

Candidates State Aims

ALICE LYONS

The war and the absence of men—they are all tied up in some way with the present election. They mean that more girls are running for office than have ever done before. They mean that campus life will be radically changed and that the Council will have added duties and responsibilities.

Enthusiasm and active interest seem to be the greatest elements completely lacking in Oberlin. The VTA is at present putting on a campaign fighting inflation and indifference. There should also be some sort of a campaign fighting disinterest and indifference in student government. That is exactly what I propose.

Oberlin has never tried a party system of government. Oberlin needs a party system, as it is found in many high schools today, with two or three groups—or parties—pushing election campaigns along and getting everyone's fighting blood up. With party platforms, moreover, you know exactly where every candidate stands on certain issues. It was not until last year that even presidential candidates were required to take a stand on anything.

Perhaps one reason why the Student Council does not arouse more interest may be that the Council is not close enough to the students. I would like to see next year's Council plan for an entirely new government organization, a group having more members from the freshman and sophomore classes, and also a group, more directly representative of the student body as a whole through an enlarged representation. It is the Council's weakest point that the lower classes are the ones to be excluded. A generally larger Council would do much to improve things by the very fact that it would contain a larger cross-section of student opinion.

(Continued on Page 4, col 2)

KEN OKUDA

Platforms, particularly in a time of crisis, are difficult to formulate, but I propose to emphasize the following program:

A well-rounded social program which shall recognize the conditions existing on campus, and a more vigorous pursuit of the aims of the Student Council and student government at Oberlin. Specifically:

1. In connection with this, the chapel situation is worthy of serious consideration. The bogey of compulsory chapel stares at us, but I feel that a program of better publicity, more expression of student interest on the planning as well as in the execution, and an honest effort on the part of the students to carry through their convictions is the only solution.

Intelligent student opinion should be encouraged on important local and national issues. More discussions and forums, encouragement of the program now in the social science department to offer post-war reconstruction courses, full use of the Forum committee to secure qualified speakers.

2. To encourage a program of extra-curricular activities which shall be food for thought and action. The bull and hen sessions during Religious Conference were constructive and worthwhile, indicating that students want to think informally. Such a program should be given direction by a student-faculty committee.

3. The activities of the War Council should be enlarged to give consideration to plans of voluntary farm help recruitment from among the student body, to look into the possibility of an accredited course to give practical education so as to fully utilize college men and women to meet the farm labor shortage.

4. I propose no further constitutional revision, particularly since emphasis must be upon the substance and not the form of student government.