



## Buckley and McGovern Debate

### Is Liberalism Dead?

by Maria Plaza  
Collegian News Editor

The future of liberalism was the topic last Monday night as conservative William F. Buckley debated liberal George McGovern before an overflow crowd in Erie Hall.

The debaters covered a wide variety of topics, including the deficit, the arms race, civil rights, the Iran-Contra scandal, and the campaign of Jesse Jackson.

"Liberalism in America is dying," said Buckley in his opening statements. Buckley, who's many roles include author, advisor, adventurer, television personality, and founder of President Reagan's "favorite newspaper" National Review, proceeded to ascribe liberalism's "brief existence in American political philosophy" to the fact that it "has no redemptive features."

Buckley also commented on the changed meaning of liberalism. He said that in 1887 Woodrow Wilson described the history of liberalism as "the history of man's ethos to restrain the growth of government." Today however, liberalism seeks out the government "as the principle agent of human improvement," said Buckley.

"But the government has been a tremendous failure to the extent that it seeks to improve the quality of life," Buckley said. Instead, he said, the private sector is "almost exclusively" responsible for the progress that has been made.

Commenting on Jesse Jackson's Michigan caucus victory, Buckley said "I think that perhaps many of you who consider yourselves liberals would be embarrassed at the notion that Jesse Jackson is the epitome of liberalism. Jesse Jackson is an extraordinary character, but he is the epitome of only himself." He described Jackson's foreign policy as "somewhere between Fidel Castro and Pol Pot," and wondered aloud how Jackson would fare in New York four years after calling it "Hymie Town."

Buckley supported Reagan's veto of a bill proposing sanctions against South Africa. "Under what criterion do we commend ourselves for

boycotting South Africa when we encourage further trade with Bulgaria, Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and the Soviet Union?" he asked.

He also attacked "the myth of liberalism of the spontaneously generated dollar from Washington, D.C.," that encourages Americans to believe "that if this money comes in from Washington it is at the expense of nobody at all." In reality, he said, most money given to a state was sent to Washington by that state in the first place.

"Liberalism is lacking in any sense of ultimate meaning, that's why a lot of liberals say 'We have to get more people out to vote'...without saying what we should vote for."

Buckley called voting to a "civic sacrament" and said "that to engage in it without proper preparation is to defame that sacrament."

McGovern, who called Behrend "Penn-Behrend College," got the audience's attention immediately when he recalled his race in the 1972 presidential election. McGovern won only one state, Massachusetts, but said he was consoled by the fact that he also won the District of Columbia "where the voters are closest to the White House and where, presumably, they have the best information on who is needed." He added that, since he also carried Erie, he has always felt that "the smartest voters in America live in Massachusetts, the District of Columbia, and Erie, Pennsylvania."

"If liberalism is dying, someone forgot to tell the voters in Michigan," McGovern stated, referring to Jesse Jackson's caucus victory there. "If it is dying, it had a pretty good last gasp," he added.

"Neither liberalism nor conservatism is dying...but the two tend to take turns dominating the national scene," McGovern said.

Liberalism is popular when problems caused by the pursuit of private interest accumulate and we "begin to get demand for more positive action from the government....People grow bored with selfish motives. They begin to ask not what their country can do for them, but what they can do for their country," stated McGovern.



"If liberalism is dying, someone forgot to tell the voters in Michigan."  
- George McGovern

"The prospects of liberalism look pretty good," he said. "Liberalism will be around long after Reaganism and Buckleyism are gone," McGovern added.

"Reaganism is over...at last, it is bedtime for Bonzo," McGovern said, quoting historian Arthur Schlesinger. Even if Bush is the next president, "we will not see much of the original Reagan program beyond 1989," he added.

Commenting on the Republican race, McGovern pointed out that the most conservative Republican candidates, such as DuPont and Robertson, have "fallen by the wayside."

McGovern mentioned the overruling of Reagan's veto of the Grove City civil rights bill and the rejection of Reagan's Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork as signs of increasing liberalism in America.

McGovern suggested that even President Reagan might be a little

more liberal than he used to be. "It is not an indication that liberalism is dying when a President who began his administration talking about the evil empire and the folly of negotiating with them ends up antagonizing his own right-wing supporters by negotiating a treaty with the evil empire...." he said, referring to Reagan's recent arms reduction treaty with Gorbachev.

