



Women's Elections—Are They Democratic

Today an election is being held on campus. Coeds are electing the executive officers of four organizations—Associated Women Students (AWS), Women's Athletic Association (WAA), Independent Women's Association (IWA), and Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

One would think that on a campus in the United States, one could find an election that was democratic, but this does not appear to be the case this time.

When one thinks of voting in an election, he usually plans on selecting the best candidate for the office from a selection of nominees. The purpose is to allow the electorate to choose from the candidates the most qualified girl for the position.

AWS, WAA, and IWA all seem to be following this democratic plan of voting. The question is: What happened to the YWCA?

The Daily Nebraskan announced the slate of officers for the organiza-

tions Monday and the YWCA has slated only one girl for each office.

Nothing derogatory is intended to be directed towards the girls slated; they are probably very qualified girls capable of best fulfilling the offices for which they are slated. But is the YWCA so lacking in qualified girls that it can only slate one capable girl for each office? Surely there must be more than five top girls on a cabinet as large as the one the YWCA must have.

The YWCA backs its slate with the words "write-in votes will be accepted." Fine, that all looks very noble and worthy on the surface, but let us examine this a little more closely.

How many workers in the YWCA are aware of who the qualified girls are for the available positions? How many workers know what positions these qualified girls are interested in? How many workers are interested enough in the organization to find out who the qualified girls are and what

their interests are? How many workers are just going to go to the polls and mark X all the way down ballot?

If the interviewing board of executive officers wished to have these specific girls in these offices, why don't they have an officer election system similar to the one in the Red Cross? The executive board could then choose their almighty five officers and submit them to the chairmen. The chairmen could then make nominations from the floor and then voting could take place among the chairmen and executive officers.

The five girls slated for these offices now have the "election" as good as won and, to this paper, it does not seem to be the democratic way of electing officers.

The YWCA has many worthy projects which it sponsors, but the way to improve the organization on this campus is not through this undemocratic method of selecting officers. This is possibly one area where it could first begin its improvements.

Writer Opposes All-Campus Vote on USNSA

I would like to express to you and the members of the Student Council how I feel in regard to the proposed affiliation of our university with the United States National Student Association (USNSA) and also my opinion as to how this decision should be made.

I disagree with the students who maintain that the student body, as a whole, should be granted the right to vote on this issue. It is a common occurrence in our present day political structure for a select minority to make the decisions for the large uninformed majority. Our city, county, state, and national government are all based on this policy. It was the original intent of our nation's founding fathers to keep the ultimate authority of our nation out of the hands of the people.

Mr. Gabriel Almond in his book, *The American People and Foreign Policy*, points out that over 90% of our population is uninformed in regard to most issues both foreign and domestic. Only a small group which he calls the "attentive public" are informed of the issues and take an active role in the making of decisions. I believe that Mr. Almond's conclusion is quite relevant to our own campus. How many students (despite the Rag's publicity) have any idea what the USNSA is? How many students would even bother to vote? How many of those who do vote would vote only because they were told to vote and told how to vote? These are questions which I feel the Student Council should consider. I hope Miss Nore and the eleven other council members who favor a campus election will give these questions particular consideration. Is it not possible that the total attendance (less than 200 people) at the Panhellenic Forum on February 26th is an indication of student apathy?

I would urge the Student Council to evaluate the issues seriously and then make the decision for the student body as a whole. That is what we elected you for. Those students who are concerned and informed have the right and the responsibility to present their opinions to the council. But PLEASE don't turn this decision over to an

uninformed student body! Sincerely,
Harry Hamilton

P.S. I would readily admit that I am not fully aware of all the pros and cons of NSA. However, I certainly don't feel that the Student Council should avoid issues of international importance in order to devote its entire attention to campus problems. Perhaps NSA will give the Student Council and the students an opportunity to think, discuss, and decide how they stand on all world issues, not just problems facing

on USNSA

our day to day routine. Perhaps, NSA can help our council arouse our apathetic student body. Perhaps we should give it a try.

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