

Editorial Opinion

An Evasion of Public Duty

A profound belief in "freedom of expression" was one of the chief factors in the early settlement of this continent 350 years ago.

But, when the phrase "freedom of expression" is qualified by "out of the eyes of the public," it insults and abuses that very freedom which was so dearly won.

Yet, within recent months one leading campus government—IFC—has closed the doors of its legislative meetings to the people whom they were elected to govern and to the press.

In all three cases, these groups were dealing with "touchy subjects." They felt it was best or would have been better to discuss these subjects behind closed doors.

It has been our experience that closed sessions often do more harm than good.

It is time that people at this University realize that short range secrecy does not hide long range impact . . . that lack of publicity does not save face for long . . . that the holding of a closed meeting is more injurious in the long run to an organization and to the student body than a hoily debated open controversy.

A hotly debated issue is quickly resolved and the hatred forgotten, but a secret discussion and decision lies smouldering within defeated factions which wait for the chance to get even.

It takes courage for the officers and members of an organization to conduct controversial business in the open. But we strongly believe that this courage is demanded of good leaders.

Throughout its history, The Daily Collegian has heard charges of "yellow journalism," "scandal sheet," and "un-ethical operation." All of these cries have come from persons or organizations who have read in the public record that which they did not want the public to know or that in which they felt they were unfairly represented.

At this University can anything be done, any business conducted or any operations made by a representative government about which the student body is not entitled to know? We think not.

We cannot condone the meeting of a representative body behind closed doors.

We believe that a basic democratic principle demands that governing bodies hold business meetings open to the public.

The "public eye" is big and glaring. It is extremely critical and often unfair. It is demanding and curious. It eventually sees all. It frightens many. But it is the most precious safeguard of our American freedoms.

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kaleidoscope

Joe College—1963 Edition

by kay mills

Years ago a verbal picture of Joe College could easily have been painted—raccoon coat, college pennant and hat with the brim rolled back.

We were killing time the other night and got to wondering which of the traits we possess are average and which are the distinctive (others call them odd-ball) tendencies we all like to think we have.

This composite person studies reasonably hard but never gets academic honors. When he pulls a 3.0, he lives on some faraway cloud until the next midterm grades appear.

He or she does a tolerable amount of complaining about food, 8 o'clock classes, his "really blind" date of the weekend just past, professors and bluebooks, or the progress of the Lions bas-

kethball team (in other seasons, Mr. Egli, in other seasons).

Movies are attended because they provide the necessary "something to do" more than because the acting or plot is of a particularly high caliber.

Our friend is a habitual "skimmer" at newstands and leafs through the latest issue of Time magazine when it comes.

Working at the corner gas station, for a local bookstore or clothing shop, in a University lab or in the campus dining halls enables him to earn money for the little extravagances we all have.

This composite person finds he is constantly being charged with apathy or disinterest in the welfare of the "University family as a whole." He could care less.

If he lives in a dormitory, there

are probably nights when he is so noisy his friends would like to move him off campus—bodily. There are also times when his coed counterpart tires of hearing the housekeepers gossip outside her door at 8 a.m. but is too pooped to do anything about it.

Sports interest him most in the fall unless he's discovered the glories of a gymnastics meet or retains the boyhood dreams of being another Babe Ruth or Ted Williams.

We haven't any statistics at hand to show where our "average" friend is from or what his aspirations are—but chances are they're high.

He's not really as familiar with fields outside his own and he's in a rut if he doesn't know it. If he's an engineer who braves an advanced English course or a French major who dives into differential equations, then he's the "average" student the University propaganda says we need. And we do.

Most of all, he's the nameless student you see daily on the Boucke to Sparks or Wagner to MechEng run. He's the backbone of the establishment, and his peers and potentates could do well to remember that.



Letters

'Third Party' Tag Switched

TO THE EDITOR: Francis Conte's "defense" of University Party in Saturday's Collegian demonstrates once again that that political organization has no real conception of its obligations and responsibilities to the student body.

