

Cunningham elected, Brazill claims election fraud

By PHILIP GUTS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Although Centre County residents voted to return state Rep. Gregg L. Cunningham, R-Centre County, to Harrisburg by giving him about 53 percent of the vote, the controversy surrounding the Democratic candidate has not ended.

Democratic candidate Robert C. Brazill yesterday accused State College Democrat officials of election fraud and said he would investigate the possibility of legal action.

But, Cunningham, with all 40 precincts in the 77th District reporting, unofficially received 13,764 votes or 53.8 percent to 8,275 votes or 32.3 percent for his closest challenger — independent Michael G. Day, who was endorsed by the State College Democratic Committee last week.

University student Brazill (8th-political science) finished third with 3,536 votes or 13.8 percent. He had lost the support of the area Democratic Party in July because of eligibility questions.

Brazill leveled his charges of election fraud against the area Democratic Party, County Democratic chairman Daniel Chaffee and State College Democratic Party chairman Gregory Stewart because, the local Democratic Party

allegedly distributed leaflets which stated Brazill was ineligible to run.

"That was not true, that was never proven," Brazill said. "In fact, that is an outright lie to the voters. This is election fraud."

He also said he would be investigating the Democratic Party's decision to endorse Day.

"I'll find out what I can do legally about their backing someone other than the party nominee. This is a dangerous precedent on whether or not we are going to accept the primaries as the voters' choice," Brazill said.

Stewart denied the charges, adding that he had no idea what Brazill was talking about.

"Brazill has argued that we have done some type of fraud by endorsing Michael Day because it violates party by-laws," Stewart said. "But party by-laws are written by the party, for the party. We can reinterpret them, rewrite them, change them."

"So I really have no idea what he is talking about as far as these accusations of fraud."

Chaffee said he preferred not to comment on the charges because the election is over.

Cunningham, now completing his first term in the House, said his re-election occurred over the attempts of "various media reporters" to make abortion the central issue of the campaign. He

also praised Brazill and Day for an issue-oriented campaign with many opportunities to debate.

"Some reporters felt so passionately about the issue that they did everything in their powers to cooperate with one of my opponent's efforts to make it the central issue," Cunningham said.

Centre County residents refused to listen to the reporters, Cunningham said, but rather "took a holistic view of the range of issues confronting them in a given race."

Cunningham attributed his victory to his legislative record and said the large win by President-elect Ronald Reagan did not have much to do with his victory.

"Obviously any time the candidate at the top of the ticket does extremely well, there is an impact that is felt down the ticket," he said. "But when the margin of victory is as decisive as it was in our race, it is certainly not accurate to characterize this as a coattail victory."

However, Day, while acknowledging defeat, said he thought he was one of the victims of Reagan's coattails because of the large number of straight-party votes in Centre County. He also said Brazill's candidacy hurt his chances.

"Brazill's having the party's nomination cut into my vote a good bit," Day said. "But even if

we got all of Bob's vote we couldn't have possibly matched the turnout the Republicans showed."

"When we came away from the polls realizing that there was a record turnout, we were optimistic," he said. "We thought that conventional wisdom would indicate that if there were a great number of people at the polls the Democrats would gain from that."

Day said he had expected to do better in the student precincts. He received a total of 2,090 votes from the eight State College student precincts — East 1, East 2, East 3, East 4, East Central 1, East Central 2, East Central 3 and West Central 1. Cunningham got 2,309 votes in the same precincts.

Cunningham said he "was delighted with the large student turnout."

"We were quite pleased to see that (a large turnout). We knew we would do well with the students, and I'm very pleased with the showing we made with students."

Student precincts showed higher tallies for Day than the rest of the county. Day's best showing was in the State College area while Brazill pulled ahead in the rural areas.

In student precinct State College East 3 with 469 registered Democrats, Day finished first with 301 votes or 53 percent of the vote. Cun-

ningham claimed 211 votes of 474 registered Republicans or 37 percent of the vote in the precinct.

However, in student district East 1, Cunningham defeated Day.

He received 411 votes from 537 registered Republicans or 52 percent of the vote, while Day received 205 votes of the Democratic registration of 432 or 26 percent of the vote.

Brazill lost his party's support because of questions raised about his eligibility to serve as a state representative. Regarding the election he said Cunningham is the candidate "who got the public's choice."

According to the Pennsylvania Constitution, representatives must be residents of the state for four years before their election. Brazill, however, lived and registered to vote in New Jersey in 1977.

Brazill's continued candidacy hurt Day despite the controversy over eligibility, Day said.

