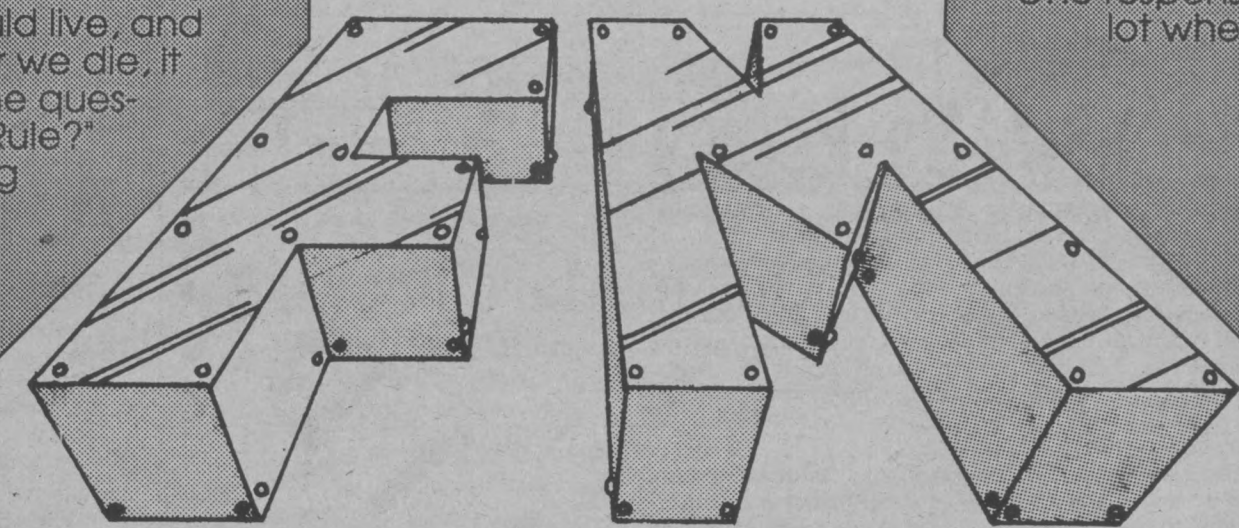


Now that we have covered our origin, how we should live, and what happens after we die, it is time to address the question - "Who Should Rule?" We aren't just talking A.S. vs. Student Union here, though we will cover that, we want to know who should rule the whole thing. Are decisions better for having gotten a majority of the minority who bothered to vote? What if we enacted those measures which got a minority? Would the world be better?



**BOLDLY
GOING WHERE
FOOLS FEAR
TO TREAD**

One response which came up a lot when we tried our question on the staff was "Who should rule what?" At first we thought that people were being deliberately obtuse, as if anyone around here would know how to do that. But then it dawned on us, good question! It's easy to blame the ruler or the system, but thousands of rulers and hundreds of systems have been tried, all failed! Maybe the problem is not with the ruler but is with the ruled! We recommend taking the best system, and ruling rocks with it.

Who Should Rule?

Rule of Thumbs

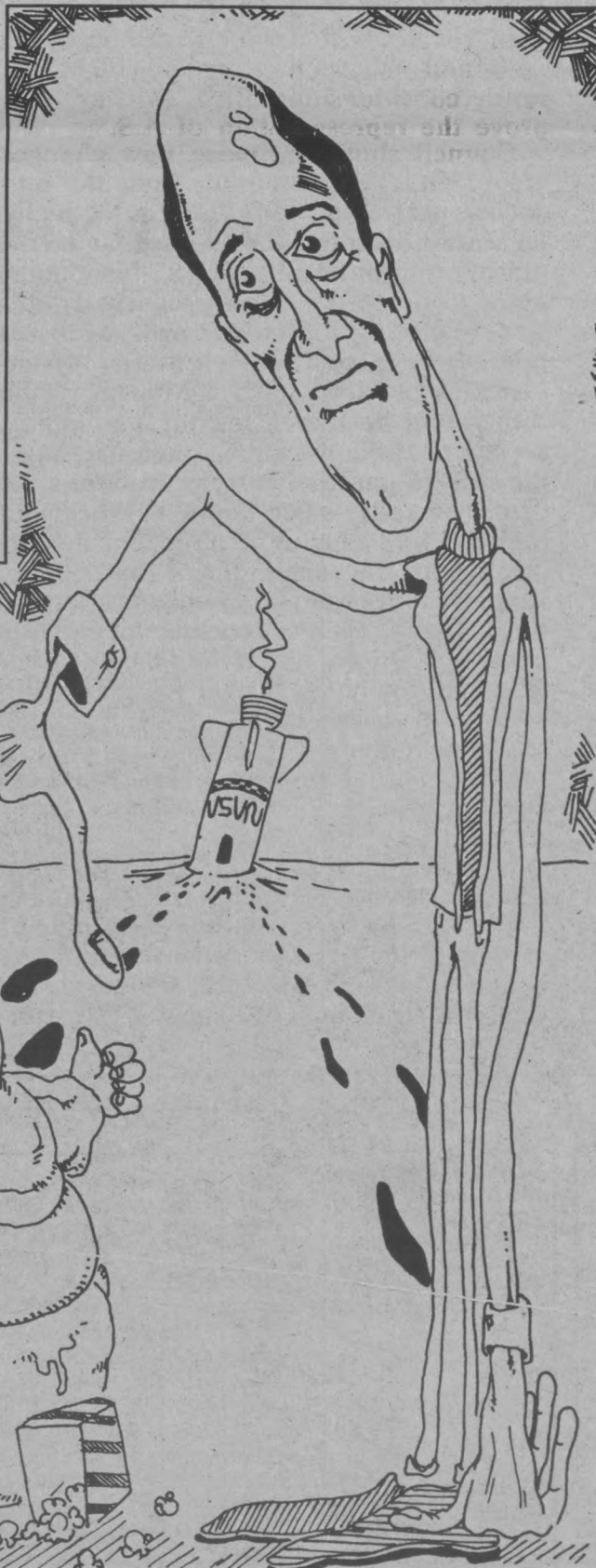
It is the future. Chaos has erupted. It's a world that Mad Max would be proud to live in, had Australia not been destroyed in the Third World War.

