

Editorial Opinion

# Change Leaders But Keep Platform

The Encampment workshop on Student Government Association made three sweeping resolutions concerning political parties that for all practical purposes would eliminate the parties from the SGA election system.

The recommendations were to have the majority and minority party leaders serve as party clique chairmen, to have campaigns financed and conducted by Elections Commission with equal publicity to each party, and finally to drop the custom of party platforms.

We can see merit in the first two recommendations, but, though we have been disgusted with the gross misuse of the party platforms, and at times have been driven to entertaining ideas of eliminating them, to do so would wreck the elections framework of SGA.

Let's examine the function and operation of a party in the SGA framework.

The party outside of SGA Assembly operates only at election time. The only continuing party unit is the elected bloc on Assembly.

So the party clique chairman, who has always been a member outside the Assembly is left to lead a party that doesn't exist.

The minority and majority leaders in Assembly could most effectively control the party all year long. This in itself could strengthen pursuance of platform objectives.

Campaigns financed and conducted by Elections Commission should eliminate the perennial cries of dirty campaigning.

These two recommendations should be enacted.

\* \* \*

But the proper approach on party platforms, idealistic though it may sound, is to make them meaningful not to eliminate them. For to kill the platform is to kill the party.

Without platforms, parties would be mere agencies collecting activity lists of those who wish to run for office.

While some people have advocated that

this would be a better way to select candidates—on their abilities and personality—activity lists do not prove abilities nor give the electorate any indication of where the candidate stands on vital political issues.

And this is what the platform must be. Not just a list of dandy little projects to be "studied or investigated" (what meaningless terms), but rather an expression of a definite stand on the basic issues facing SGA at that time.

Platforms of the two parties would not have to be diametrically opposed. They may be very similar. But they must express a stand. Not "We propose that consideration be given to . . ." but "We will fight for . . ."

Without platforms an unethical campaigner could change his view on a controversial issue from audience to audience.

The establishment of a meaningful platform means candidates will have to sit down and really examine the problems before making infeasible rash promises.

\* \* \*

The argument against platforms has been that they are not carried out or aren't any good to begin with. This has been true, but need not continue to be so if parties will understand the proper concept of a platform as a "stand" and not silly little studies or forming committees.

Abolishing platforms is a retreat, admitting defeat in attempting to formulate constructive approaches to student problems.

Last year, Campus Party had a few meaningful planks in its platform, saying a little more than wouldn't it be nice to have a University archives.

Unfortunately the party's candidates who were elected made no fight for these planks.

A strong party would fight for its platform as a mandate from the electorate.

Parties have not performed their function in the past, but to kill them rather than strengthen them would wreck SGA's responsibility to its electorate.

being amyable

# 'Head' Writer Has Space Problems

by amy rosenthal

A headline writer lives in a world all his own or so it must seem sometimes to the students who read the paper.

The confusion stems from the problem that each headline must be a short summary of the story and yet fit into the space allowed. Sometimes achieving these aims

calls for a magician or perhaps a walking dictionary.

It must seem the Collegian is on intimate terms with the national or world leaders for on our pages you can find such headlines as "Dag Must Go, Says Niki" or "Jack Swings Through State as Dick Tests Knee." No, we do not really know them on a first name basis, it's just that their surnames won't fit into the spaces assigned.



Miss Rosenthal

Often as we toil away in the office we are confronted with the problem of how to make a one line summary of 25 letters or less out of the fact that Clarence Isotophoric, professor of agricultural meteorology, will attend a meeting of the National Association of Astronomical Cultivators. If there is any reader that can do better than "Prof to Attend Meeting" let him step forward and be received with blessings.

Then too we are confronted

with the problems of picking different verbs that say there are forms or tickets at the Hetzel Union desk which can be picked up by interested students. Usually we end up by using that old stand-by "are available."

And there's nothing like that short verb "set" to solve a headline writer's problems, dates are set, plans are set, research is set, this could lead to linguistic phobia.

Then for you who get the news by reading the headlines only, we must be especially cautious, just a shading of a word can cause a panic. Consider this headline "Telephone Trainees Practice Here." Hmml! To one with imagination this presents numerous possibilities. Are they training operators to say this phone has been disconnected, or training people in telephone painting or perhaps we have a class of wire tapers in our midst.

The problem of how to say the most in the least space goes on and for a better Penn State we will do best to turn out legible but understandable headlines. If only the short words weren't mainly four letter ones!

Letters

## Voight Defends Liberal Party

TO THE EDITOR: In attempting to express the feelings of those of us who choose to identify ourselves with the spirit of the Liberal Party, I sincerely question your understanding of the "why and hows" of this new campus political organization as shown in yesterday's editorial.

