show to the main arena.

Reporters scurried upstairs to the nonhearing hearing room. No congressmen. No Schwartz.

Dashed downstairs. Met Schwartz coming upstairs.

Come back upstairs. A reporter took Schwartz aside. Sidled up close to hear what was said. Reporter: "Get any

sleep?" Schwartz: "Better than I've been getting."

Chairman Oren Harris, Democrat of El Dorado, Ark., came by and settled the whole knotty problem. "We're meeting downstairs, boys," he said.

Harris got an unexpected laugh right at the start. He asked Schwartz to swear that the truth he was about to tell was the whole truth, etc. Realizing his error, Harris had another go at it. "Do you swear that the evidence," etc. It didn't matter, though. Schwartz said yes to both.

Now we came to the files. Schwartz said he had some committee files at home, working on them. When he was booted out, he toled the files—packed in a suitcase and a couple of paper boxes—to Sen. Wayne Morse (D-Ore.) for safekeeping.

Morse now has returned the files, but presumably has had a peek at them.

"He would have had to work hard and fast and long," Harris said, "to have gone over all those files."

"I believe," Schwartz said, "that he's known as a diligent senator."

Certainly Morse would have had to work faster than the committee. For although the files theoretically are loaded with goodies, the committee first had to identify each by number.

Gazette

TODAY

Newman Club Mass, 6:30 tonight. Chapel Newman Club Confessions, 4 and 7 p.m., Church Newman Club Open House, 8 p.m., Center Players Production of Burning Bright, 8 p.m., Center Stage University Christian Association, dinner lecture, 6 p.m., HUB Dining Room "A"

SUNDAY

Campus Party Steering Committee, 2 p.m., 209 HUB Chapel Service: Dr. Roland Bainton, Titus Street Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Yale University, 10:55 a.m. Schwab Eastern Orthodox Vesper Service, 8 p.m., Chapel Hillel Israeli Films, 7:30 p.m., Foundation Newman Club Mass, 9 a.m., Schwab; 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., Church Newman Club Forty Hours Devotions, 7 p.m., Church Protestant Service of Worship, 9 a.m., Chapel

MONDAY

Beginning Morse Code Class, 7 p.m., 219 EE Division of Counseling Student Council, 7:50 p.m., 214 HUB Engineering Mechanics Seminar, Dr. Henri Marcua, special lecturer in engineering mechanics on "Three Dimensional Deformations," 4:10 p.m., 203 Engineering "A" Faculty Luncheon Club, noon, HUB Dining Room "A" Newman Club Forty Hours Devotions, 7 p.m., Church State College Color Slide Club, 7:30 p.m., Mineral Sciences Auditorium

Interviews

Columbia-Southern: Mar 3-4; BS, MS, ChE, Chem, CE, EE, IE, ME. Curtis Publishing Co: Mar 3-4; BS, MS, LA, BusAdm, Journ, IE. IBM: Mar 3-5; BS, MS; EE, ME, Phys, Math, EngSci, Acctg, BusAdm, LA. Linde Co (Div of UCC): Mar 3; BS, MS; ChE, ME, Metal, Phys, Chem; Jr & Sr in ChE, ME for summer. New Jersey State Highway: Mar 3; BS, MS; CE. Pittsburgh Plate Glass: Mar 3-4; BS, MS; ME, EE, ChE, IE, Cer, Chem, Phys, Acctg. Shawinigan Resins Corp: Mar 3; BS, MS; Chem, ChE. United Airlines: Mar 3; women interested in stewardess training. Universal-Cyclops Steel: Feb. 17; BS, MS; Metal. Eastman Kodak Co: Mar 3; ChE, ME, IE, EE, Chem, Phys, EngSci, BusAdm, Acctg, Econ, Stat for summer employment. CAMPS Camp Wise: Feb. 19 and 20; Camp Swanton; Feb. 22; Camp Quincebeck; Feb. 24.