A young boy has been caught stealing food in the bazaar. The local authorities feel that it would be best to take him before the Supreme Two.

The Supreme Two are always more than pleased to review a new case. The lad is brought into the court room. It is divided by an aisle. The Two sit, separated by it, as are their followers.

The case is heard, and The Two must now decide. First, the one on the left speaks his piece. He is grotesque. Vast rolls of fat are covered by something oddly reminiscent of a tweed sport jacket. Images of Jabba the Hut and Elvis in his later years come to mind. He gurgles his commentary through thin, blue lips. Drool and bits of chocolate-covered peanuts fall between the rolls in his chin.

He passes his final judgement. A huge, almost formless



hand raises and, as the Romans did in their senate, he points his thumb up.

Now, his companion on the other side of the aisle speaks. His voice is as thin as his gaunt form. His balding head looms over his fellow judge like a rabid, scowling Abbott over a quivering, vengeful Costello. Cheek bones jut from his face; surely he is the Grim Reaper, the messenger of death. This is obvious in that his speech has a much more negative ring. He likes the lad, but can't see him clear of his sin. With this, a bony hand reaches far into space and issues a thumbs down.

Insanity explodes, as usual. The court draws its swords. Followers of The Two slash at each other with the zealotry of the censor board editing a Mickey Rourke film for television. The Thin One's fingers snap as they search through the rolls of the Fat One's, for a neck. The Fat One rumbles, and a shower of Dr. Pepper and Milk Duds is issued forth from his slit of a mouth, all over his companion. In the confusion, the young shoplifter escapes.

How did all this come about? Well, in 1992, a NASA committee chose two men to go on a top secret mission to explore the universe. Complications shortly after take-off caused the two men to be frozen and thrown into deep space, where they would sleep for 500 years. Upon their return, they found a world quite different.

Who were these men? They were Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert. They became The Supreme Two.

You see, in about the year 2022, the Great Ted Turner Colorization War saw the destruction of every single copy of every single episode of "The Brady Bunch," "The Munsters" and the award-winning series that ran thirty years before it was syndicated, "Doogie Howser, M.D."

Because of this, WTBS was forced to rerun old "At the Movies" episodes to keep its head above water.

In the year 2345, civilization as we know it ended with the death of John, the last surviving member of "New Kids on the Block." The arts industry folded. All television stopped. Almost.

At the time, WTBS was completely computerized and therefore not affected by the death of John, for the most part. At 3:30 p.m., every day, the world tuned in to the last remaining TV station to watch the last remaining rerun, "At the Movies." Siskel and Ebert's ratings soared, even though no one knew what a "Do The Right Thing" or a "Beaches" was.

By the time 2522 rolled around, the fat guy and the other one had reached mythic status. Their crash landing in Bear Butte, Iowa, at the time the cultural center of the world, was thought of as a gift from the heavens.

Changes were quick and inevitable. "Goobers" quickly became the international food and the thumb judgment system, which was already in vogue, became the way, no ifs, ands or buts. It all worked well.

The two film critics were changed, too. Without industry, there was no pollution. They weren't used to it, having spent the duration of their twentieth century existences behind typewriters, word processors, movie screens and vending machines, in the city. The strange oxygen mutated their bodies, making them gross, Moish-like caricatures of their former selves.

This is the future; welcome to it. Before anyone wants to gripe or whine, just ponder a far worse scenario: "What if Bush and Quayle had been in that space ship?"

— Denis Faye

Student Government Vs. Reality

When evaluating the effectiveness of the two models of student government proposed in the recent election, one has to ask oneself, to what end is all this fuss? Does the student government have a *Raisin de Eater*? Is the present occupation of A.S. a fair test of a democratic government? The only thing we could think of that the student government really had the power to do was to "lobby" (beg) the chancellor to respond to student (or greek) interests. After all, who has the power to overturn any A.S. decision? It's not the *Nexus*, it's *Babs*.

This doesn't seem like an adequate test of the two systems, so we decided to try them out in a real world situation. We put the Student Union in charge of a Navy frigate, escorting oil tankers through the Arabian Gulf. We took A.S. and tried it out as a used car dealership.

First, the Student Union:

First speaker (since all speakers are essentially equal, the term first speaker is intended only to convey the temporal order of appearance): "Radar reports a gunboat at 10,000 yards."

Second Speaker: "We should start the education process immediately."

First Speaker (For dramatic purposes we are reducing the number of speakers to two, thus the term "first speaker" though offensive, is used yet again to convey the continuity of identity): "Can't we just take a quick vote and ready the guns?"

Second Speaker: "Sure, just run around and get this petition signed by lots of people, then we'll vote."

The *first speaker* leaves for a few minutes, returns somewhat out of breath. "I got enough to put it on the ballot, now we had better get cracking, the gunboat is closing."

Second Speaker: "OK, but the guys from the forward gun turret want a measure that guarantees their gun won't be used in the engagement."

First Speaker: "That's absurd, we can't put that on the ballot."

Second Speaker: "They spent a lot of time polishing the barrel and turret, not to mention the shells. They are really shiny. If we turn them down, they only need seven signatures to get an appeal, we'll be stuck for three days."

First Speaker: "OK, OK, we won't use the forward turret. Let's get this vote over with."

