

**Editorial Opinion**

**Thoughts While Playing 'What Happened To ...'**

Now that it is nearing campus election time again we thought it might be a good idea to take a look at some of the past campaign promises.

Looking at old platforms and promises is a good game which might aptly be titled "Whatever Happened To ..."

Just take the case of the last election campaign which promised, among other things, to see about organizing student lobby groups to protest things like taxes on textbooks. Now we thought that lobby groups were kind of noisy people but we guess that those advocated by University party are trying a new technique which utilizes non-organization and silence.

University party also advocated later hours for the Pattee Library but we guess Mr. McComb didn't find enough support for the idea on their written planks. Maybe somewhere someone is thinking of doing more than writing the idea down but he's being very quiet about the whole thing.

Another University party plank stated: "recognizing the fact that student spirit is founded upon tradition, we advocate the establishment of a University archives." We think the University party, not wishing to alter traditions, decided to be very quiet about its subsequent work on this plank.

Then around last election time, we heard talk about SGA members attending meetings held by other campus organizations and something about those students who sit on Senate Subcommittees submitting written reports or reporting to the Assembly.

University party was swept into power during the last election and so we thought we might be hearing more about some of these things, unfortunately, such has not been the case.

Upon checking with the highest University party candidate who is now our SGA president, we found that he did not know anything about many of these planks. He explained that upon becoming president he became bi-partisan and consequently had little to do with party work.

Evidently, this has been the case with many assemblymen. So we can only conclude that they found the platforms merely useful to campaign on.

Some of these assemblymen also wish to abolish platforms and parties because they do not do anything. Well, it is these assemblymen's fault that platforms are not carried out. If they refuse to carry out or try to carry out planks they campaigned on, then they ought not to be re-elected.

\* \* \*

We are not suggesting that failure to carry out platforms is by any means limited to University party. What we are suggesting is that the voters must hold parties and the freshmen, sophomore and junior assembly members responsible for the platforms in future elections.

We are suggesting that the student body, in order to make SGA meaningful, must examine campaign issues and vote next week on the basis of the issues and candidates.

Then next spring, the voters must determine whether or not the party in power has tried to fulfill its promises and whether or not the assemblymen have done their jobs.

Indirectly, the voters determine what kind of SGA we have by first electing assemblymen and then holding them and the parties who nominated them responsible. But most students will probably decide not to vote claiming SGA is just a joke. Ultimately, the joke is on the non-voting students.

**Afterthoughts**

It is interesting to note that the University Senate approved the bowl half-holiday during a fit of laughter following a joke related by President Eric A. Walker. Perhaps laughter does "save the day."

\* \* \*

Those students who take delight in writing boring notes on campaign posters ought to be made to read them all sometime.



**Letters**

**Williams Challenged**

**TO THE EDITOR:** In reply to Gomer Williams' statement that he is "positive" that the Governor "does not have any power" to interfere with administration-student affairs, as acting Campus Party Chairman and author of our plan of action, I hereby challenge the veracity of his statement.

Indeed, if Mr. Williams chooses to dispute the matter, I offer him the opportunity to accompany him to the Capitol. Perhaps then he'll be inclined to withdraw his hasty conclusions.

—Dennis Eisman, Acting Campus Party Chairman

*(Editor's Note: Williams is a sophomore candidate for assembly and is being endorsed by the unchartered Liberal Party. He was asked by the Collegian to comment on the Campus Party plank which calls for notification of the governor, state legislature and alumni if SGA-approved bills are stalled by the administration.)*

**Gazette**

TODAY

- Arnold Air Society Review Board, Class A Uniform, 7 p.m., 217-218 HUB
- Interindia Folk Dance, 7:30 p.m., HUB ballroom
- IV Christian Fellowship, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB
- IV Christian Fellowship, 7:30 p.m., 111 Bouck
- Model Railroad Club, second annual auction show, 7 p.m., 121 MI
- Newman Club, pizza dinner, 8 p.m., Chapel lounge
- Social Psychology Group, 2:15 p.m., 212 HUB

HOSPITAL

Ahmad Afzari, Margaret Anthony, Warren Bentzen, Catherine Craig, Marilyn Conner, Elizabeth Foster, Linda Hendricks, Martha Johns, Suzanne Kirkpatrick, Leonard Krauss, John Rabela, Barbara Roland, Sharon Savage, Kenneth Shaner, Regis Tandarich, Nancy Wynn, Peggy Mitchell.

