

USG Elections: Pep Talk Time

"Alright, now, editors, I want to hear Pep Talk No. 1. I want you to really arouse these people. I want you to send them scurrying to the polls the same way sex-starved convicts on their first day out scurry to the cathouse. I want you to really get these people psyched up over this USG election."

"Yeah, boss. We've got it. How's this."

"Okay students, we want you to get out there and vote! Do you hear! Pay attention to us now students. We want you to bound out of bed this morning beaming and laughing with the prospect that YOU today will be permitted, by virtue of your status as students, to vote in the USG elections."

"Come on, people! Get with it. This is your last chance. Look at that list of candidates. Aren't they an impressive bunch? Eh? Don't they make you want to just go out and vote for them?"

"Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's fine boys. But I don't think it would appeal to this particular student body. Penn State is different than most big schools, you know. You have to appeal to what they like most."

"Got ya, boss. How's this. Students of Penn State. Voting is cool. Not only will we have a keg set up at the polling booth, but we will have all your mothers there and hundreds of apple pies. Also, think of the advantages of voting. If you go out and vote today, you can create the USG Congress of your dreams. It will be a pillar of mediocrity, a staunch supporter of that collection of institutions that we all love so well, the status quo."

"There's no denying it, students. If this year you really put your minds to it, you can have a USG Congress that will bow to the Administration's every demand, that will concede its dignity on any point, that will inspire an explosion of apathy beyond your wildest dreams."

"That's fine, editors, but I think it needs a bit of negative kick. We must appeal to the students' outrage at any kind of activism."

"That's easy boss. Listen to this. Outraged students. Among the 33 candidates running for office this year are at least four who dare to threaten us

with change, who have openly participated in activities like Walkertown and the Free Speech Movement, who have flooded our brains with diabolical schemes to thrust this University into the mainstream of educational life, where we would be mercilessly carried along on a tide of new, revolutionary ideas."

"Oh, these four are demons. Keep their names in mind—Krivoy, Schwartz, Shear and Rubin. And to add to the horror, there are a number of others on the ballot with similar handicaps."

"That was beautiful, fellas. Now try a little bit of praise for the hardcore non-participants."

"They're easy to find, boss. Just follow the cockroaches and they take you right to Nittany. People in, of and around Nittany, Shunk and Porter. Do you realize that you are the mainstay of this University's traditions, that without people like you there would be change—oh, lord in heaven, no—there would actually be change on this campus."

"You are so bad to mediocre, so apathetic to half-dead, that not one of you is willing to run for USG Congress. This is admirable, the ultimate in non-participation. But reconsider, men. Suppose there were no representative from your area. That would be change. It would disrupt the status quo."

"You must create one, write-in one. We are confident that you will write-in the most thoroughly mediocre dolt imaginable."

"Okay, editors, now let's make an appeal to their lust for power. That always works well."

"Students. There are 25,000 of you. Do you realize how much stir 25,000 enthusiastic students can cause. We would like to see all 25,000 of you vote before this afternoon."

"But we know that the figure will be less than 5,000. Why not make it 6,000 or 7,000? You might even be more content, more secure, more sure of yourselves if you invoke the power that is inherent in your numbers."

"They say that the attainment of power is an exhilarating experience. Why not try it? All you have to lose is your chains."



"Watch out for his mud-ball . . . !"

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PAGE TWO THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1968

PEANUTS

I FEEL DEPRESSED

IT'S RAINING OUTSIDE AND THE WORLD REEKS OF DESPAIR...

EVEN MY COLD CEREAL DOES TASTE LIKE WORMWOOD...

HOW DEPRESSED CAN YOU GET?

Letters to the Editor

The Old Generation Gap

TO THE EDITOR: Today an undergraduate advisee said to me, "Our generation gap is so great that we communicate from different planets." I agree that the college student today is not the naive creature of my undergraduate days. The sights and sounds of television and the pocket radio were not my daily diet. I never received the sensation of participating in McLuhan's global village nor did I receive vast quantities of knowledge beyond my capacity to absorb. In my undergraduate days everywhere was far away, every event was long ago. I did not have social awareness and I know I lacked wisdom. I was taught that wisdom and competence came through discipline, training and experience.

The student of today's electronic age is in a real dilemma. The media created an immediate awareness and involvement which generates a false confidence. Wisdom and competence have taken a back seat.

The way people feel about a problem or an issue has become more important than the facts or the past or the long range goal. The keynotes for my advisee are immediate experience and awareness. And herein lies the conflict between us. He won't accept the proposition that age has acquired more wisdom and competence.

