Column/K.J. Saeger

Democrats fail candidate test

Mike, Dick, Paul, Bruce, Jon, and Albert are not quite inspiring the enthusiasm hoped for by the Democratic national party leadership. With Maria's and Sam's refusal to enter the fracas, the nomination process for a Democratic presidential candidate has become disappointingly lackluster.

What the Democrats need is someone interesting and charismatic, someone with new ideas, someone like … Sen. Gary Hart. At least, this seems to be the view of an MIT group called Students for a New Democracy. This group plans to draft Gary Hart to the Committee, in lieu of a whole-heatedly support. I can think of no better choice for the nation than for someone who fights for what he believes in, and not to be the Democratic candidate in a presidential election.

A successful two-party system requires that both parties at least attempt to provide viable candidates for each presidential election. The Democrats have shirked this responsibility for the last four elections and are in danger of doing the same in 1988. McGovern, Carter, and Mondale were the epitome of presidential losers.

We need look no further than Massachusetts to see the effects of a failed two-party system. The people of Massachusetts are mostly Democratic: there are no strong Republican votes. Many of the current Massachusetts Democratic Congressmen are looking for ways to move money. Much to my chagrin, the first bill I received here gave me a choice between Tip O'Neill and a Community Party candidate. I have yet to recover from that insidious redundancy. What infuriates me is that I still have not been elected to the Republican party here does not even seem to try.

In much the same way that the Republicans fail in Massachusetts, the Democrats are failing on a national level. As usual, the Republicans are fielding a group of well-qualified presidential candidates. Any of the Republicans currently in the race will be more than capable of bringing the United States prosperously and securely into the 1990s. None of the current Democrats can accomplish this, and none among them will be given the chance.

A vibrant, adversarial political system keeps both parties healthy. The time has come for the Democrats to take their responsibilities seriously.

K.J. Saeger, a graduate student in aeronautics and astronautics, is a columnist for The Tech.

feedback

Nicaragua “reporter’s notebook” series biased

To the Editor:

Daniel Glenn G obviously knows far more about the country of Nicaragua than I do. However, after going to this country three times and having worked very closely with the Sandinistas, you can’t deny that he has developed, through association, a set of strong opinions vilifying the contras. I do not share his motives or his actions, but I would like to strongly call into question both his and The Tech’s lack of balance in his series on his travels in Nicaragua.

The Tech’s editorial staff is exploiting the bias inherent in this series and the fact that there are two sides to the issue of the contras in Nicaragua. There are innumerable supporters of the contras living in the United States and Nicaragua, and many of them are Nicaraguan. The newspaper should at least try to solicit the opposing viewpoint; otherwise, it is not contributing to discussion or presenting diverse viewpoints.

I would also like to discuss Glenn’s own viewpoints expressed through his series. It is a common creed of survival that, in guerrilla warfare, somebody else fights with you or against you. The “kidnapped” soldier he interviewed had a choice of removing himself: if he had identified himself as a Sandinista he would have been shot. The contra, like my guerrilla group, would not hesitate to kill an unwilling captive because that cripples the economy and rids them of one less enemy.

(please turn to page 3)

feedback

Helms amendment will disrupt AIDS efforts

To the Editor:

Gays and lesbians have been the object of persecution and repression throughout history, most recently, we have become the victims of AIDS hysteria and misinformation. K.J. Saeger G has contributed to this mountain of misinformation with his column “AIDS education restrictions needed,” Nov. 3.

Saeger’s column focuses on the AIDS amendment that calls for the withholding of AIDS education funds from those groups that promote or encourage, directly or indirectly, homosexual activity.

The issue of how explicit AIDS education material should be has come to a head here in Boston. The AIDS Action Committee, headed by Larry Keesler, has been proactive on AIDS education. Their efforts have been met with criticism from those who oppose AIDS education.

(please turn to page 6)