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Politically Correct

Definition of political organization vague, leaves funding questions unanswered

Student senators recently passed a bill to reword the definition of a political organization. While the aim of the bill was to clear up confusion as to which student groups are eligible for funding, the matter does not seem to be fully resolved.

The new definition claims that any group that uses "informational campaigns and propaganda designed to, promotes or encourages, individuals petitioning" executive or legislative bodies on behalf of that group are political.

The problem with this guideline is it still leaves many wondering just where certain groups like the BGLA and Students for Life stand. As with any definition, the real worth is in the application of it.

Exactly what constitutes petitioning is a concern that conceivably will be raised on more than one occasion. What about a group petitioning for an issue? Once again, it's easy to see that groups such as Young Democrats and College Republicans and others campaigning for a candidate have political agendas. But Students for the Ethical Treatment of Animals and other such organizations fall under another heading, even though they may actively promote their causes to legislative bodies.

Rather than deal with all the nuances of a blanket definition, the Senate could create three divisions for student organizations: general, political and special interest. General groups would receive money; political ones, those who advocate a particular candidate or party, would not.

Because special interest groups fall somewhere in between political and general organizations, the treatment they receive would be a compromise between the two extremes. Groups that pertain to the special interest category would receive a uniform, minimal amount of money sufficient for their survival. This money would help them build their membership by providing, say, enough money to make fliers to announce upcoming meetings, but not enough to further their causes.

Such categorization of student organizations would alleviate some of the confusion that the wordy, all-inclusive definition creates, while providing a standard way to deal with questionable funding.

Regardless of the way the situation is handled, however, judgment must be made void of personal or political agendas, or as untainted by them as possible.

Ignoring, suing voters

not best way to get votes



PAT MCNEILL
Columnist

George Nethercutt. Remember that name. George Nethercutt is already the symbol of the tumultuous 1994 congressional elections. In five weeks, he might be the best known politician in Washington and the leader of an expected Republican landslide.

Nethercutt is an attorney in Spokane, Wash., who was the county GOP chairman. People scoffed at Nethercutt when he announced he was running for Congress. You see, Nethercutt lives in the same district as Democrat Thomas Foley, the speaker of the House of Representatives. No one has defeated a sitting speaker in an election since 1860. To give you an idea of how long ago that is, the Confederate battle flag had not even been created in 1860.

With a little over five weeks to go before the election, Nethercutt has a 14-point lead in the polls over Foley. Political analysts are confounded by these numbers. Over the past two years, Foley has used his considerable clout to help keep Fairchild Air Force Base alive through the recent rash of base closings. He also managed to secure federal funding to build an important local highway project. How can Foley be so far behind?

I was curious as to Foley's sudden drop in popularity. Friday's edition of USA Today had some opinions. Unlike many publications, USA Today went to the voters in Foley's district to search for answers.

It turns out the voters in Foley's district are more conservative and Republican now than they were four years ago. The voters are also more distrustful of government this year than they have been in the past. Other voters pointed to Foley's support of the 1990 and 1993 tax increases (or "budget deals" as the Democrats called them.) In addition, it was Speaker Fo-

ley who attempted to cover up the House Bank check-writing scandal. Foley told reporters it would not be "useful" to release the names of the Congressmen who had bounced checks or the amounts of the checks. (Next time you bounce a check, try that excuse on the manager at First Union.)

While these are certainly plausible explanations for the decline of Speaker Foley, I found one other explanation I hadn't bargained for. Tom Foley's real problem is the term limits legislation in the state of Washington.