"Besides the fact that he took away the straight party vote, it meant that there was something besides the issues that the voters could spend their time on," he said. "We had to waste our time warning people about Bob Brazill."

HOW STUDENTS VOTED

PRESIDENT	# of votes	U.S. SENATE	# of votes
Ronald Reagan (R)	1,871	Arlen Specter (R)	2,423
Jimmy Carter (D)	2,230	Pete Flaherty (D)	2,816
John B. Anderson (I)	1,453	Linda Mohrbacher (SW)	26
Barry Commoner (C)	120	Lee Frissell (C)	139
Edward Clark (L)	39	David Walter (L)	32
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES		STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
William F. Clinger (R)	3,378	Gregg L. Cunningham (R)	2,309
Peter Atigan (D)	1,139	Robert C. Brazill (D)	401
Douglas Mason (C)	425	Michael G. Day (I)	2,496

PARTY KEY
(R) — REPUBLICAN
(D) — DEMOCRATIC
(I) — INDEPENDENT
(C) — CONSUMER
(L) — LIBERTARIAN
(SW) — SOCIALIST WORKERS

Total Student Registration 9,031
Total Number Who Voted 5,702
Total Student Turnout 63%

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Reagan wins nation, Carter takes campus

By LYNDIA ROBINSON
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

While state and Centre County voters chose Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan, University students favored Democratic President Carter in Tuesday's election.

About 39 percent of the students who voted supported Carter, while 32 percent favored Reagan.

Independent presidential candidate John B. Anderson fared well in several of the eight student precincts, receiving 25 percent of the vote. About 2 percent of the voting students chose Consumer Party candidate Barry Commoner — the only candidate to campaign on campus.

strengthened by the defection of traditionally Democratic blue collar workers, who were dissatisfied with Carter's economic policies and were attracted by Reagan's promise to strengthen the military.

Reagan's labor support in Pennsylvania may have been the deciding factor in the election — particularly when black voters supported Carter in margins of 10-to-1 throughout most of the county.

With 99 percent of the precincts accounted for, Reagan has won 51 percent of the popular vote and 483 electoral votes — 270 electoral votes are needed to become president.

Carter has 41 percent of the popular vote, but only 49 electoral votes.

Carter's support among University students was not nearly as strong in 1976 when he ran against incumbent Republican Gerald Ford. In '76 Carter lost to Ford in the student precincts by only 97 votes.

Student dissatisfaction with the choices in this election seems to be reflected in the fact that only 63 percent of registered students voted on Tuesday.

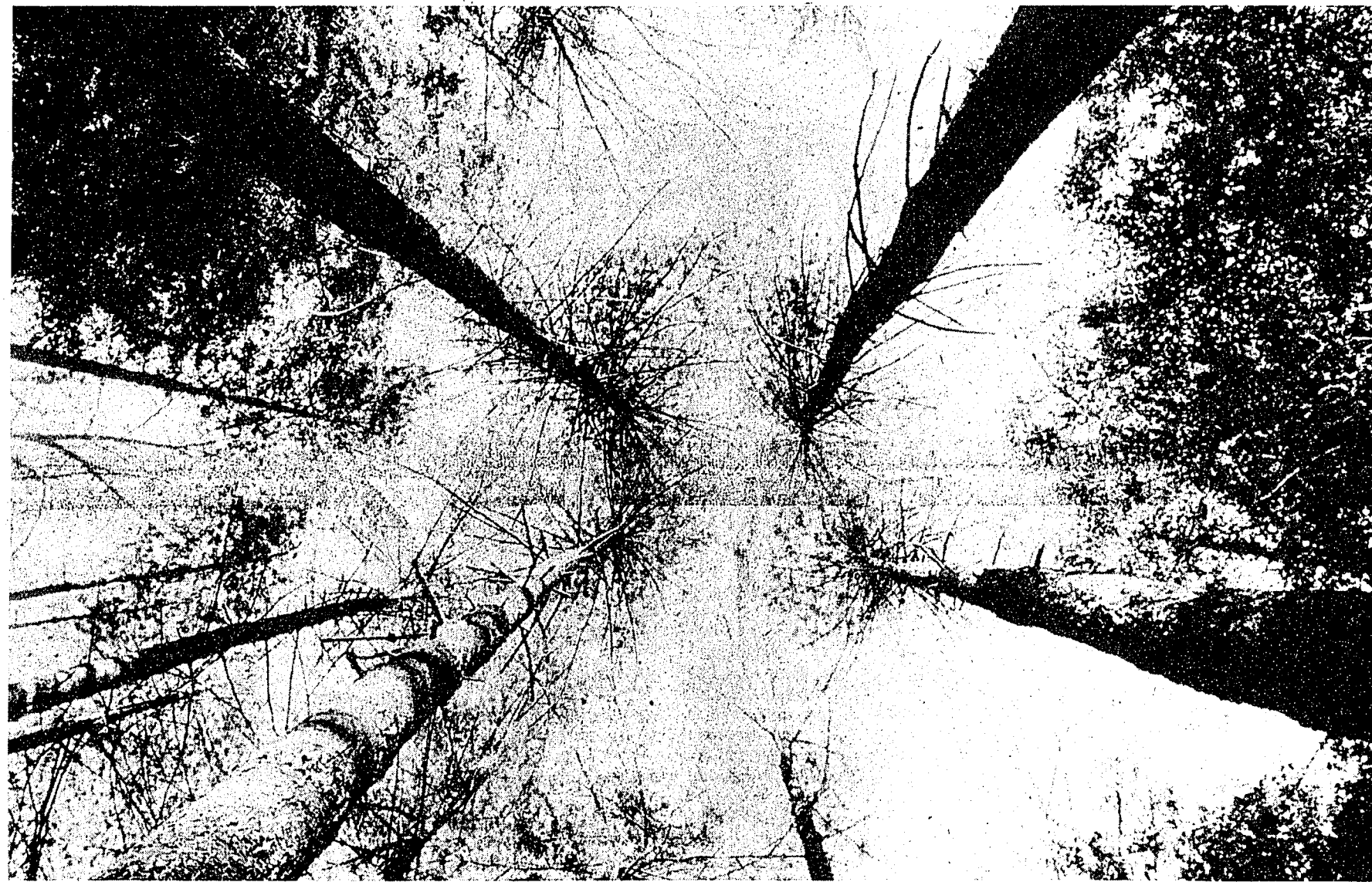
In '76 the total student turnout was considerably higher. About 79 percent of students registered in Centre County voted in the Ford-Carter election.

