

Editorial Opinion

Suggestions For Better Elections

Before the smoke of the just concluded political campaign is swept away by some other campus event which captures student interest, we would like to comment on the election and propose actions which we believe will lead to better ones in the future.

The failure of the USG Congress to adopt a detailed elections code became evident soon after the first political party meetings when charges of party misconduct were filed with commission chairman Allen Feingold.

Backed by no defined regulations and little precedence, Feingold was forced to go to the Congress for a decision on the charges presented to him. This was an unfortunate necessity since the Congress became embroiled in the politics of the campaign while working out solutions to the problems.

We strongly urge the USG officers-elect and the Congress to give top priority to the adoption of a detailed elections code to prevent such deep involvement of the Congress in campaign problems.

We further propose that this elections code bring the regulation of political parties participating in USG elections under the formal control of the elections commission.

A standard system of nominations and other party procedures should be outlined to eliminate inconsistencies in party procedures which permitted the Campus-Liberal coalition to run a registrant and candidate for a University party nomination, Katherine Johnson, on their ticket.

We feel that the USG Congress should give each party an annual appropriation which would cover election and operating expenses. Such a yearly allocation would encourage parties to remain active all year round instead of just at election time.

We urge, however, that an elections code limit campaign expenditures for each slate of candidates and govern the methods by which parties finance their campaign.

We believe that the elections commission itself should be reorganized along the lines of the commission set up for the winter elections. The commission was then composed of four vice-chairmen, besides the chairman, who, acting as a court, interpreted the elections code when there was a question on its meaning.

We also believe that the present procedures for voting should be continued. The "floating polls" initiated by Feingold should be continued and expanded in future elections. The traditional three day elections period should be retained and tight control over the number of ballots printed and used maintained.

Much Lies Ahead

We extend our congratulations to the officers-elect of USG — Dean Wharton, Morris Baker and Margo Lewis.

By electing the entire University party slate, the student body has given a mandate to these new officers to work devoutly for their ideals as stated in the planks of their platform.

We expect to see operations begin for a thorough study of the values of a five-point grading system, for a program to boost Penn State spirit and for a referendum of the classes of '48, '49, '50 and '52 to reallocate their respective class gift funds.

These new officers have a tremendous task ahead of them for they will play a large part in deciding the future of student government at this University.

They have undertaken the responsibility to lead this University's student body and they must make student government into a responsible and dynamic force truly dedicated to the betterment of Penn State.

We wish them luck.

kaleidoscope

The Art of Exaggeration

by kay mills

Linking innocent exaggerators and "warmongers" may appear especially harsh criticism and an overstatement in itself. Yet when one considers the number of people who are prone to add a slight touch here and there to reports of actual happenings as well as to narratives, then it is small wonder more wars don't begin.

When properly practiced, exaggeration is a harmless art as opposed to deliberate misrepresentation or drastic political generalizations, two more dangerous causes of misunderstanding. But tall-tale tellers cover the globe and often magnify statements on reality beyond credibility.

For people with no continuous contact with the news and thus little criteria for judgment, these exaggerations may appear realistic. Destruc-

tive results of giant government "misunderstandings" are all too well known.

On campus, chronic exaggerators — and I plead no immunity here — are a more immediate concern. So many students have complained about the mounds of work facing them or about "tasteless food" that professors and administrators now accept these gripes as commonplace. They may then have valid grounds when they refuse to hear comments on overwork or dinner menus.

Nonetheless, non-malicious overstatement becomes an art when used in appropriate situations. Swelling a fact here and there in a story takes consideration so that one's verbal embroidery will remain believable. A colorful speaker must be basically true to his facts but may adjust them occasionally to provide his listeners with a better yarn.

Who, however, is to draw the thin line bounding this subtle stretching "just for laughs" or for a larger share of the spotlight? Who can decide whether exaggeration is innocent or deliberate, designed to confuse

the "enemy," whatever it may be?

The answer must be "no one man, but society," because what is considered harmless by one man is something malicious in the eyes of another.

The story teller's art has no business in the realm of politics or in fact anything controversial. A person has the right to think or say what he pleases so long as he checks his facts before opening his mouth. Should he be incorrect or slanderous, then he must be prepared to suffer the consequences.

From listening to discussions on campus, it is evident that many of my fellow "artists" do not confine their talents to the realm of fiction. Since they do not, they should be shown by example that honest viewpoints can be forcefully presented without extravagance of language.