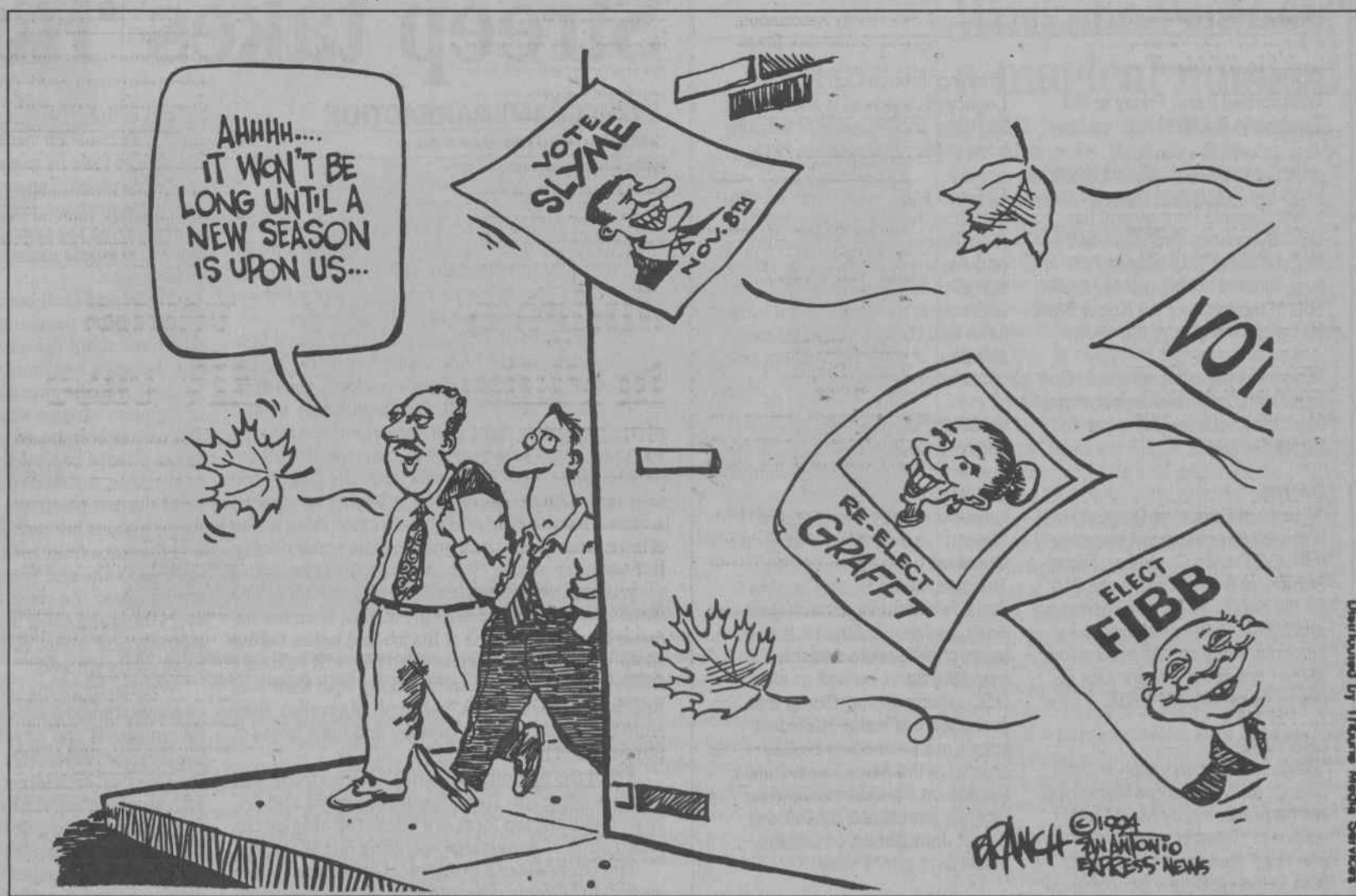
You see, back in 1992, the voters in Washington passed a bill designed to limit their Congressional representatives to 12 years in office. Foley has been in office since 1964.

Speaker Foley could have gracefully accepted the judgment of his constituents. He could have patiently explained his constitutional objections to the term limits legislation. But Tom Foley instead made the type of bold leadership move that has been a hallmark of his political career. He sued the voters.

