

Alliance

AN ETHNIC NEWSPAPER AT KSU

October 1984



Eddie Rodriguez, Federal Judge Nelson Diaz from Philadelphia, Paul Guevara and Albert Allala at the Midwest Hispanic Political Leadership Conference in Chicago. Thanks to Ed Ramiraz for the photo.

STUDENTS ATTEND VOTE CONFERENCE

Raul R. Guevara, of Governor Carlin's office in Topeka and former K-Stater, Albert Allala, KSU junior in journalism from Hutchinson, Eliezer (Eddie) Rodriguez, KSU junior in pre-law from Philadelphia, and Ed Ramiraz, of Governor Carlin's office represented Kansas at the Second Midwest Hispanic Political Leadership Conference in Chicago, Illinois on October 6 and 7, 1984.

800 delegation leaders, elected and appointed officials and others from 10 Midwestern states, joined together in this conference billed as "the largest Get-Out-The-Vote Rally in the Midwest." A major

purpose of the conference, organized by the Midwest Voter Registration Education Project, was to investigate on a non-partisan basis the causes and remedies of low political participation by members of disadvantaged minority and ethnic groups and other persons similarly affected.

The Kansas team said they were able to gather data and make important contacts at the Chicago conference. They said they are encouraged to continue building a communication network within Kansas and the Midwest which can help educate minority groups about the voting process and the world around them.

UNSCIENTIFIC SURVEY SHEDS SOME LIGHT

By Sandy Marks and Susan Allen

When a sampling of KSU minority students were asked their opinion about the upcoming Presidential election, a distinct trend quickly established itself. The sample was small and unscientifically selected (we stopped eleven people in the Union), but we got a pretty clear idea about one thing: eleven KSU minority students think Reagan and Bush will be re-elected in November even though eleven KSU minority students do not support them.

Sixty percent of the students expressed strongly negative views to

the question, "What is your opinion of the Reagan-Bush ticket?" Such as, "They are the worst thing that has ever happened to the U.S.," and "I think he's (Reagan) a representative of the devil." Other remarks included, "I don't care; they are going to win," and "They will be elected."

The most positive responses were, "Some military views are okay but overall I disagree," and "Some views are okay but most of them stink."

Answers to a similar question about the Mondale-Ferraro ticket could be described on the whole as unenthusiastically supportive. The most upbeat included, "I like most of their views" and "they're a great combination."

The most negative kinds of comments were "I think they're too liberal but some policies, like education, are okay," and "They have to be stronger on important issues." Several of the students reflected their resignation that Reagan would win again by saying things about Mondale and Ferraro like "They are wasting their time."

Most reactions were very low-key, like "Well, Mondale and Ferraro would be an improvement."

More than 80% of the students said they planned to vote. However, only half of them were registered.

note!

NATIONAL CAUCUS FORMED BY WOMEN

The National Black Women's Political Caucus (NBWPC) was formed in Washington, D.C. on August 9, 1984. Stating "it is time for black women to empower themselves," former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm stressed the need for an organization to focus on gaining political awareness and clout.

The new organization will be a non-partisan political organization to seek the direct involvement and full participation of black women and men into the political process. The goals of the caucus will be to encourage every black woman to participate in political activity beginning with registering to vote, informing black women about and encouraging them to work within the political process, encouraging black women to seek office at all levels and endorsing and supporting financially candidates for office. The group will also develop and advocate public policy positions.

Many black women leaders met in Washington to inaugurate the new

caucus. They included former Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who will serve as the first chairperson; Mary Frances Berry, Commissioner, U.S. Civil Rights Commission; Eleanor Holmes Norton, former head of EEOC; C. Delores Tucker, former Pennsylvania Secretary of State; Addie Wyatt of United Food and Commercial Workers; Congresswomen Katie Hall and Cardiss Collins; Dorothy Height, President National Council of Negro Women; Jewel Jackson-McCabe of the Coalition of 100 Black Women; and other activists such as Donna Brazile, Sheila High King, representatives from Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta Sororities.

The NBWPC will be headquartered in Washington, D.C. One of the first activities of the group will be the convening of a national assembly to ratify the organization's bylaws and policies in late 1984 or early 1985.

(Now Times, 10-1984)

IS ANYONE LISTENING ?