Fanciful thoughts may often generate the most beneficial plans. But only precision in expression will enable listeners to evaluate these ideas accurately and peacefully.



MISS MILLS

Letters

Prerogative For Apathy Claimed

TO THE EDITOR: In answer to Miss Palmer's column of April 24, and to any other writers of anti-apathy feelings, this is our reply: Isn't it wonderful that it takes all kinds to make up this school, country, and world? You must remember one thing, Miss Palmer, not everybody thinks the same way you do, nor do any two people in this whole wide world think the same.

It is the prerogative of a citizen in this democratic country to think, act, and do as he desires as long as he does no personal injury or harm to his fellow man.

If in the event a person can escape from doing any serious thinking at all, this is within his rights. We see no injurious occurrences coming from a disinterested person.

These so-called disinterested people that you imply about may also consider you disinterested in the sense that doesn't interest you.

If you happen to be one of the types of persons who is either deeply interested in government or who wishes to attain great heights in the field of government and politics, including "campus politics," then by all means carry on, for this is fine.

But on the other hand, if there are others who wish not to partake actively in this field, then this is also fine, for as we have stated previously, this is their prerogative and within their rights.

It is our feeling, as a final note, that it is about time that certain elements among the world's populous should stop preaching and trying to superimpose their ideals upon other individuals, but rather to start practicing their own philosophies and ideas on themselves.

—Jonathan Googel '64
—Edward Mandel '63

Kaplan's Rebuttal

TO THE EDITOR: It seems to me that for no reason other than that of self-defense or the preservation of my integrity I would be forced to write a reply to the columns of Miss Kunkleman and Messrs. Coleman and Runkel. However, yours truly, "apathetic, do-nothing" has some constructive ideas which he would like to put forth, rather than placing the co-photography editor, Den Coleman, on the block.

To start, because of the valiant work of Dennis Foianini and others last term, we have, in reality, a new government with a new constitution; consequently, let us forget about all the disappointments of the past and turn our eyes forward to the present and future.

Coleman says that the students are part of the USG; therefore, they must help and support their congressmen. Although this statement is true, more important is the fact that the congressmen must do all in their power to help the students and to awaken them from their apathetic sleep.

After the students are aroused and informed, action can be taken. First, there must be a uniting of all political forces: all defeated candidates of this election and other interested students should be given positions by the incoming USG administration. There must be no spoils politics, all capable individuals must be used.

When issues and objectives are crystallized and policies formed, we (students and their representatives) must move forward and meet with the administration. Our position in these meetings should not be one of inferiority, but of equality; for with a united student body we will have strength.

The dealings with the University should be on a cooperative basis, but we must not yield our basic objectives. When thwarted, we must turn to our source of strength: the students and the pressure they can bring to bear. Remember;

the students have parents who know other people who know state senators who know influential businessmen who know, ad infinitum.

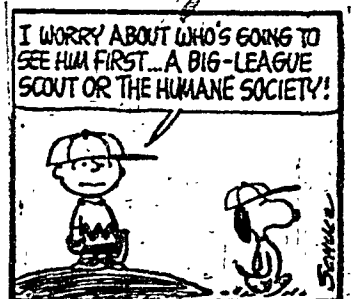
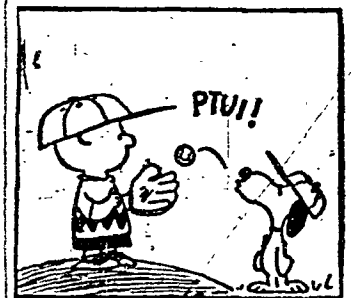
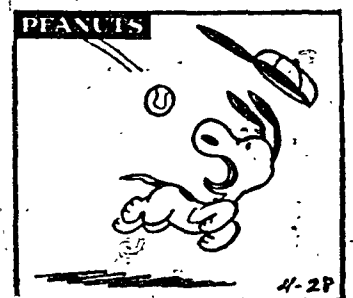
I have presented the plan. The job is now up to you, the newly elected officers of USG; you, the editors and staff of the Collegian; you who are interested in working for a better school; and you and me the do-nothing discontents.

My plan is not ideal, but practical. However, all capable and willing will have to sacrifice time and energy to begin a project of which they will probably not see the results.

Let the new slogan be: For a Better Penn State through the Collective Action of all Students. That means, you.

—Burt Kaplan, '64

Letter cut



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