

The Elephant Hunter

Young Dems. Grow

The Oakland Young Democrats and the Young Democratic Clubs of Michigan have embarked on a membership drive. The effort to increase members, lasting until the end of March, had met with pleasing success at this university. From the beginning of the drive to the time that this issue of the Elephant Hunter went to press, the YDs have enrolled 7 new members to boost the total to 31. A large membership is important to the club if we hope to be an effective help to those Democratic candidates who need us if they are to maintain control of this largely Republican area. It is also healthy for any political organization to have as wide a spectrum of opinion as possible and this is got only if there are a large number of people in that club. If any members know of an interested person, they are urged to bring him to the next YD meeting so that we can register him.

Because the YDs wish to register as many new members as possible, the club adopted a measure which allows an old member to sponsor a new member and thereby reduce the registration fee to \$.50. It is hoped that this reduction will serve as an incentive to those campus Democrats who have not yet joined.

It was also decided recently that this club will celebrate the growth of the YDs of OU with some type of social event to be scheduled at the end of the current membership drive in late March.

Democrats in the News

Another chapter was added to the mystery of the Democratic gubernatorial candidate's identity. John Mackie, former state highway commissioner and present US Congressman from Flint, announced this weekend that he will seek re-election to the House of Representatives, and thereby ruled out the possibility of a bid for the governorship. His self-elimination leaves the field wide open to the next most probable candidates, Sec. of State, James Hare, and State Attorney General, Frank Kelley, or to some dark horse candidate.

The other expected candidate, state chairman, Zolton Ferency, withdrew from consideration about two weeks ago.

The fight between Zolton Ferency and the older Democratic establishment burst into the open once again two weeks ago with a round of angry memos between Ferency's office and Neil Stabler. Ferency purportedly charged that Stabler has given up all hope of beating Gov. Romney this fall and of causing otherwise enthusiastic Democratic workers to become pessimistic about the gubernatorial race.

The recent conflict is only a battle in the struggle which began in 1962 when Ferency was elected Democratic State Chairman over the objections of Stabler. There has been ill-feeling between the two men ever since, which, at times, has threatened the party's unity.

What makes Jerry run? I wish I knew.

The One Who (?) Knows

PRESIDENTIAL

Thoughts about the situation in Viet-Nam: what does one do when the issue is undecidable? Viet-Nam is a bastard situation. I am not sure which of the proposed alternatives is best; many conflicting thoughts center upon my mind.

Congressman Farnum, who has sat in on slightly more defense briefings than I have, told me that the President's policies are our only alternative. A majority of Congress, including Robert Kennedy to some extent, hold this view. Yet I must note the dissents of Senators Morse, Fulbright, and Gruening, among others. I also remember some 75 House liberals saying that their support of the emergency appropriation bill did not mean support of further escalation of that war. To some people, we are fighting the wrong war in the wrong place at the wrong time with the wrong policies. With so much difference, can any set of policies be termed even "best method"?

Perhaps history has taught us that we must stand up to aggression. I am beginning to question if we are fighting aggression or a civil conflict. But I am sure that history also teaches wariness of an elite that leads the people into a war situation while practicing news management. The administration is hiding behind the "national security" curtain. For instance, Vice-President Humphrey has said that Hanoi does control the Viet Cong, and that we have proof of this. Why does the administration keep this "proof" from the news media?

If our present policies are both necessary and the only alternative, I object to some corporations gaining fantastic profits off the war effort. Surely, the taxpayers have a right to defense without pocketpicking.

President Johnson's consensus is wearing thin. There is much resentment against his methods and policies. I think a major change is in order. The people have a right to know. Only then can the best methods of handling the Viet-Nam situation be determined.

Ken Weingarden

Presidential Notes

1. There will be a State Central Committee meeting of the Michigan Young Dems this Sat., March 19. Although not much is planned for this meeting, developments could prove very interesting. Anyone interested in attending contact Doug Kavanaugh or Ron Kladder, via Young Dems mail in the OC.
2. Michigan Young Dems will be holding their convention May 6-8, in Warren. Anyone can attend, details at next meeting.
3. We can expect a visit from senatorial candidate Mennen Williams soon. Further details are unknown.
4. Positions working with Congressman Farnum's staff are open --talk to Ken Weingarden if you're interested.
5. It is hoped that our next issue will contain a short summary of political matters of interest to us.

