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Yes, King

"Yes, king" may sound like a funny title for an editorial, but the circumstances which prompt it are not quite so humorous.

The title was stolen from a sequence in the moving picture "The Road to Morocco." Remember the king who had the slaves kept in a box so that only their heads were visible, and the slaves nodded their approval at his every thought; even nodded their approval when he had no thoughts at all!

For a non-Hollywood version of the same scene, the last ITSA meeting came as close to a duplication as different characters in a different setting could come.

This state is not only deplorable; it is dangerous.

The ITSA board is a board; it is not one man functioning as a board. Since the president appears interested in the ITSA, something has been accomplished. However, as a result of this puppet-like democracy, his ideas, his plans, and his suggestions are extremely likely to become those of the entire student body. They must not be regarded as laws to be passed without question or discussion, merely because they are directed from the president's chair.

If your representative finds it too much labor to discover beforehand what is to be discussed at the meetings and to act in such a way as to obtain your ideas for presentation during the discussions, he is failing to fulfill the obligations entrusted with his office, and he should be removed.

At the last meeting one motion after another was passed without a single voluntary murmur from a representative; it was necessary for the president to put the words of the motion into their mouths in order to get a motion acted upon.

Appointments to the vacated offices were to be decided upon in one instance, yet scholastic averages were not looked up prior to the meeting, and it was necessary to call for these averages on the spot. Fortunately most of the candidates were present and were able to supply the information; but it was also unfortunate because a hard and cold discussion with impossible with the candidates present.

Undoubtedly the candidates were students worthy of the honor, but the illustration is typical of the procedure. Whether you are going to allow such practices as these to continue, however, is a question which must be answered if your student government is to remain YOUR student government.

ITSA meetings are open to everyone. Attend personally. If that is impossible, at least make sure that your representative lives up to his title by representing you.



PRO

By Ulysses Backas

Today an eighteen year old is required to perform almost all of the duties that an adult American citizen is required to do. An eighteen year old is no longer considered deduction on his father's income tax. He is on his own. The armed services may take him or he can enter industry and make a living for himself.

The above facts make me believe that a person who reaches the age of eighteen is considered by his congressmen and fellow citizens as a mature individual. He has usually received a four year high school education which among other things, has taught him the essentials of government and good citizenship. Why then shouldn't this person be allowed to vote for those people who shall represent him in his government? If he is not considered mature for this right, why is he considered eligible to perform other so-called adult functions?

Many say that an eighteen year old is not a serious thinking individual. He does not look into the future. He is too easily influenced by others' opinions.

On the contrary I think that a young man or woman these days is fully aware of the many problems that face our nation and the world. They have to live in this world on the average a much longer time than sixty year old congressmen. They have to sleep in the bed that they make. They think in terms of ten, twenty and thirty years from now, not of today and tomorrow. Maybe long range thoughts of this sort would tend to avoid future wars.

Most adults are too busy with family and business worries to think intelligently about politics. They vote Republican because "Grampa Dan" voted Republican. Their minds are pretty well set on certain things, and even if a good idea is presented to them, they will stubbornly refuse to accept it.

Doesn't it seem strange that a natural born American has to reach an arbitrary age before he is eligible to vote? Possibly the eighteen to twenty year olds weren't serious thinking individuals in the days of the framing of the Constitution. Today I think this group is ready, willing, and able to accept the responsibility of electing representatives to further their thoughts and ideals.

CON

By Earl Mills

The question has arisen as to whether the eighteen-year-olds of America should be given the right to vote. The argument in favor of the movement states, "If you are old enough to fight, then you are old enough to vote."

Although Congress has arbitrarily set 18 years as the minimum age in the draft, should this be a reason for lowering suffrage requirements? And I mention the word "requirements" emphatically. The act of voting, although a privilege, requires thought and independence on the part of the voter.

New York, along with several other states, demands intellectual standards of its voters. Of course, this is not meant to assume that 18-year-olds are illiterate. But their knowledge of political affairs is limited to their high-school civics. They have not gone through the period of becoming-acquainted with this thing called politics.