analysis

Pennsylvania's 27 electoral votes went to Reagan after he won 50 percent of the popular vote, compared to Carter's 39 percent and Anderson's 6 percent.

In Centre County, Reagan received 49 percent of the vote, while Carter won 39 percent and Anderson made a strong showing with 12 percent of the popular vote.

State support for Reagan was



A long way up
Yosemite it isn't, though these trees at Whipple's Dam seem tall enough to be redwoods. The beach facilities at the state park have closed for the season, but before too long adventurous sportsmen may be able to use the lake for ice fishing and ice-skating.

Local results:

Students support Flaherty but Specter wins state

By LYNDIA ROBINSON
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

A majority of University students supported Democratic senatorial candidate Pete Flaherty in Tuesday's general election, but Flaherty's opponent, Republican Arlen Specter, won Centre County and the statewide election.

About 51 percent of the students in the eight student precincts voted for Flaherty, while 45 percent favored Specter. Consumer Party candidate Lee Frissell took 3 percent of the vote.

All three candidates made appearances in State College during their campaigns.

This was not the first time students chose a Democratic senatorial candidate over a Republican. In 1976,

students chose Democrat Bill Green over Republican H. John Heinz. In that election, Heinz beat Green easily.

Student preference for Flaherty does not reflect the political position of Centre County residents or the rest of the state.

In the county, Specter beat Flaherty by 4 percentage points, while Consumer Party candidate Lee Frissell won 2 percent of the vote.

The Specter-Flaherty race was hotly contested across the state with Specter finally emerging as the winner with 51 percent of the vote compared to 48 percent for Flaherty.

Specter's victory was influenced by a number of factors. He waged a strong media campaign that was much better funded than Flaherty's.

Specter also had the advantage of running with Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan in a state where Reagan won easily.

The coattail effect Reagan had on Republican candidates across the country was instrumental in creating the first Republican-controlled Senate since the beginning of World War II.

Republicans took a totally unexpected 10 seats away from incumbent Democratic senators.

Specter's win over Flaherty, a popular former mayor of Pittsburgh, signifies strengthening Republican control in Pennsylvania and the possibility that regional-based state politics is beginning to cool down in a state where location often means more than the issues.

Thornburgh claims win for Republicans in Pa.

HARRISBURG (AP) — He wasn't on any ballot, but Republican Gov. Dick Thornburgh was certainly claiming victory yesterday morning as he surveyed the gains made by his party in Pennsylvania.

"I think it was a magnificent day for the Republican Party," a beaming Thornburgh said as he posed with the state's attorney general-elect, LeRoy Zimmerman.