The word is that those of us over thirty are not to be trusted. This generation gap between advisor and advisee is nothing new. The Sorbonne in the middle ages was noted for the fury with which the students, with sword in hand, defended what they regarded as their rights and privileges. The universities in Tsarist Russia were often closed down because of student unrest.

Perhaps on a university campus the generation gap is in the very nature of things. The faculty represents continuity. The student is temporary and constantly replaced. A freshman is not competent to judge how or what he should be taught in a discipline of which he is only partially familiar.

However, the heart of the problem of liberty and authority should be examined in an institution of higher learning with reason and valid evidence rather than with emotion and immediate expediency.

J. D. McAulay
Professor of Education

An Ass by Any Other Name

TO THE EDITOR: "Anybody who likes it is an ass with no taste whatsoever..."

That's it, Seydor. Give 'em hell. Walt Disney's "The Parent Trap" is a film trap for cinema ignoramuses. Just do a reader of yours one favor; try not to confirm unwarranted status on the flick by publicizing your condemnation.

J. Robert Shore
11th-Journalism

Jeering From Sidelines

TO THE EDITOR: Paul Seydor is frustrated at the lack of films he likes in State College. His angry kick at the local theatre managements, however, seems to me not only ill-informed and childish, but also unhelpful as a positive step towards improvement.

Movie theaters respond more immediately and directly than any other outlet of popular entertainment to the pressures and wishes of their audiences as expressed at the box office. As a matter of record, "The Sound of Music" did more business in one night than "Persona" did in a week. We may properly bemoan this new proof that Gresham was right, but we oughtn't to blame the theatres. They offered and continue to offer a choice. They do not take the easy way out. We do.

State College has a long history of such preferences; thus, the distributors of "Belle du

Jour" wisely send their limited number of copies to other, more lucrative locations. We'll get it later, when the other demand is satiated. We regularly get tested to see if the pattern has changed. So far, it hasn't.

As Collegian movie critic, Paul Seydor can help to change the pattern by encouraging and celebrating the films he admires, rather than by wasting invective on the ones he doesn't. A week ago, his enthusiasm for "The Two of Us" might have done some good. While Paul was baiting "The Parent Trap," "The Girl With Green Eyes" ran to almost-empty houses at Twelvetees. Kurosawa's brilliant "Seven Samurai" will come and go at the HUB, Paul's readers none the wiser.

It is an absolute fact that State College is better served for films than any other town of comparable size and population in the United States. Those of us who put time and money into improving the situation would welcome Paul Seydor's help. We do not need him jeering on the sidelines.

David Shepard
Assistant Professor in Film
Dept. of Theatre Arts

Little To Bitch About

TO THE EDITOR: Being somewhat incensed over Saturday's editorial in re an apathetic faculty, I want to let you know where I, for one, stand.

I favor Penn State status quo generally, including the USG, first rate teaching and scholarship, etc. I would like to see a University bookstore and increased recreational and housing facilities for students.

I am much down on the drug users and the radical, disruptive minority element such as the SDS.

I think that a young person with the opportunity to attend Penn State has much to think about and be thankful for, and damned little to bitch about.

Edwin Gamble,
Assistant Professor of Music

It's Such a Little Voice

TO THE EDITOR: In regards to the Editorial Opinion — The Daily Collegian Oct. 8, concerning the four USG candidates who are involved with Walkertown — I quote: "this term, when a relatively small number of students have banded together to argue for bona fide student causes, the small number faces an overwhelming student and faculty apathy. The small number must work against a student body which has no confidence in student activism or USG, due to a long history of administrative indifference to USG requests."

First, I resent being termed "apathetic" merely because I believe Eric A. Walker is better qualified to run this university than any of the 25,000 students here.

Secondly, I question the phrase "work against a student body"; I believe it has long been the practice of American democracy to elect officials to work for us, not against us — to elect those who represent the views and desires of the majority to positions of power. The very fact that Walkertown has attracted an articulate, yet really very insignificant in number, group of students emphasizes my position — that the majority of Penn State students wish to be represented in USG by officials who will use their power, not to satisfy their own self-interests, but rather to truly represent those who have elected them.

Only if this "apathetic" majority will get out and vote against these "minority" candidates can true representation be maintained. Perhaps Old Main isn't really ignoring the "student voice"—it just can't bear such a little voice. The sounds of 25,000 busy and contented PSU students are drowning it out — and maybe that should be a subtle hint.

Fail Freunsch
Music Education-71

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