

Editorial Opinion

Why Vote?

Freshmen and sophomores have a tradition to uphold today and tomorrow.

Their tradition—the right to vote—is one which has meant much to their predecessors.

True, it has meant choosing their representatives to sit on All-University Cabinet, the highest student government body. It has meant strengthening one political party or another. And it has meant rewarding a great many students for weeks of hectic days and sleepless nights.

But these functions of voting are relatively unimportant in the total progress of the University.

To Penn State students, the tradition of the ballot box has meant leadership.

It has meant the leadership which planned and built the Hetzel Union Building against the opposition of powerful forces which favored a field house.

It has meant the leadership which established the student insurance plan, which rose magnificently to the aid of Larry Sharp, which helped start Spring Week and the Penn State Scholarship Fund.

It has meant the leadership to aid the students betwining their position.

The students who keep this tradition must be discerning. Quality in voting is even more important than quantity.

This means that voters often must wade through the seas of tripe and trivia in which some candidates and party leaders would entrap them.

It means that voters must study not only the platforms, but the students who propose them, their ability to carry out sound plans and—most important—their abilities to think beyond the scope of planks to the future needs of the students.

Only as it involves a serious choice of student leaders does the right to vote merit its role as a tradition.

Unity, Not Power

The Inter-College Council Board has made a wise move in tossing out a section of its proposed new constitution which would have bound all students councils by ICCB's two-thirds vote.

All council members except Donald Zepp, board president, voted to delete the section of the constitution. Zepp, who did not vote on the issue, had called the present constitution incomplete and said it "makes mockery out of the organization" by making it powerless.

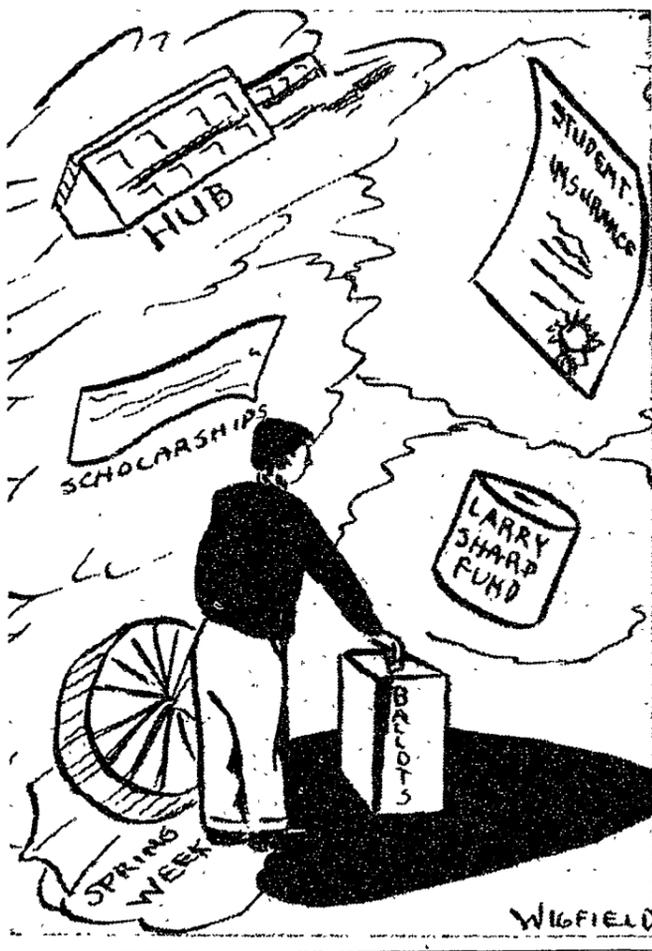
When the two-thirds proposal was announced, it was met with immediate opposition. Council members argued that ICCB should not be a power group, but rather should seek to coordinate the councils.

This is precisely true, and it is gratifying that most of the council members saw it immediately. ICCB should represent and unify councils, not control them.

ICCB's purpose is defined in another section of the new constitution as "to better coordinate the aims, goals and activities of our colleges."

Not so precise as the deleted section, perhaps, but much more desirable. If the board lives up to these ideals, it will be serving its function admirably.

Monuments to the Ballot Box



Letters

Bookstores Are Called Lacking

TO THE EDITOR: I was surprised to read of The Daily Collegian's failure to endorse, without first making a thorough investigation of the pros and cons, the Campus Party's plank three calling for the institution of a student bookstore.

I would agree with the Collegian's position on the matter, though not with the "reasons" it gave, if a student bookstore were being proposed for the sole purpose of supplying classroom texts (at possibly reduced prices). I feel that this need is more than adequately met by the Big Three in bookstores in State College.

What is needed, instead, and I dare say that few students and faculty members have failed to experience a want along this line, is a bookstore whose owner is able and willing to supply books to completely fulfill the intellectual requirements of the community.

