

educate college students and give them the facts, I think they'll fall in line."

While College Republicans remind students what Clinton hasn't done, College Democrats will explain what a Republican Congress *has* done.

"We're concentrating on college loans and the cuts Republicans are trying to make," Geary says. "If we do not keep the White House and take back the Congress, a lot of kids won't be going back to college or starting college in '97."

But the real facts come from the Libertarians, says Jeff Kanter, Ohio regional chair.

"The Democrats and the Republicans pass programs that are good for political hay," Kanter says. "We're more interested in the truth. Let everybody know: Get it all on the table."

What have you done for me lately?

Back to the issues. College students are fiercely interested in issues ranging from scarcity of natural resources to scarcity of campus parking. Which ones are candidates targeting?

Republicans are going after the issues college-age voters are most concerned about, says Galli.

Which are?

"Welfare reform, reform of entitlement programs, balancing the budget."

Oh.

"MTV doesn't speak fairly for our generation," he adds.

Julia Herz, campaign manager for Republican candidate Tom Shellenberg, clarifies further. "Tom feels that if we don't address the balanced budget issue, when our generation is his age, we won't have a nation left," she says.

That's a little more like it. As for the incumbent party, College Democrats'

Geary says it may seem like Clinton isn't addressing specifically youth issues.

"Clinton has not talked about being the education president," he says. "He wakes up every morning and *is* the education president."

"No one anticipates a primary challenge at this point. If there were, I still think we'd be behind Clinton."

One who would like to be a contender is Bruce

Daniels. "His primary message, which could be of great interest to many students, is that President Clinton has not held strongly to the liberal principles of the Democratic Party," says Mark Baldwin, Daniels' press secretary.

And Libertarians? Students should favor the Libertarians because they're so darn brainy, says Kanter, who is also Libertarian candidate Irwin Schiff's campaign manager.

"Most professional politicians are very dependent on their advisers," he says. "Libertarians come from a very scholarly background. Once you get involved with Libertarians, you start to think, 'Thank God they're on our side — they're so smart.'"

The greatest show on Earth

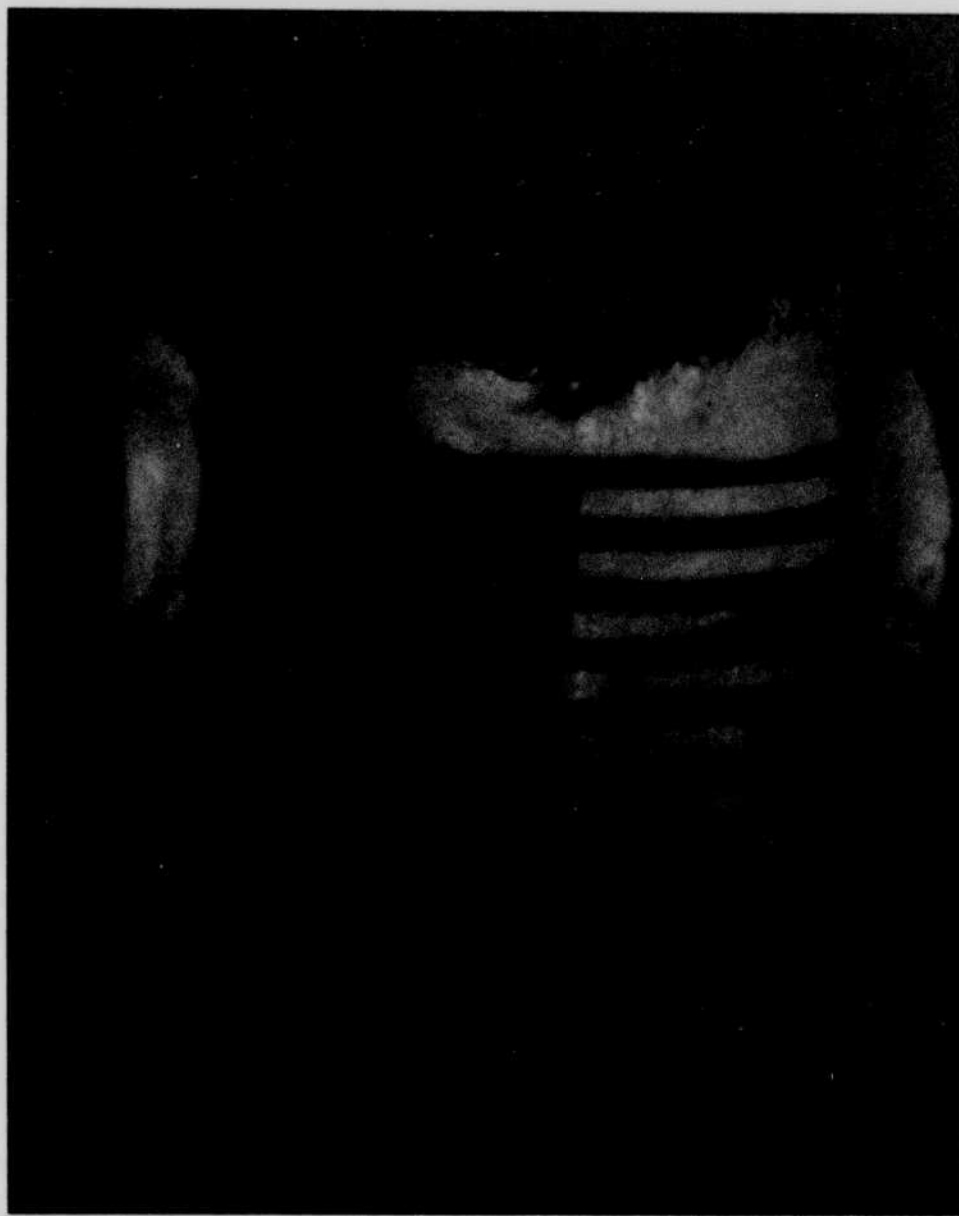
Not very specific, but that's about all the issue-addressing going on right now. However, the fun has just begun. Maybe Colin Powell will put out a rap album. Maybe Bob Dole will put out a rap album. Whatever happens, it should be a great show as, once again, the pols try to peg our elusive, yet exasperatingly desirable, demographic.

