

Editorial Opinion

Political Party Fate Hangs in the Balance

This is a vital year for campus political parties. By the end of 1963 either they will have begun effective reconstruction of themselves and student government or they will have come even nearer to failure than they are at present.

We call on party chairmen, party members and all students who have faith and interest in the potential effectiveness of student government to prevent the latter alternative.

Since 1959 when the Class of 1963 entered this University there has been a drastic decline in the efforts and effectiveness of campus political parties. Membership in parties has declined. Interest in party projects and stands has declined. Healthy party influence upon student government has declined. Political parties have become solely instruments of electing people to office. In our estimation many times their goals have been selfish and not directed toward the good of this University and the student body.

In talking with one party chairman this fall, we were informed that party platforms serve no purpose on this campus because they are merely a list of hastily conceived projects designed solely to impress students. Many, if not most, recent party planks have never been carried out.

If this attitude is allowed to prevail, parties may as well throw in their charters. They will never accomplish anything.

However, within the concept of a party system there lies, in our opinion, the answer to effective student government. The opportunities for parties composed of energetic and informed students are boundless.

Many problems exist at this University. Many things need to be done. The members of the USG Congress cannot be expected, as individuals, to be the "idea men" for the entire campus. They can do research, persuade and legislate. But they cannot read the minds of students who never bother to voice opinions.

Parties could be havens for the expression of ideas and opinion. As strong organizations, they could conduct much of the research needed for effective Congressional legislation. With dedicated leaders and members, parties could provide invaluable training grounds for prospective USG activities. By training and accurately informing interested students, parties would also solve the all-too-frequent problem of a lack of capable candidates to represent the student body.

But, all of these activities are subordinate to the main role of political parties—electing members to USG. Research and training are worthless in themselves. They must be aimed at electing party men to office who are courageous legislators intent on doing things for the good of the student body.

It behooves all parties to nominate party men for all vacant USG offices and to lead the campaign of these party members.

All of these avenues and many more are open to campus political parties. Their carrying out will require year-around effort and strong organizations. We feel it can be done. We feel it must be done.

Once again we say to students, active and inactive: Do not sit back and criticize. There is much to be done and you must do it.

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for the record

Pomp and Circumstance

—by carol kunkleman

This reporter was among the crowd of 12,000 spectators who clutched their passes bearing the seal of the State of Pennsylvania and burrowed their way into Harrisburg's Farm Show Arena Tuesday.

The occasion was the inauguration of William Warren Scranton—the 103rd governor of this Keystone State. The setting—the traditional and solemnly official inauguration ceremony. The mood—more typical of American football fans who come to gaze at a sensational new player.

Significantly, the crowd included its appropriate unproportionate share of Republicans, a fewer number of Democrats and a dash of reporters and photographers—insuring that the occasion would live up to the true ingredients of a spectacular production.

In this arena-type seats, spectators leaned forward, anxiously and curiously, awaiting the entrance of the star performer. Those on the dirt floor, originally intended for the showing of livestock, sank their heels into the earth and craned their necks over the equally curious gathering around them.

Those politically inclined intro-

duced the fervor of a party convention. Intent on claiming recognition due the winning side, they waved banners which boasted: "We helped win a majority of 2500 votes for our district."

They bellowed their victory cheers, and those who considered themselves too refined for such vocal display, reduced their boast to that of sporting Irish green top hats or grasping bamboo canes.

Many of those in the crowd who rated free passes and chartered buses to attend the affair pinned blue ribbons on their shoulders topped by a badge of the smiling Scranton.

Meanwhile, energetic photographers hopped from press table to platform to ground in an effort to capture the glorious moments on film. To retiring governor David L. Lawrence, they taunted, "Give us a smile, Davey!" and to the new members of the front page set, they pleaded, "Look up here!"

Finally, the new governor entered, and the crowd hastened to attention. The familiar anthem "Pomp and Circumstance" was blown and drummed on the instruments of the Valley Forge Military Academy band.

With the governor-elect was his wife, who added to the colorful festivities with her brilliant orange suit. The faces of their two young sons shone both with pride for their father and from the diligent grooming they must have received; their teenage daughter, tall and lithe with a slight sug-

gestion of a Jackie Kennedy hairdo, added her admiring glances to those of her brothers.

Appropriately, Mrs. Lawrence's attire was more restrained, suggesting the contrast of the old and the new. She wore a simply-cut light blue wool suit and allowed only a flowered silk hat to mark the gaiety of the hour.