That's right. Tom Foley has sued the constituents in the state of Washington for passing term limit legislation. He claims term limits are unconstitutional and the state of Washington should not be allowed to bar him from seeking office. The case is still tied up in court. Amazingly, some of the voters are taking this lawsuit personally. Many have actually told reporters they will not cast a ballot for a man who is suing them for their votes.

I'm not sure what the outcome of the Washington election (or the ensuing court case) will be, but if the situation in Washington is any indication, you may want to hire a good lawyer before you head to the polls on Nov. 8. You never know how many Congressional Democrats will decide to follow the lead of their speaker.

Pat McNeill is a third-year law student. His column appears every Monday.



QUOTEUNQUOTE

"St. Patrick's Day has gone from being a family event to a public drunk."

Columbia City Councilman Hamilton Osborne on the necessity of an open container ordinance

Doing laundry good for laughs, little else

As shocking as it may seem, the Horseshoe has one problem bigger than the termination of toilet paper delivery—the laundry room.

It seems pretty amazing I even would know what the Horseshoe's laundry room looks like. (I've spent the last two years stockpiling socks and underwear for the specific purpose of allowing me to survive between visits home.) However, last Wednesday night I decided to do the unthinkable and wash my clothes, hoping to leave the experience with cleaner attire and to make myself a better person in the process. Once again in my never-ending quest to become more productive, I failed on both accounts.

It is interesting to note here my misconceptions going into this whole washing thing. 1. That people get anything out of washing clothes. (They don't, I found, unless somebody else does it for them.) 2. That no one does laundry in the middle of the week. (Everyone does laundry in the middle of the week.) 3. That people are generally considerate beings who want to ease the laundering process for their fellow man. (A night of watching "Beverly Hills 90210" and "Models, Inc." makes people anything but cordial.)

At the outset, however, the harsh reality of washing clothes in Pinckney-Legare was unknown to me. The laundry experience began innocently enough with the old "maybe-I'll-wash-my-clothes-so-I-won't-have-to-wear-my-granny-panties-anymore-and-will-be-able-to-see-my-floor" idea. I assembled a rather impressive mound of soiled pieces in my laundry basket, grabbed my Tide-free and headed down the stairs to laundry hell.

(When I say "laundry hell," it isn't a feeble journalistic attempt to be humorous, though I'm not



SUSAN GOODWIN
Viewpoints Editor

above such techniques. Rather, it is an honest representation of the washing facilities in the hub of the 'Shoe.)

First of all, the Housing Department tries to trick residents by placing the "men" sign underneath the "laundry" sign, so the door reads "laundry men." Don't be fooled by such obvious sinister actions. There are no men in that room to do your laundry, so don't ask. They're at Patterson.

If you make it past the sign test and actually open the door, you will see the men's bathroom is on the left of a little corridor, which resembles something out of a Friday the 13th movie, a thought one can't help thinking when you're doing your laundry at midnight. (I just knew I was going to get axed somewhere between the spin and the rinse cycles.)

After fearing for my life in trying to get to the little room, I then found all three of the washers full. Now, because I was carrying everything I ever owned in my arms, this discovery met with severe disappointment. I noticed some of the washers were done, but I didn't think much about it.

"Come back later," I thought. "Dump the wet clothes on the washer," my roommate said.

"But that's rude," I countered. "Not if they don't know who did it," she answered.

I'm not sure whether it was because it was my third painful trip to the laundry room or that Bran-

don and Dylan have turned into a complete jerks, but I didn't feel too bad when I lifted the lid on the middle washer and slopped the contents onto the next one. (I realize by mentioning this in the paper I am advertising my guilt to the offended party. To that person, I can only say one thing. Blame my roommate; it was her idea.)

While the previously told horrors seem enough for one night, the nightmare didn't end there. When I came back later I found my laundry had been bumped from its original placement. "What goes around, comes around," I thought. However, upon further inspection, I realized the detergent had not been adequately flushed from my clothes.

