

Editorial Opinion

Piddle Party Humor?

What started out to be imaginative humor displayed through the published platform of the secret "piddle party" has turned into sheer stupidity with the advent of little flyers asking students to write "piddle" on their ballots in the current SGA elections.

Good satire often provides a welcome break and reminds everyone not to take himself so seriously. It is curious, then, that the group providing this reminder should apparently decide that their distorted view of SGA should be taken as truth by students.

Please, we ask these people not to take themselves so seriously—their platform was well-received because it was funny not because it was a necessarily true picture of SGA or Old Main.

Advocating that students relinquish or fail to use their voting privilege is nonsense and piddle party's method is neither humorous nor logical.

A student government is a necessary institution. We do not claim that our SGA is fulfilling its obligations to students but we do claim the only way it can do its job is for students to first vote and then hold the candidates and their parties responsible for promises.

If the Student Government Association fails, part of the blame must fall on those students who did not vote or who do not even find out what is happening in SGA.

Any government without the support of its people will fail in much of what it tries to accomplish. Those people who do not vote or who do not even find out if their elected men carry out what they promise are not supporting their government.

We wish that each student voter would read the piddle party plan, laugh, and then go to the polls to vote for bonafide candidates.

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Gazette

TODAY
Accounting Club, 7:15 p.m., Phi Sigma Kappa
AFS, 7:30 p.m., Foundry classroom
Association for Childhood Education,
7-3 p.m., Home Ed., Living Center
CBA Student Council, 6:15 p.m., 308
Boucke
Chess Club, 7 p.m., HUB cardroom
English Colloquium, 7:30 p.m., Nittany
Lion Inn
Faculty Women's Club Christmas Party,
10 a.m.-12 noon, Continuing Educa-
tion Conference Center

Forestry Convocation, 11 a.m., 121
Sparks
Forestry Society, 7 p.m., 203 Willard
Graduate Mining Seminar, 3:20 p.m.,
304 M.I.
Home Economics Research Seminar,
12:30 p.m., Dining Room "A" HUB
Industrial Engineering Graduate Seminar,
4:15 p.m., 117 Sackett
Israeli Folk Dancing, 7:30 p.m., Hillel
Foundation
Penn State Camera Club, 7:30 p.m.,
212-213 HUB, attendance required
Riding Club, 7 p.m., 203 Willard

Letters to The Editor

'Piddle' Vote Campaign Discussed
Advocated
By Junior

TO THE EDITOR: This letter is a plea to the students of Penn State. It is a plea asking them to reflect upon whom they are going to vote for in the upcoming elections — and what they are going to vote for.

I contend that if the major party candidates are again elected, the present form of student government as on this campus will be perpetuated. What is the one thing that the present form of government has produced? Apathy. Why, you may ask, has this happened?

Simply, because the majority of students at Penn State cannot be fooled. They realize that they are not being truly represented by SGA and hence show no real interest in an organization that doesn't (or can't) carry out the wishes of the student body.

What is the solution to this problem? There is, of course, no single answer to this question. But I feel that something can be done.

Recently "Piddle Party" posters have appeared, satirizing SGA. It would be quite a shock if a majority of those voting were to write "Piddle" on their SGA ballots. But this is what we need!

Maybe this would show the administration, and all those concerned in the political scene on campus, that Penn Staters are interested in their student government — and want a change for the better.

Consider this before you vote. Think about what you really want. If you want a change, write "Piddle" on your ballot.

—Mike Goberman, '62

Brandt Discusses Piddle Party Plan

TO THE EDITOR: I view with increasing alarm the efforts of Piddle Party to invent seemingly sordid facts about SGA. This democratic and venerable institution has been faithfully serving the interests of many Penn State students for some years.

The Piddlers have taken a narrow viewpoint in criticizing SGA for attempting such worthwhile projects as multi-tier pigeon hole parking lots and administrative assistants for SGA officers, to say nothing for such direct representation as the voicing of student opinion on the quarter system.

These warped people would disparage SGA for its wholehearted efforts to improve student spirit through cheer contests. They would similarly condemn SGA actions to interest students in campus politics by granting political parties \$700 a year.

Likewise, their attempt to sabotage the coming elections with a write-in Piddle on your SGA ballot-campaign is equally perverse. It is clear that a vote for Piddle is a vote against SGA. I hope the student body will ignore their plea when they exercise their right to vote Tuesday and Wednesday. Otherwise they will endanger the very foundations upon which SGA rests.

