

Media, major parties dismiss ideal candidate

We're all doomed to watch another presidential election end in disaster.



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This fall, each and every one of us will have ringside seats to watch two of our nation's premier professional politicians do battle. But it doesn't matter who wins. Long ago, Bill Clinton and Bob Dole sold their souls to special interests. Both have had the chance to cut government expenditures. Both have had a chance to overhaul welfare. And both have failed — miserably. They worship at the altar of big government.

Neither can relate to a single mother with three children. Or the factory worker whose job was exported to Mexico in the name of "free trade."

They may claim to "feel your pain," but don't be so easily fooled. So, where is the alternative?

There is always the Libertarian Party lurking in the corner.

Don't laugh. It may be a viable alternative this year.

Its nominee, Harry Browne, is rather progressive. He's managed to avoid catering to the anarchic fringe in his party and is offering some attractive ideas.

Browne is eager to trim the federal government in accordance with a strict interpretation of the Constitution. That means a smaller bureaucracy and lower taxes.

But we can count on the media to ignore the Libertarians completely, forcing them into even greater obscurity.

It will be difficult for the media to ignore Ross Perot and his Reform Party, though. The Texas zillionaire has put together an organizational masterpiece with the remnants of his 1992 independent campaign and United We Stand America.

Perot and his new party are determined to shake up the establishment in 1996.

Yesterday, the former Democratic governor of Colorado, Richard Lamm,

announced he is seeking the Reform Party nomination. Perot indicated he will run if tapped at the convention later this summer.

But things are off to a slow start at America's new third party headquarters.

That's unfortunate. Because the Reform Party needs to get busy drawing new pie charts if it plans on catapulting a candidate into the White House.

I don't know if they can pull it off, though.

But I do know one thing.

The United States needs a president who can stand on his own two feet. Someone who isn't a marionette being puppeted by lobbyists and out-of-touch elites. Someone who knows the difference between special interests and the interests of ordinary Americans like that single mother and the unemployed factory worker.

We need a president who won't sell us out — again. One who is tough on illegal immigration. And one who is not afraid to stand up to big business.

In short, we need a president who isn't afraid to put America first.

His name: Pat Buchanan.

But ol' Pat, despite his widespread populist appeal, was rebuked as a radical by the elites.

This "radical" won several primaries and straw polls, though, and secured the support of rational Americans across the country — both Republicans and Democrats.

But as punishment for his popularity, the GOP may refuse to allow Buchanan speaking time at its San Diego convention in August.

I'm not surprised. The established parties are afraid of anyone who is willing to disclose the truth — exposing the hypocrisy, waste and corruption Washington insiders have bred.

But Pat Buchanan has promised to fight. And I hope he does, because nothing will change if Bill Clinton or Bob Dole is elected. It will be business as usual in our nation's capital.

And the real losers in November's presidential election will be you and me.

Michael Heinroth is a Class of '96 political science major



Hopwood will not eliminate diversity

After 30 years of special preferences to rectify past discrimination, the Supreme Court has said that it is time to move beyond racial division and extend equal treatment to all individuals.

The recent Supreme Court decision not to review *Hopwood vs. Texas* marks the beginning of the end for race-based admission to colleges and universities. The decision let stand the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling that the University of Texas Law School's admissions policy, which considered white and minority applications separately, discriminated against whites.

The decision legally prohibits Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi from using race as a factor in admissions, financial aid and scholarships. When the Supreme Court hears a similar case, chances are good that their decision will make racial preferences illegal nationwide.

At one time, affirmative action was necessary to balance the scales to rectify the poisonous effects of legal discrimination. Today, it is no more than a divisive issue that has little to no benefit to minorities.

Thirty years ago, highly qualified minorities were denied jobs by racist people in a society that was generally hostile to minorities. Today, qualified minorities are the most highly sought after job prospects and university recruits because they fulfill two criteria

— they are qualified, and they help the company or university promote their oft-stated goal of diversity.

A commitment to diversity is considered positive by companies and universities in today's culture, as it should be. In particular, universities promote diversity as a positive aspect of their schools.

Therefore, it is highly unlikely that universities will suddenly stop recruiting minorities because of the *Hopwood* decision. Curtis Childers, a student representative on the Texas A&M Admissions Advisory Committee, said, "The *Hopwood* decision will not change A&M's mission of enhancing diversity on this campus."

