

THE PORT WEEKLY

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By Harry Vexer

Dear Reader:
All cheer! The annual uprising of the proletariat has taken place! PDSHS has elected its new regime. All of which brings me to the plan of governmental elections proposed by several of our lunatic fringe followers, for the eventual rule of this institution.

The new government will be elected by the "bloodless revolution" method. Instead of violence, the parties will engage in a pre-arranged mudslinging contest. The contest will be held in the gym, and several prize bulls are going to be flown in for the sideshow "throwing" exhibition. Directly after this lively campaigning, the voting will be held in the same place. Voting will be by a show of hands, at gun point. (The various candidates will have the privilege of choosing their respective "methods of friendly persuasion.") The winners will be announced at the "Bohemian Brawl," the annual election night dance. Losers will be tarred and feathered and ridden out of town on a rail. They will gather under Fidel Castro's supervision at a secluded mountain rendez-vous and prepare for a return bout at some future date. Meanwhile, the winning candidates will have the right to chain all students together—a ceremony symbolizing the pure and lofty aspirations of the new government. This government will go into effect immediately after election. It will operate on the negative Golden Rule basis; "Do unto others as you would not have others do unto you." The elected officials will comprise the ruling Cabinet, otherwise known as the "Presidium". All orders will be handed down by the chief officer, "Grand Premier and Lord High Regent of the Imperial Sector of the Kingdom of Echreiber, and Top-Man-on-the-Totem-Pole", given the alternate title of "Big Brother". However, all students will refer to him respectfully, while bending deeply at the knees, as "The Boss". The other officers will assume similar titles. The writers of this plan say there will be no Bill of Rights, as this is considered reactionary and right-wing by modern progressive thinkers.

Of course, this system will take time for perfection, but I assure all of you that it is rapidly gaining a foothold and support in this High School. So rally round the old war-cry, fellow students, "Don't Think, and the School will Stink!"

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Letters to Editors

Dear Editor,

I think the manner in which the elections were held was appalling. Many hours of hard work and campaigning went into them. Did we, as students, fully give credit to this work? At the assembly there was complete disregard for our real purpose in being there . . . that of electing our future school officers. Instead the student body seemed to be ready for a side show . . . a circus which would amuse them.

Serious attitudes in this school are disappearing fast and we are quickly becoming a school of aimless herds where initiative of any sort and individuality are no longer enviable traits. An election is not a personal battlefield for likes and dislikes but a matter of importance in which you judge the qualifications, aptitudes and experience of the candidates. Some of the questions addressed to the candidates, rather than proving any point, incited bad feelings.

There were certain "Pressure groups" (if I may be so bold) who prided themselves on the votes they influenced. I would like to take them from their exalted position and say that it is not really influencing someone if he is an "unthinking" person. So it isn't much to your credit, is it?

Now you have elected your slate for next year but your responsibility doesn't stop here. It really begins next September when your council again begins to work for your interests.

Sincerely,
Dot DeNave

BAND NEWS

by Richard Verdi

As the departure for Ontario, Canada, nears, the Port High School Band is planning their four day concert tour in that province. The trip, beginning on Wednesday morning, April 23, at 7:00 A.M., will continue with a ride on a Greyhound Bus, and plans have been made for the band to spend Wednesday night in a motel at Niagara Falls. On Thursday morning the band will depart for Hamilton, Ontario where they will be greeted and housed by members of the Hamilton High School Band and Orchestra. The band will play three concerts at the high school consisting mainly of music played at this year's Annual Band Concert. On Saturday morning the band will leave for home with hopes of returning by 11:00 p.m. Saturday night. All in all it promises to be a wonderful experience for all concerned. (Mr. Christopher has also planned a sight-seeing tour of Niagara Falls for the band members).



Should We Eliminate School Work?

With so much going on around school these days in the form of extra-curricular activities, the question arises. "What about the purpose for having PDSHS open?" This purpose, it would seem, is to further the learning and knowledge of the student body, while preparing them for life and a career in the big wide world. A noble purpose, to say the least, and one that we are slowly and with great care destroying. We are replacing the stress which used to fall on school work with an emphasis on the task of being well-rounded boys and girls.

The recipe for being well-rounded includes a cup of diced clubs of various sizes and shapes, two heaping tablespoons of sports activities of diversified sneaker smells, a level teaspoon of student government topped with a few raisins of ambition, and lastly a pinch of genius. It would take a genius to handle this meal with ease, and even he would probably end up taking tums for his tummy.

We find ourselves in a dilemma of our own making. Classes come up in high school with poor scholastic records, with low averages and with poor attitudes to work. The state and federal governments discuss the problem and consider turning school life into a replica of Soviet concentration camps, or to be less dramatic, into Russian high schools. All this fuss when actually what we need is a readjustment of our values, a cut down on extra-curricular activities and an "old-fashioned" stress on basic education, the education that the parents are interested in seeing administered and that the tax-payers are paying money to keep in the school systems.

What About History?

"Science", and "mathematics" seem to be the two most widely used words, nowadays. Ever since Sputnik was launched, the United States has been in a terrible rush, trying to make up for the unsatisfactory courses which most of our schools have in science and mathematics. We are very fortunate in that our school already offers various advanced courses in mathematics.

Our school officials are now setting up new programs of study so as to include more math and science. There are several courses in our school system which are really not necessary or which are offered too extensively. One of these is American history. History is a major subject, and we all acknowledge that fact, but four years of history are too much.

The Geography course offered now in ninth grade is a definite improvement over the Citizenship training course offered previously, but one whole year of it is unnecessary. On the other hand the time allotted for the study of World History is insufficient. Two years of American history are more than sufficient. American history has been taught to us ever since fourth grade. It seems as if every two years we have a course in American history. Why then is it necessary to repeat this for two years in high school?

A much better plan would be to limit the geography course to the first half of ninth grade. The rest of the year and all of tenth grade could then be devoted to world history. The course of study for eleventh grade would comprise of American history. The senior year could then be used for advanced courses in math and science, or perhaps economics, which would prove very valuable to many.

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