

If You Don't Want to Support Another Rich White Man for President...

IGOR GORODZKY

As the November election draws closer, a great deal of recent research exposes unpleasant realities about Americans' attitudes towards the political process. Viewing of the major parties' national conventions hit record lows, and the number of non-voters is increasing each year. In our own state, 80% of registered voters chose not to vote in the presidential primaries. One conclusion is that Americans today seem rather disillusioned by modern politics. It is in this era, however, of a deeply entrenched establishment that third parties begin to play a much more significant role in the political arena, fueling the democratic process by providing alternatives to the sometimes shady bureaucracy of the two party system. An informed citizen of any age is paramount to a successful democracy.

The party that has recently been getting a great deal of attention is the Green Party. With the nomination of Ralph Nader, the famous consumer

advocate, as its presidential candidate, the Green Party shed its radical image and entered the lexicon of American politics. The party itself is founded on a very leftist platform of grassroots democracy, social justice, decentralization of wealth and power both corporate and political, and ecological responsibility. Nader himself centers his campaign on his forte; consumer rights and limiting corporate influence, especially through campaign finance reform. Though Nader and the Green Party are not a natural match, Nader most likely chose it as his political spring board because they share many signature leftist ideologies. If the Green Party receives more than 5% of the national vote this election, it will qualify for public financing in the next election. Nader is already polling 9% in some parts of the country, but in others he is practically ignored.

An established third party, the Reform Party, has also been making headlines recently, though for less encouraging reasons. The original Reform

Party was founded to serve as a means for those dedicated to democracy to catalyze reform in our government and redistribute political clout from the two major parties. The party itself defied classification as either liberal or conservative, since it refused to take a position on social issues. Their purpose was simply to correct what seemed as unfair or inefficient laws, enacting among other things campaign finance reform and reform of the immigration policy. After H. Ross Perot's 8% showing in the '96 election, the Reform party qualified for \$12.6 million in public funds. However, the party has recently undergone a division, with the established leadership supporting former physicist and Natural Law party member Dr. John Hagelin, and with a large crowd supporting former Republican and reactionary Pat Buchanan, who contrary to party policy takes an outspoken conservative stand on social issues. The two groups even had competing national conventions. As of the writing of this article, the two groups are in court to determine which

group is the 'true' party, and which will receive the millions in public funding for its campaign. Following the semi-success of Ross Perot's running in 1996 the Reform Party has \$12.6 million dollars in federal assistance for their campaign. It will be important to see which faction gets the money that is guaranteed to the Reform Party during the 2000 election because it will impact future third parties.

Another third party, which has a rather large presence in North Carolina, is the Libertarian Party and their presidential candidate, Harry Browne. The party claims to represent traditional American values of liberty, private ownership, and individualism, and has a very economically conservative platform. The Libertarian Party supports the free market and free trade including associations such as the World Trade Organization and the World Bank. Many liberals oppose these due to the significant power they give to global corporations. The Libertarians also support deregulation, a foreign policy of non-intervention,

and large tax cuts (some to be replaced by user fees). Their support of personal liberties includes legalizing all firearms, and pardoning non-violent drug offenders.

More and more people are turning to third parties as remedies to some of the faults in our two party system. Even members of the traditional parties are leaving on ideological grounds; Buchanan is a perfect example. Our own state is very hostile to 3rd parties; the Nader campaign was forced to sue in order to put the Green Party on the ballot. They will also need to collect over 51,000 signatures. There is a certain stigma associated with third parties, both in our state and throughout much of the country, but one which must be overcome if Americans are to participate in a truly democratic process.

Some information was compiled from the article "Hitting them back: an interview with presidential candidate Ralph Nader," published in the May 10-16 issue of *The Independent*.

A New Hope: Meet Hope Gregory

SHAINA SCHMELTZLE

Her name is Hope Gregory and she is the new SLI on the Reynolds 1E, 2D, 2E halls. Hope is from Hillsborough. Her main interests are music, psychology, and young people. She enjoys reading Flannery O'Connor and Joyce Carol Oates. She also enjoys working with young people.

Tired of working as a waitress at the Underground Sandwich Shoppe in

Wilmington, which was actually decked out like the underground in London, Hope found the job through an Internet job listing for North Carolina. She says it was really a stroke of luck. Eventually, Hope is headed toward going back to school so she can become a guidance counselor.

Hope attended Orange High School and later UNC-Wilmington. She says of

Wilmington, "[It's] a tourist town, so everybody who's there is obligated to make it seem nice to everybody else." Hope also lived in San Francisco for a month where she says she most enjoyed the diversity.

Hope does have one



Hope is happy to be here

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slight regret about coming to Durham. "I think it's unfortunate that Mika is twenty minutes away." Mika Bousnikans is the very interesting name of her cat at home.

"I am absolutely in love with this school. I think it rocks," says Hope. "Students don't just excel at science and math—they excel in everything they do!" Let's welcome Hope into the NCSSM community.

Allen Garber = 3rd West SLI

KATIE WATLINGTON

Allen Garber recently took over the job as the SLI on Hunt 3rd West. The hall had been without an SLI, since Ben Rowland left NCSSM in the first weeks of school.

Allen, originally from South Boston, Virginia, enjoys snow skiing, tennis and golf. He attended college at NC Wesleyan. There he received a BS in Business Administration. After graduation, Allen moved to Raleigh, NC to get a masters in education at NC State University. His degree got placed on hold, however, when he became

the Relationships Manager for First Union Mortgage Corporation.

While attending NC Wesleyan, he befriended Kristin Marsh. Kristin is the new SLI this year for 1C, 2C, and 1D. The two have been close friends for quite a while; Allen even visited Kristin at NCSSM long before the position for an SLI opened up.

"He was really impressed with the school and the people here, so when there was an opening for an SLI I called him" said Kristin.

Allen has always been interested in working in the aca-

demical field and with student life/services. One of the things at NCSSM that really surprised and impressed him was the diverse student body and the acceptance of this diversity. He enjoys the people here and their receptiveness.

"At traditional boarding schools everyone is the same," says Allen. That is certainly not true of the NCSSM community where students come from many different backgrounds and walks of life.

Allen is excited to be here so if you see him around, introduce yourself and make him feel at home at NCSSM!

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