

USG political hopefuls begin stumping

By MITCH CHERNOFF and NANCY POSTREL of the Collegian Staff

Posters in classroom buildings and students sporting buttons indicate the Undergraduate Student Government presidential campaign is in full swing. Five candidates representing a wide variety of views have declared their candidacy for the office to date. Robert Angelo, head of USG's Department of Academic Affairs, is not new to the election game. He ran for the USG presidency last year as Oz, using a megaphone to expound his views. Angelo said Oz is a thing of the past

and he will conduct a totally serious campaign this year stressing his work in academics during the past year. Angelo was instrumental in establishing a peace studies course this spring. He also directed the writing of a scholarship information guide and is continuing work establishing women's studies and peace studies majors. If elected, Angelo said he would work to set up new courses. "I would have Academic Assembly student councils encourage new course proposals within the colleges. This would be different from experimental courses," he said. Another of Angelo's plans is setting up a central test file. He said, "We will gather exams that professors have

available and make them accessible to students." A lecture note service also is planned in which students would recopy, print and sell their notes. Angelo stressed that this would be an experimental service "and not a substitute for class attendance." Angelo's running mate, USG Senator John Rocco, called himself "a stabilizing factor." Rocco said he would like to reorganize the USG Senate. "There's too much triviality now," he said. Rocco suggested bi-weekly Senate meetings, instead of meeting every week as they do now. He said he would like to see compulsory projects for senators.

A different perspective is being approached by presidential candidate Jim Cory. A candidate of the Young Socialist Party, Cory is basing his campaign on predominantly economic issues. His platform states "no tuition hikes, no cutbacks in EOP or PHEAA, no cutbacks in sports and no lay-offs of faculty or staff." If elected, Cory said he plans to hold a mass meeting of students, faculty members and University employees to plan a University-wide strike. Cory said

this would "force the restoration of education appropriations ravaged by Nixon and Shapp." Cory said, "We're Socialists, we're revolutionaries. The only way any of these problems are going to be solved is for the working people to take power. There shouldn't even be any tuition at this University — our parents built it." He said he planned to use USG funds to urge the labor movement to defend the students' "right to an education." "We expect to win," Cory said,

"because none of the other candidates have said anything about the budget cuts. They can't defend the students." Commenting on the University, Cory said, "These people are nothing but criminals." He continued, "The University is packing more and more students into classes. People actually are going to class early in order to get seats." Cory and running mate Joe Marinucci are planning a jammy April 11 to promote their campaign.



John Rocco and Robert Angelo

One candidate for president is planning to form a political party for the future. USG Senator George Cernusca said, "We're developing a student rights party. We don't want to alienate the administration," he stated, "but the priority lies with representing the students." Cernusca added, "If we actually represent the students' interests, they'll become interested in USG." Cernusca's platform includes "a tenant union to fight rip-off landlords, restructuring student standards board: No kangaroo courts, retaining a student legal counsel and building a union of student workers." To fight the tuition hike and budget cuts, Cernusca said, "There are few legal alternatives, like taking the

University into court to have them prove the tuition hike is warranted." Cernusca said money from the USG budget could be used for court costs but added the American Civil Liberties Union is interested in this and may help. Cernusca said only slight reorganization would be necessary for USG. "The Senate is okay the way it is now," he said, "but I would like to see the Academic Assembly beefed up a little bit. What I'd really like to see is more communication within the USG organization." Cernusca said student membership on the Board of Trustees should be raised. "USG should definitely take action on anything that affects students," he said. Cernusca's experience includes one year as USG senator, during which he

was chairman of the Ritenour Hearings Board and organizer of a student workers' survey. His vice presidential candidate, James Lomax, cited his experience as his main selling point. Lomax, who has served in the military as a policeman and in numerous other jobs in the last 10 years, said "I know how political systems work. If you want to resolve problems, you'll have to use methods of solving these problems that are really effective." Lomax cited as an example suing the University rather than demonstrating on Old Main lawn. Cernusca pointed out that Lomax, now a fourth term student, will not graduate next year and will be able to help students for a long time. "I think he's got wisdom," Cernusca said.