In addition to Zimmerman's win, the GOP won the contested U.S. Senate seat and the state treasurer's office. It widened the Republican's margin in the state House and wrested control of the Senate from the Democrats by gaining a 25-25 tie in that body.

Li. Gov. William Scranton will cast the deciding Republican vote in the Senate.

"In Pennsylvania, the results were beyond our wildest expectations," Thornburgh said.

Thornburgh arrived at the press conference believing state Treasurer Bob Casey, a Democrat, had defeated Republican candidate Budd Dwyer. But reporters told him that the picture had changed and that Dwyer had won.

"That's the icing on the cake," Thornburgh said. "That only leaves the last of the Mohicans — the auditor general."

The governor was referring to the only Democrat to prevail, Auditor General Al Benedict, who handed Republican candidate state Rep. Jim Knepper a 100,000-vote defeat.

Dwyer, a Republican senator, will leave the GOP one vote shy of a tie in the Senate when he takes the treasurer's job Jan. 20. Republicans and Democrats have about equal strength in his district and a special election to fill his seat could be a hard-fought one.

Thornburgh said Tuesday's results were the first step toward a "decade of Republicanism." He said the election results would help him move important programs through the General Assembly.

Specifically, he mentioned his SWAP plan, to increase state revenues by changing the current 11-cent-a-gallon gasoline tax to a combination of a flat surcharge and a sales tax.

"My first priority will be to discuss with the leaders of our party in both houses what our agenda should be," he said.

The attorney general's race featured Zimmerman, a former Dauphin County district attorney, and O'Pake, a 12-year veteran of the state Legislature.

"I'm very pleased and very proud of the confidence expressed in me by the people of Pennsylvania," said Zimmerman, who touted his experience as a prosecutor in a carefully planned campaign.

"We did the best we could. But the Reagan landslide and the very heavy Republican money were just too much to overcome," said O'Pake, a Berks County lawmaker.

Benedict, the de facto head of the Democratic Party and the state's fiscal watchdog, emerged as the majority party's only winner. And he survived charges by Knepper that he had bloated his payroll with hacks and cronies.

Benedict said the voters apparently "discounted all of the nasty and distorted allegations made against me. They accused me of everything but child molesting. The Republican organization really keyed on me."

In beating Casey, Dwyer keyed his campaign against what he called an imposter. The 71-year-old Casey, an obscure Cambria County politician, swept into office four years ago with a shoe-string campaign budget.

Voters apparently confused him with Robert P. Casey, the popular former auditor general.

In the auditor general race, incumbent Auditor General Al Benedict survived the GOP stampede, holding off the challenge of state Rep. James Knepper.

With 99 percent of the ballots counted, Dwyer had 2,047,772 votes to Casey's 1,986,421. Benedict out-distanced Knepper 2,052,821 to 1,953,198.

The Associated Press had reported incorrectly yesterday morning that Casey defeated Dwyer by a slim margin. However, a 96,731 vote error in Casey's Lebanon County total was later discovered.

Still a chill

There should be a good deal of cloudiness again today along with breezy and chilly conditions. The afternoon high temperature will be 48. Partly cloudy and cold tonight with a low of 34. Variable cloudiness and a bit milder on Friday with a high of 52. Rather cloudy on Saturday, breezy and cool with a high of 47.

Clinger re-elected to House by substantial margin

By MARK GREEN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Republican incumbent William F. Clinger, R-central Pa., easily defeated his Democratic and Consumer Party opponents in the race for the 23rd District's congressional seat.

Clinger won the election with 73.6 percent of the vote with all precincts reporting in all 11 counties. Clinger also swept the eight predominantly student precincts of State College garnering 68.4 percent of the vote.

Democratic candidate Peter Atigan ran second with 24.5 percent while Consumer Party candidate Doug Mason received 1.9 percent of

the votes.

The Consumer Party reached its goal of 5 percent of the vote which Mason said will give the party automatic ballot access in future Centre County elections.

Regarding his loss to Clinger, Mason said, "I would consider it a victory in the sense that we got the ballot access."

However, Jeffrey M. Bowers, a member of the Centre County Board of Elections, said it is unclear whether 5 percent of the vote will qualify the party for ballot access.

Bowers said the entire question will be decided in the courts.

Ballot access allows the Consumer

Party to run candidates in county elections without going through the process of petitioning to get on the ballot. This would mean the party could introduce candidates through the same process as the Republican and Democratic parties.

Also, registration cards will bear the words "Consumer Party" rather than "other party" as they did in this election.

"That reinforces our image as a party," Mason said.

He said the party will definitely run a candidate in the 1981 Municipal Council election. Mason, however, said he is uncertain as to his political future.