

McGovern was contagious

"If I sound a little raspy and harsh...it's just a sore throat — it's nothing contagious," George McGovern told the 600 or so students packed into every nook and cranny of 180 PLC Wednesday afternoon.

editor's note debbie howlett

Forgive me for being presumptuous George, but it appears that you, and the ideas you rode in on, were highly contagious.

For those of us who were sitting in elementary school classes when McGovern and former Pres. Richard Nixon were going toe-to-toe, McGovern is a new entity. We didn't have to deal with the Nixon-McGovern race. We grew up thinking that Nixon, despite what Nixon said, was a crook.

Now, a number of us sitting in University classes have discovered what a "real liberal" looks like. And judging from the response of University students to the first 1984 presidential stump-stop, that number is growing.

Of course, the old guard was out in force for McGovern's lecture.

There was the balding man sitting cross-legged near the foot of the lecture podium. His purple tied T-shirt with the McGovern-Shriver logo gave him away.

But the new guard far outnumbered the old.

When McGovern announced that, given the opportunity, he would immediately withdraw U.S. forces out of Central America and Lebanon, the applause was thunderous.

None of this moderate knee-jerk for these University students, no siree. When McGovern spoke of the first few caucuses and primaries, he said he had a chance at gaining momentum, maybe winning the nomination. Several members of the audience gasped, a few more raised doubtful eyebrows.

McGovern outlined a scenario of finishing among the top three in the Iowa Democratic Caucus Feb. 20, and a week later doing the same in New Hampshire, the nation's first primary. It sounded plausible enough.

McGovern continued and said he stood a chance of winning in Massachusetts, the third stop on the primary tour and the only state he carried in the 1972 election. The media would pick him up as the Cinderella candidate, his picture would grace the cover of *Newsweek*.

It sounded easy.

McGovern's campaign is not going to be easy. His campaign wallet is as thin as the average college students', and the field of democrats is eight men wide.

But in the crowded confines of 180 PLC, McGovern was receiving a second standing ovation.

We are not the generation from the 1940s and 50s who reveled in the power of the United States and the prosperity that followed World War II. We are from a subsequent generation. People to whom a nuclear war seems likely, if not inevitable. People who understand that exorbitant defense spending leads to minimal human services, especially at this crucial time.

And it seems that this gentle man in a blue pin-striped suit, is echoing those concerns, and that at least this crowd is ready to follow.

letters

2) The Reagan administration has cut inflation 80 percent in four years.

3) Although slow at the start, the Reagan administration has spawned the most spectacular economic recovery this nation has ever seen.

4) Personal income taxes have been cut 25 percent increasing personal financial freedom 25 percent by Reagan's actions.

5) Reagan rescued American citizens in Grenada from a potential hostage situation, something Carter failed at in Iran.

6) Reagan is a champion of minority rights, having hired more women and blacks to high public offices than all his predecessors combined.

7) Reagan has upheld moral and biblical principles, the greatest foundations any society can have. This was the intention of our founding fathers, not a godless, immoral, but free society as advocated by Reagan's opponents.

8) Reagan must be allowed to

finish what he started - reduce government spending. Congress has done their best to prevent reductions; as a result, the deficit has sky-rocketed because of their obstinence.

9-10) Walter Mondale or John Glenn will be his opponent. If either were elected, Reagan's accomplishments would be destroyed, returning us to an inflationary spiral and to runaway taxes that would devastate not just us, but the entire world.

Perhaps, then, the editorial should have instead been titled, "10 Reasons To Take The Emerald Seriously", and left blank.

Brandon Shepard

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

This is in response to David Morrissey's letter of Dec. 7.

God forbid anyone should blaspheme ex-junkie Marianne Faithful and "the erstwhile consort of Mick Jagger and a few

dozen other..." (wow, too far freeakin' out) "...rock heavies of the 1960s." And, oh man, technology killed the cat — I promise, Morrissey, I'll burn my Sony Walkman if you'll just take your head out of the wastebasket of the past.

There is nothing worse than a patronizing hippie-type who is so caught up in his age (or lack of it) that he feels he has the God given right to criticize.

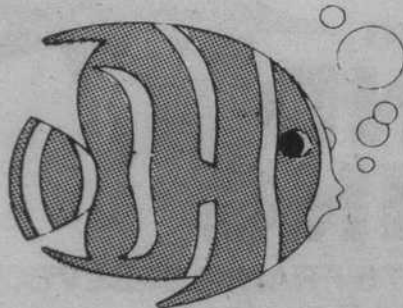
Aw, like, c'mon guy, music is in the ear of the beholder not in how many "rock heavies" the musician has slept with.

I don't even like Juice Newton, but should I ridicule the reporter for writing up an interview with her?

You sound like another letter writer jealous of the *Emerald*.

Seasame Street would do you some good. Can you spell R-E-S-P-E-C-T? Aretha Franklin can.

C. Hanson
Eugene



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