A few minutes later the vote has been completed and the crew decides to defend themselves. At this point, it becomes appa-

rent that the ship is going in a circle and has been doing so for some time.

First Speaker: "OK, I give up. Why can't we go straight?"

Second Speaker: "We just found out that one of our main engines has parts that were shipped on greyhound during the strike. Our boycott policy won't allow us to use it."

Second, the Associated Students system: *Mike Stowers, A.S. President (a fictionalized Mike Stowers, not to be confused with the real, better dressed, and much more sincere Mike Stowers):* "I just called this press conference to tell everyone how much productive work A.S. has done since taking over this operation. Our boards and committees have really made some progress on many issues, I'm really proud of what we are doing."

Bad Cynical Nexite: "Have you sold any cars?"

Stowers: "I think that all this focus on a single issue shows how single-minded the Nexus is. It just contradicts your whole stand on the UCen/RecCen thing. I just want to draw your attention to all the good work that is being done."

BCN: "Which is ..."

Stowers: "I know that our recycling program is one of the best in the country, we have been saving all our reports, budgets, sales receipts, just look at that pile out back."

BCN: "What happens to the stuff now?"

Stowers: "It's being recycled, it's in our recycling pile."

BCN: "Does it get recycled?"

Stowers: "It is recycled, it's in a recycling pile."

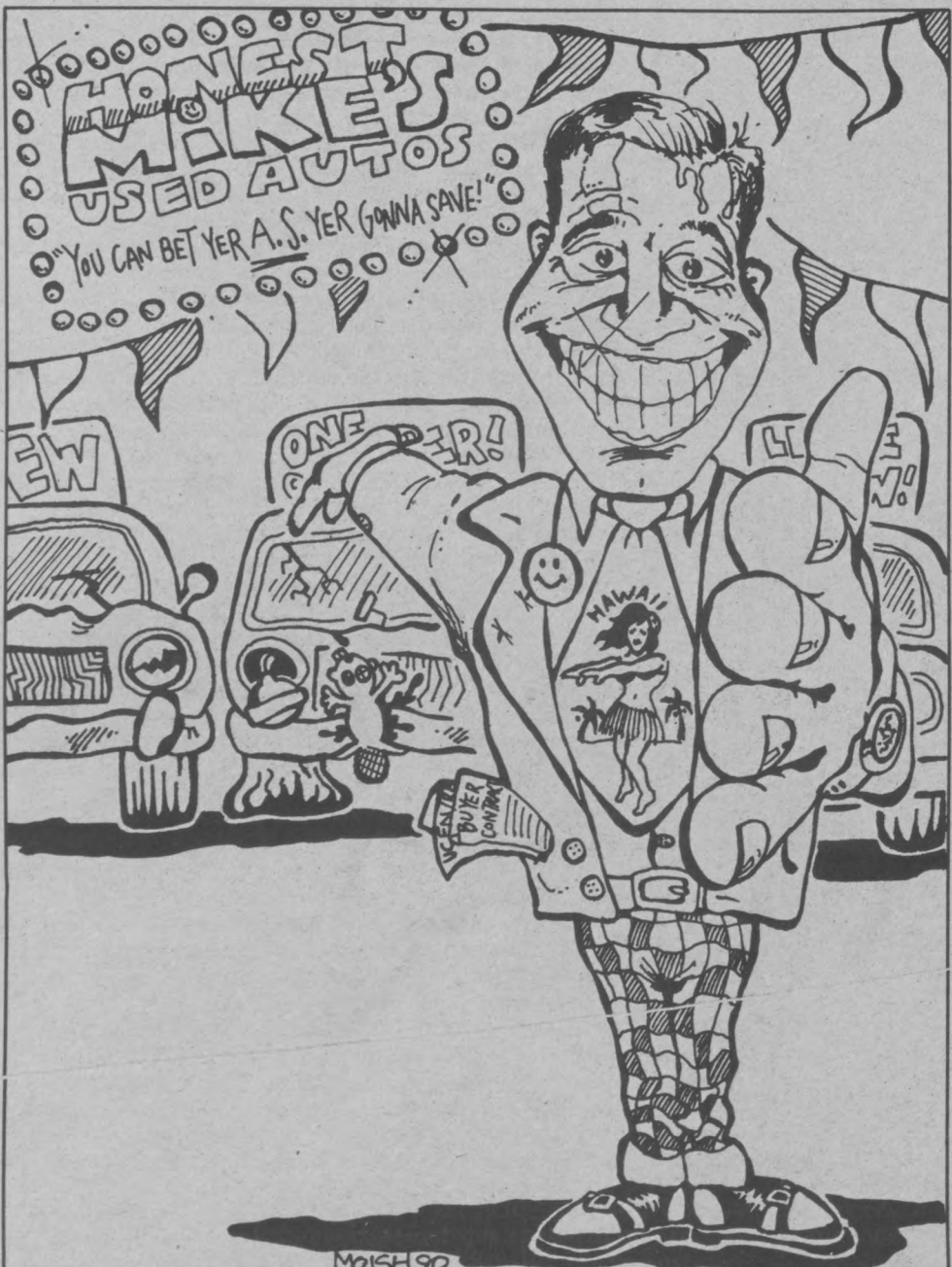
BCN: "What about cars?"

Stowers: "We are working on the cars. Siojo (a fictionalized Siojo of course) and I have been over the paperwork on every car on the lot, and we both agree that the time is definitely coming when we will have to take a strong position on each and every car."

BCN: "Do you think you might sell some?"

Stowers: "Look, if you don't quit focusing on one side of this issue, I swear we'll come to your office and make speeches outside." (As we left, Leg council passed a bill requiring all sales personnel to walk around the lot in a clockwise manner, to increase the possibility of stumbling across a potential customer.)