By Hakim Salahu-Din

Stereotypical attitudes. "They don't do as well in college; they don't appreciate their responsibilities; they don't realize the consequences of their actions."

Surely, these blanket generalizations typify many young people, especially when the accusations are based on the accuser's treasured code of what everybody should do/be. However, some Black youngsters do perform poorly in school. Not all, still too many.

According to Dr. Carl Hansen, superintendent of schools of Washington, D.C., the educational effort is an expression of hope, an expression of faith, that if the student tries hard to improve himself in school, he or she will achieve satisfying results in his economic and social life later.

Black students are asked to have faith and confidence--which at the moment seems unreasonable and unjustifiable, says Hansen. One can see faith demonstrated in an inner city basketball game or a street corner break dance. Dr. J. and Michael are real. "Who is Benjamin Mays? Who is Mary McLeod Bethune?" a child might ask. In Charles Sibberman's Crisis in Black and White, a researcher's visit to a classroom is highlighted:

As soon as I entered the classroom Mrs. X told me in front of the class that the parents of these children are not professional and therefore they do not have much interest in going to college. . .

She discussed each child openly in front of the entire class and myself. . . She spoke about each child in a belittling manner. . . She told me in private that "heredity is what really counts," and since they don't have a high culture in Africa and have not built one in New York, they are intellectually inferior from birth.

In spite of the enormous progress that has been made in the

past twenty or so years, minds are just as small as ever. Our children are continually ignored and told they are not college material. They are tolerated and sometimes accepted only if they assimilate--do a White thing in Black.

Why do Black students see so few alternatives? A study issued in September 1983 by the Washington-based Center for the study of Social Policy says, "Black family income is only 56 percent of the White median, about where it was in 1960, and down from 61 percent in 1970." Nearly half of all black men are not working. One-third of Black families live in poverty as compared with over one-tenth of White families.

Ralph Ellison, in his classic, The Invisible Man, summarized a

(To p. 3)

Discover Puerto Rico

By Zoraida Rivera and Gisela Gely

The land of sunshine. The enchantment Island. This in how most poets and writers describe Puerto Rico. From this Caribbean Island arrives a special gift. Music and dances that will make your heart beat fast. Have you ever heard the language of Puerto Rican music? Congás playing all different rhythms as if they could understand each other. This is the mystery of the music.

There will be a good opportunity for many people to experience our music and dances at 7:00 p.m., November 17, 1984 in All Faiths Chapel. Puerto Rico Canta! is back this year to give you a piece of our culture. Puerto Rico Canta! is back to be part of the activities celebrating the Discovery of Puerto Rico sponsored by the Puerto Rican Student Organization (PRSO).

(To p. 3)

ISSUES

MIDWEST HISPANIC LEADERS SPEAK

Over 600 Midwest Hispanic leaders from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri were surveyed at voter registration and leadership training conferences held in six of the ten states and at one conference attended by leaders of all ten states.

The leaders were asked to respond to a series of prepared questions concerning both domestic and international policy and to provide some information regarding their respective socio-economic characteristics. The respondents were not selected at random. The Hispanic leadership surveyed in the midwest responded to questions concerning their views on fourteen issues of national significance. Their collective views can be categorized as follows:

- * Midwest Hispanic leaders overwhelmingly supported a constitutional amendment to balance the federal budget; the Equal Rights Amendment; a ban on possession of handguns except by police and other authorized persons; a guest worker program for aliens; and an amnesty program for undocumented workers.
- * Midwest Hispanic leaders overwhelmingly opposed a decrease in government spending for social programs; an increase in federal spending for military and defense purposes; a ban on federal financing of abortions; reducing environmental regulations to improve business conditions; and a law making it illegal to hire undocumented workers.
- * Midwest Hispanic leaders were narrowly divided on issues concerning income tax deductions for children attending private or parochial schools; a freeze on the production of nuclear weapons; a constitutional amendment to permit prayer in public schools; and the death penalty for persons convicted of murder.

