

# Mock Elex: Our Turn

Who do you think should be governor? Even if you're not 21, you'll get a chance to state your preference soon, and give the winner in the general election fair warning for 1970.

A mock election here four years ago gave Scranton the students' imprimatur.

And now, in the midst of another gubernatorial campaign which has featured education as its primary issue, students must be offered the same opportunity.

The Daily Collegian and the Undergraduate Student Government Elections Commission have formulated plans for a Student Mock Election tentatively to be held here Nov. 2 and 3, pending USG executive and budgetary approval.

Collegian editors came up with the idea last night and received the immediate and enthusiastic cooperation of David Karr, USG Elections Commissioner.

Format of the Mock Election is yet to be determined, but the elections would be run entirely by Karr's commission. Balloting will probably be done through the cooperation of MRC, IFC, AWS and TIM, and every full-time student will be allowed to vote.

The need for such an election is obvious. The two campus groups on whom the direct responsibility for initiating such an election falls—the campus Young Democrats and Young Republicans—both failed to live up to their responsibilities in this area.

In fact, neither the Young Democrats nor the Young Republicans have succeeded in generating much interest in the upcoming campaign. Both groups have been content to peddle their pins in the HUB on certain days—but neither has made much effort to sell their candidates.

So it appears that the impetus of the campus campaign must be awarded to a group more able and willing to shoulder responsibility—Karr's commission. It's a pity that neither the Young Democrats nor the Young Republicans showed the same willingness to accept responsibility.

The fiscal and personal importance to students of the Nov. 8 contest between Democrat Milton Shapp

and Republican Raymond P. Shafer is immense, yet most students do not realize that they have a personal stake in the election.

Their stake is rooted right here at the University, in the form of state funds allocated each year and which have a lot to do with what improvements can be made at the University.

It is the governor who submits the proposed state budget, which includes Penn State's appropriations. And it is the governor who appoints six of the 32 members of the Board of Trustees.

This Mock Election is important for three major reasons.

It gives an otherwise electorally-silent segment of the state a chance to express its opinion.

It gives both candidates positive proof that Penn State students are interested in their state government and the man who sits at its helm.

And it shows that this student interest in state affairs is as strong before the election as it will be long after Nov. 8, when the University administration and students begin the usual fight for higher state aid.

## Poor William

Billy Penn day! That was yesterday. His 322nd birthday.

Pennsylvania week! That's this week. All seven days.

By proclamation of the Governor, October 24 was set aside to honor the memory of William Penn, since "Our rich heritage of liberty and justice based on tolerance of men of all races, creeds, and national origins resulted largely from the policies of William Penn and his 'Holy Experiment.'"

Incidentally, the decision of Philadelphia businessmen, to disregard the unwritten law that nothing shall be built in the downtown area higher than the Billy Penn statue atop city hall ends forever one of the city's two traditions. The other, keeping Girard college white, is still going strong.

Poor William. His Quaker heart must be breaking if he can see our only Holy Experiment now afoot: Vietnam.

Pennsylvania Week honors the 234th anniversary of the drafting of Pennsylvania's first Constitution, and the establishment of our first law code, the "Great Law." Pennsylvanians have been refusing to update their constitution for almost that long.

The Great Seal of Pennsylvania is emblazoned atop the declaration of William Penn Day and Pennsylvania Week. As we know, the Seal features two stallions rampant leaning on an escutcheon, upon which sits an eagle. The State motto, "Virtue, Liberty and Independence" is also on the Seal. The heavy escutcheon crushes Liberty—and the horses trample Virtue and Independence underfoot.

If you're in Philadelphia this week, don't be surprised if you see tears running down Billy Penn's pigeon-spattered cheeks.

## BERRY'S WORLD



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"You can tell the Air Force for me that I know they're not telling us the whole story about flying saucers!"

## Letters to the Editor

### Correction from Coxe

TO THE EDITOR: The American Civil Liberties Union appreciates the generous news coverage you gave to my recent appearance at State College, and your editorial support.

At the risk of appearing giggling, I must point out that the news story misquoted Anatole France, whose remark was: "The law in its equal

majesty forbids rich and poor alike to sleep under bridges."

The printed version, in which "permits" is substituted for "forbids" reduces the aphorism to vacuity which would cause poor Anatole to turn over in his grave if he were alive today.

Spencer Coxe  
Executive Director  
Pennsylvania ACLU

### Correction from SDS

TO THE EDITOR: A rather serious typo occurred in the printing of our position clarification (The Daily Collegian, 22 October).

Your version read: "One basic assumption of the editorial was: The Administration has the right to control student lives OUTSIDE OF the classroom."

While your version of this sentence is as true as ours, it does not fit into the context of our statement. We will get to Administrators-as-professors in a while.

