

# ELECTION EXTRA

# THE STANFORD DAILY

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## COP nullifies ASSU elections



### Epstein, Mathewson and McGrath to stay in power

by DAVID ASSRIN

In an action unprecedented in the history of the University, the ASSU Council of Presidents (COP) early this morning declared all of this year's ASSU elections, excepting fee assessments, invalid and named themselves as chief executives of the student government for another year.

Fee assessment election results, left intact by the COP action, were not released by the ASSU as the counting continued. Those tallies are expected to be announced tonight at 9 p.m. in the ASSU offices.

The move to nullify the election was prompted by what COP member Mark Epstein called "immoral campaigning practices" by the Hammer and Coffin slate, which appeared to be winning over the KSVP slate as returns began trickling into the ASSU offices. "There were all kinds of atrocities," said Epstein.

In a closed-door session of the COP which started late last night, the council declared that all election results involving candidates were invalid and that the COP for next year would consist of three people: present COP members Mark Epstein and Cynthia Mathewson and graduate senator Jim McGrath.

COP members Rod Beckstrom and Yolanda Townsend would have returned for another term if they had not had previous commitments, said Epstein. Beckstrom, an economics major, will be serving as an intern to David Stockmann, director of the Office of Management and Budget in the Reagan administration, in Washington while Townsend, an international relations major, will be doing public relations work for Nestle Corporation in Africa.

With Beckstrom and Townsend leaving, Epstein and Mathewson chose McGrath to fill the vacancies. "McGrath is a hard worker; he'll be a real asset to the COP," said Epstein.

McGrath was also at the ASSU offices last night, saying that he "was only stopping by on my way home" from work in the computer science department. He did not seem surprised by the COP action, nor by their selection of him as a replacement member. "I have always said that I could do in eight weeks what anyone else could do in a whole year," said McGrath, who is only planning to be at the University for one quarter next year. "I believe that I am the best person qualified for the job, and that the COP made the only rational choice." Please see COP, back page



**THE WINNERS:** The current COP, pictured above (left to right: Rod Beckstrom, Mark Epstein, Yolanda Townsend and Cynthia Mathewson), last night invalidated most of the ASSU elections held yesterday and Tuesday, enabling themselves to remain in power for another year. Due to the departure in June of Beckstrom and Townsend, graduate senator Jim McGrath (left) was appointed as a replacement member of the council.

## Ellis shocked, appalled

by LISA LUNCH

Staff writer

The phone rang a dozen times before a weary Trey Ellis answered it.

"Hello," he said, still obviously in the throes of sleep. But what might have been a sweet dream before quickly became a nightmare as Ellis heard for the first time of the Council of Presidents' decision to invalidate the results of the ASSU elections.

All the shocked Ellis could muster was a slow, shocked "Oh my God, oh my God." One could almost see the tears brimming in his eyes on the phone.

Then there was silence. A long silence, lasting upwards of two minutes.

Trey Ellis, the grown man, the editor of the *Chaparral*, and the elected leader of the ASSU, was crying.

Between the sobs, Ellis began to form words that amounted to more than the two previous "Oh my Gods."

"This has to be the worst mo-



**TREY ELLIS OF THE HAMMER AND COFFIN SLATE:** "Life isn't fair — I swear to God it isn't."

ment in my life," he said in a soft, hushed voice. "Why now, why me, why Hammer and Coffin, why ASSU elections, why in front of 12,000 students at Stanford University, . . . why did it have to happen to us? It's just not fair."

The weeping continued,

though Ellis was gradually collecting himself now. The statements became louder, the sentences longer and more intelligible.

"We won that election fair and square. They said it was ours — ours to keep and cherish," Ellis said. "But now,

Please see ELLIS, back page

## ELECTION NEWS

From staff reports

### Freda to run for IFC

Vinnie Freda, on the political rebound after his losing role on the KSVP slate in the Council of Presidents election held yesterday and Tuesday, announced his candidacy for the presidency of the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC) early this morning.

In addition, Freda launched a scathing attack on the ASSU and the COP that ruled the recent elections invalid, decrying the manner in which the elections were carried out. "This would never have happened back in Newark — in fact, not even at Rutgers! Back there we learn fast that this simplistic behavior toward the election process would not be tolerated. Look what happened to Jimmy Hoffa," said Freda.

