

opinion

Education dangerous to Reagan Campaign

"Why should we subsidize intellectual curiosity?" the man asked. Who is that man? Why, it just so happens that that man just might be our next president. No, not John Anderson. Nor Ed Clark. The man who said it is everyone's favorite right-wing-yes-man superconservative-elitist. He's Ronald Reagan.

Yes, Ronald Reagan is against Financial Aid, without a doubt the most important special funding a student can receive, next to a million-dollar inheritance.

"More government red tape," the man grumbled. Maybe, but that red tape helps to educate millions of people in this country, and without it, millions would not be able to educate themselves at a college.

The idea of financial aid, of course, is to educate as many as possible. Why is Mr. Reagan against financial aid? Maybe he senses the danger of education to his candidacy.

He must also sense the danger of the middle class to his hopes for the White House. Maybe the man is a rich elitist (you can be a poor be educated. He would rather give them tax in-

centives. At least it wouldn't take them four years to get nowhere.

A man who doesn't feel the poor or middle-class should receive monetary aid to help them educate themselves, does not believe in education for the common people and should not be president.

How this man could be leading in the polls is beyond comprehension. Although I wouldn't put it beyond Reagan to change his mind and support financial aid when he has to talk in front of college students. He has done it before. Most recently, after talking to Lee Iacocca of Chrysler, came out in support of the government's bailout of Chrysler. A bail-out he has staunchly opposed from beginning until his speech to the auto workers in Detroit.

Now wait a minute. I thought that Ronald Reagan wanted government out of business? This is a complete turnaround from his campaign. A note needs to be made that he made his policy change in a speech to AUTO WORKERS. It's just telling people what they want to hear. Reagan's pretty good at that.

The importance of being impressive

One of the great (when I say great, I mean huge-not fantastic) problems people have when they write editorials or letters to the paper, is really not that great (I still mean huge) at all. In fact, it is really a small-tiny-minor problem. That problem is, of course, impressing the reader.

Impressing the reader is not hard at all--if you know how to do it. If done right, an editorial can impress the reader even if the contents are less than impressive, (stink).

The problems of impotent-impress the reader-writers stem from two different roots. The first root is the lack of a planted subject. The second needs watering only in the flowery style of the language.

Choosing a subject is one of the most important steps in gardening a truly impressive editorial. The subject must not only interest the writer, but interest must also blossom in the minds of the readers, not to mention in the mind of the editor of the paper. Although if the writer signs his or her work, it will probably get published. An interesting subject matter is imperative.

For example, if a person writes to a community college paper, he or may assured that their reader could care less about the community's problems. If it really bothers the author of the piece, rest assured it will be published.

As far as subject matter goes, national and international subjects are always interesting copy

and can take up a great deal of space. Choose a subject that can be milked to death. Subjects like Iran and Afghanistan, presidential elections, property taxes, Missouri, or cows and Ronald Reagan (no connection is intended). Socialism, Facism, the need for peace, the need for war, the need for electric guitars all make fascinating reading. Anything that is controversial or interesting will work.

Someone in the back has just asked how the need for electric guitars can make for fascinating reading. The Germans say it best: EET eez zee vay eet is put togezearr. Or the way it is put together.

The first way to impress the reader (especially if the writer has no idea what he is talking about) is through the use of such big words that no one has any idea what they mean. An easy way to find big words is to consult "Roget's Thesaurus." For example, if a writer wrote "Jimmy Carter's quadyry of his lasciviousness may cost him his excogitation," people would think he is a genius. It is pure bull, but he would be a shoe-in for ASG Senator (Forgive me Cherlynn).

To go with the big words, a quote or two from everyone's favorite, William, is always impressive. Imagine the appause a writer will receive when he writes, "Asses are made to bare and so is Ayatollah Khomeni's." The writer of that will surely become a campus hero. Imagine the social possibilities! Dates, marriage, a political future is assured.

A good classical style is always a plus. Would anyone be reading "The Canterbury Tales" had Geoffrey Chaucer written it in 21st century New York-English colloquial bathroom-wall style? Of course not. They would go out and buy the Cliff Notes like any smart and cheating student.

Americans prefer style over contents, anyway. How else would we choose our national leaders? If they look presidential, we vote for them regardless of what comes spewing out of their mouths. Style is everything.

To make a very, very (going for inches, now), very, very long story short, drop those letters at Trailer B (for Boy), anytime before Monday at 2 p.m. (That's the deadline time, folks) and if the prolific writers sign their names, they'll get printed.

By Thomas A. Rhodes

the print

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