

Editorial Opinion

The Student Voice; Election, Referendum

Opinion and emotion on the Joint Senate Committees considering the SGA constitution seems to have settled down to a nice subliminal simmer after last week's near volcanic eruption.

When the lid was blown off the encrusted constitution at last week's meeting the raw edges of a student-faculty-administrative triangle were unveiled.

The main point of contention was the concept of a real political system—replete with political parties. Also at stake was the judicial power which SGA has expressed its desire to assume.

Both of these must be viewed as part of a larger concept, that being (for those who didn't know before) meaningful student government.

It has repeatedly been our contention that in order to be meaningful this government must have definite areas of final jurisdiction, must be founded politically with parties and platforms and, most important, must be student-written and student-run.

All the above adds up to a guarantee of dignity and integrity for the government and the governed.

The action taken by the joint committees yesterday would indicate that the thinking of many members of the committee has cleared up. The members apparently recognize that the tenor of student opinion firmly demanded a government in integrity.

* * *

Two points must now be noted—and we hope will be guides for action—as SGA undertakes the next rewriting of its constitution.

First, the members of the heterogeneous group that will be doing the writing must remember that above individual interests stands the interest of the 14,000 students they were once elected to represent.

The new constitution must present a firm philosophical definition of, and justification for, the powers, functions and branches of student government.

Second, the decision on political parties is to be left to a referendum of the voters—obviously the most democratic means of ascertaining opinion.

But to make a referendum valid, 20 per cent of the undergraduate student body must VOTE.

By definition, democracy places a great trust in the rationality of man. Debates rage as to whether or not this trust is deserved or if it should even be honored.

To prove to the administration and faculty that the trust is not misplaced and to make a lot of enraged letters, petitions and demonstrating worthwhile, that voting franchise and that rationality must be exercised.

Elections will be held in about two weeks. Students had better think about running and about who they will support. Everyone should be seriously discussing the issue of political parties.

The form of student government for the future depends upon the rational decisions reached by 14,000 students in the next two weeks.

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Letters to The Editor

Readers Get 'Truth' on HUAC Film
Blackmon 'In Error', Grad Offers Clarification

TO THE EDITOR: I believe the readers of The Daily Collegian are entitled to the truth about "Operation Abolition"; one of the most effective weapons we have to fight Communism.

Since the film has been circulating, the Communists have succeeded in making many gullible Americans believe that it is misleading.

In reply to the letter of Miss Kapo, Nov. 8, I would like to submit quotes of Americans who were on the scene of the student riots against HUAC. The men I am quoting may not be members of such a prominent organization as KKK (Miss Kapo quoted the KKK leader) but they are Americans.

George Christopher, Mayor of San Francisco, made the following statement Jan. 18, '61. "Known Communists were in the lead of this demonstration."

Judge Albert Axelrod, presiding judge in San Francisco Municipal court where the arrested students were taken: "I very definitely agree with the view of F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover that the city hall riot of last May 13 was instigated by Communist subversives."

Mayor Christopher, answering charge of film being misleading, "The pictures, I believe, speak for themselves. They are true. They are authentic. They tell the real story."

After sitting in the room where HUAC hearings were held, seven Baptist ministers issued this joint statement, "It is our certain conviction that this indefensible demonstration against law and order was conceived, planned and directed by a few hard core Communist agitators..."

Is it possible that those who saw "Operation Abolition" in State College were so full of propaganda that they could not help but be against the film? Why did the sheets passed out before the film was shown only contain quotes that were against "Operation Abolition?"

—Bill Blackmon '65
(Editor's Note: This letter opens by claiming to provide the truth about "Operation Abolition." Quotations are supplied, however, no proof that the film is true is presented in these quotations, which are personal opinion and not documented evidence.)

TO THE EDITOR: Re: the letter in The Daily Collegian, Nov. 3, from frosh Bill Blackmon. Mr. Blackmon, unfortunately, your "facts" are in serious error.

At the demonstration of college students at the HUAC hearings in San Francisco May 13, 1960, none of the students or other people present were led by ANYONE, much less Mr. Harry Bridges.

Mr. Bridges, as a matter of interest, did not appear at City Hall, the site of the demonstration, until almost an hour after the police had cleared the building of the protesting students.

