

"CHOICE 68" COMING TO B C!

National Collegiate Presidential Primary

Will Be Held At The College On April 24

Success Of Choice 68 Depends On Moderates

By Jim Roy and Bob Harris

One of the more amusing side effects, depending on your sense of humor, of Eugene McCarthy's impressive showing in the New Hampshire primary has been the rather adulatory reaction of the national press to the Senator's corps of energetic and intense "ballot children". Originally written off as somewhat pathetic idealists, McCarthy's student army earned their abundant laurels by helping engineer the first stunning upset of the 1968 presidential campaign. As a result, the well-scrubbed, respectable, and quietly effective "Student Volunteer" suddenly became the darling of the press.

Youth Back in the Fold, gushed endless editorials, Democratic Process Works! Nihilism of the New Left Refuted! Generation Gap Bridged! As the New York Times stated eloquently what other papers expressed garnishly, "Senator McCarthy has managed to persuade great numbers of concerned youth that it is possible to make effective protest against existing American policies and practices by traditional democratic means".

This endless journalistic game of lumping all students into one vast and grotesquely misleading generalization thus continues. The archetypal collegian, it now appears, is no longer the student leftist with his picket sign and smouldering draft card. The "average" college student right now, today, is the "concerned" college student — the student whose faith in democracy is slowly but surely being reaffirmed through electoral triumph and lots of hard, determined work.

The idealistic gleam of such a student portrait will go far, no doubt, towards reestablishing middle class America's faith in its gold plated youth. But McCarthy's "Student Volunteers", like the radical

agitators, are but fringe elements of the college community and hardly representative of the American student body as a whole, whose reputation for indifference and apathy is not without substance.

As President Adran Doran of Morehouse State College in Kentucky stated, "These activities say that the rest of the students are apathetic and don't care. They're not. They're satisfied with the way things are. Why should they protest? There's nothing to protest about."

CHOICE 68, the National Collegiate Presidential Primary, is functioning with a somewhat more spirited preconception in mind — that, in fact, student moderates do care and do want their opinions registered in a responsible, effective manner.

The election itself will determine whether CHOICE 68's image of the "average" student is accurate. For in order to attain national visibility, CHOICE 68 must attract at least two million voters on April 24. Such a goal will be attained only if enough moderates choose to exert themselves to the minor degree of casting their votes.

CHOICE 68 will fail if they do not. The liberal and conservative activists may hoard the headlines, but the long silent student moderates have the numbers — and it is only by the raw power of size that a skeptical public and an overly antagonistic Congress will pay attention to the reality of student power.

It's one thing, of course, to boycott an election through principle and it's quite another to miss one through ignorance or apathy. If the moderates do fail to participate, especially in this, the most challenging of election years, then they will indeed have earned the taunt of Henry IV, "Go hang yourself, brave Grillon; we fought at Arques and you were not there."

THE STUDENT RIGHT AND CHOICE 68

By Jim Roy and Bob Harris

If anyone makes a killing through CHOICE 68, the National Collegiate Presidential Primary, it could be the campus conservatives. Although caricatured endlessly as dedicated young fascists with the mirage of exterminating insidious communism and related socialist end products, the fact remains that as a semi-professional political machine in the narrow, conventional sense of the word, the student right is unequalled.

This professionalism has developed, paradoxically enough, as a result of the incredible publicity that student leftists have received from the national press. Their large and usually garish demonstrations have rudely thrust the less flamboyant conservatives far into the background — where, in the leftist scenario, they vegetate in deserved obscurity.

Actually, this guise of conservative anonymity is deceiving, for the vitality of the student right rests in its dedication to the democratic process. Student power for conservatives does not entail the leftist course of direct and militant social intervention regardless of law and order. It involves instead power gained and administered through accepted formulas and established structures — student government, for instance, and national student organizations such as the Young Americans for Freedom.

So while the leftists picket, agitate, and alienate, the student conservatives try to pack the polls and churn out the vote. It's a simple, direct process, almost mechanical in fact. But that, after all, is how

elections are won — and campus conservatives are out to win CHOICE 68.

Their chances of doing so are not as minimal as some liberals would like to believe. For the politics of the right today are more politics of charisma than any other political wing on the American scene. In '64 it was Barry Goldwater who hypnotically swayed campus conservatives, and this year the prophet's mantle rests on the shoulders of Ronald Reagan. Any sizable student mobilization behind Reagan will do the liberal cause severe damage, and most campus conservatives know it. A glance at the CHOICE 68 ballot would tend to justify optimism. Those liberals dissatisfied with Lyndon Johnson's performance as Chief Executive have several extremely attractive candidates from which to choose. Predictably enough, the liberal vote for president will probably be extensively fragmented with no over riding numerical superiority being enjoyed by any single individual.

Conservatives, however, can rally in convincingly heavy number around Reagan. True, some extremists will back Wallace, and more moderate conservatives will support Nixon. But the bulk will vote for Reagan. The result could be a surprisingly authoritative conservative victory, one that would rock the leftists more than anything else.

If the liberals and moderates go their usual stumbling ways and fail to mobilize, then the conservatives will do handsomely in CHOICE 68 — for the conservatives, at least, care enough to vote. Do the liberals?

By Steve Huggins

On April 24, Brevard College students will be given an opportunity to express their vote for their choice for President.

Time Magazine is conducting a nation-wide collegiate Presidential primary called Choice 68. For college students only, the primary will give Time a rather good idea of how America's youth feel about the 1968 election.

Beginning this week, The Clarion will run news releases pertaining to the upcoming primary, and will hopefully present personal profiles of the leading candidates.

However, the success of the national primary depends on you! This is your chance to express your opinion not only as to whom you would like to see in the White House, but also how you feel about the Vietnam war and urban problems. (See sample ballot below).

If you wish to campaign for your favorite candidate, feel free to do so. Those students favoring Nixon may contact Don Cloninger or Bob Baggett for further information. We need a campaign manager for McCarthy, so don't hesitate to volunteer.

The ballot itself will be in the form for an IBM card, which the voter will mark with a stylus. The cards will then be shipped to N. Y. for processing at the Time-Life primary headquarters.

Choice 68 is only three weeks away.

SGA News

The proposal for allowing female students to wear shorts and slacks to meals during exams has been approved by the Residence Council. Having gone through all channels, the proposal states:

1. Bermuda shorts or slacks may be worn at all meals during exams.
2. The attire should be appropriate, no ragged shorts, overalls etc.
3. Usual dress will be expected for the Sunday noon meal.

The next S.G.A. movie to be shown on April 20, will be a "Patch of Blue."

S.G.A. nominations for student government officers for the 1968 - 1969 school year are as follows: President - Jimmy Wal-drop; Vice - President - Terry Wait; Secretary - Treasurer - Teresa Lax; and Social Chairmen - Jackie Tyler and Dave Wendelin.