

Editorial Opinion

Where to Vote

On two occasions, once with a quorum and once without, the SGA Assembly has suggested to the Elections Commission that it establish polling places in residence halls for the upcoming SGA presidential elections.

Yet, Robert Dufner, head of the commission, has not given any indication that he intends to comply with this request.

Dufner believes that too much confusion might result from putting the polls in the dining halls as the Assembly suggested Thursday night.

He also believes that a large number of voters do not necessarily reflect the value of the vote.

We cannot agree with this reasoning.

Although elections in residence halls might impose some problems on the commission, we feel that the system of numbered ballots will keep confusion to a minimum.

Dufner's stand on the quality of the vote is in direct opposition with the democratic philosophy, which maintains that each individual should be provided with the opportunity to vote and the means to do so be as practical and convenient as possible.

Every effort to generate voting should be employed, so that we do not have a repeat of last semester's poor turnout in which only one-sixth of the eligible students cast ballots.

A Time to Protest

A student demonstration against yesterday's civil defense drill has again brought the controversial civil defense issue into the limelight.

But perhaps of more immediate concern than the actual value of civil defense is the right of a group to demonstrate as guaranteed under the Constitution.

This right, although intended to protect minority groups, must be exercised so that it doesn't conflict with the welfare of the majority.

By demonstrating at the time of an alert, we feel that the welfare of the majority was infringed upon. However, we respect the right of this group to distribute literature and demonstrate peacefully at any other time.

Letters

'Dismay' Noted At Brandt's View of 'State'

TO THE EDITOR: We read with absolute dismay Mr. Brandt's caricature of Penn State life. How anyone could have received such a warped impression of his environment, and, indeed, of all reality, is beyond us.

But, perhaps, we are in error. We have inferred from Mr. Brandt's apocryphal description of Benny's success that he disapproved of the present system.

If we have interpreted Mr. Brandt correctly, then we can only express the most violent abhorrence of both his contentions and his mode of presentation.

If we may be so presumptuous as to presume to interject our humble opinions, may we ask, "What exactly is wrong with Benny or the environment that molded him?"

What nonconformists as Brandt demand are introspection, initiative, action, and other Communistic and leftist qualities. Where would Penn State be if individuals developed and expressed their opinions? This place might become an university.

No longer would it be possible to enjoy mass anonymity of the brotherhood of good fellows. No longer would the individual receive his nurture from the umbilical cord of mass group membership.

Think of the disorder. Persons who had never exercised their minds in independent thought for the last twenty-odd years, suddenly, being forced to accept the burden of decision-making.

What chaos would ensue; what mental aberrations would develop; what a tide of pure frustration would be undammed.

At best, the students would find that they could not think; then, they would be more willing and grateful to accept the leadership of nice, bland, average guys to represent them.

But, what would happen if students thought that they could really think? The responsibility would be overwhelming. Is this what you wish on us Mr. Brandt—destruction?

We are in favor of maintaining the prevailing situation at Penn State. This condition is comfortably described by Thoreau's definition of "good fellowship"—"... the virtue of pigs in a litter, which lie close together to keep each other warm."

WHERE WOULD THIS COUNTRY BE WITHOUT PORK?

—Herbert Krauss '61
—Herman Ehret '61
—Russell H. Miller '62

Letters

SGA Purpose

TO THE EDITOR: On this page, Thursday, was the following headline: "University Administration Holds 'Ultimate Power.'" I believe that it should have been on the front page.

It is the truth of reality and should be made doubtlessly clear to the student population. Obviously, Mr. Robinson has accepted the fact. I have accepted it.

To realize the truth of the headline does not take much time or effort; however, to accept it does take time. It means that for a few years we have to give up our cherished notion of democratic government.

Before continuing, let me make it explicitly clear that I am not arguing against the present dominance of Old Main. I have learned personally that there is no deviation from the way of the University.

Now I have accepted the system as it is, as being good and necessary. I say this with the hope that someone might alleviate any frustrations resulting from his attempts to change what has been established.

Perhaps you now wonder what feelings I have toward student government. We may reiterate the time-worn question. What is the function of SGA?

Strangely enough, I do believe that it has functions to perform. Functions that are as limited as those of IFC or Panhel. What functions? SGA, as the others, is not a policy-making organization. It never will be.

Though the SGA meetings be bloated with debate and oratory, they are utterly meaningless with respect to any policy of this school. (By and large this is also the case with the other groups I named above).

At best, then, forms of student government are a sort of agency through which some policies from Old Main filter. These either as a "brainstorm" of some keen-minded politician, or as a useless battle to

change certain parking regulations. But even so, most policy announcements are made in official, printed statements by the University.

Again I contend, this is the way it ought to be: University officials in charge of the University.

What does this leave, then, for the band of Thursday evening meeting attenders? If after realizing just who is running Penn State, and "student leaders" feel that there still remains a cause for them, let them continue the club meetings.

However, what I should like to propose for SGA is not another of attempted reorganizing and other such abuses; rather a resignation to doing the best work strictly within its jurisdiction.