D.J. Scram



MOISH Daily Nexus

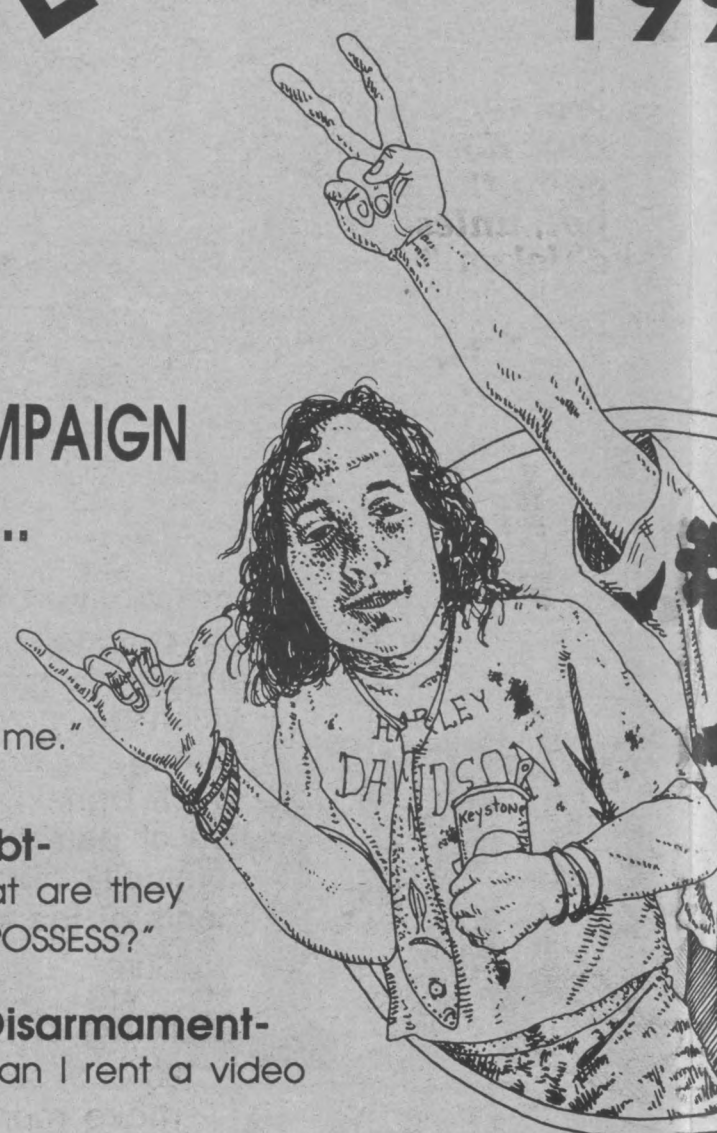
VIDEO G U 199

TROUT'S CAMPAIGN STANCE ON...

ERA/Pro Choice-
"Great. Whatever makes chicks dig me."

The National Debt-
"Who gives. What are they going to do, REPOSSESS?"

Thermonuclear Disarmament-
"What is that? Can I rent a video on it?"



Sponsored in part by: Coca-Cola, Adolph Coors Co., Domino's Pizza, Haagen-Daz Ice Cream, Starbucks Dancers: South Dakota Chapter, the guy standing behind you with the razor-sharp knife, The Field, your mom and a partridge in a pear tree.

Nielson's Law

If the function of government was only to make us free, the best government would be no government. Since most limitations on freedom seem to come from government, total freedom would require dumping it. Maybe a lot of us would die in the ensuing conflict, but those who survived would be truly free. And truly hungry. But would they be happy? Happiness is another task to which a government must apply itself, as in Imperial Rome, any government that provides enough bread and circuses will remain popular.

Our present system is definitely not working out. Sure, there is still plenty of bread to go around, but when was the last time you saw a good political circus? Aside from an occasional Democratic convention, we are treated to a bland spread of white Republicans calling each other "weenies". This is even less exciting than an A.S. "lets march to the Nexus and call them doo-doo heads" rally.

The present structure is growing more shaky by the day. Ratings may cause C-span to cut Congress, and the Presidential Press Corp. keeps trying to replace Reagan's "teflon charisma" with "The Adventures of Millie". Even the Supreme Court, which once inspired the country to a chorus of "Impeach Earl Warren" now hands down vague statements that are just too long for "sound bites."

Who will rise when the structure falls? Politics, like nature, abhors a vacuum. Fortunately there is, already in existence, a new power structure which has the ear, heart and mind of the American public.

Television is the only answer. (The Nexus could have been a contender, but too much inbreeding turned our collective minds into a weak, over-salted alfredo sauce, much like the stuff they are trying to push in the UCen cafeteria.) After all, what is more likely to register in your mind, the twenty-second amendment, or Vanna White's (the artist, not the object) vowels? Who else can chain your attention for hours to a show that you may not enjoy, but prefer over what's on the other channels?

The best government "for the people" is not always "by the people", who is more "for the people" than the networks? Do you trust

John Sununu? Do you trust the Cos? I rest my case.

Television, which has been doing market surveys since time began, is obviously preparing for its new role. Look at the fundamental message given by a show such as *Loveboat*. People meet, try to have fun, but complications arise. Most of these people are obviously incompetent at running their own lives, but with a little help from the crew, (none of whom seem to know what makes the ship go) things work out within the hour format.

Normally this is symbolized when the "right" people end up in the "right" beds. Is this a metaphor for network rule or what? The obvious implication is that if we turn over control, we'll get the woman/man by the end of the show.

A not so subtle variant of this theme can be found in *Fantasy Island*. In this show, the normal world, with its normal government, has failed to provide for the needs of a set of characters. They fly to the magical television world, where everything is controlled by a single man and his special effects. Naturally everything works out in the end.