But that's their job. Our job is to make sure we don't settle for mere media bites. Let them entertain us, but make sure they're answering to our needs.

As Rock the Vote's Batra says: "Voting is not something that is supposed to be trendy."

It's fun to watch the fireworks, but it's even better when you helped spark them.

Bonnie Datt, associate editor, is registered Independent (her friends and family told her so).



Covering your ears won't make elections go away.

D.C. summer camp(aign)

Fold. Staple. Mail. Fold. Staple. Mail. Lyrics to the latest techno hit? No, it's the instructions Libertarian presidential candidate Rick Tompkins gives to his campaign volunteers — "a number of little things that are integral to any campaign."

Many college students spent this summer doing just that, and more.

Melanie Asher, a junior from Duke U. who volunteered on the Clinton '96 campaign, says she's always been involved in politics. Her parents constantly had the McLaughlin Group on the boob tube. "Living in D.C. makes you really politically conscious," the

self-proclaimed ardent Democrat says.

Asher's "in" to the world of politics was her 26-year-old sister, who worked on Clinton's '92 campaign. When her sister was doing "advance" (making arrangements with media before appearances), Asher volunteered her time three days a week, shuffling over to the campaign office after working full-time in a law office.

Asher attended the Democratic National Congress' presidential gala in June. She had the nonglamorous job of usher but nevertheless says it was thrilling. Although she has yet to meet *el presidente*, she says it would be an honor.

Unlike Asher, Georgetown U. senior Heather Lauer met the man whose campaign she volunteered for: Bob Dole. Unfortunately, it was only the industry

standard meet-and-greet — a quick handshake and hello.

Lauer worked Monday through Saturday, 50 to 60 hours a week, with about 20 other students in Dole's D.C. headquarters. Hailing from Idaho, Lauer was excited by the opportunities available in the capital. "[It] opened my eyes to a lot of different things," she says. "It's a great experience."

Besides being a fun or (remember staple duty?) at least different experience, working on a campaign provides insight no poli sci class can. It also can help you decide if the world of politics is for you and if so, where in the world you belong.

Kevin Geary, president of College Democrats and a senior at St. Joseph's College in Pennsylvania, knows from his experience working on campaigns that

he wants to be in politics, but not as a politician. At least not for a long time, he says. "I might work on a campaign to re-elect, or something involved with campaigns."

Lauer says she got involved because she's interested in the political process. "It's never the same," she says. "There are general rules — campaigns have learned from their mistakes, and they know what's right and what's wrong — but the process changes from day to day."

She noticed the job attracts a certain personality: quick-paced and detail-oriented. "I enjoy the pressure and the stress. It's constantly changing."

"People ask, 'What do you do?' It's so hard to say. It's whatever needed to be done 10 minutes ago."

John Youngs, U. of Connecticut

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Guest Expert: The Alien

On Politics: "The path by which the future is judged shows that there is a major change in store. There is currently a vacuum at the top."