

the polemic

ELECTION '84 ISSUE

Volume V Number III

the Pole - page D

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, N.Y.

Raygun: offers follow up

The following is a message from the Committee to Re-elect Raygun.

Dear Americans:

The election year is upon us once again, and as Americans, it is our duty to choose the best leader for our great country. Four years ago, faced with the same decision, you chose Ronald Raygun over Jimmy Carter. Raygun promised to do what was needed to make the United States of America great once again. He vowed to cut government interference and bureaucracy, to cut unemployment by bolstering the free enterprise system, to cut government spending and balance the budget, to provide peace through strength so that we would never have to live in fear of war, and to restore to the office of the President the honor and respectability that it had once possessed.

Well, the American people knew that this was what they wanted. They voted in President Raygun and he's been leading this great nation ever since.

During the last four years, President Raygun has done what he felt was best for our great republic. Recently, Walter Mundane has resorted to attacking the President's policies. While this can be looked upon as a simple campaign ploy, it also shows how little Mr. Mundane actually knows about what the country needs and how to effectively run it.

Firstly, Mr. Mundane has made a big issue about the Federal deficit. If he had his way, the deficit would be reduced -- according to his released budget plans, the deficit would be cut by almost 75%. What Mr. Mundane doesn't seem to see is that the deficit is one of the ways that the President has come up with to create jobs. The more money the government borrows, the more people it can employ. This promotes economic growth. Mr. Mundane, in one of his frequent doom crying speeches has

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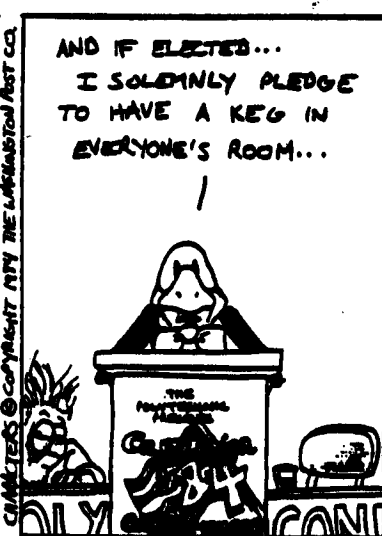


Mundane: ready for President

The following is a paid political announcement for Walter Mundane. Alright, maybe it hasn't been paid for yet, but it will be as soon as Walter gets the money.

Four years ago, Ronald Raygun took office riding high on the crest of a wave of national pride and domestic bliss left by the Carter-Mundane administration. Sure, the country is in pretty good shape now, but that can hardly be attributed to Mr. Raygun. When Carter's administration left office, America was in such great shape that it virtually ran itself. It was running so well that it even took four years for a Republican to screw it up. Alright, maybe there was twenty percent inflation, Americans held hostage, and general economic collapse. But, those were all remnants of the previous Republican administration. After all, it's a widely accepted political fact that it takes about four years (to the day) for a president's policies to have full effect. That is the reason that Walter Mundane is running for the presidency. The policies of Ronald Raygun will soon go into affect (2 months, three weeks, and a day). Mr. Raygun has changed many Mundane policies and is thus setting America up for disaster.

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POLE INTERVIEW: the Candidates

a candid conversation with raygun and mundane

In order that our always-inquisitive public get a truly balanced view of the candidates for the presidency, we at the *Polemic* got both Walter Mundane and Ronald Raygun together for a rare joint interview with the *Polemic* staff. Our expert panelist put together the following probing questions that you may better evaluate these candidates for the highest office in the land (after Editor-in-Chief of the *Polemic*):

Polemic: What would you do if you were elected President?

RAYGUN: I have a long list of things I'd like to do in my second term. These include: cut down all the trees to solve the pollution problem; get rid of the EPA; annex Russia; lower taxes to get rid of the deficit; and raise Defense spending to keep this country great.

MUNDANE: I also have a long list of things I'd like to do if I were president. These include: plant more trees to solve the pollution problem; triple the size of the EPA; annex Russia; raise taxes to get rid of the deficit; lower defense spending to keep this country great, and redecorate the Oval Office. I mean, have you seen Nancy Raygun's taste in colors?!