In the long run, a teletopian vision emerges. Life is no longer conducted out in the dangerous real world, fraught with unregulated emotions and real conflict. Instead, all conflicts are conducted in the sitcom format, with the real heavy stuff occurring on daytime TV. The common citizenry sits at home watching, occasionally calling a 900 number to voice an opinion.

The only fear I have is that one day the teletopian executives will realize that marketing surveys can fully simulate a viewing audience. The real thing will become redundant.

— Dan Jeffers

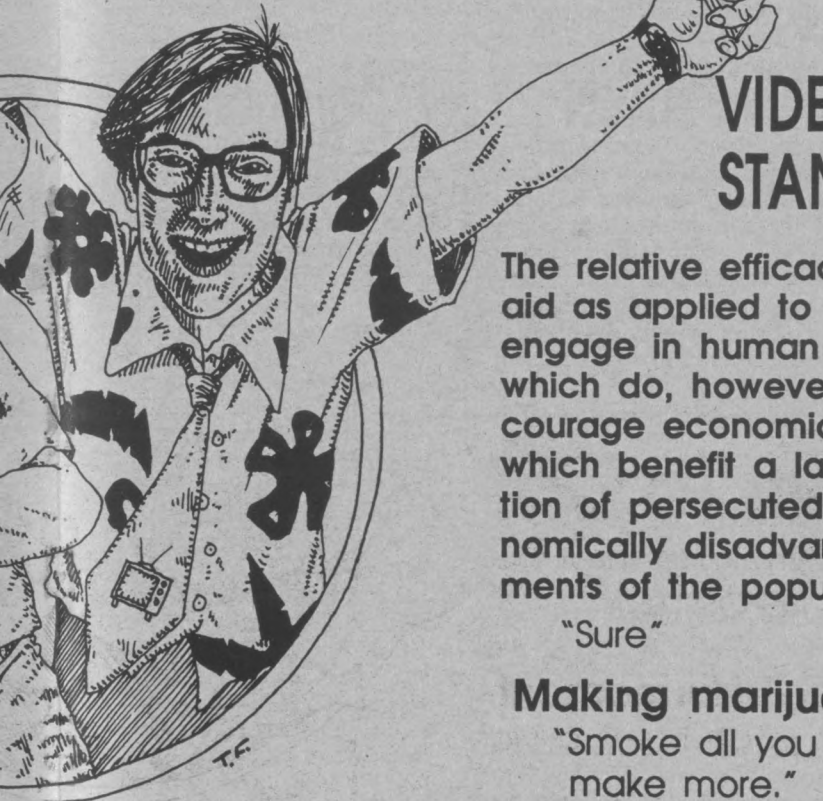
Tried and True

Instead of the usual, well-organized list of ten or twenty quick things which relate to this issue's question, we have decided to do a rambling survey of various forms of government, as more befits the subject.

No doubt, the constitutionally based, representative-style democracy is the most correct form of government which has ever arisen in the entire universe (at least, when the socialist leaning democrats are not in

JY / TROUT

Promises you "A car that doesn't have to go to the garage and pot, unless you're chicken."



VIDEO GUY'S STANCE ON...

The relative efficacy of foreign aid as applied to countries that engage in human rights abuses which do, however, actively encourage economic measures which benefit a large cross section of persecuted and/or economically disadvantaged elements of the population-

"Sure"

Making marijuana legal-
"Smoke all you want, we'll make more."

Starkist Tuna Co., Green Eggs and Ham, The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, The Association of Lam-
wife, The Fun Boy Five, Milli Vanilli, Nazis for Styrofoam, Troma Video Inc., Don Rickles, Both Sides, Bakers-

control). However, it is not the first system people have lived and died under and for. Just like Newton was once considered the final word in physics, the divine right of kings was the latest thing in government. We think we have the best now, but it is just possible we missed something.

Aristocracy/Democracy - According to Aristotle, who should know, an aristocracy is rule by the best, while a democracy means either rule by the poor or rule by the worst. Makes sense in a way, after all if the worst are out there, the best way to give them a vote is to give everyone a vote. The question then becomes: how many of them are there? If there are more of the worst than there are of the best, then Aristotle was right.

So look around you. Think about the guy who filled up your car and left the gas cap on your roof. Think about the waiter who thought you wanted peanut butter on your burger because you told him to hold the onions. Remember the woman on the phone who put you on hold then went on vacation? Try this test on your roommate: turn off the television and see how long it takes before he gets up and turns it back on. Does he/she just sit there and yell?

These are the people who rule in a democracy. They make decisions about what your rights are, what you should eat, and whether or not we should find someone big enough to pick on.

Theocracy - It sounds so great in theory. Who could be more qualified to run creation than the creator? So how come it hasn't worked out? Every time people set up a theocracy, the first thing they do is find some other theocracy and go to battle. The flaw seems to be in getting people to approach God with the idea. They always come back full of what God told them he wants everyone to do, which always seems to involve sending money. While this does show consistency, it falls short in the creative solution department.

Anarchism - In spite of all the bad press it got around the turn of the century, it's really a great theory. Much like the Student Union model, anarchism assumes that government doesn't perform any useful function, and if anything really needs doing, people will cooperate to get it done. For instance, if Santa Barbara really started to get dry, people would voluntarily cut way back on their own consumption for the good of the com-

munity. We wouldn't worry about who could build in Perfect Park, in an anarchist system, everyone could build something there.

Arachnism - Rule by spiders.

Monarchy - There're a few monarchies left, though they are pallid shadows of the former times. Once, kings and queens ruled by divine right. After all, if God didn't want them to rule, why would he let them? Of course the same could be said for communism, but that was before people worried about communism. Since God hasn't given much of an indication lately, monarchies have shifted their basis from divine right to tabloid appeal.