Acknowledging that he did not have any further options at either the ASSU or the *Chaparral*, where he had been business manager, Freda articulated his plans to put the IFC in the black and "make it into a real organization, like Bill Graham Presents. You just gotta take the bull by the — uh — horns and pull as hard as you can," said Freda.

Please see ELECTION, back page



# What makes ASSU run?

by ALAN TRIPE  
Senior staff writer

In the wake of yesterday's election debacle, it is readily evident that student apathy toward the ASSU government is pervasive. Tempted by the hedonistic attractions of spring, student attentions turn far away from ASSU affairs. Yet amidst the sun, the fun, the frisbees and the tans, there exists a diehard group of ASSU senators, and a few vie furiously each year for spots on the Council of Presidents (COP). What makes these students veer so sharply away from the standards of their counterparts? Are they motivated purely by a desire to enhance their resumes, as some have said? Are they insatiable high school student council presidents? Or does the attraction run deeper, to the fulfillment of some psychological need?



Prof. Phillip Zimbardo

Prof. Phillip Zimbardo of the psychology department, a world-renowned authority on madness and mind control, holds the latter view. Prof. Zimbardo suggests that students turn to the ASSU in an attempt to compensate for various physical and psychological shortcomings. "Just take a look at 'em," Zimbardo said of the current senators and COP. "Most of them — the real leaders, that is — are demonstrably short, overweight or just plain ugly. It's too bad there can't be a group award for Ugliest Man on Campus," Zimbardo said, referring to the current "Ugliest Man on Campus" contest by Alpha Phi Omega, which he is winning by a landslide over University President Donald Kennedy, Dean of Admissions Fred Hargadon, and Tresidder Union Director Ellie Op-

penheim. University Summer Housing Director Doug Mitchell, a former ASSU Senate chair, denies that view of physical deficiency, offering himself as proof. Instead, Mitchell believes that the current brood of ASSU leaders feel compelled to devote their time to the Association because of a problem during the formative years of their respective childhoods. Noting that today's college student grew up immediately before the advent of videogames into the American mass culture, Mitchell theorizes that the ASSU "is, in fact, a substitute joystick." Current and future COP member Mark Epstein disputes the claims of both Zimbardo and Mitchell, and explained that he became involved with the ASSU after abortive at-

tempts to join other campus groups. "The Daily and KZSU wouldn't let me on their staffs," said Epstein. "And this joystick bullshit is the worst. Besides, Herbert Hoover was an ASSU officer, and they named a whole tower after him!" Associate Dean of Student Affairs Thom Massey, currently on leave, offers what he feels to be an overlooked explanation. Massey remarked that "within the disconcerting homogeneity of the Stanford student body, the ASSU celebrates diversity" in that it provides public exposure and private power to those with no immediately obvious talent. In doing so, Massey contends, the ASSU gives those people a chance to experience a new feeling, one of importance and status at the forefront of University affairs.

# Candidates stunned, students apathetic

by KRISTEN CHRUSTOPHER

After a night of activity by the Council of Presidents (COP) which, by many standards, would be called earthshattering, the response by students and the administration to the COP's invalidation of the election has been all but nil.

Although the decision came very early this morning, several people were awake and willing to give their response to the COP's unprecedented move.

When contacted and informed about the COP's action, acting Dean of Students Norm Robinson said, "I really don't know what to say. The COP is a group of mature individuals who are perfectly qualified to make decisions of this nature. Whether or not there have been irregularities is a question which will have to wait until the morning."

Peter Spivack, a member of the KSVP slate, had quite a different reaction. "This is highway robbery," he complained. "Nobody has the right to step in like they did and say what is right and what is wrong. Nobody. I am going to form a senate task force to look into this matter thoroughly so we can get some answers."

Other members of the KSVP slate understandably voiced the same reaction. Su Uhland said, "This is unfair, unjust, and unkind. Some people have no manners when it comes to dealing with people."