This is all the University asked of the IFC and Panhel councils. And what troubles have beset these groups. IFC and Panhel work hand-in-hand with the University. No fighting and ballyhoo with these groups.

SGA has every reason to continue as a group-representative of the students. In working for the best interests of the students it can work on projects such as providing more recreation for students, providing travel arrangements at vacation-time, and other similar benefits.

I am certain that such good deeds will make SGA appear worthwhile to the students. That is to say, it will be on a par with IFC and Panhel in its operations.

However harsh this may sound to any tender ears, let me state that a line has been drawn between abstract and concrete, imaginary and real—explicitly, SGA and Old Main. Now let us recognize this line. There is not one student who can deny its existence.

For those of you who die very hard: How ridiculous does it really sound—University officials in charge of the University.

—Rick Woltman, '61

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56 Years of Editorial Freedom

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Gazette

TODAY
Block and Bridge Banquet, 6:30 p.m., HUB ballroom
Center Stage, "Three Sisters," 8 p.m.
Civil Defense, 12 a.m.
Commonwealth Chess Tournament, 1 p.m., HUB main lounge
Commonwealth Chess Tournament, 1 p.m., HUB main lounge
Commonwealth Table Tennis, 1 p.m., HUB game room
Future Teachers, 2 p.m., HUB assembly room
High School Tour, 11 a.m., HUB assembly room
Inst. for Continuing Education, 8 a.m., 212-213 HUB
Student Movies, 7:30 p.m., HUB assembly room

TOMORROW
Block "S" Club, 7 p.m., 212 HUB
Chess Club, 2 p.m., HUB card room
DARE, 3 p.m., second floor lounge
Faith Church
Elections Commission, 1 p.m., 217-218 HUB
Grad Faculty Bridge, 7:30 p.m., 213 HUB
Liberal Party, 7 p.m., 218 HUB
Navy Discussion Committee, 2 p.m., 212 HUB
Professor Snarf, 1 p.m., 214 HUB
Student Movies, 6:30 p.m., HUB assembly room

MONDAY
Ag. Econ., 3 p.m., 214 HUB
Alpha Colony, 6:30 p.m., 218 HUB
Beta Colony, 9:30 p.m., 218 HUB
BX, 6:30 p.m., 216 HUB
Employment, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., 212 HUB
Employment Office, 1:30 p.m., 218 HUB
Faculty Luncheon Club, 12 noon, dining room "A" HUB
Fraternity Presidents, 3 p.m., 217 HUB
ICCB, 6:45 p.m., 217 HUB
ISA, 7 p.m., 203 HUB
IVCF, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB
Social Science Research Center, 8 p.m., HUB dining rooms A-C

Civil Defense Protection Has Purpose

TO THE EDITOR: The demonstration against Civil Defense is representative of good intentions clouded by misinformation and not enough thought.

The danger of fallout is overrated. The short half-life of most radioactive products from a bomb and their unequal distribution over the landscape, the ability of the human body to withstand and recover from the effects of radiation, and the finite limit to the number of bombs, render complete annihilation unlikely.

The Civil Defense is farcical if you expect complete protection. This is probably impossible. However, since many regions will receive only a small amount of radiation, Civil Defense will serve a very definite purpose.

In these fringe areas, waiting in a shelter until the radiation level decreases will save some lives and will greatly reduce the chance of radiation poisoning. The more people available, the faster will be recovery.

"The only defense against war is peace" is an untenable statement. America is fighting a doctrine which does not recognize the existence of peace.

The activities of the Communist governments force the rest of mankind to make a choice between the alternatives: war or submission.

We can either exist under Communist tyranny or, possibly but not probably, die for the abstract concept of freedom. Surrender will inevitably lead to the intellectual and social stagnation which characterizes the Soviet Union.

Resistance will allow mankind, even if only a few are left, to further develop the innate capabilities of the human mind.

—Whiton Paine '64

Will Caravan Get Funds?

TO THE EDITOR: After reading the editorial, entitled "Caravan of Cars," I began to wonder just what Joel Myers is crusading for.

Does he want publicity, or does he want to keep the tuition at its present level? The citizens of California have no influence on the legislators of Pennsylvania.

The voters in Pennsylvania do. It seems to me that Mr. Myers has overlooked the main issue.

The amount of publicity we could get is not the issue: fighting the tuition raise is. Let's stop quibbling over side issues and use our energy to fight the tuition hike!

—Linda Jagels, '64

(Editor's Note: The letter-writing campaign has apparently failed to convince the legislature of our financial need. The centers of political power—Philadelphia and Pittsburgh aren't even aware of this campaign. If it takes a "caravan of cars" to awaken these political powers to our need, maybe we should try it.)

'Car Caravan' Called Farce

TO THE EDITOR: I doubt very much that a car caravan to Harrisburg could have anything but a negative effect on the attempt to increase the appropriations for Penn State.

Since I myself have a car, I am not attacking "rich capitalistic" students.

However, I can speak from experience when I say that it is most difficult for students who can afford the "luxury" of cars to convince economy-conscious people, such as state legislators, that they are in need of government assistance.

—Sharon Stone '61

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