

Guilfordian

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Campaign 76: A Judgement of Personalities

BY BOB WELLS

The common man image in politics and the myth that surrounds it, presents itself once again in both Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

A rural setting involving hard work, a stern father, a loving mother and the struggle to get ahead are all components of the common man image. Many politicians have used this type of background to launch their careers. Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Harry Truman, Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford are good examples of this. All of these men, at one time or another, dwelled upon their past experiences to promote a sense of equality, inferring, "I am no different than you." This egalitarian concept worked well, leaving Lincoln a historical figure and Truman edging down that corridor reserved for those "great common men."

With Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter the same song of "commonness" is heard. Their past, both adolescent and political, have been successfully packaged and presented in a positive way. By stressing their "commonness" both have risen above their equals to become presidential nominees.

Although both men come from a similar background in which the work ethic was stressed, each has a leadership style all his own. Gerald Ford is a plodding administrator whose manner was formed in the twenty plus years he served in the House of Representatives. It was his congenial way of working in Congress that led Nixon to choose him as Vice-president. Few people disliked him in Washington, although the majority seldom agreed with him. This same style has been carried over into the Ford Presidency. His



assets include a high rating for accessibility and a trait which is not often found in presidents: he accepts and listens to criticism.

His defects include a lack of innovation or dynamic motivation to move the country. Thus the passive nature of minimal governmental involvement in domestic affairs is clearly represented in the Ford campaign and White House. He is running on his record, which if viewed favorably by the electorate, he will be able to continue.

Jimmy Carter is, in many ways, like the peanut he is often associated with. He arose from the depths of Plains (where the peanuts grow) at the beginning of harvest time in the primary season. He was cracked by *Playboy*, boiled by the Republicans and eaten up by the Democrats who are still smacking their lips over the political find of the year. His assets include a working knowledge of state and local problems, a desire to be a moderate innovator whose mind has been trained to deal with technical problems.

Among his detractors, Carter is viewed as "too hungry" for the presidency. He is also accused of being "all things



to all people," which when used successfully can mean political survival.

To some, another defect includes his lack of Washington experience, which ironically won him many votes in the primaries, showing that a stint in Congress is no prerequisite to run successfully for President.

In contrasting Ford to Carter, both seem honest, capable and for the most part sincere. The choice that now lies before Americans is one of "Moderate change," as rhetorically expressed by Carter, or another four years of Ford's current policy. The decision is now left to pick which commoner can lead best, Ford? or Carter?

VSO to Sponsor Election Night Fete

BY TOM WEST

The Guilford College Student Veterans Service Organization has scheduled an election-watch on election night, Tuesday, November 2, in the Urban Center Lounge.

Gerald Beeson, VSO Project Chairman has issued an invitation to attend the watch to all Guilford College students, VSO members, faculty and staff as well as residents of the Guilford College community. Beeson also expects several local politicians to make an appearance sometime during the evening's activities. Beeson, in response to a query on the format of an election watch, states that "An election-watch is where folks gather who are interested in heated but friendly political debate, hearty fellowship with old friends, with a chance to make new ones."

There will be three tele-

vision sets, each tuned to one of the three major networks to view the vote count of the state and national elections, and blackboards will be used to keep and "up to the minute" tally of the local election returns. Various members of the VSO will be on hand throughout the night manning the blackboards, serving refreshments and acting as referees for some of the "friendlier debates."

Hot apple cider, coffee and doughnuts are on the agenda and Chairman Beeson says, "If we run out . . . we'll just run out for more." The final touch for this all-American evening will be a nice cozy fire in the fireplace . . . and rumor has it that peanuts and Ultrabrite toothpaste will be available to those in the Carter camp while "Watch-Your-Step" buttons will be provided to those in President Ford's.

Senate Minutes

OCT. 13

Ed. Note: The Senate Minutes are published each week with the intention of communicating to the college community the work being done by their representatives. *The Guilfordian* urges each member of the Community to keep abreast of Senate business. Read these Minutes and attend Senate meetings when possible. These Minutes are a straightforward and objective report of business and do not fully characterize the workings of Guilford College community government.

The meeting was opened with a moment of silence and roll was called, John Biedler and Kathy Sebo were absent.

John Janney commented on the value of constructive criticism and expressed his hopes that all Senators and students would feel free to bring their criticisms to the Executive Council.

The Budget Committee presented three proposals, all of which were passed by

Senate:

1. The tutorial service requested \$400 to match \$400 they are receiving from the academic dean. They are also receiving \$500 from the Student Services budget. It was felt that this was an academic area geared to individual needs rather than a group interest and extracurricular activity; and that it should not be funded with Student Activities funds. However, the Senate did feel that it is a worthwhile service that should be provided by the school, and granted a \$100 token supplement to show support of the program.

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