

Guessing Game

University students are playing a new game. It's called "Guess Who's President of the Undergraduate Student Government."

The first step of this game is to place Jeff Long, the outgoing president, on academic probation for the Spring Term. This means that Jon Fox, vice president, is now "acting president."

Second step is to hold an election, to decide next year's president. Let's run Jim Womer against Fox. Womer, for those who are not avid USG fans, is chairman of USG's Legal Awareness Committee.

Despite the popularity of Fox, formerly known as the "Spirit of '69," Womer defeats him for the presidency. This is an upset, for no one has ever defeated Fox.

But Womer, campaigning on the slogan "Isn't the Establishment Wonderful?—Jim Womer Doesn't Like It!" manages to convince the student body that he holds the key to "student power."

So now we have Womer as president-elect, Long as the displaced president, and Fox as the acting president, until Womer is sworn in.

But the game is just getting underway, for the next move tells us that the election results might be reversed. This is because of discrepancies in West Halls balloting.

It seems that someone named Jay Herizog, who will graduate in six weeks, has run in the election as a write-in candidate for USG congress. The USG Supreme Court claims that West voters were not given proper write-in instructions by the Elections Commission, ruling that the election must be re-held in West.

The rules of our game do not explain why anyone would run for congress

when he is about to graduate. But they do tell us that if the voters in West ballot again, the Womer-Fox race might have a different outcome.

By now, we're not sure whether the West election will be rescheduled. Until a decision is reached, Womer is our president, and the game is over.

But the game is over in more ways than USG officials might think. The game is over because students have not paid attention to the activities of our amateur politicians.

Why should the student care who the USG president is? Why should the student care about a Supreme Court or an Elections Commission?

Why should the student care about USG?

These are questions that face Womer, or whoever the new USG president might be. When he takes office, he will inherit an organization that holds a minimum amount of student respect.

Why no respect? Because USG has not demonstrated that it can solve student complaints.

It will be Womer's responsibility to prove that USG can secure results on student problems. It will be up to him to provide action on such standard issues as the bookstore, coed housing regulations and the Ritenour Health Center, along with more radical questions such as coed curfews.

USG must show that it can spend less time on petty political squabbles and more time on sincere work that will obtain results.

Until USG shows that it is capable of successfully working for student goals, the Penn State student body will remain unwilling to "play the game."—W.E.

BERRY'S WORLD



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"Looks as though Bobby's pulling out all the stops—he got a HAIRCUT!"

Letters to the Editor

Piggyback Ride on a Memory

TO THE EDITOR: I was appalled at the editorial published in yesterday's paper. The about-face support lent to Senator Kennedy is as come-lately as his entry into the Presidential race, and even more incomprehensible.

Your editorial was in fact a negation of the glimmer of honest politics sparked by Senator McCarthy who promises to close the alienation chasm (I find "gap" too inappropriate.) By your support of the Kennedy monarchy and his "machine" you have negated the essence and the hope inherent in the democratic process. If a man is not to be judged by his election victories, his integrity or his courage — how important can a "machine" be?

Do not be fooled by the family resemblance and the Organization. Do not be fooled by a man who did not act when it was imperative. If a candidate does not use his political power when it is right, what makes you think he would use his presidential power when we need him?

A vote for Senator Eugene McCarthy is a vote for integrity and honesty — not for a piggyback ride on a memory. The McCarthy campaign is a reaffirmation of our New America.

Marilyn A. Nelson
Graduate Student

Reagan's Detractors Not To Be Trusted

By LAURA WERTHEIMER
Of The Collegian Staff

America needs a choice in '68, not an echo, says Bobby Kennedy, echoing Eugene McCarthy, echoing the old Goldwater slogan. "America needs a choice, not an echo," said Donald Ernsberger, chairman of Students for Reagan at the University, echoing Kennedy and McCarthy, but talking about someone quite different—a choice not a you-know-what.

Ronald Reagan, a first rate governor who has pulled California state finances from a 250 million dollar deficit the year he took office to a pay-as-you-go balanced budget operation, is running into a barrage of criticism. Some of it is so frantic that one wonders what motivates the critics.