Presently it would seem that a Beaver Avenue bookstore is the only bookstore willing to do this. (I do not number it among the Big Three. It may or may not be significant that the textbook trade is a non-existent, or, at most, a negligible portion of its business).

This store is doing its heroic best (and one could also mention a certain news stand on College Avenue) in this direction, but its present cramped location prevents the owner from doing the job he would obviously like to do. On the face of it, I would be reluctant to agree that its small size represents the magnitude of the intellectual needs of State College and its neighbor.

In this regard the Big Three appear in a bad light. When I inquired recently of the owner of one as to the reason why he traded only in classroom selections in books, and why he didn't replace some of the merchandise on the counters with good books, he replied to the effect that the corporation was in the business to make money and that it was the commodity with the fast turnover that made the money in his business.

One of the Big Three hardly looks like a book store at the start of a semester, and, indeed, isn't a bookstore at all after all texts have been traded. Instead of books one finds of all things—toys.

And one of the Big Three keeps 80 to 90 per cent of its books hidden somewhere so

that one hardly knows what kind of bookstore it is. Indeed, in this respect, it is more like a library than a bookstall.

In conclusion, a word of criticism of the Collegian's "reasons" for not supporting the Campus Party's plank three. The assertion that "the administration" is "chilly" on it is the kind of jargon one expects to find in "smoke-filled" rooms in Harrisburg, or in Washington, where political patronage is doled out. It appears that The Daily Collegian has little of that "fighting spirit" that characterizes many college newspapers. A little "leg-work" to supplement the trusty pen of the editorial writer might also help.

—Carl C. Faith, Assistant professor of mathematics

Action Is Urged On ROTC Issue

TO THE EDITOR: Has compulsory ROTC been judged by those learned policy makers of the Campus and University parties as a topic too minor to be considered in this campaign of earth shattering issues?

Every freshman and sophomore knows that when issues such as free legal advice, check cashing facilities or closer association with centers are present, no campus leader can spare a breath to discuss such an insignificant question as ROTC.

It would appear to me, a curious bystander, (I say curious because who could be interested in such a meaningless and dull topic as campus politics) that the political parties are afraid of their own shadows when they refuse to han-

International

Coup in Sudan May Represent Gain for West

By WILLIAM L. RYAN AP Foreign News Analyst

In the paradoxical politics of the Middle East, the military coup in Sudan may represent a gain for the West and a defeat for President Nasser of the United Arab Republic.

The whole Arab East seems involved. Soon the clear lines of two opposing camps may emerge, one dominated by Nasser, the other led by the new revolutionary regime in Iraq.

Like most military coups, the one in Sudan reflected desperation. It conceivably can strengthen political leaders like the head of the shaky Iraqi regime and the President of Tunisia—men who seek to avoid Cairo's domination of the Arab East.

Gen. Ibrahim Abboud, the army commander in chief who seized power, has the support of the two main Sudanese sects. One of these is the Ansari, headed by Abdul Rahman el Mahdi, probably firmly against Egyptian domination.

The other sect leader, Ali Mirghani of the Khatmia, once was pro-Egyptian. But three years ago he split with pro-Egyptian forces in a quarrel with former Premier Ismail al Azhari, head of the National Unity party. Al Azhari, demanding close ties with Egypt, had been the chief rival of the newly deposed Premier Khalil.

Khalil himself represented an element which distrusted the Egyptians and viewed Iraq as a likely spokesman for Arab East affairs.

Gazette

TODAY

- AIEE, 7 p.m., 303 Willard
 - ASAE (Student Branch), 7 p.m., 206 Ag. Eng.
 - ASME, 7 p.m., 105 Mech. Eng.
 - Camera Club, 8:30 p.m., 121 Sparks
 - Chess Club, 7 p.m., 7 Sparks
 - DOC Student Council, 8 p.m., 212 HUB
 - El Circulo Espanol, 7 p.m., Simmons Lounge
 - French Club, 7:15 p.m., Home Ec. Living Center
 - Nittany Grotto, 7 p.m., 121 MI
 - Outing Club (Cabin and Trails divisions), 7 p.m., 317 Willard
 - Psychology Club, 7 p.m., 109 Osmond
 - Riding Club, 7 p.m., Stock Judging Pavilion
 - WSGA Senate, 6:30 p.m., 217 HUB UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
- Judith Anderson, Beresford Bailey, Theodore Baranet, Robert Beerman, Thomas Boucek, Roger Clisby, Gerald Crandley, Robert Fee, William Haugh, Richard Huber, Joan Lash, James Pringle, Deborah Resnick, Samuel Senopole, Daniel Thalmer, Diane VanVoorhis, Gail Winklevoss, Ruth Wrigley.

dle such a hot potato as ROTC. Since neither party has offered a pertinent, imaginative program, it is up to you as freshmen and sophomores to ask the candidates for their views on issues of importance to you. Don't adopt a defeatist attitude about ROTC because it was stopped last year by a miscarriage of legislation. Remember that this year you have the referendum.

—Carl Von Dreele, '59

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