



Isn't it electioneering?

THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS has fulfilled its mission in providing the students with the opportunity to learn good politics. The first semester of this year marked the establishment of the USC Supreme Student Council. The theories on government in a democracy that are taught in the classrooms can now be applied through this student government.

It all began with an election of its officers. It is significant to note that the election was very eventful. It left stories to tell and experiences to recall. During the election, this interesting experience happened:

A young lady politely approached a gentleman and said:

"Mister, will you kindly vote for my candidate, Miss so-and-so?"

The gentleman slowly turned his back and inquired: "Who is she, is she... beautiful?"

"Certainly, she is," the lady answered.

"Where is she? I'll see her first," he said further.

"It is I, Mister," she seriously countered.

The gentleman smiled and said: "I beg to differ with your description, Madame."

Really, nowadays good appearance gives more weight than intellectual ability. Had the lady been beautiful she could have received his vote.

The best candidate for an elective post in national or campus politics is the glamour boy or the glamour girl. Hence, Mr. Jose Yulo took the movie actor, Rogelio de la Rosa, as one of his candidates for Senator.

Differences could be traced between campus politics and national

politics. In real politics, it's the party affiliation that assures a candidate of victory. An unknown candidate may still win if he belongs to a party that has an established name and has won the confidence of the people. In campus politics the candidate who prints the most number of sample ballots and propaganda materials is assured of winning the election. Good qualifications seem to be immaterial and will not count much, for the one who is most efficient in distributing handbills for himself gets elected.

In the recent USC Student Council election, this tendency was noted to be true. Wrong choice of candidates resulted. To be honest about it, there were those who were elected with nothing to qualify them for the position in the Council.

There were candidates who were elected merely because of their being handsome or beautiful. This is besides those who won because they were bold enough to distribute cards and posters for themselves. Party affiliation was discounted. The election was a contest on self-preservation procedure.

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Of course, this is not to underestimate those who were elected by their own merits. As a matter of



Were candidates sold according to personalities?

fact, the important posts of the council were filled up with highly deservng men.

Everybody got equal chances of

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showing his worth. Nobody was branded as a Racuyal, Antinoo or a Malapino. If he was officially enrolled he was perfectly qualified to run for any post in the Council. Academic record, sex and conduct were not considered.

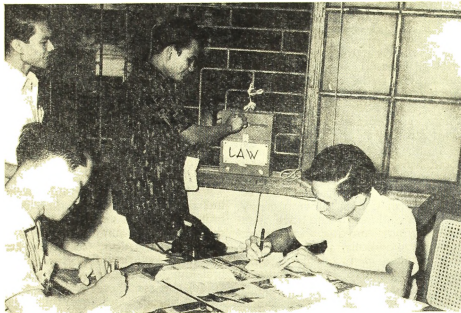
Deen. Voters did not hesitate to go with him. Further, he put on an effective strategy. He promised to give a "good holiday" to all his co-engineering students if the entire department would go solid for him. And nobody in his depart-

There were 74 official candidates for Senator. Yet, only eleven senatorial posts were to be filled up. Mr. Teresito Escario garnered the most number of votes followed by Mr. Antonio Dakay. The following were elected senators: Teresito Escario, Antonio Dakay, Marieta Alonso, Manuel Villarosa, Alex Villacastin, Manuel Valenzuela, Vicente Bendanillo, Eduardo Rosello, Ramon Roska, Betty Antonio and Anthony Sian.

For Secretary, Miss Maria Celsa Briones garnered a considerable majority over her rival. Mr. Simeon Ancheta was elected Treasurer and Miss Annie Ratcliffe, Auditor. For Press Relations Officer, Mr. Sixto Abao, Jr. won.

Meanwhile, the newly-formed Supreme Student Council has pledged to frame its constitution and by-laws. Mr. Erasmo Diola of the College of Law was officially designated Chairman to prepare and draft the provisions of said constitution.

The Supreme Student Council was established only very shortly before the close of the first semester. In spite of that, however, it did something beneficial to all the student populace prior to the closure of classes. Discounts on transportation fares were extended to the students then going home to spend their semestral vacation. It is hard to guess what the Council will accomplish during this semester. Nevertheless, with the spirit shown by the officers, much can still be expected. For the meantime, let us just wait and see. ¶



The voter and the ballot box.

our **CAMPUS POLITICS** • •

by **samuel b. fabroz** • • • • •

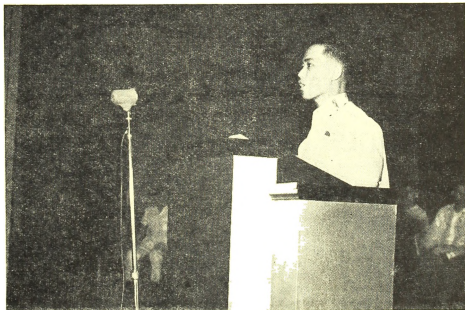
Was the election properly conducted? One cannot be perfect. But what more do we expect? Irregularity is part of the game. And that's democracy. The 1949 national elections went down in the history of Philippine politics as the most shocking election ever had by us. Yet, we look at it as only an edge-mark for future improvement.

When Carolinians went to the polls during the last Student Council, they were demonstrating and applying the principles and procedures they learned from the classrooms. They were rehearsing a norm of conduct which they may later on apply in real life.

The Carolinians gave their mandate in favor of Vicente Balbuena for the Presidency. He deserves the verdict. He got a big majority. His election was not a surprise to anybody. He was expected to win; there was no issue against him. The issues against his opponents were terrible.

The vice-presidency went to Jose

ment dared to vote against him. They might miss the sizzling steak at the downtown restaurant.



President-elect Vicente Balbuena, giving his address during the induction of the officers of the USC Supreme Student Council.