The views of Midwest Hispanic leaders on other major issues can be summarized as follows:

- * Among Midwest Hispanic leaders there is overwhelming support for efforts to strengthen and change women's status in society and 91% believe bilingual education in the public schools is a good idea.
- * 91% believe federal aid to bilingual education should be either kept the same or increased and a small majority believe federal funds have helped public schools in their community.
- * 75.2% disapprove of the way President Reagan is handling foreign policy.
- * Most Hispanic leaders attribute political unrest in Central America more so to economic/social conditions than Cuban/Soviet influence.
- * Most Midwest Hispanic leaders strongly oppose U.S. aid to the rebels in Nicaragua.
- * Most are equally opposed to increasing U.S. aid to the government of El Salvador and also oppose sending military advisors and/or combat troops.
- * While not being particularly supportive of the possibility of some Communist power within the government of El Salvador, 83% believe the situation in that country could become another Vietnam.
- * Unemployment is considered to be the most serious problem facing this country today with inflation and the Reagan budget cuts running second and third.
- * 75.2% of Midwest Hispanic leaders disapprove or strongly disapprove of the way Ronald Reagan is handling his job as president.
- * President Reagan received poor to only fair ratings in the following areas: inspiring confidence in the White House; handling the economy; handling of inflation and the cost-of-living; handling federal aid to

education; handling of the federal jobs program; handling of the federal deficit; handling of environmental cleanup; and in helping the unemployed, small business, farmers and others in economic trouble.

- * Most Midwest Hispanic leaders expect their own situations, the economic situations of Hispanics, and the Nation's economic situation to worsen somewhat or by much under the economic policies of the Reagan Administration.
- * Only 15.1% of Midwest Hispanic leaders supported Ronald Reagan in 1980.
- * While 73.3% consider themselves Democrats, 74.5% say they are strong Democrats.
- * 6.3% consider themselves Republicans.
- * 19.2% consider themselves Independents.
- * 84.4% describe their own political philosophy to be moderate to liberal.
- * 74.7% of Midwest Hispanic leaders are of Mexican origin.
- * 80.2% are Roman Catholic.
- * Almost 92% of Midwest Hispanic leaders have completed a high school education or more; 23.7% have completed advanced degrees.
- * Almost all read, write or speak Spanish fluently or at least somewhat.
- * 62.8% of Midwest Hispanic leaders are between 26-45 years of age.
- * 61.3% are employed in Professional/Technical and Managerial/Administrative occupations.
- * 33.1% earn more than \$25,000 per year.
- * 62% are married.
- * 60.7% are male and 39.3% are female. (Midwest Voter Registration Education Project, October 1984)

(Midwest Voter Registration Education Project, October 1984)



Shirley Turner, senior in Speech and Theater Education, recently portrayed a housewife who dresses as characters from the "Wizard of Oz" to relieve her boredom in the Purple Masque Theatres' production of "Talking With". Turner won the 1984 KSU Talent Pageant last spring with a performance pictured above.

MEET SIETAR

The International Society for Intercultural Education, Training and Research (SIETAR International) will hold its 11th Annual Congress in San Antonio May 12-17, 1985. The theme is: Intercultural Skills in Education, Training and Research For Multicultural Societies, with special emphasis and programs on the International Year of Youth.

SIETAR International is accepting program proposal submissions from the United States through November 15.

SIETAR International is an international association of diverse individuals and institutions concerned with promoting effective intercultural interaction. As such, it promotes: mutual understanding of the values and beliefs of people from different cultural backgrounds; non-political avenues for contact between people who share a common interest in development of intercultural awareness; the intercultural field by identifying and clarifying issues and by preparing members to work constructively on intercultural issues; contacts among educators, trainers, researchers and those whose positions or interests involve them with people from another culture; exchange and dissemination of information and knowledge; and professional development.

Membership is open to individuals or institutions concerned with intercultural communication, cross-cultural relations and associated fields who share a commitment to intercultural understanding. Communique and The International Journal of Intercultural Relations are SIETAR publications.

In May 1985 Congress will lay a base for the May 1986 Congress which will be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands on the theme Multicultural Aspects of Communication, Education, Trade and Media: The International Year of Peace, and the Thirteenth, scheduled for 1987 in Eastern Canada on the theme Multiculturalism in the Year 2000: A Vision for the Future.