Jim Cory and Dan Marinucci

Incumbent Mark Jinks is running with a new vice presidential candidate, Senator Frank Muraca. Jinks became president last January when Michael Shields resigned. Muraca said, "Our campaign is based on what we have done in the past plus our current platform." He explained programs started by Jinks last term will be followed through. These include extending the pre-paid bus system and fighting to get a full-time lawyer to represent students. The Jinks-Muraca platform also includes a number of new ideas. According to Muraca, among the most important of these is to give faculty members credit toward tenure for advising. Muraca explained this would improve the quality of advising. "Tenure is now based on research," he said. "If credit is given for advising as well, faculty will take more time with it

and students will benefit. This will help freshmen and transfer students especially," he noted. Muraca also proposed a grading system to give students an intermediate grade of + (.5). He explained that the extra half point will be equivalent to a C+ or a B+, for example. "It's to recognize that the student has done a few points better," Muraca said. "It shows the difference between an 87 and an 80." Another idea is telephone rentals for students. Muraca said residence halls used to have private phone lines, but they were removed in 1955. He added they could be installed again for a small fee. "It would work like the refrigerator rentals," he said. "This is certainly not a lofty issue, but just a little comfort," Muraca continued. "We're not ignoring the little things. USG is a service organization, not a governing body."

Muraca said another important item in their platform is the establishment of a student lobby. "Tuition increases are prompted by the state legislators," he said. "Many of them feel Penn State should have the same tuition as Temple and Pitt, whose costs have risen faster." Muraca said the lobby may be a people's lobby, or consist of hiring two graduate students or may be in league with other state universities. Jinks said he plans to keep his relations with the administration "low key." "When you walk into an administrator's office, you should ask him about the plants on his desk, to help break down the barriers. You have to relate to an administrator in other ways. Screaming and yelling won't get anything done," he added. The fifth candidate, Preston Smith, was out of town and could not be reached for comment.



James Lomax and George Cernusca

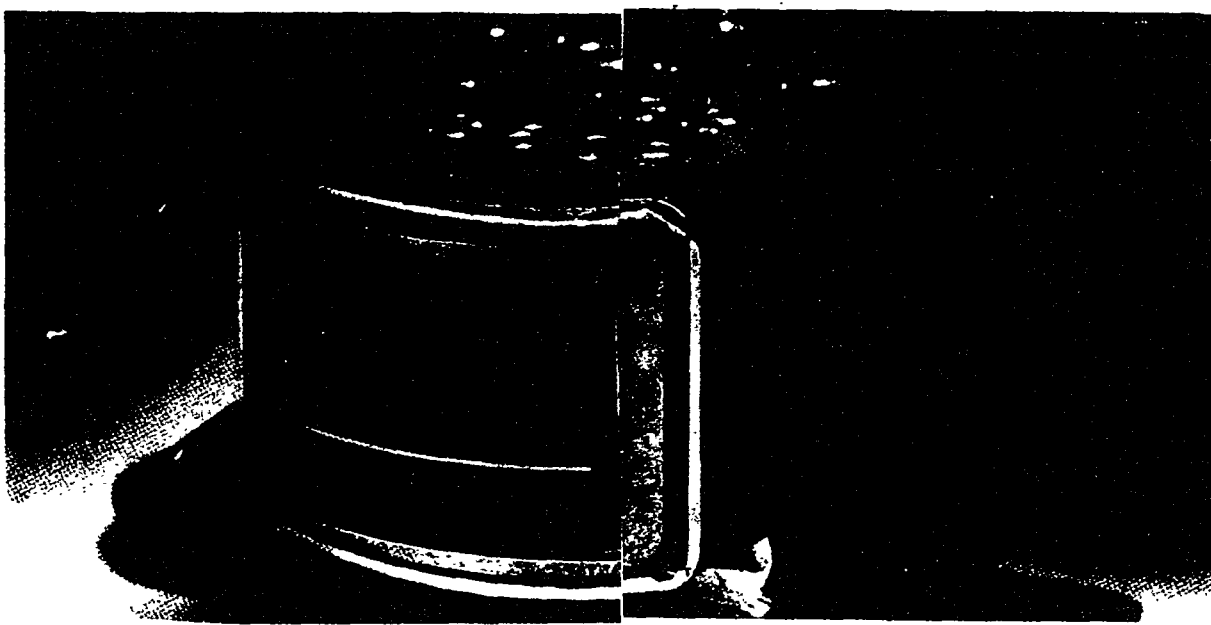


Frank Muraca and Mark Jinks

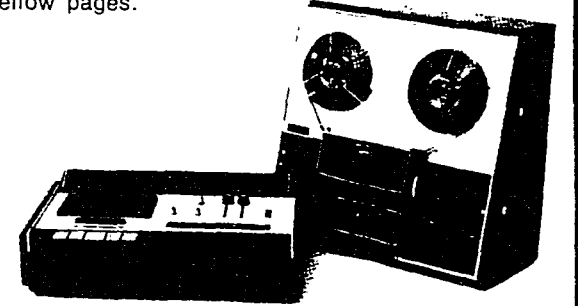
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