## Reflections of the Class of 1957

## By JW Smith

years? A perusal of every issue of the Student Weekly in that span produced an inarguable answer the presidential election of 1956, when Dwight Eisenhower won a second term

an egg only once. The SW also wondered if the fact that a Democratic rally conflicted with

bewildered at his car with an Eisenhower sticker on it.

than any man I know of t and H-Republican and independents in the county.

Dick Schier, government, and Bill Toth, history, wrote articles supporting Stevenson and Eisenhower, respectively. Schier praised the youthfulness of Democratic leaders and the

The state senators from Lancaster (Republican) and York (Democrat) counties came to the campus on consecutive nights. Edward Kessler of Lancaster promised greater effort to get

individual r a plea was made in 1908 for classes to be canceled on Election Day; R.L. Herbst, father of

Progressives (no Democrats?), 14-13, in 1924; professors endorsed AI Smith and students backed Herbert Hoover in 1928; Hoover topped Roosevelt in a 1932 straw vote, 279-196 (54 for Socialist Norman Thomas); Wilkie beat Roosevelt in 1940, 247-137.

The SW did not editorially endorse either candidate, but hinted strongly it liked Ike. It found flaws in both parties, but preferred the GOP platform on power, farm supports, Taft-Hartley and fewer costly promises. (People took platforms more seriously in those days.)

An SW mock election four days before the voting gave 403 votes to Eisenhower and 163 for

distribution went 21-0 for Ike. Still, Adlai did better than he did in the national electoral vote, which went to Eisenhower by 457-73.

At F&M in the Pennsylvania Senate race, Democrat Joseph Clark tied Republican incumbent Jm Duff, 273-273, presaging the ballot splitting that cost Duff his seat.

Historians debate the effectiveness of the Eisenhower administration, but as we gaze back Peace, though uneasy, was enjoyed. The Interstate Highway System remains a legacy. We can agree he was a remarkable man a so-so West Pointer who became a great general; one with without academic credentials who became president of a prestigious university; one with no political background who became a popular two-term president. St

Dick Tobin, New York political writer, speaking at F&M just after the election, claimed the landslide was a personal one and the GOP was in trouble. He speculated it might soon be as

dead as the Whigs. Eight years later, after the Goldwater debacle, he could have been hailed as a prophet.

1956: Democrats have won six and Republicans seven.