

# editorials

## Look what we're getting

The two-party system. And look who we're going to get: Jimmy Carter and Ronnie Reagan. Jimmy, the one who has proved his incompetence and Ronnie, one who, for example, thinks America is "energy rich;" if this isn't incompetence it easily qualifies as ignorance.

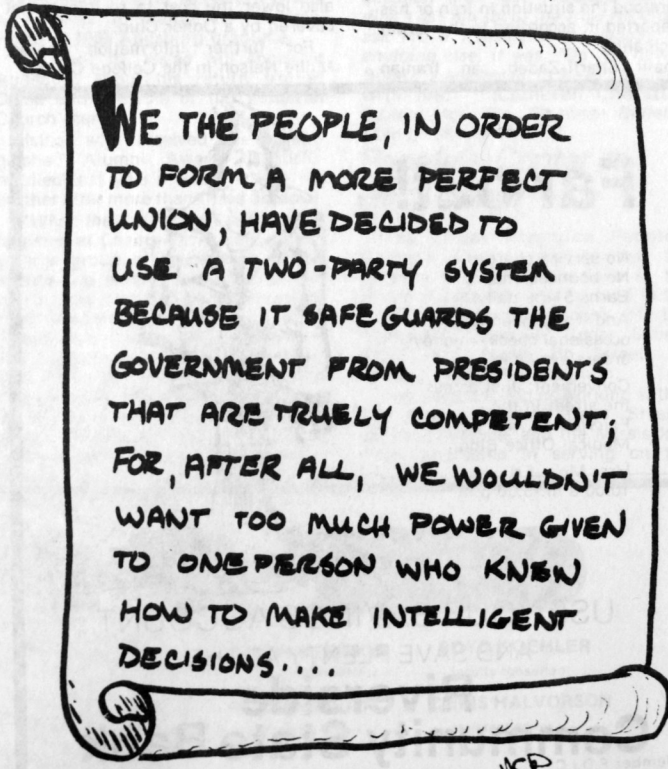
The point is, the American electorate, every four years, is many times put into the position of choosing the "lesser of two evils." It ends up that in order to be politically viable these days candidates have to appease either of the two big parties, where a great diversity of opinion is lost in a jungle of partisanship.

Just take a look at the front runners. The Carter Administration's foreign policy is in shambles. They've made a number of grossly naive, embarrassing and haphazard moves in an international arena which is certainly not ignorant to this administration's weaknesses. Reagan on the other hand, pursues a foreign policy which is counter-productive, more naive than Carter's and frankly, horrifying. And these guys are the front runners!!

But the two-party system is still the only viable vehicle to political participation in this country, and the system is perpetuated by everyone. Media people, once the front runners (Democrat or Republican) emerge, more often than not, throw their full support behind these candidates. The question is are they throwing support behind the issues or is it merely a matter of supporting what the two parties have to offer?

Another element which perpetuates the two-party system is the electoral college. What would happen if Reagan, Carter and Anderson (running as an independent) were to evenly split-up the electoral vote? The election would be thrown into the House of Representatives which is dominated by the two-party system; and then who would win? Certainly not Anderson.

There's an obsession in this society to narrow down political races



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KEP

to two sides under the guise of a majority-rule-type political decision. But the effect of this can be extremely limiting. This year's presidential race clearly reinforces this conclusion by offering, in effect, only two inadequate candidates.

Of course one can safely assume that working within an *institution* is quite possible. However when the institution itself inhibits viable outcomes then it seriously draws into question the credence of that institution. Whether out of ignorance or some patriotic, dogmatic conviction, people seem totally incapable of supporting any candidate other than one from either of the "two biggies."

In the wake of the election campaign trail, thus far, is a man who has tried the two-party system and realizes that he can not adequately work within the confines of that system. If John Anderson should run an effective independent campaign this would provide a clear alternative between two highly questionable candidates and would also hopefully begin to abolish many of this society's fears of a multi-party system.

J.K., R.S.

# soundings

## Sex and the Augsburg student

By LEE JOHN LILLQUIST

Sex, an element of natural living that unites mind, body, and soul. It doesn't destroy brain cells, cause cancer, make you fat, pollute the earth, or use up non-renewable natural resources. A rather inexpensive, non-artificial past-time with universal appeal. Though habit forming, it doesn't endanger life or livelihood. It feels good and is good for you.

There are, however, problems that might arise. One of these is a simple case of mathematics. Add the fact that many Augsburg students enjoy sex to the fact that the rhythm method just doesn't work. Subtract the use of contraceptives in some instances. When you add it all together you get oft-times unwanted multiplication. Pregnancy. What can and should we do about it?

There are two traditional viewpoints; one ignores the problem, the other condemns it. Neither works.

It does no good to hide the problem. Denying it exists won't make it go away. We must discuss the affairs of this college if we are to deal with them in an intelligent fashion. There is a challenge here to everyone that cares about the welfare of Augsburg students. We must deal with this subject, rationally, refusing to take an immediately condemning, conservative, puritan position on sex.

It will do no good to blast us from the pulpit with fire-and-brimstone. To judge others is to condemn self. We aren't asking that people change their own personal

Continued on page 8

# letters

## Who's got the poison 'Ivy'

### To the Editor:

In his Mar. 7 column, Paul Kilgore announced that St. Olaf College is the "Midwest's answer to the Ivy League" and challenged St. Olaf people to defend that claim. As a St. Olaf graduate, I'd like to suggest that if Mr. Kilgore is going to print that sort of drivel he should defend it himself.

St. Olaf is a fine school, but until Mr. Kilgore's column I'd never heard that suggestion. The truth is, of course, that *Carleton College* is the "Ivy"-est of Minnesota's colleges (Don't worry, though, Carleton students are even easier to stereotype than Oles once you get the hang of it).

As for the "smug, elitist" students Kilgore spent the Interim with, I guess who you see depends on where you

look (as well as what you've already decided you'll be seeing). He went on a month-long, tourist trip through Europe with educational overtones—what sort of people did he *expect* to find? It makes sense that the sort of people who can afford that sort of experience probably come close to the stereotype of "rich Republicans who marry blonde Oles, live in Edina and work for Lutheran Brotherhood." (For that matter, how close is Mr. Kilgore to that stereotype?)

Now Mr. Kilgore should check on the people who spent the month finishing their Urban Studies in Chicago or working at internships in the Twin Cities or studying on campus or just getting drunk at Marty's. He'll find a lot of people who don't fit his mold.

Except for the blondeness thing. For

Continued on page 7