

Editorial Opinion

It's Your Government

The small turnout, 17 percent of the student body, in the last SGA election might have been a result of the student body's disgust with SGA's accomplishments.

The non-voting students apparently felt they would register their disgust by failing to vote, and this "conspicuous by their absence" attitude would prompt student and administrative leaders to strengthen student government.

This philosophy has been proven false in the past semester. Student government during that period has been as weak and ineffective as ever.

Perhaps these dissatisfied students should try a different method of prodding student leaders and administrative officials into realizing the need for a student government that truly represents the wishes of the student body and possesses the power and methods of instituting them.

If the 83 percent of the student body which failed to vote last semester were to vote this week, the incoming student administration would have a firm structure upon which to build its programs.

On Friday, the day after balloting closes, student government will begin another year under a new administration.

In the following week or two, the winning presidential candidate and his administration will begin to formulate a program, deciding what programs and policies to support and what issues to disregard.

In the following weeks, SGA reorganization will give birth to a new system of student government.

All of these events will occur whether one percent or one hundred percent of the student body votes this week.

However, the enthusiasm of the new administration, the form of the new student government, and the programs and policies adopted by the new administration will depend upon the magnitude of the student vote.

But perhaps most important—the administration, which is the most important factor in determining the success of SGA programs, might be more sympathetic to SGA's proposals if they knew they had the support of the entire student body.

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Letters

No Violence In C.D. Drill Applauded

TO THE EDITOR: There are two ways for patriotic Americans to react to a law or custom which they consider to be wrong. One is to obey it "under protest," while they seek to start in action the long legislative or social process to change it.

The other is to disobey it in a non-violent way, accepting the legal consequences of such civil disobedience.

The Negroes who are participating in the nation's sit-in movement have chosen the second way. The Penn State students who opposed the Civil Defense on Friday also took the second way.

The reaction of school administrators and law enforcement officers has been traumatic in both cases. Both accused the students before the demonstrations took place of attempting to incite a riot, and both threatened disciplinary action.

Several comments come to mind. Unlike the situation in the South, there is no local ordinance (or state or national) which applies—i.e., which requires citizens to get off the street in times of no emergency. The students were not breaking any laws.

There are valid objections to the reasons behind, and worth of, the Civil Defense drill which ought to be considered.

The editorial opinion in Saturday's Collegian which stated that the welfare of the majority was infringed upon by the demonstrators is nonsense. Perhaps the majority's welfare was enhanced by a few un-ostrichlike humans.

It seems that in a day when student conformity is being decried, and when the memory of the German soldier's blind obedience to commands is being raised, it would do well for the university community to uphold last week's dissenters. After all, how strong is our American democracy.

—T. A. Braun, Chaplain to the University

Nomination Note

TO THE EDITOR: I would like to express my thanks to Mr. Katzen for his most educational letter to the editor, from which I quote:

"Eisman is not such a naive politician as to really believe that planks presented by a candidate when up for his party nomination at the party meeting are really significant in getting the nomination at the party meeting.

... it is the votes the candidate has before he comes to the meeting that really count."

Thank you, Mr. Katzen, for telling those of us who are naive in politics just why an obviously superior candidate such as Duane Alexander was defeated for the University Party nomination.

—Ralph Wise '64

Gazette

- Angel Flight Pledges, 6:30 p.m., 104 Wagner
Communion Service, 5:15 p.m., Wesley Foundation
Ed Student Council, 6:30 p.m., 214 HUB
Fraternity Presidents, 10 a.m., 217 HUB
I.V.C.F., 6:30 p.m., 218 HUB
Kappa Alpha Pal, 7:15 p.m., 217 HUB
Kappa Phi, 7 p.m., Wesley Foundation
La Critique, ground floor HUB
Matins and Breakfast, 7 a.m., Wesley Panhel, 6:30 p.m., 203 HUB
P.S. Bible Fellowship, 6:30 p.m., 218 HUB
S.G.A. Elections, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Boucke lobby; 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Hammond lounge; 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Willard lobby; 8 a.m.-7 p.m., ground floor HUB
Special Orientation, 7:30 p.m., 212-218
Special Orientation, 8:15 p.m., 218 HUB
T.I.M. Movies, noon and 6 p.m., HUB assembly room
West Halls Judicial, 12:15 p.m., 217 HUB
WYZ Committee, 1 p.m., 213 HUB

Snowed

Shades of Wilson

by joel myers

The town independents, who hold the potential of balance of power in campus politics, are faced with a dilemma.