Polemic: What do you intend to do about the Russian threat?

RAYGUN: The Russians run an evil empire, and my friend Jerry Fallwell says you should avoid all temptations of the devil. Now, I know those devils have tempted me before with their talks of arms reductions, but I won't listen! I'll bide my time, and don't you worry - we'll nuke 'em in the end.

MUNDANE: We have to live with the Russians, so we might as well face the facts. We'll never get them to negotiate unless we concede something, so I'll scrap the B-1 Bomber and the MX Missile first, then we'll talk business. I like those new generic missiles anyway. I guarantee you - if elected, I'll go down in history as the president who got the Russians to the negotiating table - no matter what.

Polemic: This brings us to the "Star Wars" Weapons system. How do you feel about that?

RAYGUN: I think Star Wars was a neat movie! If we had those laser blasters on our satellites . . . BLAM! No more Soviet missiles! More importantly, if everyone had defensive weapons like that, no one would push the button because their missiles would get fried with a laser. That's why I plan on giving our Star Wars weapons to the Russians - to end war forever! Besides, off the record, I've been told Hughes has already got a laser-proof missile in development - so we're doubly covered!

MUNDANE: I am totally against weapons in space. I say keep nuclear weapons on the ground, where they can do the most harm; where they belong! I would never advocate giving our sensitive technology to the Russians. Who does Raygun think he is, trying to solve all the world's problems - a liberal or something?

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POLE INTERVIEW . . .

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Polemic: Let's get to domestic policy. What about that big deficit?

RAYGUN: When you think about it, the deficit's only a few billion dollars. What is that really, in the grand scope of things? When you think about the universe, and the miracle of life itself, a few billion is nothing. A few centuries now, we'll laugh at what we thought were our big problems.

MUNDANE: Let's look at it mathematically. Let S be the amount we spend every year. Let T be the amount we take in every year. Now let $(S-T)=D$, such that D is the Deficit. Simply put, S has been much greater than T over the past few years, making D a large nonnegative integer. My solution? Triple T! This will make D much smaller. T? Yes, T does stand for taxes, but...

Polemic: How do you feel about the student Senate at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute naming the *Polemic* the "Official Humor Magazine" of the student Senate?

RAYGUN: I'm all for it, think it's a great idea. In fact, I'm pressuring friends in both houses of Congress to do exactly that for the United States - name the *Polemic* the Official Humor Magazine of the United States of America!

MUNDANE: I totally agree, but I'll take it further. I feel the *Polemic* does a great service to this great country, and ought to be supported for it. A small million dollar appropriation ought to do it for now I think; I'll tack it on to that proposal for the "balanced budget" amendment to the Constitution.

Polemic: Mr. Raygun, what about the question of your frequent factual errors during the debates?

RAYGUN: Total nonsense. Everything I stated can back up with solid facts. In fact, I think there ought to be a team of experts at those debates to catch when a candidate (mentioning no names, of course) does quote some piece of nonsense.

Polemic: So they could inform you that 1) missiles launched from Trident submarines aren't recallable; 2) trees do not pollute; 3) most of Russia's missiles are in fact land-based; 4) the US does interfere in the internal affairs of other countries like Nicaragua; 5) in the past four years the rich have gotten richer but the poor have gotten poorer; 6) Carter did not practice "unilateral disarmament;" 7) opponents of Phillipine president Marios are not all communist; and 8) the Shah of Iran was not in touch with his people?

RAYGUN: Well, yes, something like that.

Polemic: Mr. Mundane, what does the Democratic Party offer the American people that the Republican Party doesn't?

MUNDANE: The Democratic Party offers Americans fairness, decency, peacefulness at any price, and special entitlements. We offer the people what they want.

Polemic: Like higher taxes?

MUNDANE: umm . . . yes.

So there you have it. Those are the candidates you get to choose between for the second most important office in the world. Pretty scary huh?

