

Editorial Opinion

A Loophole and A Solution

The lack of a provision in SGA's constitution regarding requirements for the winning margin of votes for an SGA president may leave the results of this election in doubt.

The constitution was apparently designed to meet the needs of a political system based on a two party rather than a three party foundation.

Thus, the constitution carries no mention of whether a candidate needs a plurality or a majority in order to be declared the winner.

The election now in process involves three candidates and the pulse of the campaign suggests the possibility that no candidate will secure a majority of the votes.

SGA President Richard Haber, in an attempt to correct this untenable situation, has called a special Assembly session for tonight. We strongly urge all Assembly members to attend this meeting, so that a responsible decision results.

The lack of a quorum at this very important meeting would give student government a black-eye that might take years to heal.

This decision should be reached tonight, because a delay might prevent a winner from emerging from this election.

If SGA attempts to declare a plurality winner without passing the appropriate legislation, the losing candidates would seem to have a legal reason for appealing their case to the SGA Supreme Court.

We believe that Assembly is more qualified than Supreme Court to make a decision of this nature, and any lack of Assembly action in this matter would appear to us as an abrogation of responsibility.

We suggest that Assembly, by officially meeting three times tonight, pass an amendment requiring that the winning candidate secure a majority of the votes.

Although this might necessitate a run-off election, we believe the democratic philosophy of rule by the majority and the handicaps of a minority administration justify this inconvenience.

A minority president would be greatly handicapped in attempts to accomplish his legislative and executive programs, because his opponents would claim that more persons voted against him than for him.

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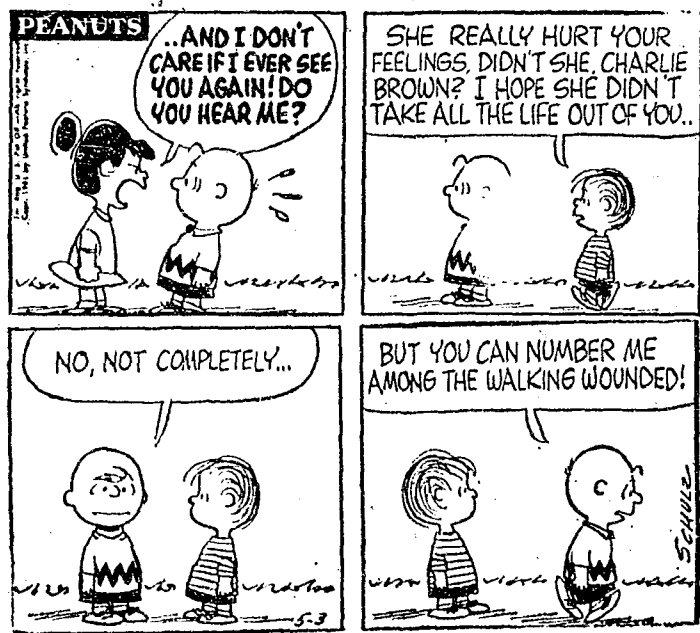
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Election—Campaign Letters

Soph Notes 'Self-Sacrifice' For Activities

TO THE EDITOR: It was with pleasure that I read the "big activities men's" two beautiful rebuttals to Miss Wolford's column in the April 25, 1961 issue of The Daily Collegian in which she endorsed Dennis Foianini. I liked these rebuttals. I thought they brought out a lot of pertinent information. They showed that, contrary to popular belief, "big activities men" really are self-sacrificing individuals.

And then there is John Brandt — poor fool. He actually thought that SGA meant something more than "the biggest activity of all!"

He actually thought (and nobody ever bothered to set him straight) that the SGA existed to accomplish things that would make the university a better place for all concerned.

People like John make it tough on all you "big activities men," and I sympathize with you because I know how difficult it is to ignore all those bad things I have heard about this University when somebody like John is continually complaining about it.

But he's just another crackpot and can't possibly do any harm. Besides, he is leaving this place soon, and there is no sense in worrying about him.

It seems to me, though, that this Foianini is infected with a mania similar to Brandt's, although he does have some good qualities. He is actually a "big activities man" at heart because he has worked with organizations such as WDFM.

But he is vain because he wants the presidency of the "biggest activity on campus." (But he won't make a good president; Harrison and Alexander both have more activities and hence more knowledge and more good sense than he would know what to do with.)

He is very unconvincing when he talks about it, too, for he seems to think that even though he has none of the essential and requisite activities (i.e. qualities) which every good SGA president must have, he would make a good one.

Even I know that the best president always has the longest list of activities underneath his cherubic photograph. Just ask President Haber if you doubt my word.

"Big activities men," I salute you. But, hearken! Arise before it is too late and subdue this pretentious individual who claims he can do more for Penn State than you have ever done!

—Frank Hugus, '63

Smears, Mal-Practices 'Disgust' SGA Member

TO THE EDITOR: Many eye-opening things concerning student politics have come to my attention during my term as an SGA member.

Those of us who are involved in student government generally are aware of the practices taking place. It is the naive student, however, who becomes the innocent victim of the little men with little minds who corrupt student government.

There are many examples that I could cite but my purpose in writing this letter is not to reopen issues of the past but to discuss certain mal-practices of the current campaign. Here again numerous examples could be given but I shall concern myself with just two.

First is the location of voting places on campus. It was the unanimous feeling of the Assembly that polls should be placed in the various dining areas.

At the Assembly meeting Thursday night, Mr. Polishook suggested a reasonable way in which this plan could be implemented.

Again the Elections Commissioner, Bob Dufner, repeated his feeble excuses for failing to take action. Since a quorum was not present, and since the Assembly had unwisely delegated its legislative powers to Mr. Haber for the duration of the reorganization proceedings,

the Assembly was held powerless to exercise its constitutional right to designate the times and places for voting.