Those interested in further information may contact: SIETAR International, 1414 Twenty-Second Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20037. (SIETAR)

CONSTRUCTION SUCCESS

Cynthia Lartigue, former K-Stater and director of the School of Engineering Minority Study Center, is alive and doing very well in Topeka these days. In July she was featured in the Topeka Capital-Journal, along with four other women, for "making inroads into the highly competitive construction industry."

"Whatever the speciality," writer Beth Baker said, "architecture, engineering, ready-mixed concrete - Topeka women have ventured successfully into every avenue of the construction business."

In the Capital-Journal interview, Lartigue said she believes women have opportunities to move into management positions in the construction industry, other than by "name-only" and government regulations mandates.

"In the past, women got into the industry because of family

ties. But that is not true, for the most part, today," she said, pointing out that in the past men, too, usually entered the industries through family ties.

"I believe the government mandates are important because they help women and other minorities break into the network. But there are other ways, sometimes better. For instance, educational training in a specific field," she said.

Lartigue last appeared on the pages of Alliance in October of 1982 while working as director of the College of Engineering's Women and Minority Programs and completing a graduate degree in architectural engineering.

Now an estimator and project manager for Leland Anderson Construction Co. in Topeka, Lartigue has always given special emphasis to educational training. In fact, she said "All engineering students have

to learn that dedication is a necessity."

"Sure it's hard to stay home and study when your roommate or the rest of your friends are out partying, but an engineering student has

to make a serious commitment to self and to studies in order to achieve the goal of engineering as a profession."

In addition to estimating the cost of projects, Lartigue's other duties at Leland Anderson include checking to see that safety standards are being met, ordering supplies, conducting meetings and so forth.

"Everybody says that in the construction business you have to pay dues," Lartigue said. "Well, I did that too - by sweeping floors and cleaning restrooms. Sometimes everybody has to pitch in so that a job can be done in a timely fashion."

"At first, men on the job thought I would be afraid of the construction activity going on around and that I wouldn't be able to keep up with the activities of ordering products, keeping inventory, and meeting deadlines," she said. "There's always a certain amount of proving you have to do."

Lartigue said the construction business is much better now for women than it was just a few years ago but that women must be aware of opportunities and should not let people discourage them.

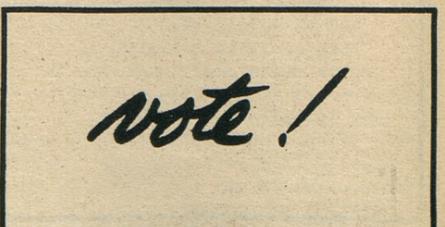
"There will always be someone discouraging them, but they shouldn't let that bother them. It's a challenge for anyone who wants a challenge." Lartigue also suggests becoming as knowledgeable in as many different fields of the industry as one can.

"The National Association of Women in Construction has begun a program to help pay the cost of taking university construction classes for women already familiar with the business," Lartigue said. "Women don't know they can expand their knowledge fairly easily."



Project manager, Cynthia Lartigue, checking construction work

at Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center in Topeka (Capital-Journal photo-graph).



MINORITY BUSINESS AGENCY NEWS

This October 7-13, the nation observed the second annual Minority Enterprise Development Week in tribute to the outstanding contributions of the minority business community to the U.S. economy. Totalling over 600,000 firms, minority-owned businesses are rapidly becoming the fastest growing institutions in America. "It has once been said that small businesses are the backbone of America. I would take that statement a step farther and include minority-owned enterprises," said Theron J. Bell, Deputy Director of the Minority Business Development Agency.

There is recent evidence that minority-owned businesses are expanding from the traditional "mom" and "pop" stores into major industries involving telecommunications, computers, and other high technology-related fields.

A recent report for the Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) found that "minority entrepreneurs have been attracted steadily in emerging, non-traditional areas with substantial growth potential and earnings higher than wage and salary occupations. Those non-traditional areas are in finance, insurance and real estate, business services, manufacturing, wholesale and professional services. The proportion of minority entrepreneurs in personal services and retail trade fell between 1960 and 1980."

Last year, MBDA programs provided assistance to more than 16,000 minority-owned businesses Bell said. The agency provides this assistance through 100 minority business development centers established to help minority business owners to obtain financing and adequate marketing to expand their businesses. MBDA is the only

federal agency created to work with other federal, state and local government agencies to promote new opportunities for the creation and expansion of minority businesses.