"They couldn't get away

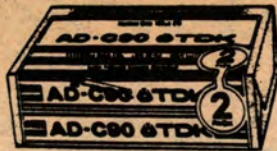
with this if they were in Indiana; we Hoosiers know how to run things," said Karol Watson, another member of the KSVP slate. "That's why I ran for COP anyway, because I know how to run things. If I was on the COP, this never would have happened"

However, students not directly involved with the ASSU showed an alarming degree of apathy. When asked about her reactions to the COP decision, Coffee House patron Laura Sebastian said, "I really don't follow politics too much. If they wanted to do whatever they did, well I say let them be. Who am I to judge their actions? I didn't even vote."

Diane Libman, a worker at the Corner Pocket in Tresidder, said, "I think that if the COP had reason to do what they did, it's okay. I saw some of those posters that the Hammer and Coffin society put out and I'm sort of glad that they didn't win."

Senior English major Robert Bellermino expressed a more caustic view of the ASSU. "Personally, I could do without the whole thing," Bellermino said. "Sure, they have lecture notes and t-shirts, but most of the time all they do is argue at senate meetings and then form a task force. Who needs it? And who needs all the posters from every schmuck who is running for office plastered all over the bathroom stalls? Not me, that's for sure."

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## THE STANFORD DAILY

## One ASSU election is more than enough

The events of the last 24 hours have once more demonstrated that the ASSU and the COP are archaic blights upon college government. We were robbed, pure and simple, and we shouldn't feel sorry about saying so. Sour grapes or no, this is not fair.

While we recognize the need for some form of organization to control the ever-growing list of student needs, we also recognize that the COP is enforcing outdated rules and slapping stiff penalties on parties that break them.

At this point, it isn't even worth detailing the events of yesterday and the day before. Not only do all of us know it, but the election had settled back into history just as surely as if it had been engraved on stone.

Some people say that the campaigners made some bad judgments. Bad campaign practices have happened before over the years, both for and against eventual ASSU officials. It is not ignorant or cruel to say "that's the breaks;" the only strategy to deal with such occurrences is acceptance.

Somehow, the administrators at the ASSU ran around the things all other governments have to deal with. The COP felt they were wit-

nesses to bad practices, or that's what they say. Whereas before the most that could happen in the event of shortcomings in election officiating is an admission of guilt without affecting the results, now the ASSU and the COP have made it an acceptable practice to change the tallies of elections long since past.

Part of the old cliché about a team coming to play "for the full 60 minutes" (or nine innings, or two weeks, or whatever) is that once those 60 minutes are past, the game is over. The COP is setting a dangerous precedent here; who knows what game they'll seek to reverse next? Elections are meant to be decided at the ballot boxes, however sloppily or badly; it has no business being decided in a courtroom.

The COP was founded to help student government. But it certainly hasn't helped 43 ASSU Senate and COP candidates by penalizing them for the alleged misdeed of a few.

These fine young men and women have put in hours, and in some cases a lifetime, of work into bringing their respective student governments back from the depths of their own follies.

And now this.

The COP would have you believe that their decision is in the interest of fair play and justice. Simply put, that is wrong. Is it right to take away from the efforts of 43 ASSU candidates? Is it right to deny 24 of those candidates the hard-earned privilege of serving as ASSU officials? Is it right to tell 12,000 students that they were wrong when they made their election-day choices?

Forget it. It can't be done. We know what we saw and heard. We know how hard the candidates worked all through the election. We know the roller coaster of emotions that we had to ride to get to where we were at the end of the election last night. In our hearts and in our minds, we feel we had a fair election, and no one will ever take that away from us.

But don't expect this to become a purely symbolic effort yet. If this game is going to be decided in the courtrooms, then so be it. We're prepared to fight this decision by the COP, on behalf of the students of the University, as long as it takes. If the ASSU wants to steal a victory, they'll have to work hard for it — harder than they've worked in any election this year.