The flag of the governor unfurled as Scranton repeated the oath that would bind him to the people. The crowd waited for the next words which would designate him as their spokesman and administrator for the next four years. He did not disappoint them. He spoke of progress, of faith, and of economic advantages. He urged them to walk proudly as citizens of the state. He left them with the feeling that there is still hope of a Messiah. And then he was silent, awaiting the formal closing words of the Bishop of Harrisburg.

But the crowd was not to be ignored so soon. From the floor arose a chant of desire. "We want Scranton!" they cried, and refused to silence their request. Unappeased but calmed by the ominous appearance of state troopers, they allowed the bishop to read the words from the scripture.

A triumphant exit began as the strains of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" began and the crowd burrowed their way out into the below freezing air for the inaugural parade. With pinched faces and stiffening toes, they viewed the passing units of reserve forces, high school bands and army tanks.

Then they turned their attention to inaugural ball preparations.

Yesterday the mood in the state capitol was still a vibrant one—but for a different reason. The new man began his job. He began to work for the people, and it is his ability rather than his charm that must maintain the people's confidence and good will.

For he knew that the vibrance of their mood would depend only on how well he accomplished—for them—the stated intentions and platforms of the campaign which had brought him to the inaugural platform.



KUNKLEMAN

Letters

'The Low Cost of Education'

TO THE EDITOR: Perhaps it would be unfair to charge that this institution, supposedly dedicated to education, is in reality dedicated only to separating students from their money. However, I'm afraid that this is the case.

From my first weeks at Penn State, when my registration cards included a demand for a contribution to the class fund, I have been subject to unreasonable pressures on my pocketbook. In English 1 and 3 I was told to buy several books which were never used. Zoology 25 necessitates the purchase of an expensive dissecting kit which is little used.

Various and sundry clubs and organizations imply that one must join their dues-paying ranks in order to have a happy existence here. Some local merchants and even the after-hours food peddlers in the dorm dining halls charge more than standard prices for their products.

Many of us here are from families of small means, and cannot afford to maintain ourselves at the expensive level which seems to be expected of us. The University administration and the faculty must realize that there is a need for a fairer treatment of its students.

A few things which might be

looked into are as follows: (1) free laundry facilities, (2) lower prices at snack-bars, (3) more careful consideration of the minimum books and equipment needed in courses.

This state university is supposed to be providing low-cost education for the people, and it's time it began to do that.

—Robert A. Lewis '65

Junior Disputes Rossman's Views

TO THE EDITOR: I take exception to the "mental exercise" which appeared in the letters to the editor column of Wednesday's Collegian mocking both do-gooders and doers of good. The mere fact that a person is unable to solve his own troubles has no bearing on whether he can help another, who may have difficulties of an entirely different nature.

Furthermore, being "too far away . . . to offer . . . peace of soul" can be an advantage, as a more unbiased and analytical viewpoint can be adopted.

If the premises put forth by Mr. Rossman were true, our nation's army of college guidance counsellors, marriage counsellors, and even psychiatrists and psychologists would be looking for new jobs.

In short this letter sounds like the immature whining and moaning of a childlike person whose mind has been scoured by a few well-meaning friends.

—Steven Schwartz '64

New Mail Ruling Hit by GW Student

TO THE EDITOR: I was just informed by my girl, that I am no longer to put Pennsylvania State University on her letters. If I do, I am liable to get them returned. Why is this? Does she no longer attend the Pennsylvania State University? Did she flunk out?

Something like this would require a lot of explaining; especially if it happened to someone's Aunt Tillie who writes only once a year.

Since the University is assuming the authority of the United States Post Office, I wonder if it has any of the Dag Hammarskjold error stamps to sell?

—James S. Pringle
George Washington University

WDFM Schedule

- THURSDAY, JAN. 17
- 4:15 The Philadelphia: Debussy's La Mer; Saint-Saens' Dansa Macabre; Borodin's Steppes of Central Asia
 - 5:00 Dinner Date: relaxing dinner music
 - 6:00 News Analysis: news of the day summarized
 - 6:15 Weatherscope: Joel Myers
 - 6:20 Concert Hall: Ravel's Bolero, La Valse and Paganini; Smetana's Mouldou; and others
 - 7:30 Highlight: USG Report on student government
 - 7:40 Radio Moscow: Weekly feature from Russia; The Cuban Crisis
 - 7:55 News
 - 8:00 This is the Subject: "Value Judgments in Science" by Robert B. Lindsay, physicist and dean of Brown University Graduate School
 - 8:55 Sports News
 - 9:00 Harlequin: Humorous readings by University Readers
 - 9:15 Mostly Music: popular and jazz
 - 10:00 Classical Canvas: Franz Liszt; Piano Concerto No. 1, Les Preludes, Psalm No. 8, Variations on Themes by Bach