Mundane who?

Anyone with a brain can see all the reasons why we should elect Walter Mundane the next President. For instance, he wants to raise your taxes. If you knew how badly American currency is contaminated with all sorts of germs, you would've thrown all of yours away by now. All he's doing is protecting the health of good, honest Americans like you and I. After all, they don't call it "filthy lucre" for nothing.

Now, what is our man Fritz going to do with all that money he's sparing us the worry of? He's going to give it away to people so they won't ever have to go through the pain and despair of actually working for a living. They'll be able to sit around all day and make daytime television profitable, while we work to keep them alive and well. Just think, that means they won't be out there competing for your job. Unemployment figures will become meaningless because no one will ever have to look for work again! Utopia is in sight with Fritz Mundane in charge!

Of course, we also have to look at foreign affairs. Walter Mundane will once again make it safe for people to walk the streets, secure in the knowledge that America no longer has the power to blow up the world 17 times over. Any reasonably intelligent person can see that the Soviets are eagerly waiting for us to come over there and examine their military bases with a fine tooth comb, verifying the lack of nuclear weapons. Of course, this will take time, but as a sign of good faith, Fritz will start by freezing our weapons levels, and letting the Soviets examine them carefully on our bases. They will feel it only fair to do the same. Then, there's the conference table. All we have to do to get the Russians back to the table is to promise to give in to their major demands! This is what Mr. Raygun has been balking at all this time?! We could've had an arms control agreement long ago, but for Mr. Raygun's inflexibility on this issue. We'll have one soon with Fritz.

Lets finish by comparing the two candidates' methods of running the country. Mr. Raygun likes to make all the decisions for himself, use his own judgement, and run everything from the Oval Office. Fritz, on the other hand, will decentralize power, letting most of the major decisions be made by people who are deeply involved... like union leaders and representatives of other special interest

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MUNDANE: READY

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One of Mr. Raygun's major mistakes was building up the military and improving the economy. If you have noticed, Mundane's policy of "strength through weakness" was very effective. When combined with twenty percent inflation, it gave America a sense of security which it had never known before. How can America hope to maintain international pity and sympathy if it has military parity with the USSR? How can we paint Russia as a bully if we are stronger than they are. Why would someone attack a country who's economy is collapsing? Now America is economically strong and prosperous. This makes the Russians angry and envious. Because of this, we are in grave danger of attack.

Another one of Raygun's problems is his refusal to cater to special interest groups. Raygun has consistently cut funding to just about all of America's minority groups; he even had the nerve to reduce the stipend to Mundane supporters. Just about every American is a member of a special interest group. So, how can Mr. Raygun hope to keep people happy if he doesn't give them money? His policies just do not make sense.

One more dangerous Republican policy is Raygun's insistence on cutting taxes. It has become a way of life to pay large percentages of income to the government. This money is always put to good use: hiring pages; courting unions and minority groups, but, most of all, paying expense accounts. But, the most important part of taxing is that it lets Americans have a role in their government.

How dare Mr. Raygun take that away from the people. America is still a democracy and paying taxes gives people a good feeling. If Mr. Mundane is elected, he has vowed to raise taxes to restore national pride; resume the effective "oh! please don't hurt us" foreign policy; and paying enormous sums of money to special interest groups, so that all Americans will have more money.

I remind you, that it takes four years to the day for a presidents policies to have full effect. So I ask you, are you better off now than you were four years ago? If the answer is yes, vote for Walter Mundane.



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said that the money will have to be paid back, that our children will be burdened with the debt, that the deficit does not create growth -- it actually stifles it. He even cites 'leading economists' who agree with his pessimistic views.

Economists can be wrong. After all, they are only scientists, and scientists are often wrong. In fact, scientists told Columbus the earth was flat. If he had listened to them, we wouldn't have a country here today, let alone an economy to bicker about.

