

Editorial Opinion

Eliminate Special Elections

The recommendations to revise the elections code made Wednesday night by Elections Commission Chairman George Jackson are weak and need expansion before the USG Congress considers them.

The proposal to eliminate special elections for vacated Congressional seats seems practical. Mid-term elections are costly and do not arouse enough interest to make them worthwhile.

Some Congressmen are liable to resign or lose the required academic average to participate, however, and provision must be made to fill their seats.

There are several means by which this could be accomplished. After considering them, we feel the most democratic method other than holding a special election would be to install the candidate who received the next highest number of votes in the area.

This person would already have shown interest by running in the election.

If this were the Election Commission's policy, the runner-up in an election could begin preparing himself for USG service in case his congressman was forced to relinquish his seat.

Should a case arise where there were no "excess" candidates running for a USG seat, we feel the head of the congressman's area government should appoint an interim member. Chances are that the area president best knows the interested persons from the area.

Jackson's next proposal, which would eliminate run-off elections in the event of a tie between candidates, shows lack of political feeling. No solution is as democratic as another election.

Appointing a winner is unfair. No person or group of persons could choose between the candidates without some honest bias existing in the back of their minds.

Drawing straws or another "luck" system for deciding the tie is also wrong. Most area elections ask students to vote for more than one congressman. With fewer choices in a run-off election, students may have a definite preference for one candidate even though they may have supported both in the first balloting.

Adoption of Jackson's remaining proposal to require all candidates to submit petitions of nomination, regardless of whether he is running on a political party slate, would weaken the already shaky party system.

If parties were to hold their nominations after the petitions had been submitted to the Elections Commission, their choice of candidates would be seriously limited.

If the petitions were due after the nominations, a party's candidate, especially if he were new to campus politics, might not get the necessary number of signatures. This would leave the party without a candidate for that office.

Finally, our campus political system has always been modeled as closely as possible to a state or national one to give students practical experience in politics. Adoption of this proposal would break the relationship at its base.

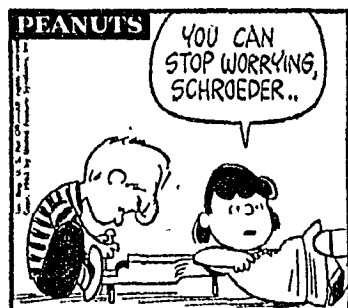
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ANN PALMER Editor

HERBERT WITMER Business Manager



Letters

Dirty Tactics Blasted By Rush Chairman

TO THE EDITOR: I want to commend Miss Palmer on her column concerning underhanded tactics of sororities during rush. It is unfortunate that this article did not appear earlier, for if some sororities could see themselves as others see them, their actions might be quite different.

Sorority rush, due to the size and numbers of sororities and rushees, has become a mammoth operation. The Rush Code, set up by sorority rush chairmen and the Panhellenic Council, is meant to keep any one sorority from taking an unfair advantage.

From this point, it is up to individual sororities and their members to stay within the Code. Panhellenic cannot be a police force. For any code to be effective, sororities must have the maturity to act as they would want others to act and to report violations.

I am proud of many of our sororities for the way they conducted their rush programs. Unfortunately, there are several groups of which I am not proud, for their actions reflect on Panhellenic as a whole.

The heartbreak of disappointed rushees is something cruel and unfair for any girl. Men, non-affiliated members and independent women who go against our silence regulations to rush for a sorority only add to the misery for a girl who is promised a bid, then doesn't get it.

Panhellenic Council can only do so much. The judicial cannot function unless infractions are reported. Sororities which complain about other groups behind closed doors to save the embarrassment of reporting violations are doing no justice to the rushees or to the violating sorority.

In retrospect, we are trying to find better ways to handle the overall rush program. At the same time, I wish sororities would do a little reflecting on their own conduct and campus image during rush.

Getting one particular rushee for a chapter is not worth the "dirty rushing" and heartbreak for the other rushees. The underhanded actions of a few sororities are not worth the bad reflection on the sororities which do uphold the Panhellenic Council Rush Code.

—Marjorie Zelko Panhellenic Council Rush Chairman

Carnegie Called 'Testing Ground'

TO THE EDITOR: Sharing with my colleagues the journalism graduate assistants' office adjacent to a row of music practice rooms, I have been obligated to listen daily for a term and more to the squeaks, toots, gasps, rasps, plinks, twangs, etc., put forth by the "musicians" and "vocalists" who practice (?) in the Carnegie Building. Therefore, I would suggest this solution to the problem of too few practice rooms as outlined by musician-pianist Richard Althouse in a letter appearing in The Daily Collegian Jan. 12.

Instead of removing journalists from the building to free more rooms for the musicians' practice, why not simply eliminate those music students who use the current practice rooms endlessly and yet have failed to benefit from the practice despite their valiant efforts?

Such action, I am certain, would cut the number of "musicians" by at least 50 per cent. This would happily give more space to those truly good music students who desire to practice and would greatly improve the general quality of the music at the same time.

If there is any question as to which persons might be eliminated, a few minutes in our office would give any listener a good idea as to where to find them.

Currently Carnegie is not a practice building — it is a testing ground.