Mr. Bridges was there for legal purposes, not for leading students. As for the allegation

of Communist leadership, the trial of Robert Meisenbach, which stemmed from this incident, could not and did not produce one piece of evidence that there was any Communist influence to the demonstration.

Perhaps, if you would check your facts before screaming Communist and subversion at everything you disagree with, committees like HUAC would not exist. If you would like to check my facts, they are on record in the office of the San Francisco Chronicle, and the San Francisco office of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Any errors in misrepresentation came from you and not The Daily Collegian.

—Gweneth Lea Martin
Graduate Student

SENSE and Nonsense

TO THE EDITOR: The other week, two friends of mine asked me to sit in on a SENSE meeting. I knew beforehand that this was a "Ban the Bomb" group and had ideological ideas on the problems of the world, but I did not realize how narrow-minded these people really were.

I will admit that my ideas were set in my mind before I came. However, I was willing to listen to any arguments that had a strong basis.

I was the only person in the meeting who did not want Red China to be admitted to the United Nations. I also said that I thought the United States should resume nuclear tests.

These statements appalled

the members and I had a real battle on my hands. At the end of the meeting there was a vote taken to see how many people were in favor of admitting Red China to the UN. I was the only person who voted against Red China's admittance.

Last week President Kennedy said he would continue the fight to keep Red China out of the UN. He also said he would resume nuclear tests if necessary to continue our supremacy.

This action by the President shows the sense of SENSE. I think a more appropriate name for the group should be NONSENSE.

—Bernard L. Solomon '64

Happy Veteran's Day to All

TO THE EDITOR: We have noted that in The Daily Collegian of Nov. 9 there appeared a minute, but boldly printed article concerning the observance of Veteran's Day in the form of a cancellation of administrative operations Friday. "Classes, however, will be held as scheduled tomorrow and Saturday."

Of course the student body would never advocate the suspension of classes for, unlike women employed in our ad-

ministrative offices, most of the students are not veterans.

If the administration offices can be given a Friday vacation for a Saturday holiday, why must our Thanksgiving and Easter vacations be limited to the date of the holiday itself?

Nevertheless, we students have come to realize the overwhelming importance of Veteran's Day in relation to holidays so insignificant as Thanksgiving and Easter.

—Maria Shippini '64
—Carolyn C. Sodini '63

TO THE EDITOR: I was deeply gratified to see that the sentimental administration has taken a change of heart, and kindly granted itself a holiday to observe Veteran's Day.

Earlier this week, I was somewhat disturbed by the thought that, in a burst of

practicality, the administrators had lost the true spirit of Veteran's Day, and were going to work straight through.

However, it does seem a shame that a full eight-hour working-day must be wasted on such "sentimental slush."

—Wayne Winston '65

Gazette

TODAY
Bible Fellowship, 12:15 p.m., 212 HUB
Childhood Literature, 12:30 p.m., HUB
assembly hall
Interlandia, 7:30 p.m., HUB ballroom
International Relations Club, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., HUB ground floor
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 7:30 p.m., 111 Boucke
Mineral Industries Colloquium, 4 p.m., Mineral Industries auditorium
Philosophy Lecture, Dr. Jeanne Hersch, 8:30 p.m., 214 Boucke
"The Cave Dwellers," 8 p.m., Center Stage

WDFM Schedule

FRIDAY
3:55 Financial Tidbits
4:00 The Philadelphia
5:00 News
5:05 Music at Five
6:00 News
6:05 Dinner Date
6:55 Weatheroscope
7:00 CAMPUS BEAT
Spotlight
News
Light Classical Jukebox
SGA Report-Foianini
Marquee Memories
News
10:00 Ballet Theater
12:00 Night Sound
2:00 News
2:05 Sign-off
SATURDAY
5:00 News
6:05 Saturday at State
6:55 Weatheroscope
7:00 Hi-Fi Open House
9:00 Offbeat
1:00 King's Corner
2:00 Sign-off
SUNDAY
5:00 Chapel Service
6:30 Chamber Music
6:35 Mormon Tabernacle Choir
7:00 The Third Programme
12:00 Sign-off

