

Newsweek On Campus

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THE HOOTERS



The Expo
America Show

Ocean Center
Convention Hall

Daytona
Beach

March 24th
9:00 pm

Student rate
tickets at
Ocean Center

City of the Lord member and former student-body president, insists that the conservatives have simply balanced the previous liberal bias: "We took apart their ivory tower. In fact, we blew it up."

The State Press has been a battle zone. Columnists have inveighed against women who pursue careers ("career-oriented women commit social suicide") and crusaded for students to be born again through prayer. One columnist, Matthew Scully, monitored lectures and then attacked certain professors in print for alleged left-wing bias. He has since become a national leader of Accuracy in Academia (page 41).

Angry letters: Campus moderates and liberals find it hard to rally. Says Bill Adair, a 1985 graduate who fought conservative domination of student government: "The problem is that they're better organized than we are." The religious slant of student politics finally alienated senior Mary Phillips, a devout Catholic who resigned her government post after repeated run-ins with fundamentalist officers. "I'm not saying there shouldn't be Christians in student government," Phillips says, "but the primary focus shouldn't be their religious preference."

Many students complain about the newspaper's criticism of minority-student organizations and its opposition to divestiture of stock of companies doing business in South Africa: a column by the editor last spring argued that "no one here except for the laughable leaders of the Black Student Union is misguided enough to insist on ASU's divestiture." The paper's religious tone offends others. Mark Duskin, who is Jewish, says, "I feel like I'm being put down." Critics concede that the State Press lets them voice their objections—angry letters often fill a page or more—but they contend that news presentation should be more balanced. Disagreement, however, has not been strong enough to support organized opposition; an alternative newspaper, begun last spring, failed in the fall for lack of funds.

Beyond the ideological trenches, though, ASU continues to thrive. President J. Russell Nelson has installed a new staff to clean up the athletic act. More lounge space in new buildings is part of an effort to diminish isolation and encourage socializing. The university has also collected pledges of \$35 million in its first major private fund drive, a \$75 million centennial effort. The optimistic Nelson believes that ASU's party-school label will eventually wear off. "Harvard had that reputation until 1875," he says, citing with amusement Samuel Eliot Morison's history. "The passage of time is an important factor." He hopes that, in time, Arizona State can develop an academic profile that's worthy of the Sun Devils' suntans.

JOHN SCHWARTZ in Tempe