When political criticism passes the boundaries of reason, as perhaps the McCarthy era (Joe, not Eugene) best illustrates, it certainly inherits a closer examination.

Reagan is criticized as a "second rate actor." Perhaps he was. But acting is an honorable profession, certainly as honorable as selling hats or used cars. It seems significant that no one found it relevant to suggest Harry Truman was unfit to be president because he failed to make the big time in the haberdashery biz.

Obviously the real case against Reagan has very little to do with bad acting. Liberals object to something far more serious. What is it? Unlikely as it seems, it could be success.

Liberals in Control

Politicians of liberal persuasion have been in control of the legislative and judicial branches of government since the days of FDR. Witness the trend in the Supreme Court decisions — which recently compelled so esteemed a liberal as Justice Black, longtime member of the Supreme Court, to publicly repudiate his former policies and hold that the judicial had usurped legislative function, and was wrong to do so. Witness the increasing progress towards the welfare state, illustrated by Medicare, by federal aid to education, and by growing federal control of poverty programs on local levels.

Liberals have been eager for "meaningful dialogue." They seemed to talk exclusively, however, with conversationalists of the Left. Conservatives are portrayed as pudgy Southern Colonels with white whiskers and black hearts, who stand adamant against progress, probably because their mothers didn't love them or because they witnessed some disturbing Freudian scene that warped their childhood. As such they are laughed at, pitied and hated, and effectively ignored on the national level.

But look at Ronnie Reagan. He has the glamor of a movie star, for the obvious reason. He is an effective politician, winning his first election by an amazing million votes. He is a man of principle, combining wit with

the political power of JFK. He is an able debater. Newsweek reports that he obviously an unashamed conservative, and California loves him.

Brown Was Popular

Pat Brown, California's governor, was a dedicated liberal. He was also an enormously popular figure in California. He was "friend of the oppressed," cited by the Americans for Democratic Action as being liberal above and beyond the call of duty. Yet Watts erupted, and the cover of Life magazine showed him burned in effigy. He appointed Clark Kerr, one of the most lauded administrators in the country, recipient of commendations from many liberal organizations, to be president at Berkeley, and Berkeley erupted. Brown did everything the liberal establishment proscribed to cure California. The trouble was not with Brown, but with his ideology.

The liberal solutions to the problems of our century do not work as they are intended. We cannot vote ourselves everything we'd like, in the way of municipal improvements and swimming pools, just because we'd like it, without counting the cost and seeing if we can afford it. Economy is important, which is what conservatives have been saying.

Reagan Said It

And it is what Reagan said. He was so patently not a stereotype conservative that people, tax-paying, relatively stable, well-adjusted, happy, average people, listened to him. He spoke politics in the common-sense way that most people take for granted in ordering their own lives, but have stopped expecting in political rhetoric. Having seen quite enough of the alleged Great Society, they elected Reagan by a cool million votes.

The Establishment was shook. Conservatives don't win in California; they just don't.

National attention was focused elsewhere, and hardly anyone knows that Reagan has succeeded. Who knows that California has a lower crime rate, a balanced budget, a local system of government that is being strengthened while across the nation local government is being controlled more and more by state authorities? And that Harris polis show Reagan is more popular in California than ever?

Threat to the Liberals

That is why, as convention time approaches, Reagan is attacked with such virulent and bitter sarcasm. He poses a threat to liberal dogma that has seemingly failed to accomplish what it sought. Liberals, like conservatives, are seeking a better way of life. Their plan—the welfare state—has widened the class division between the poor and the productive, and seems to be leading, inevitably, towards anarchy.

But when you discard the liberal philosophy, you of necessity discard most of the liberals. Entrenched politicians will not abdicate without a fight, and people who are ideologically committed rarely admit they were wrong. In such a battle of ideologies, the ranks of the defensive are apt to resort to unsavory tactics.

The fight to discredit Reagan is an ideological battle. And any time the arguments are presented on less than a intellectual and philosophical plane, when they are epithets without substantiation, it is wise to distrust them.



MISS WERTHEIMER

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PAGE TWO

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USG SPRING WEEK

ARTS FESTIVAL

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