Timocracy - Plato used this word to describe rule by the military, but, even though it is much easier to say than "military dictatorship" or "military-industrial complex," it is no longer in use. We like the word. It isn't hard to figure out how the military can rise to power, after all they have the most guns. What's hard to figure out is why no one likes them when they get there. Even if they vote themselves a pay raise, few soldiers understand graft on a truly bureaucratic scale. As a matter of fact, few soldiers understand bureaucracy. They may run around pointing guns at people, but when they try to collect taxes they will undoubtedly lose most of the returns.

Communism - I bet you think we forgot about the big "C." Just because Eastern Europe has tossed communism out the window, doesn't mean that the *Nexus* is ready to abandon it entirely. After all, the Student Union (which isn't really communism, but does use a lot of the same language) made a pretty good showing in its recent defeat. Communism is based on the principle that humankind will work really hard for the general good of society without any compensation except the respect of fellow workers. If all his/her needs are met, he/she will still get up every morning and, with a certain spring in his/her step, set off for the office. This is such a great idea that people in China still walk to the office everyday, as long as they don't have to cross Tienanmen Square.

Oligarchy - This means rule by the rich, that is, open rule by the rich. Maybe if we acknowledged the political power of this class, the politicians could lighten up on the double-talk.

The Bosom of the Dictator

Democracy, democracy, democracy: People kill for democracy. Let freedom ring, liberty and equality, fraternity people cried as they attacked the wisdom of the ages.

Who should rule? The conventional answer is simple, the people should rule. But should they? I think not.

We really need one superb individual with style, charisma, knowledge, authority and the kind of bosom that can protect and comfort the whole nation. Elections and campaigns, a monumental waste of time, let us dissolve the system. Who needs a democracy? We need a mother-figure, not a bickering legislature. We need a queen.

"Allowing the "people" to possess control over public policy allows the individual to maximize his or her potential," I once heard an obese Democrat say. I could tell he had maximized his potential by the way he intuitively turned his profile in the direction of the camera.

But really folks, should the people really be allowed to vote? Do the people really know what's in the best interest of the nation? Do the people really even know what's in their own best interest? Remember how little respect "the people" showed for Reagan and Ollie, good Christian heroes? See how much they fawn over Gorbachev, ignoring his Godless, communistic leanings? Do you want longhaired, guitar strumming junkies who think the Cold War is over to direct national policy? I think not. This race of hedonistic heathens is so saturated with sin, that it can't understand why the truly great can waver occasionally on the straight and narrow.

One good woman in the "right" frame of mind will resolve all these impositions that a democracy forces us moral, upright Americans to withstand. We won't be pushed around by these dysfunctional ingrates any more. Democracy may have been good when most of the people were good, but now that our inner cities are rife with child pornography, and the IRS is filled with devil-worshipping foreigners, democracy must go.

I think giving the people a voice in the running of government is like allowing a pack of savage, undisciplined cretins to assume the ship's helm. The disunited populace detached from the sophistication of the delicate art of leadership will fragment an entire nation into a zillion antagonistic interest groups, each ripping the eyes out of each other to secure their own selfish interests. Face it, pluralism is a woeful mistake.

We need a real woman who knows how to take charge and hold this country together to grasp the scepter of power.

If the people could rule, Indians would be able to swallow peyote, perverts would be able to collect child pornography and staple nude pictures in their houses, and homosexuals would be able to abandon the closet and parade out in the streets. I for one have the right to be protected from such depraved immorality.

A real woman wouldn't allow such disgraceful antics to grace our solemn land. A real woman, who stood by her man through thick and thin, a real woman who knows when to add a touch of make-up to her basic gifts.

Ordinary people are not fully aware of the truth. Only a few of my friends and I have been to heritage village and learned what great truths govern the universe. Normal folk don't really know how to govern themselves. They don't even understand the difference between their sordid immortality and the divinely granted indiscretions of the great. These little beings are very malleable and can be swayed by a swift tongue. In the long run, anarchy is the only goal of the commoners. Deep down they all want to pour chicken blood all over their naked bodies and run screaming down D.P.

No, no, no, no, a democracy will not do.

What we need is someone who is an expert ruler to guide a nation in need. We need someone who will actually rule in the best interest of the nation and, someone who really cares about her people, someone who will take care of you, someone with integrity, someone who will preserve order and keep the people in line and someone who will snare, torture and permanently punish the lustful, hedonistic deviants. We need someone on a hot-line with the ultimate "truth," so she can tell all you ignorant people what you really should do and lead this ship of fools in the proper course.

We need a benevolent dictator.

They say Tammy Faye fell from Grace, but I say she is Grace. Godless tax collectors may have gotten to Jim, but God has saved Tammy for only one purpose. She is our next Queen.

I for one say we entrust our fate and the fate of our nation in the generous bosom of a loving dictator, Tammy Faye Baker.

Tammy for queen, Tammy for queen, Tammy for queen....

— Somnath Chatterjee



TODD FRANCIS/Daily Nexus

D.J. Scram



I.V. Leaders

It seems relatively obvious. It goes without saying, or at least, not many people say it. But think ... Isla Vista ... yeah ... recreation? ... oh yeah ... and parks? We got yer parks! ... It's pure genius, it's simple reasoning, it's the most fundamental reality of democracy. The IVRPD. They're the "only elected body." Ask 'em, they'll tell ya. Eminent domain, baby. They should rule, heck, they do rule. They could even keep their acronym. IVRPD: the Inevitably Venerated sixties-Revisited omniPotent Do-gooders.