"The agency also works with private industry to encourage major corporations to use minority businesses as subcontractors and joint venture partners in major projects" he said. The agency funds the National Minority Supplier Development Council, headquartered in New York, to administer regional purchasing councils across the country to increase business relations between minority and majority companies. Corporate members of the Council recently reported record purchases totaling \$5.6

billion from minority-owned firms. Also, corporate deposits in minority banks totaled a record \$2.1 billion."

The agency has established a comprehensive computerized data system providing specific information regarding major construction projects in the United States.

In transportation, MBDA has directed its minority business



Theron J. Bell

development centers to work closely with minority contractors to secure contracts and subcontracts under the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982. MBDA also recently funded the American Institute for Transportation and Business Development in Washington, D.C. to provide information and generate new opportunities in transportation for minority contractors.

"For procurement officials having trouble identifying qualified minority contractors, we have established a computerized system called PROFILE, listing over 30,000 minority-owned firms by size, industry, ethnic group, and geographic location. If you are seeking ways to increase exposure for your business, PROFILE is a useful resource" Bell said.

If you would like more information about the programs and policies of MBDA, contact the nearest MBDA regional office in your area. The regional offices nearest to Kansas are: Chicago (312) 353-0182; and Dallas (214) 767-8001. (U.S. Dept. of Commerce)

Akwesasne Notes Calendar 1985



This calendar is produced on fine paper and is meant to be kept as a folio of fine art reproductions. The artists, two women and two men, are from four different areas of this turtle island. Together they prove that N.A. art and N.A. philosophy are alive and well.

Twelve full-color reproductions of Art Works by four Native American Artists:
Kahloches John Fadden, Mohawk
Harry Fomaca, Malde
Linda Lomahastwa, Hopi
Jaunc Quick-To-See Smith, Flathead



AKWESASNE NOTES is the official newspaper of the traditional Mohawk Nation. It reports on the traditions, philosophies and current conditions of indigenous peoples throughout the Western Hemisphere.

The NOTES represents a unique perspective on the most pressing issues confronting humanity — providing comprehensive coverage of:

- * survival struggles of indigenous communities.

- * men and women who are authentic speakers on Indian spiritual, political and economic philosophies and practices.

- * contemporary efforts of indigenous peoples to revitalize their ancient cultures.

- * the movement for recognition of Indian people to full rights as Nations before the International community.

For information: Send your name and address to:

Akwesasne Notes
Mohawk Nation
via Rooseveltown, New York 13683

\$8.50 EACH Prepaid Orders Only (25% off for orders of 12 or more) American Funds ONLY Please!

Order your Calendar From:
Akwesasne Notes Calendar 1985
c/o Akwesasne Notes
Mohawk Nation
via Rooseveltown, New York
13683

canta (From p. 1)



For Puerto Rican's "Descubrimiento de Puerto Rico," the day Christopher Columbus first landed in Puerto Rico, is a special time and we want to share it with K-State at this special performance. Puerto Rico Canta! has been singing together for the past five years and is well known all over Kansas. The group was started in 1979 by former KSU student Luis A. Rivera, now an architect in Puerto Rico, and other students who wanted to share their culture.

Today, five years later, the group is still going strong and is currently led by Zoraida Rivera, Luis Rivera's sister, who is a senior in Radio and T.V.

Puerto Rico Canta!, the only original group of this kind at K-State, has 10 regular members, all students at K-State and all from Puerto Rico. In addition, the November 17 performance will feature associate professor of English, Phil Royster, who is Master of the congas, the instrument at the heart of all Puerto Rican music.

The goal of Puerto Rico Canta! is to share music that describes the Island and its beauty and that shows what our writers and poets feel inside about their homeland.

Join us on November 17. Puerto Rico Canta! invites you to take a trip to Puerto Rico.

listening? (From p. 1)

Black man's plight of identity.

You ache with the need to convince yourself that you do exist in the real world, that you're a part of all the sound and anguish, and you strike out with your fists, you curse and you swear to make them recognize you. And, alas, it's seldom successful.

People, not only Black folk, are continually searching for their identities. Dick Gregory, political activist, once told me that Black folk are extremists. We are better at being like the man than he is at being himself. Some Black students for example, do not want to be stigmatized—they want to be in the mainstream. (When I was a child I wanted to grow sideburns like Elvis.)

