

"Some of the idealism has been drained out of [students] and they need to get that back."

DAVID HARRY (LEFT) SOPHOMORE AT THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY AND MEMBER OF UNITED WE STAND AMERICA

ents, Third Millennium was started to "provide a voice for the post-Baby Boom generation [Americans born in the 1960s and 1970s]," according to their mission statement.

The founders are a group of activists, journalists and other professionals, many of whom met last spring to discuss generational issues. "There's always a lot of interest groups out there to argue for more spending," says co-founder Jonathan Karl, a human rights activist and a 25-year-old graduate of Vassar College in New York. "But there's never any group out there that will say 'We're willing to make a sacrifice.'"

Deliberately putting aside divisive issues like abortion and the death penalty, this self-dubbed "post-partisan" group comprises liberals and conservatives, Democrats and Republicans. They've advocated legislation like the Penny-Kasich \$90 billion deficit-reduction amendment to the federal budget, and condemned Clinton's health care plan for being "fiscally irresponsible and generationally unfair." Like Lead... or Leave, they advocate cuts in Social Security and Medicare, and they also say the government can reduce the deficit and still spend more on certain domestic programs.

Third Millennium, however, hasn't really done anything to act on their beliefs aside from generating huge amounts of publicity. Their biggest achievement so far has been a self-dubbed "powwow" with about 30 Congressional members and staffers last September.

While Third Millennium is a bit more civilized than, say, Lead... or Leave, they're sometimes a bit too polite. At their meeting with members of Congress, for instance, they agreed to voice their concerns in the future by phoning the representatives' offices — an arrangement that any American has with Capitol Hill.

Karl says the group has a chapter in Washington, composed largely of Capitol Hill aides, which provides an information pipeline to Congress. He also says of most members, "We're political amateurs. Most of the people involved in Third Millennium had never even worked in politics before."

They're poorly organized, however, and they haven't done much yet, even allowing for inexperience. It's a grim outlook for any political group, post-partisan or not.

What you'll be doing if you join:

Going to a few meetings, maybe listening to a few lectures... tentative plans include holding volunteer fairs for community service and sponsoring speakers series.

Grade: C- Right now, they've accomplished remarkably little except preaching. But they are newer than any other group featured here.

For more information about Third Millennium, call (212) 979-2001. E-mail address: genx34012@aol.com

Paul Nusbak, The Georgetown Voice, Georgetown U. and Mike Pound, The Post, Ohio U., contributed to this report.

College Republicans

Focus: "Scaling back government and the bureaucracy, reversing the welfare state, and educating the next generation of young people for the next century" — National Chairman Bill Spadea

Founded: 1892

Membership: 756 chapters. They

estimate 86,000 members.

Funding: 70 to 80 percent through fund-raising events, 20 to 30 percent through the GOP. No dues.

In this age when everyone treats "party" like a dirty word, it's a nice change of pace to see the College Republican national leadership embracing good old-fashioned partisanship.

National Chairman Bill Spadea, a 24-year-old graduate of Boston U. and former youth director for George Bush's 1992 campaign, makes no bones about it in an open letter to new members: "I'm looking forward to working with you in the fight against Clinton Liberalism and Political Correctness."

HOW THEY WERE GRADED	Level of Activity	Membership	Representation	Organization	Accessibility	Funding Source	G P A
Third Millennium	D	D	B	C	D	B	C-
College Republicans	C	A	B	B	D	n/a	B-
College Democrats	A	A	B	A	D	n/a	B+
U S Student Assoc	B	B	D	A	A	B	B
United We Stand	B	C	D	A	A	C	B-
Lead or Leave	C	C	B	C	B	C	C+

THE METHOD BEHIND THE GPA

Information was gathered from national headquarters and five or more campus chapters of each group. The groups were graded in six categories:

Level of Activity: In the past year, have they done lobbying and/or campaign work at the national and grassroots levels? Have they conducted educational/civic awareness efforts (debates, demonstrations, voter registrations) at the national and grassroots levels?

Membership: Groups were graded on a "curve," those with more than 500 chapters, A; 150-500 chapters, B; 50-150 chapters, C; fewer than 50 chapters, D. Since individual members can't organize for action as well as chapters, only chapter memberships were evaluated.

Representation: Are members and/or constituents adequately represented at the national level? Do delegates from schools

and/or regions vote on all platforms? Do all members elect delegates to national and/or statewide conventions?

Organization: Do they have a full-time national staff, regional/state directors and national/state conventions? Does the national headquarters communicate at least twice a month with surveyed chapters?

Accessibility: Two college students made at least two phone calls to each organization, requesting more information. Did representatives answer the phone or return the calls? Did they provide information about their activities and how to get involved? Did they provide the names of regional contacts? Did they send information through the mail?

Funding: This applies only to groups claiming to be nonpartisan. Groups "lost points" for accepting money from politicians and/or political groups; how many points they lost depended on how much money they accept.

Although the CRs use the GOP platform, they also pass resolutions to supplement it at their biennial conventions, usually taking a more conservative stance than the GOP on such issues as gun control and abortion.

Aside from campaigning for Republican candidates (Spadea estimates that the CRs registered 200,000 voters in 1992), they've recently taken steps like these to fight liberalism and PC:

At the U. of Colorado last November, CRs submitted a petition to the Board of Regents which cited that only 2 percent of faculty were registered Republicans and demanded greater Republican representation on administrator and faculty search committees. "Even some liberal students have said that they haven't been challenged [by professors] because they agree too much with the faculty," says Chairman Brad Dempsey, a junior.

At the U. of California, Berkeley, Executive Director Eric Davis, a senior, cites the group's most successful activity last semester as "disrupt[ing] the entire rally" of Democrats who opposed Proposition 174 (a proposal to fund parents' choices to send their children to private schools or allow them to choose a public school).

When it comes to fighting liberals, the CRs do a good job. But this seems to be the focus of their activity.

In their defense, the CRs don't have a president or a majority in Congress to support, and this may be why they haven't organized any national lobbying for legislation or demonstrations on issues since the 1992 elections.

Right now, says Spadea, they're just "mobilizing" for the 1994 Congressional and Senate elections, and they're planning on targeting certain states for voter registration drives this year. "My objective is to build a large organization before we go into battle and take on a major issue," Spadea says.

They'll also be taking on Clinton's health care plan. "We will absolutely be involved as the health care debate unfolds before our eyes," Spadea says.

What you'll be doing if you join:

Debating with liberals. Hosting speakers and registering voters. Volunteering for campaigns.

Grade: B- Maybe it's because the Republican Party is the minority in Congress, but so far the CRs seem more interested in blaming the Democrats/liberals for problems than working for solutions.

For more information, call (202) 662-1330. E-mail address: 73373.1453@Compuserve

College Democrats

Focus: Electing Democrats, supporting Democratic legislation and "furthering the student

continued next page