Proponents of affirmative action have criticized the decision because they say it will cause minority enrollment at Texas colleges and universities to decrease. Kevin Carreathers, director of the Texas A&M Department of Multicultural Services, said, "If we can't come up with ways to effectively recruit minority students in light of the *Hopwood* decision, our numbers will decrease."

Besides insulting minorities by implying they need special treatment to be accepted to top universities, falsely assumes colleges will lose their incentive to attract minority students and continue to strive to maintain a diverse student body.

No reputable university will suddenly change direction and aggressively try to keep minorities out. This has been illegal for over 30 years.

Schools that are truly committed to diversity, such as Texas A&M and the University of Texas, will not be "whitened" as a result of the Hop-

wood decision. These schools can continue to recruit top minority students. They just cannot give people extra scholarship money because of their skin color.

It is true that race-based scholarships might persuade highly qualified minorities to attend Texas A&M rather than somewhere else. Such scholarships promote diversity because they give minorities an incentive to attend A&M — money. While a conservative, rural culture might tend to discourage minorities from attending A&M, a \$2,500 per year President's Achievement Award helps bring them in.

The University's inability to lure top minority students with money will be a hindrance to attracting these students in the short term.

In the long term, however, the decision will benefit A&M.

We will continue to seek and promote a diverse student body. Since we won't be able to attract minorities with what essentially amounts to bribery, the school will be forced to seek other ways to convince minorities that A&M is their best choice.

This effort will require and promote real change.

The most obvious way to attract people of all colors is simply to continue to improve the quality of all academic programs. Good students will choose A&M because it is a good school, and a diverse campus of all races will naturally result.

The desire for quality education transcends racial divisions.

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Textbook triumvirate takes advantage of students' needs

Every semester, when our wallets empty, it becomes painfully clear that textbooks are expensive. Yet no one can really pinpoint why.

The answer to the colossal expense involved can be traced directly to those who stand to make a profit — namely the authors, the publishing companies and the bookstores. Yet asking them why textbooks are so expensive is somewhat like a Family Circus cartoon. Not only is it not funny, but ask who is responsible, and like Billy, Dolly and PJ, each points to someone else. However, each one is right. All three play a crucial role in why textbooks cost more than the course itself.

The textbooks used on a majority of college campuses are, not surprisingly, written by college professors themselves. In fact, in many cases, the professor of a particular course assigns his or her own textbook. Publicly, professors argue that this merely reinforces what he or she teaches in class. But privately, many will admit that not only does it look good on a résumé, but it also provides another source of guaranteed income.

Just as dubious is the practice of new editions. Authors "update" on a regular basis, some as often as every year. It's understandable that things change and progress is made in these fields, but if the information in these books is so out-of-date, then why are we learning from them in the first place? I understand that things may change, but why does a math book need to be updated? Has there been some dramatic change to the Pythagorean Theorem? Ask any college textbook author why the cost is so high, however, and all will unanimously blame the publishing companies.

Obviously, publishing companies do play a significant role in the exorbitant expense. Textbooks are published by the scholar division of the same companies that produce regular novels and books for the masses. These novels sell for around \$25 new and the publishing companies make money off of them, even after paying six- and

seven-figure advances to the authors.

Yet college textbooks, sold new, sell for at least \$40 and, according to the textbook authors, the extra money certainly doesn't go to their fee. No publishing company representative could point to a definitive reason for the extra expense, such as higher publishing cost or increased quality, but it is obvious that it is not being used to decrease production costs.

Bookstores bare the brunt of frustration that should be directed at both publishing companies and authors, but they also contribute to the high cost of textbooks. In fact, bookstores abuse us at both ends. When we buy textbooks, publishing companies claim that it is the bookstores that tack on a large amount to increase their profit margin. And when we sell back our textbooks, we all know how badly we get screwed.

The experience of buying some book for \$40 and selling it back for \$15 is something we have all gone through. Even worse is the fact that in the next week, at the beginning of the new semester, the latest schmuck is going to buy that same book for \$40 again.

By now all of us have learned that crap runs downhill, but that doesn't mean we have to drown in it. And though we cannot change everything, there are subtle ways to fight back.