—John Brandt, '61

TO THE EDITOR: As a freshman candidate running independently for SGA Assembly, I in particular feel the need to comment on the present campaign. Perhaps because I am a new student on this campus and therefore have not been exposed to any of the previous campaigns I'd naturally be surprised at the nature of this one.

But, surely many other students feel as I do about the amount of erroneous interpretation and poor play that has been occurring lately.

Certainly, some of the issues about the group interested in Liberal Party should be made clear. I became a member of Liberal because I knew that its ideals and plans for positive action could be of real benefit to the students as a whole. These principles represent something that our present student government definitely lacks, and are of such a nature as to be worthy of impartial consideration.

Other issues have not been made clear to the voting student. For example, one of the other candidates running independently for SGA Assembly was told by two of the freshman candidates of the University Party that student funds were not used to print the

posters prepared by the SGA Elections Commission.

They stated that the only funds used in printing these posters were the three dollars assessed them by their party. As a further example last evening I received a phone call from two Campus Party nominees. In their campaign material for these conversations they included several derogatory statements concerning Liberal.

One of these was that Liberal Party is against fraternity and sorority members as such. This is completely untrue. We believe more representation should be given the unaffiliated student, because he does represent the greater part of our student body. But, because we want to give attention to the problems of the independent as well as the Greek it does not mean that Liberal Party is against the latter group. I would hate to believe such animosity exists between the two factions that this generalization could truthfully be made.

Its barriers like these that Liberal endorses face in the upcoming elections. I ask, why should certain elements misconstrue the facts in order to gain votes? Shouldn't this campaign rather be representative of what we want student government to be at Penn State?

—Dale Harris, '64

Cavanagh States Aims

TO THE EDITOR: As a candidate for Junior Assembly, I would like to let the students know what my aims will be if re-elected.

The Collegian editorial of December 6 expressed what any rational person could have done. It weighed the feasibility of each platform and came up with the general conclusions that the platforms are basically good if they can be accomplished. I agree!

As an Independent candidate, I am running on my past experience as an assembly member and my past work for the students. I could also run on all the proposed platforms, promising to do my best to car-

ry them out, but this is something I would do by my mere position as an assembly member.

My firm belief is that the real problems of the students are not those expressed on the platforms. The problem is getting these platforms and any future platforms accomplished.

The ONLY way we can do this is through a two-way effort — support of the students for capable candidates and capable candidates to support the students and their views. We cannot have one without the other! I urge you all to vote today and to consider what I have said.

—Joan Cavanagh, '62

On Voluntary ROTC

TO THE EDITOR: I am glad to see that Nicki Wolford in Friday's Collegian agreed with me that SGA must become more effective using its present powers to the regulation of such campus organizations as TIM, Leonides, and the area councils.

However, I am disappointed that she misinterpreted me as being opposed to any plan of voluntary ROTC. What I am opposed to is the seeming absence of any plan by Campus Party to support their plank.

This plank was part of their platform last year, but, as yet

they haven't even presented a bill to the Assembly to allow that body to express its feelings on this issue.

The Board of Trustees will not give the students a voluntary ROTC program until they are presented with something more than what appears to be a crude political gesture.

I feel that a majority of the student body feels voluntary ROTC is best. The absence of an ROTC plank from the independent's platform does not mean that we are opposed to a feasible plan to implement voluntary ROTC.

—Wayne Ulish, '62

What Is Piddle Party?

TO THE EDITOR: As a student interested in politics on this campus, I would like to know just what this new "Piddle Party" stands for, and who is behind it. If this is someone's idea of a joke, I don't think it is very funny.

It seems to me that the "Piddle Party" is taking an irresponsible attitude at a time so close to the elections. What this group can contribute to student government by their recent "manifesto" is beyond me.

Take their slogan — "For

SGA—The Thinking Man's Filter." Funny isn't it? But it's not so funny when you stop to think that most of the students on this campus will feel the same way.

Constructive criticism of student government will be a welcome change from the tongue-in-cheek attitude that prevails at Penn State. This is not the first time an attempt has been made to satirize SGA, and attempts in the past have gotten us nowhere. When will these people finally learn their lesson?

—Walter Kassoway '63



WDFM Schedule

- WEDNESDAY
- 3:30 Stock Market Report
 - 3:50 News and Weather
 - 4:00 Critic's Choice
 - 5:00 Three at Five
 - 6:00 Studio X
 - 6:55 Weatherscope
 - 7:00 Marquee Memories
 - 7:55 News Roundup
 - 8:00 Jazz Panorama
 - 9:00 Forum of the Air
 - 9:30 Artist Series Preview
 - 9:45 News, Sports, Weather
 - 10:00 Virtuoso
 - 12:00 Sign Off