In the land of opportunity, individuality is sacred. In reality individuality is a myth. Mass-produced cut-off jeans and sleeveless shirts? Folk profess individuality while they perpetuate sameness. Students avoid getting tutors because they might be called dumb: they make C's when they could make B's; make F's instead of C's.

A study released by the Ford Foundation shows that Whites who graduate from high school, for example, number 83 percent of the total "cohort" population of possible graduates. For Blacks, the percent graduating from high school is 72 percent. Of the 38 percent of Whites who go on to enter college 23 percent (or 60 percent of the total entering) graduate with a Baccalaureate. Of the 29 percent of Blacks who enter college, only 12 percent (or 41 percent of the total entering) graduate. In the fifties and sixties, Black children in Miami sang "What can you do Ponchanella Forty-fella? We can do it too, Ponchanella Forty-two!"

The one comparative bright spot is in education, where Blacks almost have closed the gap in schooling and illiteracy rates. But higher educational achievement has not paid off as well as it has for Whites, writes John Jacobs of the Copely News Service: "47 percent of Blacks with four or more years of college earned income in the \$20,000.00 to \$40,000.00 bracket. But so, too, did Whites with only a high school education." Apparently, without an increased number of Blacks with college educations the scenario would be even less appealing.

We have all talked to people, at one time or another, tried hard to get them to understand what we were saying. But somehow we knew that they were not listening. Of course, their heads bobbed in time with our crescendos. But somehow we knew that they were not listening. "I understand," "yes," and other amens accentuated the positive (and muted the negative). But somehow we knew that they were not listening. Patronizing and irrelevantly irrelevant questions choked the air. We knew that they were not listening—they had simply agreed to agree.

Many Black folks characterized Mr. Nixon's reign as one of terror and benign neglect. Confusing. Mr. Reagan, on the other hand, clearly promised in 1980 to put them in their place: get tough on crime (minorities are criminals); end social programs (minorities get welfare and work for welfare programs); end the Supreme Courts' sixteen-year crusade against the working man (the White man is king); curtail federal assistance to higher education, thereby ridding our halls of ivy of dumb freeloaders (minorities are dumb and poor). Prepare yourself—he will win again in 1984.



Some Middle Ground?

My friend Katie used to say all Republicans looked alike until she lived in Washington, D.C. After hanging around there for a couple of years, she decided one should never judge a politician "until you've walked a mile in his Guccis." She now also admits that it was practically impossible to tell to which political party those expensive shoes belonged. Everyone in Washington, D.C. looks like your old high school student council president, Republican and Democrat alike.

Probably the reason for this homogeneity, as David Osborne pointed out in a recent issue of *Mother Jones* magazine, is that after any election a different party takes over anyway. It is no longer the "Electoral Party"; the ones who communicate to the public through the election-time stereotypes we call "Republican" and "Democrat." It is not the two parties we see on television.

After an election, Osborne says, a group of people who live in Washington on a more-or-less permanent basis takes over. These people -- who staff administrations, determine policy and influence Congress -- make up what he calls the "Permanent Party." They are the ones who begin to look almost clone-like when you see them in their pin-striped suits on the subway to Chevy Chase and Arlington. They are the lawyers, lobbyists, business leaders and labor chiefs. They are the journalists who come to watch them.

The Electoral Party is the party of stereotypes and slogans, of superficial answers to complex problems, of television performances. It seeks to win elections. Its currency is the vote.

The Permanent Party is much more indistinguishable. Political rhetoric is less prevalent. Special interest groups are more noticeable. Often, "its currency is the dollar," Osborne said.

Actually both Republicans and Democrats are probably necessary within our system to maintain a balanced approach to problem solving because both, in the extreme, could be hazardous to the national health.

One analogy explains it this way: If you are going down for the third time 100 yards off shore and you yell for help, either a Republican or a Democrat could drown you in an effort to help. The stereotyped Republican would throw you 50 yards of rope and encourage you that the rest of the swim would build your character. The stereotyped Democrat would throw you 200 yards of rope and sink you with the weight. There are limits even to benevolence.