These men, who for the most part have been proud of their complete disinterest in the campus political game,

have one of their own men, Dennis Foianini, entered in this year's presidential election. For the first time in four years, campus fraternities have failed to control the top positions on the party tickets.

Perhaps for this reason, this campaign has generated more interest than usual. The platforms of the three candidates are certainly not strong and they avoid many major issues.

The long-dormant controversy over "status seekers" and "activity men" has been brought into the limelight by Duane Alexander's and Robert Harrison's tremendous activities' advantage over Foianini.

Foianini's supporters claim that other activities conflict both in time and interest with the job of SGA president, while their opponents say that experience is a necessary prerequisite for the position.

The interest and feelings stirred by these arguments seem to indicate that last election's poor turnout, in which only 17 per cent of the eligible students cast ballots, will be greatly exceeded, and possibly doubled.

If the current campus political campaign has an analogy in national politics, it would seem that the 1912 election bears the closest resemblance.

The dominant GOP forces, in this case the fraternities, split between Taft and Roosevelt allowing a relative unknown to win by a razor-thin majority. He was Wilson; a reformer.



MYERS

Letters

Alexander Addresses Students

TO THE EDITOR: Dear Fellow Students: In a few days you will be making a very important decision, for your vote will help elect the next SGA President. As a candidate for this office, I request that you give careful consideration to several points.

Experience in student government is a necessity. No one can just take over the most important position on campus without having close contact with the organization and knowledge of its functions.

The SGA President must know the students and have their respect and confidence, particularly of the leaders.

Consider also what the candidates have accomplished to benefit you. As chairman of the SGA Stone Valley committee, I originated and organized Stone Valley Work Day, the only thing SGA has done in two years which has been commended by the Administration.

I hope that as SGA president I can help win back the Administration's respect for student government so that our powers may be increased.

Platforms are also important. I firmly believe in all that I have proposed, and promise to work to carry everything out for your benefit. All are feasible and sound, and will make a better Penn State.

Finally, I ask that you consider carefully the person you want to represent you as your SGA President. Please keep all these things in mind; and when you cast your ballot, I hope that I will have your support for SGA President.

—Duane Alexander '62

Letters

Jr. Approves Campus Party Referendum

TO THE EDITOR: I have noticed, with much consternation, the recent attacks that have been leveled against Campus Party's plank offering the student body an opportunity to insure themselves against the threat of lame student government.

This plank, which consists of a referendum to be conducted during the Winter term next year, presents a very simple—yet politically pure—concept: direct responsibility of the governing body to the will of the governed.

Most of the attacks in question express fear of consequences which might arise out of a vote of no confidence for the Campus Party candidates.

This, however, is the wrong way of looking at the plank. What the candidates are saying is, in effect—"If the majority of the students will elect us it is our obligation to represent their will."

We will produce according to your standards, or get out." The main statement here is "we will produce."

The election of the slate of Campus Party's candidates will usher in a new refreshing concept of government at Penn State. One in which the basic democratic element of grass-roots control will be instituted.

Let's not be afraid of genuine sincerity. Rather, let's approach the ballot-box with one thought in mind; this time my satisfaction's guaranteed.

—Tom Loman '62

C.D. Protesters 'Unrealistic'

TO THE EDITOR: Miss Arlene Shupak and Sam Rotenburg, and in fact all those who protested the C. D. practice, remind me of the fearless, dauntless, robust ostrich who hides his head when danger is present and by this manner thinks he is safe.

I would be ashamed if, anyone would connect me, a Penn State student, with the protest that occurred on April 28. Evidently these few people do not realize that at any moment we can be blown to bits.

I repeat, any moment we can be annihilated. What chance could we have if we were not warned. This talk of peace and security is all well and good, but what are we to do in the meantime just sit back and relax and wait and hope and pray we will not die?

Is this false security what the U.S. people would like to have? I am proud to participate in the C.D. practice to my fullest, because I realize that by these alerts people are trying to keep me alive. Let's wake up and realize this and give our fullest support to the next C.D. practice.

—Dave Peffer '62

WDFM Schedule

- TUESDAY
8:25 Financial Tidbits
8:30 Stock Market Reports
4:00 Critic's Choice
5:00 Music at Five
6:00 Studio X
6:55 Weatherscope
7:00 Seven O'Clock Report
7:15 Album Review
7:30 Significant Years
7:55 News Roundup
8:00 Accent On Sound
9:00 Drama Showcase
9:30 Focus
9:45 News, Weather, Sports
10:00 Contemporary Classics
12:00 Sign Off