But wait. What about some other local groups? They could rule the world too! Think about the possibilities. Think greek political parties: the Illicit Government for a New Order of Remarkably Alike Neon-wearing Caucasian Embarassments ... I.G.N.O.R.A.N.C.E. Yeah, baby.

Well, that's worth a laugh, but those greeks are probably sitting back singin' "That's alright, that's OK, you'll be workin' for us someday." Or maybe they're singing something else. Maybe it ain't such a funny idea.

What about the I.V. Federation? They'd be great, a bunch of filthy rich landowners oppressing the common people. It could be wonderful. Nah. Fascist dictatorial monarchies have been tried before.

You've got the Cheadle Hall administration, of course. They'd be simply divine. Misinformation, disinformation, dissemination, insemination, covert overt perjurious purjury, secessions and digressions and tangents and insurrections. Plus, they could do things with the money they stole from us behind our backs which we wouldn't approve of. The realm of the Ice Queen, like a cartoon. Artificial this and that, a real "create-a-campus" attitude. You can bet all the hedges would be well trimmed ... no pun intended.

A.S!!!! ALRIGHT baby, rock and roll!!! Actually, maybe a little bit of Tom Jones mood music to back up their Nixon-esque demeanor. Oh my God. They'd be spectacular. They'd never do a thing, then they could all come out and protest the people's protests. "We object to your objections. If you don't support us, you're naughty. Why, I've got an overwhelming urge to spank you!! Oh my! Ooooooh, I'm just furious."

An unlimited budget to produce snappy little grammatically incorrect flyers which are chock full of lies and self promotion. And their meetings ... holy cow! Instead of sit-ins they could have sleep-ins.

Nexus Ed. Board. Now there's a great gal/guy! Just imagine, (s)he could determine everyone's opinion for h(im)er. All by h(im)er lonesome. I'm sure (s)he'd form very interesting communes, with lots of genetic freaks due to inbreeding. Every piece of legislation would be a vaguely worded opinion which really ends up saying nothing at all of any importance to anyone, because after all, everyone's out to get h(im)er.

— Maxwell C. Donnelly

Fake Letters To Friday's Dear Amy

Dear Amy,

I have been in the market for a small country for a number of years. One to toy with, conduct a few minor political experiments on, and get myself into an issue of National Geographic. (I have been pulling strings for that one for years and they won't give in.) However, I am having a problem finding a suitable piece of property. South America is entirely too hostile and most of its leaders are on crack. I do enough slum lording. I just want a respectable little land mass to rule, one with an inlet to park the boat and lots of subjects to rule.

I'm King without a country!
— Donald Trump

Donald —

You know, buying any country with an existing political structure is going to be a problem. I really think that you would be better off custom building. Pick up Tahiti or some little tropical gem, and import as many subjects as you need. Just because slavery is illegal in our country doesn't mean that there aren't plenty of other countries that would trade a few population figures for dollar figures. South Africa would probably give you at least half of their population for free (a definite cost cutter). You know, if you work around the slavery issue, you could have a market in the homeless. They wouldn't mind being paid to lead the high life in the tropics. Leak it to the press that you've turned Tahiti into a relief center and you'll have people lined up at the airport in a matter of moments (sounds like a tax break to me).

Bon Voyage
Amy —

Amy! —

Look, it's about time that you bullshit university students knew the facts. All of you hypocrites try to repress us while you cruise around on your neon pussy-ass Roller Blades. How cool is that? Well it won't work. You've underestimated our cunning and power. We skaters didn't disappear for the last three quarters, we went into business. We hit the highly lucrative skate apparel industry full force and managed to amass at least 70% of Santa Barbara's wealth. How's that for leverage? All you suckers who paid 50 bucks for 50/50 cotton/poly tee shirts just wait until we gain control. Santa Barbara will be a roller-blade-free-zone. Hallelujah!

SKATEBOARDING IS NOT A CRIME!
Zach Zubach —

Zach,

Wow! I'm still reeling from the surprise. I had no idea that shirt was 50/50. Well, hey Good Luck in governing our fair city. I know I wouldn't want to do it. You'll want to build a half-pipe at the County Courthouse (for recreational breaks and to promote physical fitness of course). And you'll have to provide numerous environmental impact reports and hold a public hearing or two. You'll threaten to move your skate wear wealth elsewhere and the bureaucrats will give in at the last moment, ON ONE CONDITION: That your "fixed skating structure" be adobe and built with mission style architecture (that means exposed beams and a big bell) so as to match the new mall. I've never seen an adobe half-pipe before, but I suppose there's a first time for everything.

Good Luck
Amy

Would You Sign America Over To E.T.?

What if aliens came down and offered us a chance to join the **KKshjosohohjuuldk Galactic Union**, as long as we signed over our present government into their hands?

I guess the big problem is one of trust, as in how do we know what kind of aliens we would be dealing with?

They could be good, fun, furry aliens who are part of the universal oneness. They could be so beneficent that they would take care of all our needs and wants, while removing bad stuff like poverty and The Brady Bunch. They might spot that one flaw which prevents us from feeding and housing everyone even though we can build really stupid things like Trump Plaza and The Trump Taj Mahal. Maybe they could figure out why otherwise rational people decide to fight and kill people they don't know because of their association with some religious/ethnic/national/cultural group which they don't understand.

Of course they could also be bad, nasty space beings, (obviously saurian, since bad aliens are rarely mammals and never have fur) who secretly want to enslave the population

of the Earth. I'm not sure what benefit an advanced technological society would gain from enslaving a bunch of Earth people who can't even do their taxes; maybe we could be some kind of weird cult food, or perhaps our psychic energy can be used to calm their pet lizard-plants. Maybe owning a human is fashionable, or burning one is part of a strange religious rite.