Mr. Conte referred to the agreement signed by the political party chairmen regarding nomination of Congressional candidates as grounds for continuation of the self-nominating procedure, forgetting or ignoring the fact that the agreement referred explicitly and solely to the elections held in October, 1962.

He stated that "the resolution was brought before the Congress."

This is a glaring error, and a complete departure from the facts, since the party chairmen negotiated the agreement among themselves alone. He also made the interesting point that his party took an "active part" in the election, to a far greater degree than either of the other parties.

Furthermore, his assertion that the vacancies may have been caused by the other parties taking "such a detached role" in the fall election is so inconsistent as to be pitiable, since of the three members of Congress who, while holding political affiliations, were declared ineligible, two were members of University Party.

A word must be said regarding Mr. Conte's apparent concept of the nominating procedure. He implied throughout his letter that nomination by petition is superior to party nomination.

But Liberal Party is constitutionally permitted to nominate only members of the party, thus making it absolutely necessary for a prospective candidate to show some interest by registering in the party, and to spell out his qualifications to his fellow party members before receiving the party nomination.

University Party goes through the motion of a grand procedure, even so far as calling their meetings "conventions," but this one giant loophole makes it regrettably easy and expedient for the party to nominate anyone, regardless of previous interest, experience, or knowledge of the workings of the Undergraduate Student Government.

Recently, Liberal Party has been termed a "third party" at Penn State. I would like to call on Mr. Conte, Mr. Dzvonic, Mr. Baker, and USG President Dean Wharton to bring their own party up from the level of a minor party, to take steps in their own constitution to insure interest and experience, and to stop practicing merely the showy frills of governmental responsibility and start acting like a political organization which understands and appreciates its obligations.

—George Gordon
Liberal Party Chairman

Perugini Hits Conte on Elex

TO THE EDITOR: Thus far there has been no public statement explaining the reasons why Campus Party will back candidates for the USG Elections in two weeks. One should not be necessary. However, the letter published in Saturday's Collegian by the chairman of the University Party, Francis Conte, presents a propitious opportunity to answer.

The resolution signed this fall by the three party chairmen agreeing not to support, publicly, candidates in the congressional elections was a product of special circumstances pertaining only to the fall elections. In addition, the signatures on the resolution are not the signatures of the present chairman.

More importantly, parties should now begin to function as year around operations if they ever hope to maintain their proper places on campus and contribute to the student government.

Specifically, there is a need for them in special elections when interest is at a low ebb. A good example was the special election for McElwain-Simmons during the fall term. Only one candidate ran for the available position.

To search for qualified people, to encourage them to run, and to provide them with the necessary aid as an incentive is more important than ever in an off-term contest.

—Bob Perugini
Campus Party Chairman

WDFM Schedule

- TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1963
4:15 "The Philadelphia"
Chopin: Les Sylphides Ballet
Ravel: Daphnis et Chloe Suite
5:00 Dinner Music
6:00 This Week at the United Nations: Summary of week's events
6:15 Weatherscope: Joel Myers
6:20 Classical Concepts
Smetana: Moldau
Rimsky-Korsakov: Capriccio
Ravel: Bolero; La Valse; Pavane
7:30 Highlight: Organizations: Tonight: WDFM-FM
7:40 Sports Parade: Interview with Dean Billick, Collegian Sports Editor, by Joe Grata
8:00 SOUND OF FOLK MUSIC: Live Talent: John Frink singing four folk tunes; the Weavers, Tossi Aaron, Oscar Brand, Joan Baez, others
8:55 Sports News
9:00 Mostly Music: Light popular music
10:00 Symphonic Notebook: Schuman: Quartet No. 3
Credendum (Article of Faith)
Barber: Act I Vanessa
Yardumlan: Psalm No. 180
Violin Concerto