Mr. Mundane also says that America is spending too much money on defense. He cites that the military budget is the biggest in the nation's peacetime history. What he is overlooking is the fact that wars are always followed by economic growth. What the President is doing is giving us all the benefits of a wartime economy without all the death and misery that normally accompany wars. This approach is a first, and we, as Americans, should be proud that we are the ones who are doing it.

Related to this plan is the President's foreign policy. Many people have criticized Mr. Raygun about his getting America involved in other countries' disputes, such as Nicaragua and Lebanon. What these people fail to see is that by doing this, the President is getting two important tasks done at once -- he is curtailing communist infiltration of America by keeping them busy in other countries, and he is furthering our economy by keeping the military related businesses in full production without getting America attacked. Furthermore, he is not only keeping our land out of a war, but (with only a few exceptions) he is keeping all Americans out of danger, wherever they may be.

Another ignorant criticism about Mr. Raygun is that he has failed to have any sort of peace or disarmament talks with the Russians. Again, this is just a part of his plan. By not talking to the Russians, he is, in effect, saying "We're not afraid of you." This attitude makes the Russians wonder if we've developed a new weapon or defense that nullifies their weapons. If we neither confirm nor deny this, the Russians will always think twice before planning an attack. Some people say that this attitude will only serve to make the Russians paranoid. This, too has been thought out. If the Russians get scared and launch a nuclear attack out of desperation, it will probably be a poorly planned one because of its suddenness. This means that America, having been preparing for this kind of attack, will come out victorious again.



Have YOU gotten your Polemic Prescription yet? It's only \$1.00!

For your prescription to the Pole, Contact us through the \$MESSAGE System on Sybil, or write to us at 202 Wiltsie House, RPI via Campus Mail. and...ENTER THE CAPTION CONTEST!!!

Throughout his term, Mr. Raygun has practiced subtle psychological warfare on the Russians. A few examples of this are: his seeming ignorance of important topics -- the fact that most Soviet missiles are land based, the fact that U.S. missiles cannot be recalled, and others; falling asleep at cabinet meetings; and his professed desire to hand over completed plans for his military satellite program when they are complete. These examples show what a master of mental warfare our President really is. The 'ignorance' and 'drowsiness' both contribute to the image of an incompetent, senile old man who cannot handle the running of a country. This is the image Mr. Raygun wants the Russians to have. If they think of our President this way, they will be more likely to underestimate our reactions to an attack, and will suffer accordingly. The 'giving away of secrets' is just a ploy to get the Russians to let us develop and deploy our satellite weapons in hopes that once that is done, we will give them the plans. The President does not really intend to do this, but the Russians don't know that.

All in all, Mr. Raygun has proved himself not just competent to lead our great democracy, but the fittest person in the country to do so. By cutting welfare and social security, he has created the incentive for many people to find jobs. Old excuses, such as disability and age, which have prompted a free ride from previous administrations do not work anymore, forcing these people to fend for themselves instead of depending on the government. By selling our National parks to industry, he is ridding America of what he has called 'the biggest source of pollution in the world' -- trees. By doing these things, and everything mentioned previously, President Raygun is restoring this great bastion of freedom, this light upon which the rest of the world looks, this God loving nation, America to its former glory.

the pole

EDITORIAL SECTION

the polemic

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ENDORSEMENT

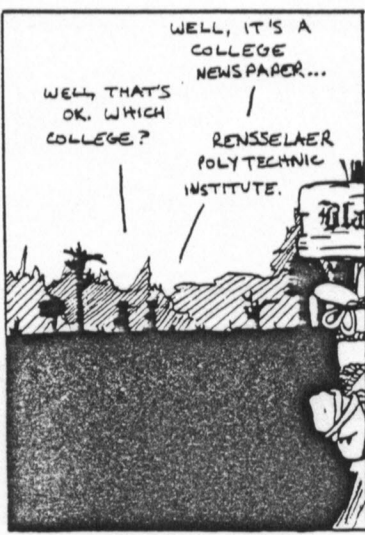
The Editorial Board of the *Polemic*, after much deliberation, has decided to release its endorsement of candidates for the 1984 presidential election. President Raygun and Mr. Mundane both present ludicrous choices and are therefore not applicable. The Communist, Worker's and other parties are just not that fun and are too serious and really screwed up. Because of this, only one party can best represent the views of America and America's voice of journalism, the *Polemic*. We feel this party's slogan is perfect for this election: "This year, why not the Worst?" We feel this party has fielded (so to speak) the least qualified, therefore the most qualified, candidates for the position of the presidency.