Fighting and voting are entirely two different occupations. They require two different methods of thinking and acting. An 18-year-old in the Army is merely a follower, and not very much interested in developing his country's policies. A 21-year-old is generally accepted as "being of age," and able to lead. After all, it doesn't take much reasoning to realize that more mature judgment is needed in deciding controversial issues.

In rebuttal of the argument that "twenty-one is an arbitrary figure anyway," I offer the following. Although twenty-one years of age is no absolute value, it is a close approximation to the beginning of mature thinking. Persons under 21 require parental consent to marry, cannot enter into contracts without consent, and require guardians. These laws have come about because people have accepted this age as the lowest age at which persons begin to think and act for themselves.

If 21 is arbitrary, certainly 18 is just as arbitrary. And if so, why not allow 2-year-olds to vote? Of course you see the absurdity.

Various people have brought forward the thought that adolescent youth are too easily swayed by short-sighted gains. One fellow put it most aptly when he said, "In an aldermanic election the kids would vote for the guy that sponsors a baseball team." Baseball teams may improve community spirit, but there are many other issues vital to the neighborhood on which the election should be decided.

Letters to the Editor

March 9, 1943

Dear students,

Although this column has long been open for letters from the students on any subject, few letters have come in. If we didn't know better, we might be led to think that the students are absolutely satisfied with every phase of their school life.

Very likely the thought of writing a letter to the editor never occurs to a fellow. Here's an opportunity to see your literary gems in print without going through the trials and vicissitudes of being a TECHNOLOGY NEWS reporter.

If you have some criticisms of the various aspects of student life, why not whip them into a letter to the editor? The epistle will probably have a better chance of going into print if not too many proper names are used as the target of general lambasting.

It's possible there might be something you'd like to praise. This isn't suggested because we expect you to do any bouquet tossing, but for the much more constructive purpose of encouraging practices which you admire but which have not yet been generally approved.

We don't wish to turn this into one of those inane "inquiring reporter" columns where a question is asked and gets kicked around until everyone wishes it hadn't been brought up in the first place, but still it might not be a bad idea to suggest a few topics that might be discussed.

A very fertile subject for discussion is the Honor System. Plenty has already been said, but as the system matures there ought to be some very interesting discussions as to how the system has worked out in practice. Perhaps you think fraternities are good or bad, or that certain types of fraternities should be formed to include students who have hitherto been neglected.

You may drop your letters and comments into the Tech News box in the lobby of the Student Union.

Sincerely yours,

The Editors

Blitzkrieg

The frazzled contours, haggard appearances, dilapidated countenances, and fagged looks can at last be traced to the grades that have finally arrived—Yep, they've come! Isn't it strange what effect a little white card with a few hieroglyphics can have on us? So—now you know why everybody is running around knocking themselves out—and small wonder—

Anyway, all this seems to have little effect on Ray Calabrese. Ray has been receiving some very fiery letters from an unknown source. However, our gestapo agent has informed us that these interesting notes are usually sealed with a bright imprint of lipstick. We're willing to give two cents to find out who she is.

Well, Renee Magnes has up and done it. Yep—she's practically out of circulation now 'cause she's engaged to a certain Zimmie and is packing her bag to leave for New York to meet her in-laws. Good luck, Renee!!!

We've just discovered Dr. Boder knew Rasputin. Let's all be real, real good children, and perhaps he'll tell us about it some day.

Did you know that "Iggy" Iglitzen is the new idol of the unattached females in the general zoology class. Calm down, femmes; Iggy doesn't grade the papers.

Zelda Weiner went to see "The Maid of the Ozarks" last week and we've seen her date. Wo-o-oo wo-o-o-oo! Zelda, any time you're too busy for him, we'll be glad to take him off your hands. How about it?

Have you seen any of those delicious "coke-injected" cockroaches. For further details see Helen Marzullo on where to find these rare tidbits!

Your 8th columnist