—Philip Currie Grad Student

2 cents worth

The Town Crier

by dave runkel

Wednesday is a rather calm, peaceful day full of nice peaceful classes for me. USG meets on Wednesday. Nothing out of the ordinary ever happens on Wednesday. But, the Wednesday of this week was different.

A pleasant surprise was in my mailbox when I returned from a morning on campus. I received a copy of the most interesting, most informative and most freely written little publication on campus—my copy of The Town Crier, published by the Town Independent Men's Council.



RUNKEL

To those unfortunate, in this case, those who by reason of sex, University decree or choice are not town independent men and thus not on TIM's select mailing list I will attempt to commute some of the freedom of style and the information of this little publication.

In a section entitled "And Now a Word From Our Sponsor," I found this entertaining paragraph: "There are supposed to be 28 men on TIM. There never are. Someone is always quitting because he's scared to be seen with the others. So if you've got a reasonable average (2.0 and up) and are not unduly sensitive, you might try joining. Petitions are available at the HUB desk."

This was followed by perhaps the best statement of the duties of a public official I have ever read: "If you do become a TIM man, you will find that one of

your main duties is to 'communicate.' In other words you're supposed to find out all the things that town men want, cross out the immoral ones, and see what you can do about the others."

Another feature in the "Crier" was a story on how town men felt about Penn State coeds. It was full of caustic comments on coeds with sorority women receiving the worst cuts. Also, a new definition of a buddy was offered: "A buddy is one who knows more girls than you do."

I have been promised that the next issue of the publication will carry a story on what sorority women think of town men. I can hardly wait.

The vital information section is highlighted by an article on the State College Housing Code which was passed by the Borough Council last month. The sheet also contained a story quoting Dr. Glenn of the infirmary saying he expects a flu epidemic on campus this spring and that students should get shots at the infirmary now.

A social calendar for TIMs was published along with some vital information on the opening and closing hours of certain vital services to students. These were under headings such as "Have Scalpel, Will Cut," for the infirmary and "Hours for the Egg-head" for the hours of every library on campus.

It is an unusually lively publication depicting an obviously lively organization and an obviously lively group on campus, or rather off campus. Other campus organizations and publications could learn a lot from the TIM Council and its publication "The Town Crier."

Letters

Berns Tells Views on Greeks In Answer to Foote Challenge

TO THE EDITOR: The letter from James A. Foote in The Daily Collegian of Jan. 23, replying to my letter of Jan. 22, challenges my comments on the schismatic customs followed by fraternities and sororities and the cleavages within the student and nation groups as a whole that are ultimately produced by these customs. The letter also requests that I explain various incidentals relating to fraternity life.

This challenge and request obligates me to reply, and I do so eagerly, for I feel that my comments on consensus building and nation building lie at the heart and are the essence of harmonious living with your fellow man — within fraternities, among fraternities, in the University, in the nation and in the world.

In his letter Foote did not understand how a closely knit group as a fraternity could exist without harmony, unity accord and consensus.

I believe that Mr. Foote missed my point entirely. It was clear from my letter, objecting to bloc groupings of several sororities into ethnic groups, that I meant consensus with a fraternity or any close-knit group or "team." I would like to see this same type of consensus or broad common denominator applied among fraternities as well as within one.

We have come a long way from the artificial social barriers that retarded the development of our elders, and we do at the present, have a fundamental and broad consensus among people. I desire a stronger consensus so that we can continue building a nation rather than an agglomeration of nationalities. I believe it is the duty of every generation to strike against these artificial barriers until they no longer exist.

To be objective, it is my opinion, as stated in my previous letter, that social barriers desired by the individual such as private clubs are sacred and are desirable.

Only when these barriers are artificial do they impinge upon the rights of others beyond the scope of the organization.

Foote then misquotes me by saying that "lack of school spirit and pride stems from this system" (fraternity-sorority system). I did not state that lack of school spirit and pride stems from this system. I stated, and I quote, "The problem of school spirit and pride and national spirit and pride can both be seen stemming from this source."

Foote then questions my right to comment on fraternities. It is his "considered opinion" that my "type of informative is of the gossip variety," and also that my "arguments are based not upon fact but upon emotion."

I have been acquainted in various degrees with the fraternity system since 1955. I believe eight years should qualify me to comment on it without emotion.

I don't believe much time over two or three hours is needed to see that ethnic considerations are given priority over qualities of an individual in choosing new members and that these considerations lead to cleavages within the student group as a whole and ultimately to cleavages within the American nation as a whole.

—H. L. Berns, '63

•Letter Cut

WDFM Schedule

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 1963

- 4:15 "The Philadelphia" Corelli: Concerto Grosso in G Bach: Air on the GE String Strauss: Emperor Waltz Lehar: Merry Widow Waltz
5:00 Dinner Date
6:00 Washington Reports
6:15 Weatherscope
6:20 Ballet Theater: Stravinsky: The Fairy's Kiss Offenbach: Gaité Parisienne
7:30 Highlight: Sports: Earl Hoffman interviewed by Jim Bukata
7:40 Album of the Week: "Girl From Greece Sings" (Nana Mouskouri)
8:00 Marquee Memories: "Kiss Me Kate"
9:00 Send Off: Pop, jazz, folk and comment
12:00 Night Sound: Big sounds in music till 2:00