The language is part of what confuses us. We tend to allow words to take over reality. What is a Republican or a Democrat? Think of terms that supposedly describe you: K-Stater, Kansan, Christian. All Republicans and Democrats are no more alike than you are like all other Kansans or Christians. And, the fact that your neighbor is Buddhist or comes from Oklahoma does not mean he isn't a great deal like you. It is mostly the mythology surrounding the WORDS that makes people all too ready to accept stereotypes. How many of us can really list specific, concrete political party beliefs and goals?

Because we only know the cliches, some people out in the world become genuinely fearful of what election-time slogan-makers tell us about one party or the other. We are consciously manipulated, by people sophisticated about

how to use language, into believing Republican is another word for corporate carte-blanche and that Democratic is synonymous with socialistic.

We are told that if Democrats have their way they will spend all of the money in the national treasury, leaving America broke and unable to take care of its citizens. We are told that Republicans would turn America into a survival of the fittest world where all but the most privileged will "fall between the cracks."

Republicans, on the other hand, think they are simply saying people, or at least smaller structures than the federal government, should take care of themselves as much as possible so we don't spend ourselves into mutual poverty. Democrats say, "fine, but what are you going to do with the people who can not take care of themselves? What about the people who don't begin the game with an equal share of the cards?" Republicans counter, "how are you going to help any one by breaking the backs of the people who are successfully making the economy and the society strong?" And so it goes.

Surely there is middle ground here. Maybe this is an unfounded wish, but maybe, if we're lucky, that middle ground is where many of the so-called "Permanent Party" resides. I hope so because it seems the question isn't really, "Should the federal government be the caretaker of our personal needs or should it not?" The better question is, "What parts of our caretaking can be best accomplished through the cooperative structure of national government and what parts are better left to ourselves or to other smaller structures?"

We've fallen into thinking we either have some stereotypical Republican greed or stereotypical Democratic give-away, when what we need is a caretaking government for some things and individual, non-governmental responsibility for others.

We need structures like the United Nations and other international organizations to deal with nuclear proliferation, acid rain, international air traffic, small pox and other global problems. We need national government for truly national needs. And for problems peculiar to areas or to small populations we need structures of the scale to handle them.

How can we, the average voters, help guide our governing structures in directions most of us agree address problems on appropriate levels and in appropriate manners?

We need to vote. The vote is still the trump card in this country. Another way seems to be to try to be more attentive about politics--even if it is easier to say "It's too complicated" or "it's too boring." Someone--and who else besides ourselves--needs to be more watchful of our elected representatives (and, importantly, to their much more arbitrary appointees) between election times. We need to know that performers who can grab the public attention during elections may not necessarily be the best people to do the actual work of managing and leading a country.

In other words, we need to educate ourselves about issues and about the kinds of people we need to "hire" to handle them. Maybe if we do we will be less easily manipulated by Electoral Party politics and more aware of what the Permanent Party is up to during the intervening four years.

© 1984 by Susan L. Allen

DIRECTORY

If you would like to contact the following organizations, you may call these people for more information:

- * Kappa Alpha Phi--Joshua Davis (776-8121)
- * Alpha Kappa Alpha--Cathy Smith (776-7212)
- * Delta Sigma Theta--Vernita Thomas (537-2688)
- * Zeta Phi Beta--Adrian Freeman (776-0161)
- * Omega Psi Phi--Kenneth Thomas (776-3259)
- * Alpha Phi Alpha--Richard Horton (539-5118)
- * Puerto Rican Student Organization--Pedro Cintron (532-2071)
- * BSU--Richard Horton (539-5118)
- * MECHA--Gary Sepulveda (539-7491)

- * Society of Ethnic Minority Engineers--Lee Barnes (532-2362)
- * Native American Indian Student Body--student volunteers needed
- * Ebony Theatre--Vincent Bly (539-1999)
- * United Black Voices--Joe Walker (539-4685)
- * Engineering Minority Program--Karen Hummel (532-5590)
- * Alliance-An Ethnic Newspaper at KSU--Susan Allen (532-6436)
- * Office of Minority Affairs--Veryl Switzer & Anne Butler (532-6436)
- * Office of Admissions--Hakim Salahu Din (532-6250)
- * Minorities Resource/Research Center--Antonia Q. Pigno (532-6516)
- * Multicultural/Nonsexist Education Task Force--James Boyer (532-5554)

Open Noon

Several offices on the K-State campus are remaining open during the noon hour (11:50-1:00 p.m.) as of October 1, 1984. They are: President's office, Undergraduate Admission, Registrar, Student Financial Assistance, Affirmative Action, Cashier and Student Loan, the Dean of Student's office in Holton Hall, Career Planning and Placement, and the Graduate School.

