



U. of Central Florida's Holly Ramsey introduced Paul Tsongas at the Democratic National Convention in July. She and other students lend a hand to their favorite candidates.

# THE LURE OF THE TRAIL

CAMPAIGN '92

Find out why students will drop everything once every four years to make the next president

BY TED S. WARREN, *The Daily Texan*, U. OF TEXAS, AUSTIN

After graduating from high school in 1988, candidates and caucuses took precedent over college for Ethan Zindler.

That summer he progressed from sealing envelopes in the basement of Michael Dukakis' Brookline, Mass., campaign headquarters to assisting Dukakis' campaign manager.

But after November, George Bush was headed for the White House, and the only place Zindler could find a Democratic presidency was in his history classes at the U. of Wisconsin, Madison.

After three semesters, he grew restless and headed

to California to serve as Dianne Feinstein's deputy chief of staff in her race for governor. After Zindler's second attempt at election victory, Feinstein was defeated and Zindler found himself in a familiar situation.

So when Pete Wilson moved into the governor's mansion, Zindler went to Harvard for a year as a visiting student. Still aware of the lure of a campaign, he kept an eye on Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton.

"I saw Clinton and said, 'This guy has a real idea of what needs to be done'... and three days after exams, I was in Little Rock," Zindler says, recalling how he

hooked up with someone from a previous campaign and was hired by Clinton's press office to work on scheduling for the candidate's traveling press corps.

Wisconsin would wait — again; Zindler was back on the trail.

He joined thousands of college students from across the country to serve in the army of volunteers and interns forming the backbone of presidential campaigns this year.

Every word and move of Bush, Clinton and their support teams is preceded by hundreds of student-generated phone calls, memos and briefing sheets. More students check and double-check schedules and transportation arrangements.

"Basically everyone is young — most people I work here with who aren't students are no more than 35," says Zindler, who is 22.

Many of the crowds turning out to wave flags and shake hands at campaign stops were recruited and notified by local chapters of the College Democrats or Republicans, organized completely by students, even at the national level.

Tony Zagotta became national chairman of the College Republicans in 1989 and moved to Washington, D.C., after graduating from Illinois State U.

"The biggest thing young people bring to a campaign is excitement and enthusiasm... college students will sleep on floors, eat McDonald's and work night and day for little pay," Zagotta says. "It energizes the whole campaign to have them."

Zagotta wants their votes as well because of the high percentage of 18- to 24-year-olds who voted Republican in 1984 and 1988.