I say we take the chance. After all, if we are just muddling along, isn't it better to try something new? Anything? (one argument for Student Union). Sure, we could lose the whole ball of wax, but what's wax worth anyway? And how do we know that humanity will even survive under the present system anyway? Our track record isn't all that great, who's to say we won't kill ourselves in the big one? Maybe that's why so many people keep looking for space aliens, maybe that's why Spielberg's *Close Encounters* and *E.T.* have such a religious longing.

— Dan Jeffers

Don't



Flush

Santa Barbara is experiencing the worst drought in recent years. Don't use unnecessary water. UCSB health officials will decide when a specific toilet is approaching EPA limits. Contact health officials before flushing!

The Prince and The Frog (James Cagney)

The other day, while dining at the Faculty Club, I overheard the following conversation between James Cagney and Niccolo Machiavelli. They were advising Chancellor Uehling. I must admit I was rather surprised to see them there. They usually eat at home.

M: Many have written on this subject, so I fear that I shall be censured when I too write, because I break away completely from the principles laid down by my predecessors ... but touch, if you will, my stomach.

C: Now here's da situation, I ain't gonna touch no stomachs, see. All a 'da time, men are bein' marked wid qualities, see, dat bring 'em some blame or some praise, and lotsa men, quite a fews, anyway, have imagined republics and, uh, principalities dat never have been seen or known to exist in reality, whadever the heck dat means. Some sorta drug problem, seems ta me.

M: Now basically, the most important endeavor of a leader is to delegate the blamable qualities to a close associate, then kill them. Also, avoid work.

Don't be too generous, but don't be a miser. Plus, kill some people for good measure. But first, make them out to be too generous or a miser. This way the peasants, or rather, students will look up to you and think you good. Then you can kill them too. The leader, the prince, should be glossy, and always on Kodak paper, lest the people judge him cheap.

C: Now, see, I dunno what this clown's talkin' about, but I shirley don't see a need fer alla dis killin, cuz ya know, you's gotta wonders to oneseelf, is it better to be loved or feared? Ya can get all ya wanta fear by breakin' a fews 'a da fingers, knees too, see. If you's all the time killin' peoples, no one's left to love or fear ya. So dat question's moot, den. You's

gotta have peoples.

M: Yes, certainly. But if a prince relies wholly on words, he falls. Men hesitate less to injure a man who is loved than one who is feared, because love is held by a chain of obligation...

C: Are you's for real? Who's dis guy, I'm a mind ta break his nose. If ya's gonna be makin' folks all the time scared, ya's gotta avoid hatred, see? Now this ultramaroon here, he's not figurin' bout the fact dat cha's gots to be cruel. Ya know, ta be kind. It's all in the measure.

M: Naturally, but of course. Cruelty's wonderful, but honesty must be considered as well. Candid and open leaders will get nowhere. One must maintain honor with one of two endeavors. One can either behave as a man, with laws, or as an animal, with violence. In certain situations, either is quite acceptable. Whichever achieves the desired end.

C: I dunno a whole lot 'bout mosta that crap, and I'm 'bout set to bust this here high falootin' chump one in da chops. But I knows my violence, laws and desires. Why I remember dis young lady, speakin' a violence, laws and desires...

M: Well, I hardly think this is the proper forum for this sort of a recollection. The ends must justify the means, you know. Men are so simple, and...

C: Why, you dirty rat... I'll show ya simple, teach ya some manners, too, ya's all the time interruptin' me! I'll twist yer friggin' neck right outa yer scrawny shoulders!

So much for that discussion. Niccolo fended James off with a lobster fork, and Babs, as usual, did nothing. She seemed amused by the whole discussion, though.

— Maxwell C. Donnelly

Technorule

Computers should rule the world, not people. It's as simple as that.

"Now hold on a minute buddy," you're probably thinking. "Relinquishing control of mankind's destiny to an inanimate, binary-based silicon computational device is in direct contradiction to the innate human desire for liberty, equality and fraternity."

Which is a pretty weird thing to think when you get right down to it. But you probably have a few qualms about handing over the reigns of power to a glorified calculator. You shouldn't.

Computers essentially rule the world as it is, and they couldn't do any worse than humans have.

The role of government has traditionally included providing for the common defense, ensuring individual liberties, regulating currency and making sure all cars pass a smog check every couple of years. Lofty goals indeed, but ones too often carried out with the frailty of human nature impeding effective execution.

Now think about what computers could do, given half a chance. You want common defense against those pesky Commies, Third World terrorists or annoying late-night televangelists? We got your defense right here. Send humans in to take out some defense threat and you're going to risk losing a human life or two in the process. But a computer, boy, just won't take no for an answer. Hook up a high-power X-ray laser to the Nintendo and you've got all the defense you need. Ever see someone try to take a five-gigawatt laser bolt hostage? It just don't work.

Individual liberties, you ask? Well, here's where the benefit of computer rule really becomes clear. First, a computer doesn't care what two consenting adults do in the privacy of their own bedroom, so no more of this moralistic posing by human legislators looking for votes. And what the hell does a computer care if someone burns a flag? Who's it hurting? With these easy problems out of the way computers could concentrate on the real individual liberties, like the liberty to eat enough every day and have a place to sleep.

Currency? Heck, currency is computer based as it is. Look around and you'll see a plethora of machines called automatic tellers. Despite the common myth, there isn't a human behind the video screen doling out cash. It's a computer! Visa? MasterCard? Yep, computers again.

Starting to get the idea? Anything we can do, they can do better. It may take some time and more than a little swallowing of ego to accept this, but once we hand control over to machines we'll be free to follow more interesting pursuits, like watching "Gilligan's Island" reruns and playing Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle videogames. Just think of the possibilities!

— Ben Sullivan

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