

The Editorial Page

A Difference In Possibilities

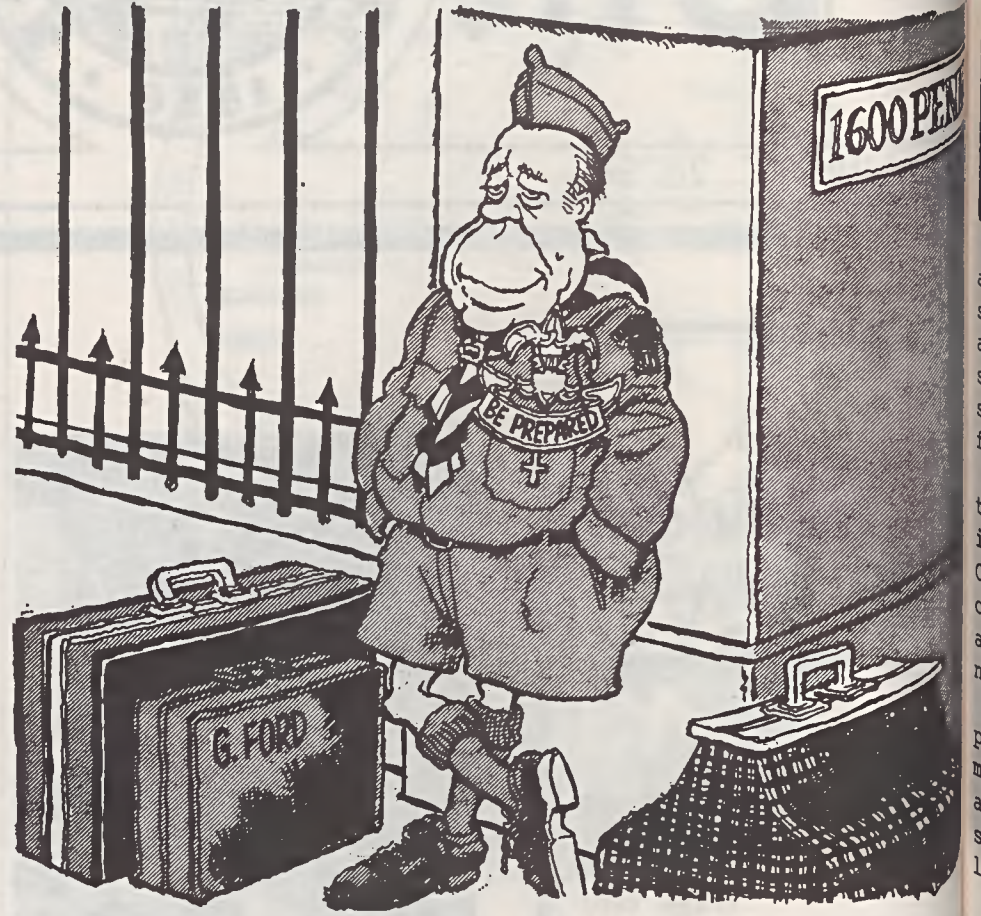
To the *Hilltop* editorial staff, the choice in this year's presidential election is clear. Though both the character and the stands of Jimmy Carter and Gerald Ford have often appeared rather ambiguous, we believe that the differences, especially between their stands, is well drawn. In economics and domestic policy, Ford's rhetoric is typically Republican. He pays much more attention to inflation than unemployment, much more attention to the efforts of the private sector than the initiatives of government. Logically, he believes in the trickle-down theory of economic well-being where tax breaks given to corporations will have to someday benefit the common laborer. Carter, on the other hand, represents the classic Democratic view of much government action in alleviating both inflation and unemployment. Contrary to Ford, he seems to have a sense of compassion for those out of work and is determined to lessen their plight. The bastions of privilege would therefore have to be quite vulnerable in a Carter administration.

In foreign policy, though the distinction is not as great, there are still some differences, basically in the way foreign policy is planned and administrated. Carter has called the shuttle-diplomacy of Henry Kissinger, a "Lone Ranger" type of approach, one which refuses to acknowledge the wisdom of the American people or that of their allies. He promises to personally conduct foreign policy out in the open (as opposed to Ford's use of Henry Kissinger, or vice-versa). Carter also calls for a heightened sense of moral consistency in our foreign policy, especially in regard to human dignity throughout the world. Ford runs on his record which is as much Richard Nixon's and Henry Kissinger's as his. He says we are at peace, but refuses to discuss the price we've paid (in respect at home and abroad) for that peace.

Perhaps the greatest difference, however, between the two men lies in the possibilities they present for the future. Ford, despite his campaign rhetoric will steer the country on the same course we have followed for the past eight years--more vetoes, more secret arms deals with foreign powers, more inaction on the economy. Carter, on the other hand, will try to change the course of the country, restoring trust--not by hollow speeches--but through decisive action and genuine reform. In short, he will try to make government work again--for the people.

The choice is clear to us. Will we be satisfied with today's reality or are we willing to help realize tomorrow's possibilities? Will we continue to trust the cold voice of the cynic or will we listen to the encouraging voice of the idealist? Will we hold on to the heritage of distrust and corruption or will we believe in the promise of something clean and new? Finally, will we keep a caretaker president or will we choose a leader . . . for a change? We choose Jimmy Carter!

The Hilltop invites responses to its editorials. Replies should be addressed to Editorial Staff, Hilltop, and sent through Post Office Box 1148-C. In addition, students, faculty or administrative personnel who wish to respond to events relative to campus or to a national viewpoint should address their response to Letter to the Editor (Feedback), Hilltop and send through Post Office Box 1148-C also.



Senior Officer Moves To Solve Class Apathy

There is something new under the sun these days. Student participation in the activities of their class has reached a new plateau. Class activities, usually confined to a handful of officers and "interested" students, have been anything but successful in encompassing total class awareness in the past. Class meetings have usually been attended by only a few; the majority of members do not attend the meetings. How to get students interested and involved in what is going on with their class has always been a major problem. Many times, attempts are made to increase class awareness of meetings by posters and huge promotional campaigns. Sometimes they work; oftentimes, they don't. A real dilemma, one would conclude.

But dilemmas can be solved with a lot of thought and a bit of planning. Such seems to be the case for the Senior class, at least. George Hardin, president of the class, has offered an innovative idea that just might solve class apathy. Mr. Hardin has initiated the idea of a class newsletter. The newsletter, which tells of the occurrences in recent class meetings, keeps all the members of the class informed as to what is happening in respect to class activities. For those students that have conflicting appointments at the time the class meetings are held, this newsletter allows them to be informed on what has happened in their absence. For others that have no intention of attending a class meeting whether there is a conflict in their schedule or not, at least the newsletter keeps them up-to-date on what plans and projects are underway by their class. Oftentimes, "information" is the key to apathy. Mr. Hardin's premise seems to be this, and it would look as if he (and his officers) just might have found an answer to uninformed, apathetic class members.

We find Mr. Hardin's idea viable, and one that other classes might pursue in order to increase their own member's awareness. Indeed, there is something new under the sun these days.

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