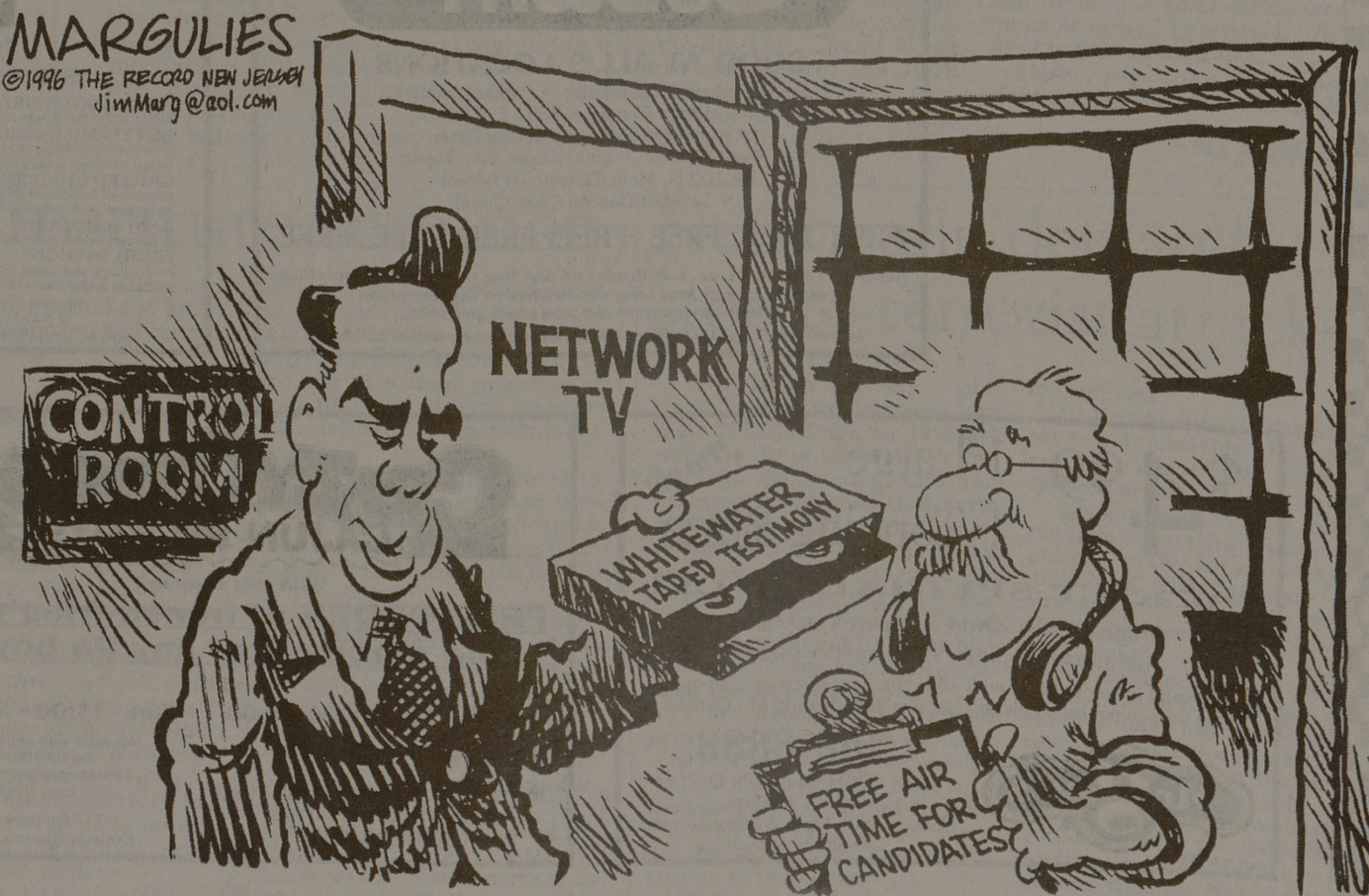
Look around campus. All those homemade fliers advertising books for sale aren't just for decoration. The books are the same, and the only thing missing is the middleman. And when going to sell back one's textbook, don't accept a measly three dollars for each textbook. The more students realize that they don't have to accept just enough for a Value Meal, the more stores will realize that they have to give more money for buybacks. Finally, find out about professors. Just as everyone asks which professor gives the easiest tests, why not find out which ones require buying three of their books just so they finish off their house payment?

Sure, textbooks, much like anything else required by the University, will never be cheap. But by knowing what causes the expense, we can start to figure out how to avoid it.

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"I'd like to donate my free air time to Clinton..."