So, it's 1 a.m., and I'm in the men's bathroom rinsing out my jeans, sweats and some of the other more blatantly soaped up articles. After scrounging around to find dryers and subsequently repeating earlier solutions to such shortage problems, I was in sight of an ending to this whole miserable night.

Well, in the end I ran out of quarters (you need fifty dollars worth to do anything, I found out), which forced me to carry all my wet clothes back up the stairs and hang them all over my apartment. While my ingenuity in finding drying locations flourished, it was an exercise in creativity I could have done without.

As a result of my laundry experiment, I decided two things. 1. I had experienced the ultimate disaster in washing clothes. (And I had the detergent residue to prove it.)

And 2. Fall break is only two weeks away. I think I can make it until then.

Susan Goodwin is a journalism junior.

Perot, economy, Dole will spur Clinton re-election

As I talk with friends about the 1994 campaign, the conversation always comes back to President Clinton. They bring up his low poll numbers, his awful foreign policy and his failure to pass health care. My usual responses include: the economy has recovered from the Reagan/Bush years, 4 million jobs have been created under the Clinton administration and the GOP (Grand Obstructionist Party) has done nothing but stall the Clinton domestic agenda because they want to ultimately see the president fail.

Well, I have news for the Republicans. President Clinton will be re-elected because the voters will see right through their stall tactics and their divisive policies. I have compiled 10 reasons why President Clinton will be re-elected.

1. Ross Perot. Perot will run again and lose, but he will "steal" 15 to 20 percent of the vote from the Republican nominee, giving the president a more comfortable margin of victory than he had in '92.

2. The Economy. The Clinton recovery has emerged with the creation of jobs, the deficit cut to levels not seen since the 1950s and the most robust economic growth indicators in 15 years.

3. Haiti and Bosnia. President Clinton will show the American people the United States is not the world police but will help defend democracy around the world. With the invasion of Haiti to restore



BYRON JAMES
Columnist

democracy and the lifting of the trade embargo in Bosnia, the president has shown political courage and fortitude.

4. Hillary Rodham Clinton. She is the most intelligent and informed First Lady since Eleanor Roosevelt. She has shown she can be as tough as Bob Dole and as graceful as Jackie Kennedy Onassis. In this day and age of politics, she has shown that you need to be both to survive in Washington.

5. James Carville. The political genius of our time will spin his wonder in the '96 campaign. He will identify the pertinent issues that need to be highlighted and have the president articulate his vision.

6. Health Care Reform. Even though the president failed at his first attempt at reform this year, he will keep trying until a bipartisan resolution can be reached. When reform does pass, the president should get all the credit because it has been the centerpiece of his domestic agenda.

7. Leon Pentta. The new chief of staff has the president refocused on key issues and has reorganized the White House to make it more effective and efficient. He has tamed the youngsters who came in with the president and has brought in older members to stabilize the staff.

8. The Christian Coalition. I admit the coalition will win some elections this fall, but that will only help President Clinton and other Democrats, as the nation will reject the policies and hidden agendas of the conservative right.

9. Bob Dole and his gang of thugs called the Republican Party. The Republicans will tear each other apart for the Republican nomination and field a very weak candidate for President. It may be Kemp, Quayle, Alexander or even Powell, but all these men have the combined charisma and excitement of a Clemson beauty pageant.

10. The Voters. The American electorate will see President Clinton is the clear choice over Perot and any candidate the Republicans nominate to lead our nation. They will give the president a four-year contract extension and let him finish the outstanding job he started in 1993.

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Should special interest groups receive student funds?



"Yes, they should because they are student organizations as well. After you pay the money it's not yours. So, it might as well go to different student organizations."

Gregory Hugh
Electrical engineering sophomore



"No, the groups it may go to might interfere with someone's beliefs."

Jim Patterson
Political science junior



"Yes, because other organizations receive money. It would be unfair."

Josh Mitchell
Pre-law freshman



"If other groups get money, then they should too. If some get money, then all the student organizations should."

Beth Westfall
Speech/pathology graduate student