Some offices regularly remain open during the noon hour including Personnel Services, Housing, Union administrative offices, KSU Police, University Relations, Printing Services, Department of Athletics, McCain Auditorium, the Computing Center and the library dean's offices.

Noon open hours for colleges and academic departments has been left to the discretion of the deans and department heads.

Suicides

Although there are no firm statistics, there is evidence that rates of suicide by increasing numbers of young people include a disproportionate number of highly able students. James R. Delisle, Assistant Professor of Special Education at Kent State University reported that evidence suggests potential youthful suicide victims are often high-achieving and college-bound or already enrolled at a university. Many are from a community whose socio-economic status is above the national norm. "The first factor associated with giftedness that appears to also influence suicidal behavior is perfectionism," Delisle said. "Too often, gifted youths are led to believe that the only acceptable level of performance is perfection." (Chronicle, 9/5/84)

Hispanic Gathering

Members of the K-State and Manhattan communities are cordially invited to attend the 1984 "Celebration of Hispanic Heritage," sponsored by the Hispanic Heritage Organization Group, Friday and Saturday, November 16 and 17 at St. Isidore Catholic Student Center in Manhattan.

The celebration is directed toward people of Hispanic heritage, whether they are from Latin America, the United States, or other Spanish-speaking areas, said Galen Suppes, celebration host and peer minister of international students at KSU. Some goals of the weekend are: to recognize the similarities of all those with Hispanic origin, to create an opportunity for new Hispanic students to meet and share experiences with others, to experience a religious celebration, and to have a good time, he said.

Scheduled events begin with registration at St. Isidore, 7:00 p.m. Friday. There will be a dance at 9:30 p.m. Friday and (Spanish) Mass at noon Sunday. Contact Galen Suppes at 711 Denison (539-7496) for details.

Vote!

FOREIGN STUDENTS

There were a total of 338,890 foreign students attending U.S. universities in 1983-1984, up from 336,990 in 1982-1983. Universities with the largest number of international students included Miami-Dade Community College with 4,388, University of Southern California with 3,752, University of Texas at Austin with 3,236 and University of Wisconsin at Madison with 2,775.

The University of Kansas is 38th on the list with 1,623 students. In spring 1984 there were 698 foreign students from 77 countries enrolled at KSU.

In 1983-1984 the largest contingent of international students came from Taiwan, the first time since the mid-1979's that students from Iran did not make up the largest national group. The number of Iranian students enrolled at U.S. universities is down 60% from the high of 51,310 in 1980.

Nigeris, Malaysia and Canada all have over 15,000 students enrolled.

Twenty-three percent of the foreign students were studying engineering, followed by 18.6 percent in business and management and 9.1 percent in mathematics and computer science.

Two-thirds of the students paid their bills with their own money. Only 7,490 received U.S. Government aid. (Chronicle 9/5/84)

NOTES

* BSU Meetings will now be held only on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

* The women of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority sponsored a semi-formal ball last October 13 following the KU-K-State football game. Members and guests also enjoyed dinner and entertainment.

* Pedro Cintron, senior majoring in biology from Naguabo, Puerto Rico was elected as the new president of PRSO recently, after Eduardo Vendrell transferred to another university.



Office of Minority Affairs

Holton Hall
Manhattan, Kansas 66506
913-532-6436

Nonprofit Organization

U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 525
Manhattan, Kan. 66502

Alliance-An Ethnic Newspaper at KSU
Office of Minority Affairs
Holton Hall, Kansas State University
Anne S. Butler, Director
ESS
Susan L. Allen, Ph.D., editor
Alliance is a publication of the Office of Minority Affairs, KSU. It is published eight times during the academic year. It is circulated free of charge to all minority students at KSU, interested faculty and others. Contributions will be considered. Articles may be reproduced with proper permission and citation.