**WDFM Schedule**

- FRIDAY
- 8:30 Stock Market Report
- 8:50 News and Weather
- 4:00 Critic's Choice
- 5:00 Three at Five
- 6:00 Studio X
- 6:55 Weatherscops
- 7:00 Album Review
- 7:30 Portrait of a City
- 7:55 News Roundup
- 8:00 Starlight Review
- 9:00 Light Classical Jukebox
- 9:45 News, Sports, Weather
- 10:00 Ballet Theatre
- 12:00 Midnight Mood
- 1:00 Sign Off

**small talk**

**Platform Platter**

by nicki wolford

The platforms proposed by the University and Campus parties and the uncharted Liberal party for the upcoming election certainly look better than many we've seen in the past.

However, the argument against and explanations of some of them are decidedly weak and we hope they are better explained in the next few days.

For example, in arguing against a Campus party plank on ROTC, Wayne Ulsh, a Liberal party "endorsee" advanced the idea that all plans to eliminate compulsory ROTC aren't any good because the decision is ultimately up to the Board of Trustees. This is ridiculous and illustrates a defeatist attitude typical of too many student government people.

A good student plan or constant student pressure to get rid of our obsolete ROTC program might lead to a faster institution of a voluntary program—that is if the ROTC question is not conveniently dropped after the election is over.

On the other hand Ulsh came up with a fairly good point which ought to be kept in mind when considering a rather ambitious University party plank.

The party intends to promote a plan which would provide for SGA coordination of such groups as TIM, Leonides and the community councils.

Ulsh in questioning the plan used an obvious truth—SGA is not now even working near its constitutional limitations and should do more under its present system before branching out.

Eventually all campus organizations may be re-organized with a form of SGA at the top. Such plans were discussed at a WSGA retreat last spring and such reorganization might become a reality as the community living concept develops. But right now the organizations which University party feels SGA should control are in the process of reorganizing in view of the community living concept and perhaps SGA ought to wait until they are in a less nebulous form.

SGA itself is not at the present time ready for such an undertaking but it is commendable that University party recognizes an eventual change in SGA might be advisable.

Of course, I assume that since University party put such a plank in its platform it intended to do something about it in the next few months and was not merely lending support to an idea which will evolve in the future anyway.

If the latter were the case, then the platform would be as meaningless as those in the past.

**Snowed**

**Seasonal Sincerity**

by joel myers

Campus party's method of implementing their platform, which includes bringing pressure on Governor Lawrence and members of the State Legislature, has appeal to the average student because it possesses the potential of bringing results.

However, there are some very interesting questions that shroud this proposal.

First, why has Campus party promised to take such daring and forthright action just prior to election time? I wonder?

Second, if the members of Campus party really believe in the proposed methods of obtaining their goals why must they wait until after the election to press for their achievement.

Since we believe that public pressure on elected officials is the only method of obtaining many of the much-needed reforms on the Penn State campus, we are indeed sorry that no truly sincere group of students has emerged from the jumble of campus political parties this semester.



MYERS

A well-organized coalition of students and alumni could accomplish many of the things now desired by the student body. Namely: a University student-run bookstore, improved library facilities, a student-operated AM radio station, expanded parking facilities and sufficient appropriations from the State Legislature so that no further increase in tuition and room and board is necessary.

It seems that none of these things will be achieved until a group of truly sincere and self-sacrificing students begin to actively push for their attainment. This would require a year-round rather than election-time interest in these goals.

Because no such group of year-round politicians has apparently appeared, a vote in the upcoming student election would be nothing more than a ballot in a popularity contest rather than a choice between two specific programs.

Editorials are written by the editors and staff members of The Daily Collegian and do not necessarily represent the views of the University or of the student body.

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