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EDITORIAL

Political Action, Please.

There exists at present a condition that seemingly rests upon tradition, tradition in a place that certainly resents and rejects traditions of worthless and outmoded character.

We are faced with the unusual situation of having almost half our student body consisting of new students. These new students when they came here were given rather a moderate indoctrination program. They were told what classes might be expected to be like, what the work program scheme consisted of, and then the idealogy of Black Mountain was explained as well as it might be. They were led to believe that there would be no discriminatory practices as there are in the administrative practices of other school governments. They believed that, instead, there would be a high level of democratic procedure. They find that they are disenfranchized, while they constitute almost 50% of the student body. Voting is certainly one of the highest privileges of any citizen or participant in any type of democratic group, and must be included in a constitution that advocates extensions of liberty.

We are brushing aside and taking for granted the acceptance of the new students for the new slate of officers. We have no doubt of the sincerity, or really of the capability of the present student officers to represent entire student opinion, but we must face the fact that they were chosen by a majority of a minority. It this reasonable? It looks as if the old students were running the whole show. A most blatant example of railroading was exhibited at the meeting that was to pass upon three student agreements. I'm sure that the old students noticed the fact that the new students were asking the questions that they had asked a year, or even a quarter ago when they were confronted with the choice of accepting or rejecting or even modifying these agreements. Mostly they, however, the new students, wanted to discuss them. There was no chance given and the agreements were run through. The attitude of the old students appears to be a paternalistic one. Our present constitution seems to lead to a government that is used as a time saving device merely to "keep things running" instead of an expression of the majority's wishes.

A student meeting will soon be called to discuss this matter. I should like to reprint a copy of the petition that is circulating in its connection.

*AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT ELECTIONS OF STUDENT OFFICERS WHEREBY ALL STUDENTS WHO WERE NOT PRESENT AT BMC THE PRECEDING SEMESTER WERE DENIED THE RIGHT TO NOMINATE AND ELECT, WE, THE UNDERSIGNED STUDENTS, RECOMMEND THAT A STUDENT MEETING BE CALLED FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS TO THE STUDENT CONSTITUTION.

Section III Election Procedures
Article D) The student Officers shall be elected six (6) weeks after the beginning of each academic semester.
Article E) Vacancies in student offices shall be filled by a general student election within ten (10) days of their occurrence.
Article H) All students who have attended the college for six (6) weeks preceding any student election are eligible to take part in all student elections as voters and candidates.

I Hope that at this same meeting the matter of records and minutes will be brought to attention and some action taken on them. The constitution states that the records and files of the student government will be open to all students. As far as I can ascertain, there is a great deal of uncertainty as to the whereabouts and condition of these records. I believe that they should be put into presentable condition and their location made public. Also there are no minutes of student or community meetings that are being taken or kept. We make much of parliamentary procedure, yet we neglect this! Action, Please. ..Markoff

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In a word, no editorial published in the paper necessarily represents the sentiment of the staff. This space is open to all.

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Herb Cable and Squeeky Atkinson, nominated by the community to serve as Fire Chiefs, were officially assigned just in time to be initiated into the real thing: a goodsized forest fire raged through the dead leaves and up the dry tree trunks on the knoll a few days ago. The whole community fought the blaze with everything from teeth to Indian pumps. A providential rainstorm soaked the area the next night, relieving night watchers of their vigil. Rumor has it that certain ill-fated visitors were starting on a tour of the studies building just as the siren sounded and were stunned to see..... (Con't. Page 8.)