Steve Mitchell

## Bolard's-eye view

## Eavesdropping at the COP

Reminiscent of the days of Watergate and Tricky Dick, the current Council of Presidents (COP) has pulled a fast one, a *coup d'état* if you will, and declared all results from the ASSU elections, except those for fee assessments, invalid. One may heed their cries of "preservation of justice" and "continuity of the democratic process," or one may break through the facade and closely examine the politicking which took place in the cloistered closets of the ASSU offices. Picture, if you will, a door, a door tucked away in the lower depths of the ASSU office complex, a door which reads "CLEANING SUPPLIES" but which hides nothing of the sort, a door behind which sit the Council of Presidents.

The time is 11:37 Wednesday night.

Rod Beckstrom is pulling the lint off his tweed jacket. Mark Epstein breathes on his glasses, then wipes them on his shirt; sweat can be seen beading up on his head and then rolling down his forehead and off his nose. Yolanda Townsend sits frigidly, playing with a pencil in her mouth. Cynthia Mathewson nervously brushes her hair, at times picking at the split ends. No one speaks. Suddenly, Mathewson cannot stand the silence any more and blurts out, "They can't win!"

"Of course they can't," responds Beckstrom. "But they sure are making a good run at it."

Townsend pulls the pencil out of her mouth and says, "Well, we won't let them win." She puts the pencil back in her mouth, chewing more furiously than ever.

Epstein has just been sitting during all of this, constantly cleaning his glasses as the sweat from his forehead starts dripping at a faster rate. "You are

right. We won't let them win." The sweat from his nose becomes a small stream.

Mathewson jumps up on her chair and screams, "They can't win, they just can't! All we've worked for, everything we've done, it will be ruined, just ruined!"

"Cynthia, sit down and shut up. Your hysterics are not helping." Beckstrom finds a big lint ball in the pocket of his jacket and starts to roll it around in his hand. "It is obvious to me the implications that the election of the Hammer and Coffin slate will have on the efficient running of the body politic which we know as the ASSU. We have to devise a way to defeat them, to get rid of all of them."

"But how? But how?" asks Townsend. By now her pencil is all splinters and little pieces of wood are caught between her teeth.

Beckstrom, taking the lint ball he has been playing with, places it on the table and smashes it with his fist. "We will make up a rule. That's it, make up some BS about an article in the Constitution giving us such and such power to prevent injury to democratic processes and the like. We find some grounds to disqualify the Hammer and Coffin slate, and it's all over." Beckstrom then leans back in his chair, obviously proud of himself, and begins rolling another lint ball.

Epstein starts stroking his chin, his little brain trying to conceive of grounds to disqualify the Hammer and Coffin slate. He slowly starts to talk: "How about those lousy campaign posters? I thought they were in poor taste. We could say they were immoral. And the candidates themselves, they are incompetent. That seems like grounds for disqualification."

"That's great!" yells

Mathewson. "That's wonderful! You're a genius Mark! Oh, you are so smart!" She leans across the table to kiss him, but noticing the puddle under Epstein's nose, decides not to.

Townsend, now mouthing a pen, asks, "Who is going to win? Are we going to let the KSVP slate win? Are we, are we?"

"No, we're not," says Beckstrom. "The KSVP slate is just as bad as Hammer and Coffin. That one guy, that Vinnie Freda guy, even worked for the Chaparral. He might even be a plant. Anyway, would you trust a name like Vinnie Freda?"

"It is clear to me," says Epstein, "that the only rational alternative is that we stay the course and remain serving as the Council of Presidents. We have experience, we are competent, we are in touch with the students."

Townsend starts to cry a little bit. "But I can't be here. I'll be in Africa working for Nestle. I want to stay, I want to be with you guys."

