

Editorial Opinion

University, Campus Platforms Improve over Past Years

(Editor's note: Prior to each election, the Daily Collegian presents an analysis of party platforms. While it is policy to give equal space to each party, the fact that one party has 10 planks and the other five will prevent such a balance for this analysis.)

UNIVERSITY PARTY

Following are the University party planks:

- **Recognizing the fact that student spirit is founded upon tradition, we advocate the establishment of a University archives.**

A centralized collection of the University's trophies, paintings and historical lore in a more accessible place than the Penn State Room in the Library is very desirable. However, the location of such a collection would present quite a problem.

The Armory would be an ideal location. But quick action would be required on this plank since long range plans call for demolition of the Armory to make way for a School of the Arts Building.

- **Commensurate with new women's hours we propose that a later closing time be established for Pattee Library and the Lion's Den.**

This is a good idea but somewhat petty for a party platform. To state simply that hours should be extended is not enough. Before any such action is taken, proper authorities must be consulted to determine the costs of such an extension of hours.

The Association of Independent Men is already looking into these possibilities.

- **The recent textbook tax issue has shown that student influence is needed in state government. We feel that more of these issues of student interests will be brought to light by organizing lobbies in the state legislature, utilizing existing SGA facilities.**

If University party members would recall last semester, SGA Assembly gave its verbal support to the Student Lobby Club. This group has as its expressed purpose the same points brought out in this plank.

It is quite true that students should have a definite voice in action being taken by the state and national governments. Present issues such as segregation, absentee balloting for students, ROTC and taxes would be among those that could be discussed thoroughly and then presented to the proper government agencies.

- **We propose the establishment of a joint committee composed of members of a public relations committee and infirmary officials. The purpose of this committee would be to study student complaints concerning the infirmary and to recommend changes which would provide for better infirmary treatment and service.**

Reports of improper treatment and poor service often circulate concerning the health service. Whenever flagrant complaints occur an investigation is suggested. However, if this plank was carried out, it would work continually with infirmary officials to see to it that service is good at all times.

- **Since activity privileges are paid for through student fees, and the matriculation card should be used only for identification, we propose that a transferable activity card be issued at the beginning of each semester to all students. Anyone holding an activity card would be admitted to a University function whether or not he were a University student.**

This platform is absurd. Student seating at practically every sports event and especially at Artist Series performances is very limited. To allow anyone to use the matric cards would prevent many students from enjoying these events.

The University activities are planned specifically with the students in mind and should remain open for students. When this demand is filled, and only then, should any large number of outsiders be permitted in.

As the platform stands, non-students could borrow matric cards and vote in student elections

CAMPUS PARTY

The following are Campus party planks:

- **We propose the institution of regularly scheduled meetings between the SGA president, President Eric A. Walker and other involved members of SGA and the administration. Such meetings shall be open to the press.**

Regular meetings between the SGA president, Prexy and other SGA officials are

already held. However, the idea of a press conference type of session is very good. This would enable students to obtain direct information on matters of University policy.

- **We propose that a non-profit University bookstore be included in the forthcoming HUB extension.**

Mere inclusion of space in the HUB expansion plans will not bring a student bookstore to Penn State. This has been on party platforms for several years and has been studied by student government.

For a bookstore to succeed, complete cooperation is needed with professors in obtaining book lists. The competition this would give downtown book stores is another major problem.

However, the University should have a student bookstore and the planning should not be given up.

- **We propose a study of the possibility of allowing students to transfer their matriculation card privileges for athletic events and Artist's Series programs to others.**

Director of Athletics Ernest B. McCoy has said that this appears to be the only sore point concerning seating at athletic events. The present plan was drawn up by student government and any further change would come from the same place.

McCoy is willing to change the policy providing some feasible suggestions can be made.

Outright transfer of matric cards is not the answer.

- **We propose the establishment of a voluntary basic and advanced ROTC program on a four-year trial basis.**

This plank bears some sound reasoning. The University of Wisconsin is one place where a plan similar to this is now in effect.

The military branches have been changing their views on compulsory ROTC and may welcome such an experiment to serve as a guide for other universities.

- **We believe students who are qualified to vote in state and national elections should be granted the same absentee voting privileges as other citizens of this state.**

This plank is a more specific application to that of University party concerning lobbying. Students should definitely be allowed to vote if they are eligible and are not able to return to their home district on Election Day.

SGA could use this plank as one instance to band together college students throughout the state to lobby for legislation.

- **We propose a system of parking on alternate sides of downtown streets on alternate nights, in order to provide for cleaning or snow removal.**

Such a system would involve much confusion, possibly more than what the regulation would be worth. However, it would be worthwhile investigating.

- **We pledge sympathy with our fellow students of the South who are struggling for their rights as full citizens and also support further study of discrimination on the University level.**

This should definitely be carried out by the new SGA Assembly. Further understanding of the problems on both sides of the discrimination question is needed.

- **We shall work for a clarification of those courses which can be taken by examination, and a listing or requirements for such examinations.**

As pointed out in the platform, many students now take courses which are duplications of previous work. Such a clarification and listing would prevent this.

- **We propose a continuing investigation of policies and plans of Housing, food service and physical plant to determine the best course of action to serve student needs.**

This plank goes without saying. It is the duty of SGA to investigate such matters and make the students' voice heard.

- **We believe that student government should represent and put into action the will of the student body.**

Again without saying, SGA must represent student opinion. The present form of government will do that if it is used as it was intended.

Little Man on Campus

by Dick Bibler



"I THINK HE GIVES HER LOW GRADES ON PURPOSE! HE LETS HER TALK HIM INTO RAISING THEM."

Reader Hits LP Secrecy

TO THE EDITOR: In this SGA campaign, we have heard both parties promise not to be influenced by "special interest groups" in the past. But we have heard nothing from either side to prove that they mean what they say.

The most obvious "special interest group" on campus is Lion's Paw. Its attempts to bend student government toward its own special interests are even more dangerous because it operates in strict secrecy, concealing motives for good or bad. Secrecy strikes at the very heart of democratic and representative student government.

I believe the student body has a right to demand the end of this secret control. The leading candidates of both parties should swear publicly that they will never become members of Lion's Paw or

any other organization whose motives and actions are hidden from view.

In the interests of a clean election, free from control, the SGA elections committee chairman and the clique chairmen of both parties should also swear to reject membership in such pressure groups. If anyone fails to make such a pledge, he should be rejected by the student body whose interests he does not wish to serve.

This is only one step toward clean, honest student government—but it is a major one, and it must be taken.

—Richard L. Snyder, '61

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

S	H	A	S	T	A	D	I	M	P	L	E		
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T	R	I	T	E	E	U	P	B	A	U	E	R	
O	N	C	E	O	V	E	R	C	U	R	T	S	Y
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R	E	S	E	T	F	A	C	T	O	M	A	E	
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D	E	S	E	R	T	S	U	D	D	E	N		

Gazette

TODAY

- Air Force Recruiting, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., HUB ground floor
- Bible Fellowship, 7:30 p.m., 111 Boucke Center Stage, "The Dark at the Top of Stairs", 8 p.m.
- Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 219 HUB
- Mineral Industries Colloquium, 4:15 p.m., Mineral Industries auditorium
- Phi Mu Alpha concert, 8 p.m., HUB assembly room
- Thespians, "Kiss Me Kate," 7:30 p.m., Schwab

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55 Years of Editorial Freedom

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