This party is none other than the American Meadow Party. Thus, the *Polemic's* endorsement for President and Vice-President of the United States of America are Bill the Cat and Opus, respectively. We hope you will see eye to eye with us on this and storm the polls on November 6, to advocate the "Wierd Stuff" for president and vice-president.

The *Polemic* Editorial Board

The Editorial Board Of the *Polemic* is pleased to announce that we have voted the student Senate of the Rensselaer Union the "Official Student Senate of the *Polemic*." Congratulations, guys.

We would like to stress, however, that this does not constitute official recognition of the student Senate by the *Polemic*; and further, that this does not place the *Polemic* as legally responsible for anything the Senate says, does, or prints. After all, the Senate doesn't abide by the Media Statement either.



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Pole/Poll?

The following is an editorial opinion. It does not necessarily reflect the views of the Polemic, J-Board, Office of Human Resources, CIA, or John Lennon.

Americans, by the time you read this announcement, the election will be over, I say this because the election was over last July. But, in case you are unaware, Walter Mundane is still actively seeking the presidency.

Although Ronald Raygun has a big lead, Mundane insists that the poles cannot be trusted. It is racial slurs like this that have ruined Mundane's credibility. Lech Walesa goes to jail, the Poles stand up to the Russians when no one else would, and Mundane says that they are untrustworthy?

I wonder if Fritz could stand up to the Soviets the way the Poles have.

"Come on guys, can't we talk this over? We didn't mean it. We won't do it again, really."

Who does this obviously timid man think he is, disparaging these brave people!? And how does he hope to get elected after such comments?! I don't know about you, but come November 6th, I'm going to show Mundane just what I think of his opinion!

Oh . . . It was 'polls' . . .
Nevermind . . .



* Don't *
* VOTE *

The following is a message from the Fanaticly Apathetic Rennselaer Council of Elections (FARCE).

As election time approaches, it seems that everywhere you look someone is telling you that you should vote. Civic duty, democracy in action, you can make a difference, the life you save could be your own, they did the hard part all you have to do is vote, and many other guilt laden phrases are intended to make Americans feel that they must vote. Well, don't bother. You can't make a difference. Your one vote is just not enough to affect an election. Have you ever heard of an major election being won or lost by one vote? In the upcoming presidential election, tens of millions of people will vote. That's at least 10,000,000. Your vote will really matter? Yeah, right. You're going to spend time going to register, waiting in line, registering, waiting in line, and finally casting your meagerly one vote that could not possibly make a difference. Ronald Raygun is predicted to win the presidential election by about twenty percentage points. The election is Tuesday. So, unless over a million people (1,000,000) change their minds at the last minute, which could only happen if Raygun was proven to be a devil worshipper, or if Mundane was shown to be God, you are wasting your time voting. Why not buy a lottery ticket instead? You'll be giving money to your government and you have a better chance of actually getting something back for your time.