Students for a Democratic Society Political Action and Evaluation Committee

William F Lee



## USG, SDS, NSA: Who Represents?

Ask any student: "Who represents you at the University," and you are likely to get some interesting responses. Ideally, of course, student representation is to be absorbed by the Undergraduate Student Government, with its executive, legislative and judicial branches. But how many students would readily say that they are adequately represented by USG? If voter turnout at USG elections is any indication, not very many either are aware of USG's presence as their representative, or care that much about the representation they are getting from USG.

In the past few weeks, USG has been formally challenged to prove that it is a truly representative, democratic and student-oriented organization. The challenge has come from the campus chapter of Students for a Democratic Society.

"USG is a very effective arm of the Administration and is therefore opposed to democratic representation," says one SDS officer. "It is imperative that genuine representative bodies be created as an alternative base of student power," says another.

Thus the challenge and thus the alternative: SDS proposes to establish a counter-institution which would be truly representative of the students of the University.

But, I have an idea. It involves the National Student Association. Five years ago, USG joined NSA on a trial basis. At that time, NSA was strengthening its philosophy as a national organization of college students with concerns about national and international affairs, as well as inter-university matters.

This was during a sort of national withdrawal period from the famous Silent Generation. John F. Kennedy was in office, the Peace Corps was being born, young people by the hundreds were doing civil rights work, there was a general air of idealism in this country. The Era of Commitment, which has carried up to the present, was beginning.

A Collegian editorial on May 29, 1963, said NSA "has no place at Penn State," because "NSA is idealistic. Its basic premise is that students in American colleges and universities are vitally concerned with national and international issues. . . . The Penn State student body, on the whole, is not interested." The editorial then urged that the trial membership be dropped, and when it came to a vote in the USG Congress, it was.

While membership in NSA can mean a great deal, it is inconceivable that the present USG would ever rejoin the organization. Finances would surely come up again. But, more important, NSA has been branded a notorious left-wing organization dominated by Communists and bleeding hearts. After all, the argument runs, they've even had the gall to oppose the Vietnam war and the draft!

My proposal is this. If SDS is going to challenge USG (and such a challenge is advisable, even if only to clear out a few cobwebs), it must seek the broadest base of support possible. It's going to have to expand its vision a little. It's going to have to concentrate on action, not polemics.

And I think it should seek membership in NSA as a legitimate representative of the student body. The NSA by-laws state that membership is awarded to a student government organization with "ratification by a majority vote of the student body and/or by the democratically constituted student government group."

This gives SDS enough leeway to consider this idea. If it could, by debates or whatever mature and practical means it chooses, achieve a base of common support, ratification by a majority vote of the students would be possible.

If this cannot be achieved, the second alternative, the "democratically constituted student government group" is also a good possibility. If it is SDS's aim to prove that USG is not democratically constituted or representative, then recognition by NSA would bear this out.

Anyway, it is something to consider. In considering it, and in presenting its case intelligently, SDS could increase its stock with the general student body, point to the lack of democratic representation which it sees in USG and become the nationally-recognized student government group of the University.

61 Years of Editorial Freedom

# The Daily Collegian

Successor to The Free Lance, est. 1887

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# ANNOUNCING

## The Daily Collegian Homecoming Page

October 29, 1966

Bring Your Ads to the Collegian Office By 4:30 P.M. Tuesday, October 25

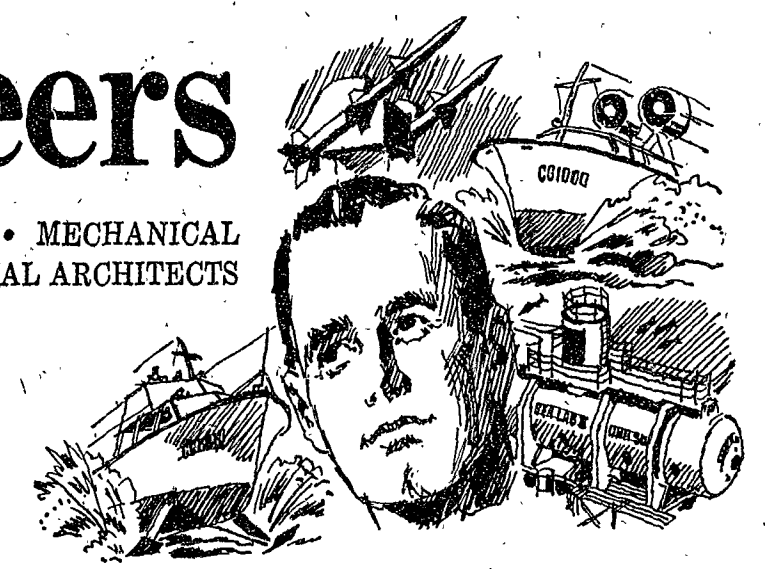
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