"Liberalism is far from dying in domestic areas," said McGovern, citing public support for "liberal programs" like food stamps, student loan programs, and assistance for the poor as examples of liberalism's strength.

Buckley and McGovern both agreed that Congress must share responsibility for the deficit. Buckley cited the deficit as an example of "the government's capacity for destruction." McGovern blamed it on Reagan's "unwise tax cut and...a poorly planned military buildup which accompanied it."



Newly Elected Presidents; Steve McGarvey of the S.G.A. (l) and Joe Cunningham of Commuter Council (r).

### S.G.A. Elections Yield New Behrend Leaders

by Holly Lew  
Collegian News Editor

Student Government positions filled late last week included Commuter Council (CC), Inter Club Council (ICC), Joint Residence Council (JRC), Student Government Association (SGA), and Student Programming Council (SPC) Presidents and Vice Presidents, and 8 commuter and 3 resident senators. Five resident senate seats remain open.

Elected were: Joe Cunningham and MaryBeth Zawistoski, CC President and Vice President respectively; Scott Serapiglia, ICC President (Vice Presidency remains open); Kevin Trenney and Stan

Lefes, JRC President and Vice President respectively; Steve McGarvey and Beth Buck, SGA President and Vice President respectively; and Joye Dado and Brent Vernon, SPC President and Vice President respectively.

Commuter Senators elected were Neal Cheskis, Alicia Gebhardt and JoAnn Gelwicks.

Resident Senators elected were Nicole Bryant, Randy Eadie, Michael Forbes, Diane Say and Stanley Washington.

Students interested in the remaining Commuter senate seats should inquire at the SGA office located behind the RUB desk, first floor Reed Union Building.

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### Corrections

The Greg Green photo in last issue's Sport section was taken by Mark Pedley.

The men's volleyball photo in last issue's Sports section was taken by Thang Tran.

## Notices

American Society for Quality Control, Energy Division has scholarship applications available for Engineering and E. Tech. students. Available for both bachelor and associate degree programs in the Financial Aid Office, 221 Glennhill. DEADLINE: TODAY.

Applications for Student Computer Consultant are being accepted for Fall '88. Apply to the Computer Center by April 4.

Career Development and Placement Services "How to conduct a Job Search" workshop. Apr. 6 at noon in R116.

Dr. Chet Wolford's essay on *The Red Badge of Courage* from his *The Anger of Stephen Crane* has been published in *Modern Critical Interpretations: The Red Badge of Courage*, edited by Harold Bloom of Yale University. Wolford is an Associate Professor of Business and English.

Dr. Ralph Abernathy, Past Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference has tirelessly preached on behalf of racial equality and justice. One of America's most respected black leaders since the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Abernathy will participate in the Speaker Series Tuesday April 12 at 8 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall. Free and open to the public.

Dr. Thomas Wilson's *Africa, Afro-Americans, and Hypertension: An Hypothesis* has been reprinted in *The African Exchange: Toward a Biological History of Black People* (Duke University Press).

Emerging Leaders Series "Procrastination and the College Student" presented by Personal Counselor Dr. Louanne Barton, Mar. 31 at 5 p.m. in R116. "Positive Thinking Techniques" presented by Dr. Barton, Apr. 5 at noon in R116.

Health Center Hours. Change in physician hours: Dr. Oberreder will be available Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from 1:00 p.m. The Health Center hours remain Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. and Friday from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Library Hours. The Library hours for the Spring semester have been extended on a trial basis. Here's the new schedule: Monday through Thursday: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.; Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Saturday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Sunday: Noon - 11:00 p.m.

OFF Grant Information Available from the Office of Federal Program through Penn State's Electronic Bulletin Board. For more info, call the Computer Center at ext. 6415.

Peggy Krider, who will rejoin Penn State - Behrend's faculty this Fall after a semester off from her position as instructor of arts, will present a one-woman art show at Mercyhurst College's Cummings Gallery. The exhibit opens April 10 from 3 - 5 p.m.

Snake Venom in Medicine. Biology Club presents Dr. Rosenberg Thurs. March 31 at 7 p.m. in Reed 117. FREE to all.

Summer Session Class Schedules are available in the Registrar's Office.

University Park Housing. All residence hall contracts which were submitted through the Behrend lottery on Feb. 15 were accepted. Students who submitted contract are guaranteed housing space for Fall 1988. Refer any questions to P.J. Brown at ext. 6111.