First, several apologies are in order. We are sorry that SGA is structured around a 2-party system. We are sorry that the very existence of the new Liberal Party will cause a weakening of the two existing "strong" parties.

We regret that we cannot create powerful leaders in student government because we do not have the block support of 40 "brothers" during nominations.

We are also sorry if our "broken record" of non-representation on the SGA assembly is a record of truth.

We are remorseful because the fact that a few Campus Party Independents were defeated in the last elections "proves" to you—through blistering logic—that independents have no interest in campus politics or that the Greek candidates were better qualified.

We lament that our desire to start the ball rolling for a student book store to be operated independent of administrative control does not meet

with your approval or the approval of the "big three" book store owners.

Finally, we are truly sorry if you are fearful, as you stated, that SGA may eventually be "dominated by interested Independents." After all, they would selfishly be representing the needs of a small "interest group" of over two-thirds of the student body.

—Walter H. Voigt '61

(Editor's Note: Yesterday's editorial did not claim that two "strong" political parties already existed—quite the contrary. It also pointed out that a residence hall unit could easily out-vote fraternity blocks.

We did not "disapprove" of a student-operated book store but merely questioned the naive assumption made by the Liberal Party that the administration would not care about such a plan.

We "fear" nothing. We merely noted that independent domination of SGA will probably evolve under the community living concept without any help from the exclusively independent Liberal Party.

We do have "concern" over the fact that the Liberal Party's only accomplishment may be the separation of Indies and Greeks and by causing such factions it may bring about the ultimate disintegration of SGA which meets its fate next spring.)

## Grad Laments Delayed Stipends

TO THE EDITOR: A deplorable situation has recently been called to my attention and I just thought that you might be interested.

Did you know that over 200 graduate assistants and instructors were not paid on Sept. 30? Why were they not paid? They were not paid because their appointments had not been processed.

Now I can certainly understand that the processing of these appointments takes time. However, nobody, but nobody, on God's green earth can convince me that it has to take all summer.

These are human beings involved, not just numbers and names. Many of these people have families to support. They

have to rely on their monthly stipend and they should be able to rely on it. They have come to Penn State in good faith and this faith should not be violated.

Mr. Editor, I humbly submit to you that this rank incompetence must cease at whatever level it occurs.

—David E. Groner, Graduate Student

## WDFM Schedule

- 3:30 p.m. Critics' Choice
- 5:00 p.m. Three at Five
- 6:00 p.m. Studio X
- 6:55 p.m. Joel Myers
- 7:00 p.m. Obelisk
- 7:30 p.m. The Jazz Sound
- 7:55 p.m. News Roundup
- 8:00 p.m. This is the Subject
- 9:00 p.m. Folk Music
- 9:30 p.m. Just New
- 9:45 p.m. News, Sports and Weather
- 10:00 p.m. Chamber Music
- 12:00 p.m. Sign Off



# GAZETTE

- TODAY**
- Ag Hill Party, 6:30 p.m., 213 HUB
  - Air Force Glee Club, 3 p.m., HUB assembly room
  - Alpha Lambda Delta, 5 p.m., 214 HUB
  - AWS, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., HUB first floor lobby
  - Campus Party, 8 p.m., 215 HUB
  - Circs Staff Meeting, 7:30 p.m., 203 HUB
  - Daily Collegian Promotion Staff, 7 p.m., 9 Carnegie
  - Greek Sunday Committee, 7 p.m., 212 HUB
  - Navy Recruiting, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., HUB ground floor lobby
  - October Interpretative Reading Hour, 7:30 p.m., McElwain lounge
  - Special Education, 6:30 p.m., 217-218 HUB
  - SCA Residence Committee, 8 p.m., 212 HUB
  - SCCB, 6:30 p.m., 214 HUB
  - SFC Jazz Festival Committee, 6:30 p.m., 216 HUB

- SGA, 7 p.m., 203 HUB
- SV Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB
- World Series, 12 noon, HUB ballroom
- WRA Hockey Club, 4 p.m., women's athletic field
- WRA Swim Club, new members, 6:30, old members 7:30, White Hall

HOSPITAL

- John Anderson, Barbara Buck, Sue Christian, Loretta Cowan, Patricia Dill, Robert Dockstader, Harriet Emdur, Barbara Gnaill, Patricia Kampmeier, William Klotsas, Lillian Lois, Ingrid Lewis, Jacqueline Long, Louise Mapp, Jo Anne Mark, Robert Munna, Ruth Noble, Michael Onufry, Generva Peck, Norman Potter, John Sepp, Charles Siemenski, Nancy Sklarew, James Skok, Marva Smith, Nancy Tharp, David Walter, Richard Ward, Barbara Watchorn, Willard Zimmerman.

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56 Years of Editorial Freedom

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