VOTE — AND COMPLETELY

Tomorrow is election day. Officers of all four undergraduate classes will be named by the result tomorrow of the class elections. As a result, we are publishing this article, the first requirement for making a “democracy work.” No matter how intensely the members of the society feel toward their government, no matter how democratically the executive heads of the organization of Technology’s undergraduate classes vote, the system is to function perfectly. Failure to number the candidates properly according to the preferential systems is responsible for this extra demand. The mere casting of a ballot becomes meaningless or even misleading if the voting is not done intelligently.

In any democratic system, such as the organization of Technology’s undergraduate classes, every eligible person must vote if the system shall make a pretense of being democratic. This is an absolute requirement for making a “democracy work.” No matter how intensely the members of the society feel toward their government, no matter how democratically the executive heads of the society administer the duties of their offices, if every unit of that society has not lent his voice to the cause which commands, its operations, the government is not physically democratic.

The class elections tomorrow, however, put one more requirement on the potential voting public. It is not enough that every Tech man should go to the polls tomorrow. The mere casting of a ballot becomes meaningless or even misleading if the voting is not done intelligently.

Technology’s preferential system of balloting is responsible for this extra demand. The system depends on proper ballot marking for its operation. Section 19 of Article IV of the Elections Committee Constitution explains the method of numbering the election winners, shows the necessity for complete ballot marking:

“Provide a tally sheet containing the names of all the candidates on the left, with columns to the right of the names. Sort the ballots into piles in accordance with the first choice indicated on them. Count the number in each pile, and enter these figures in the tally sheet in accordance with the second choice indicated on each ballot. Enter these total figures in the second column.

If there is still no choice, drop the candidate who stands last on the column in 2, and proceed as before. Continue until some one has a majority.

If the candidate is to be elected find the man who has the highest count by the method just indicated. Then eliminate his ballot and start again with the first choice.”

Essentially, the system is designed to prevent a minority candidate from being elected when a majority splits its votes between two other candidates, either of whom it would prefer to the minority man. This procedure makes it difficult for power politics to split the opposition — providing the delegates are competent in marking their ballots properly according to the preferential systems.

Each voter, therefore, must number the candidates in the order of his preference if the system is to function perfectly. Failure to number the candidates properly according to the preferential systems is responsible for this extra demand. If (his choices are near the bottom when the votes are counted) will nullify the influence of his ballot when the contest is narrowed down to two or three men.

Of course, most of the voters realize the need for voting preferentially, that a vote can easily be partially wasted if the numbering is not correct. Every ballot, however, must be marked completely and precisely according to the choices of the voters. Let Technology’s excellent system of undergraduate government become the vicar of innocence, or more tragically, carelessness.

FIRST AID

The Walker Dining Service Conference Committee held its first meeting last Friday, with results that were neither drastic nor surprising. They were not meant to be; the committee merely met to make plans for future procedures.

One notable feature of these plans was the suggestion to hold certain conferences in Morae Hall. This is in line with the feelings of the committee to make the students realize that it has been set up to help them, and not merely to quiet any unpleasant situation.

But if the students expect to be aided in their striving for food improvements, they must turn inform the members of the committee of their requests. That is what they are there for. Without student suggestions the committee can do little in the way of lasting good.

GRIDIRON GRIOT

This fall, for the first time since before the first World War, Technology, will have an intercollegiate football team. The team can not technically be called a “varsity,” for Sophomores, according to the present arrangement, will not be allowed to compete for positions. Except for this condition, next autumn Tech could sport its first varsity grid team since 1933.

For the past several years the lobby for revival of football at the Institute has been steadily mounting. Now that the most typical American college sport is again here its effects will no doubt be closely watched. It would indeed be tragic should the zeallessness of the players be the cause of the sport’s death after all the work and words of its upbuilding fans. Candidates for the team should bear in mind that any scholastic slip on their part will reflect unfavourably on the new organization.

THE READER SPEAKS

Dear Editor:

I can dip columns of jubilant verses, I would like to sound a warning note. My note is a word of advice to my fellow和技术者 and such hound in the pleasure that they really are clean. It has been suggested that I write a column about it, but I should identify myself with a notice to The TECH.

This idea is pursued and has its personal advantage as a help for street clean. The tiresome one is it is successful. One simple dip their glasses in a mixture of warm water before being filled and after being filled with cold water, wip them with a clean handkerchief.

This is my formula for success.

Yours truly,
MILTON H. MCKEAN, ’41