Notes of interest

(a) The next meeting of the Young Democrats will be held on Monday, March 21 at 4:00 P.M. in room 128 of the OC. All members are urged to attend this meeting as there will be resolutions presented which call on the club to take an official stand on several contemporary problems including the administrations method of handling the Vietnamese war. All prospective members are also invited to this and every subsequent meeting. This meeting will possibly be the next to the last meeting during this semester, therefore, it is necessary for all constitutional amendments to be made available for their first reading at this meeting. (Each amendment must be read at the meeting proceeding the one at which it is voted on.) It is hoped, because many of our members will not attend school during the summer semester, that all amendments will be presented and accepted this semester.

(b) The YDs have, through the efforts of the members, gained seven new members. The increase in our size should force the state YDs to give us an additional vote at the state convention. Despite this energetic effort on the part of the club, it is possible to do more. If we can gain 11 more new members we can obtain another convention vote, bringing our total strength to 3 votes. It should be emphasised, however, that our purpose in gaining new members is not solely to become more powerful at the state convention. A large club is essential if we are to gain the respect which we need if we are to become a more effective and "listened-to" organization.

(c) The Elephant Hunter has widened its scope. Until now, it has been concerned solely with the affairs of the YDs of OU. Now it will print any news, national, state, or local, which effects the Democratic Party or the Young Democrats of this school. Because of this expansion, the newsletter must be a bigger; this expanded size necessitates that more people contribute to the paper and help in its publishment. This is no longer a request, but a necessary demand. Anyone who can write, draw, or is willing to type is urged to call Ron Kladder at 2508, or leave their name and/or contribution in the YD's mailbox in the Oakland Center.

(d) Dues for all old members are now due. A list of all those who owe dues is presently in the YD's mailbox. You are urged to pay this money as quickly as possible. A good way to pay the dues is to get a new members to join and get the dues cut in half from \$1.00 to \$.50.

(e) The following is a poll which the editor of this paper is asking all Democrats to fill out and return to the YD's mailbox as soon as possible:

(1) Which of the following Democrats do you think would make the strongest race against a Republican candidate for the US Senate, G. Menneh Williams or Jerome Cavanaugh?

(2) Which of the above two Democratic candidates do you think would be the most qualified man for the Senate seat?

(3) Are you confident that Johnson's Vietnamese policy is the wisest possible solution to the problem there?

(4) In your opinion, what could be done to make the Young Democrats a more attractive and effective group?

OU Hosts Hart Dinner

Oakland University hosted the ninth annual Phil Hart testimonial dinner on March 12 in the IM building. The dinner which has become a tradition in Democratic circles, was attended by local Democratic leaders as well as several state party officials. Among these were Senate-hopeful G. Mennen Williams, Congressman Billie S. Farnum, Neil Stabler, State Sens. Levin and O'Brien and State Reps. Slingerland and Crowley all from the Oakland area, as well as other officials from outlying districts.

In his speech Sen. Hart endorsed Pres. Johnson's handling of the Vietnamese war, but hoped that the administration would press for negotiations. He also condemned the Selective Service for their arbitrary reclassification of students protesting US involvement in Viet Nam. Calling the action a violation of the freedom of dissent, he suggested that selective service violators be given their day in court.

Former Gov. Williams also spoke to the crowd, and expressed confidence in his bid for the Democratic Senatorial nomination. Several of those attending the dinner sported mock green and white polka dot bowties-Williams traditional symbol.

18 yr. old Vote Delayed

The attempts of the Michigan Young Democrats to amend the state constitution to allow 18 year olds to vote has apparently met with another delay. Despite a larger than expected turn-out at the public hearings held on the amendment, action on the proposal is being delayed while the Majority leaders (Sen. Dzenzel and Rep. Kowalski) form new plans on the question.

The Young Democrat's committee for the 18 year old vote emphasized that the role of the club member is not ended, but has changed. You are all urged, at this point, to contact your local legislators (both the House and Senate members of both parties) and indicate your support for the amendment.

Michigan YD president, Eugene Konstant, is confident that if all members lobby for this amendment, the question of the 18 year old vote should appear on the fall ballot. He also added that if the YD's efforts slacken, we are probably in store for another year of disappointment.

OU YDs Adopt By-Laws

The Young Democrats of Oakland University have adopted several new by-laws which "streamline" the business procedure. They include provision for using Robert's Rules of Order, specify an order of business and partially outline the presidential powers. The by-laws were adopted at the March 1 meeting and consideration of additional by-laws was postponed until the next meeting.

Other action taken at the last meeting included a gift of \$10 to the new Political Science Society on campus. It was explained that the club would use the money to add to their collection of books. The Political Science Society's lounge is available to all members of the Young Democrats.