Someone wanted to make awfully sure that voting was not decentralized.

This issue is dead, however, because regardless of their motives, Mr. Dufner and his cohorts have succeeded in depriving the students of all possible opportunity to vote.

From here I would like to call attention to one of the lowest and most childish election maneuvers of the entire campaign.

Last night many fraternity presidents received a telephone call warning them to advise their brothers not to vote for Dennis Foianini for All-U President because Mr. Foianini is supposedly anti-fraternity!

Announcements to this effect were consequently made in certain chapter meetings. Other ridiculous rumors concerning the candidates were also begun. One of the funniest was the rumor that a certain candidate is seeking office because he or she is poverty stricken and needs the money.

My own reaction to these attempted smears was one of disgust. Nevertheless, because the average voter is unaware he may be easily deceived. I could only advise him to be critical of what he hears and when he votes, to vote wisely.

—Allison Woodall, '62

Ulsh Hits Student Supremacy

TO THE EDITOR: I am very relieved to see that there are those among the student body who see the functions of SGA as Mr. Woltman expressed them in his letter in Saturday's Daily Collegian.

When and only when students become responsible in areas which they already have jurisdiction will they be allowed to expand the scope of their jurisdiction.

There are those members of the student body who feel that students should be supreme in all matters which directly affect them.

Do these people really show signs of responsibility and have the real interests of the students at heart? There are several instances which I might call to your attention.

First of all is it really fair to have The Daily Collegian as the only school newspaper spend all of the student's money including Mr. Harrison's and Mr. Alexander's to support one candidate for SGA President.

I doubt that Miss Teichholtz is really conducting herself in a responsible manner by guiding her pen under the cover of any amplifying device. I hope that this is the only case of "when the editor is away the assistant begins to play."

Secondly, is Mr. Foianini in rising from the "radio-active" halls of apathy where he lived for the past two and one-half years really interested in student government and the students themselves, or is his re-

cent interest in student government and the students themselves arising because it is politically advantageous to do so at this time.

Thirdly, one might ask after seeing Mr. Alexander's handling of the SGA reorganization and the confusion into which SGA has been thrown by such handling in recent weeks whether or not he would handle the SGA Presidency with such "competence?"

Realizing, as Mr. Woltman does, that the University should be operated by University Administrators and that SGA does have a function in any university you ask who should be the president of our student body for next year.

After close and very critical observation of the past records of Mr. Harrison and Mr. Alexander, and the present actions of Mr. Foianini it appears that the student best qualified to represent you in dealing with the faculty, administration, and outside world is Mr. Robert Harrison.

As each of you go to the polls Wednesday and Thursday I would ask that you give serious consideration to questions that have been posed in this letter.

—Wayne Ulsh, '62

(Editor's note: We would like to point out to Mr. Ulsh that The Daily Collegian has not endorsed any candidate for the SGA presidency. As for Miss Teichholtz' right to endorse a candidate from her column, Mr. Ulsh might check his federal government's constitution for further information on the free press.)

Soph Tired of Power 'Set-Up'

TO THE EDITOR: Attitude is the most important criterion on which the three SGA presidential candidates should be judged.

Of the three, Alexander, Foianini, Harrison — who is most interested in the wishes of the student body as a whole? Who is most willing to really work in their behalf?

All three candidates belong to special groups — two to fraternities, the other to an independent, politically-active group. Voters must decide

which of the three will be most concerned with students and student government rather than with power, prestige and pull for his special group.

I'm sorry; I can't and don't believe in the "power, pull prestige" set-up. The new SGA president should put personal interest aside and lead SGA in the interests of the whole student body despite pressures from special groups or the administration.

—Phyllis Hutton, '63

•Letter cut

Gazette

Today

AIM, 8 a.m., 203 HUB
American Chemical Society, student affiliate meeting, 8:15 p.m., 103 Osmond

AWS, 6:30 p.m., 203 HUB
Bus Ad Student Council, 6:45 p.m., 314 Boucke

Chem-Phys Council, 7 p.m., 217-218 HUB

Chess Club, 7 p.m., HUB card room
Fraternity presidents, 3 p.m., 217 HUB
Fresh Advisory Board, 6:30 p.m., 214 "4U"

Gamma Sigma Delta, banquet, 6:30 p.m., HUB dining rooms A and B
Home Ec., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., ground floor HUB

Home Ec Research Seminar, 12:30 p.m., HUB dining room A
IVCF, 12:45 p.m., 218 HUB

Jazz Club, 6:15 p.m., 212-213 HUB
La Critique, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., ground floor HUB

Old Cyrens, 9 p.m., 212-213 HUB
Service Club, 7 p.m., 316 Boucke
Spanish Club, 7:30 p.m., 107 Boucke

SGA Assembly, 7 p.m., 203 HUB
TIM, 12 p.m., HUB assembly room

Women's Chorus, 6:30 p.m., HUB assembly room

Hospital

Judith Allen, Mary Ann Allen, Sylvia Beauge, Charles Beecham, David Bonello, Barry Corle, John Cyclic, Sally Darnes, Cynthia DePalma, Marilyn Geyer, Kenneth Glass, Ellis Griffith, Gail Hall, Larry Handwerk, Olive Himes, Douglas Housenick, Linda Hunt, Julie Kahl, William Lezinski, Clifford Logan, Stephen Marder, Hewitt McCloskey, Phyllis Moberly, John Mozeliak, Janet Munroe, Richard Parvel, Mary Phillips, Richard Ploetz, Charlotte Rothberg, George Scheuchzenober, Sally Stephens, Gayle Sturgen, Laurence Yager.