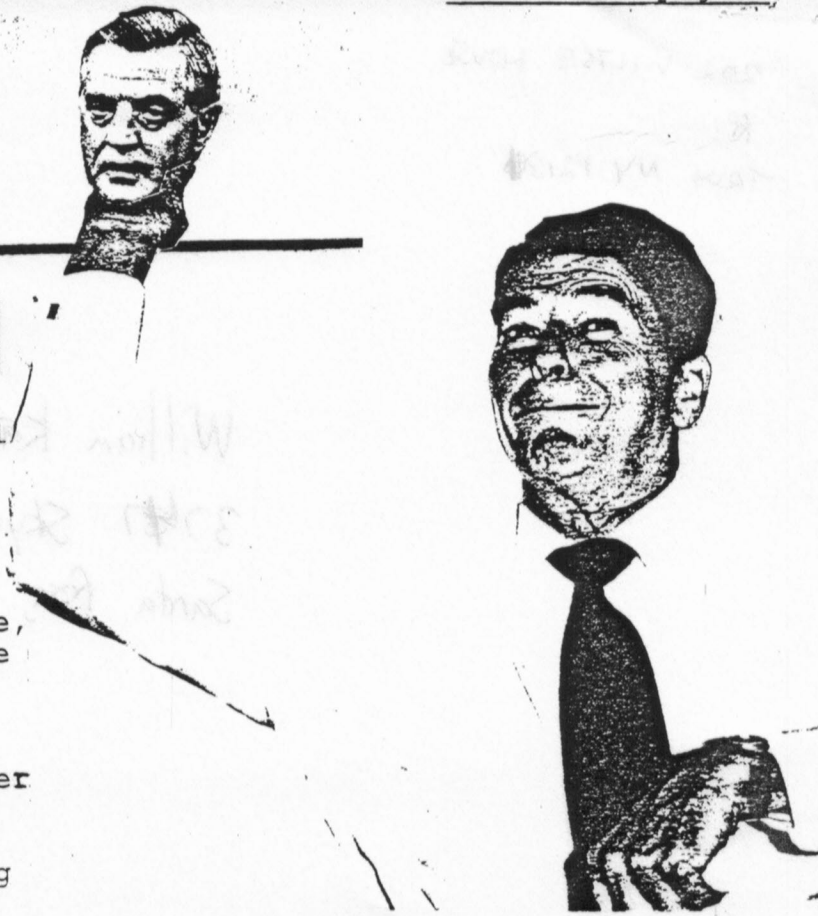
But, if you do vote, watch the national news. You will actually have an effect on the cute little election board they have. You can watch a total change from 7,345,385 to 7,345,386, and feel proud that you did your part. And twenty years from now, if the earth still exists, you can proudly tell your children "In that '84 election, Raygun only would have won by 3,214,761 votes if it hadn't been for me."



Yes, YOU, if you stole this Polemic off a bulletin board on campus. What? You say you paid \$1.00 for your very own prescription? Oh. Never mind.

In Brief

sports



Athlete of the week

This week's Athlete of the Week was determined from last week's presidential debates, where the candidates had to show speed in sidestepping the issues, audacity in repeating outright lies as facts, and accuracy in slinging mud at the opposition.

The debates started well for Mundane, who slung with great accuracy, using age as a weapon; and kept himself well in the running with incorrect "facts" of his own, normally a Raygun advantage. Unfortunately, Mundane lost his head over a well-placed Raygun comment about Mundane's youth and lack of experience. Raygun grabbed Mundane's loosely-rolling head and ran with it.

Amid universal ridicule, the headless Mundane had to retire, leaving Raygun joyfully holding Mundane's head high. For his win Raygun has been awarded Athlete of the Week. Significantly, the media awarded Mundane the victory, showing just how much they know.

Mundane commented after the bout that he did not regard the loss of his head as a major setback in his chances for the presidency.

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MUNDANE WHO . . .

groups and ethnic voting blocs. What could be fairer than letting a destitute farmer run the Dept. of Agriculture? He'll know where to send lots of government money to! Why not put an illegal alien in charge of the Department of Immigration? Better yet, why place these people in positions of open power, when we can let them rule from behind the scenes?! That's the way to run a country! That's why I'm voting for Fritz Mundane.

Then, there's Geri Ferrari, an eminently qualified Vice-President. She's had an entire six years of service in the House of Representatives, and her husband is a very highly-respected, honest businessman. She's been at the Capitol so long, she knows it as well as anyone... what difference does an extra eight or ten years make? Her religion is no problem: she votes against everything her Church stands for. She should make a great Vice-President.

Mundane/Ferrari.

Vote for us or you'll end up dead.