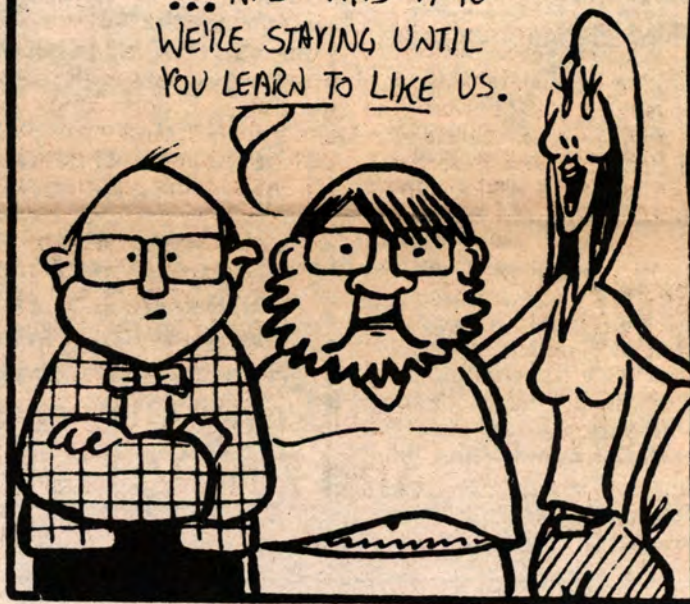
"Quit your whining! If there's nothing I hate more, it's a whining female." Beckstrom gives Townsend a hard stare and then says, "I won't be here either; I have an internship under David Stockmann in Washington. Although I may miss you, it's a job I have to do." He throws his lint ball in the air, swats at it, and misses.

The stream from Epstein's nose starts to abate. He leans forward, trying to think. "It looks like it's just you and me for now, Cynthia. However, instead of us doing it alone, why don't we ask that McGrath character to join us. I don't think anybody likes him too much, but he's able to talk a lot without saying anything. A good guy to have around."

"Oh Mark, you are incredible!"

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You would think, with all this information about the Stanford Daily, that this is the Daily. Well, you would be wrong. This is not the Stanford Daily, nor is it the Daily Californian. If the weenies can't get revenge, then someone else will.



## ELECTION NEWS

### Continued from front page Election difficulties

Election commissioner Craig Spearman, in a press conference held late last night at the video game room at the Tresidder Recreation Center, defended his methods of running the ASSU elections and disclosed some problems with the election process.

Spearman said that the election "would really be quite a simple matter if it weren't for two problems — Mark Epstein and write-in candidates."

Spearman said, "that damned Epstein keeps popping his head in every 10 or 15 minutes asking if we're done yet," causing the scene at the ASSU office to be an odd combination of sporadic shouting and long periods of low muffled tones.

"And as for write-in ballots, they involve counting. I thought all the election commissioner was supposed to do is make rules, and persecute to the fullest extent of those rules," said Spearman.

In response to complaints by KSVP slate member Vinnie Freda and others about election procedures this year, Spearman said, "Comments like this were expected by the commission, but we did all we could considering the utter lack of available talent or availability." Spearman declined further comment.

### Tavern owners convene

Tavern owners and managers in Palo Alto and Menlo Park rushed into conference late last night as word leaked out of the ASSU regarding the results of the elections held yesterday and Tuesday.

The imminent declaration of inconclusive election returns stirred deep worries in those

barkeepers who depend on the ASSU to help provide customers for their businesses. However, the group realized after a lengthy meeting that election difficulties could, in the end, only help to stimulate business.

Steve Swartz, owner and operator of the Golden Spike, said, "At first we were worried about the loss of Senior Pub Nights, and all the hard work and planning that the senior class presidents put into them." Senior class presidents in the past have consistently picked this activity as one of their most important and challenging functions, spending more than 45 minutes planning each one.

However, Swartz continued, "we realized that another year of Epstein, McGrath and Mathewson could only send people to the bars in droves. Stanford students seem to use us as an escape from the pressures of the Senate and COP, and all the bureaucracy." Swartz' belief coincides with that of one ASSU office staff member who said last night, "Oh God, I really hoped to beat this damned drinking problem."

### McGrath announces plans

Jim McGrath, ASSU senator and newly appointed member of the Council of Presidents (COP), announced early this morning that he will push for a special fee assessment for one of his "favorite organizations," Overeaters Anonymous.

The special fee will take effect immediately, and will be collected this fall without possibility of refund. McGrath explained that he managed to arrange the fee assessment proposal without a vote of approval by the ASSU Senate through a special loophole he wrote into the new senate bylaws. McGrath declined to discuss the loophole or the assessment any further.

## COP

### Continued from front page

decision available to them."

"It was the only way to save the democratic processes we hold dear," said Beckstrom of the decision. "It is not a heavy-handed move on our part, it is the only way we could save the ASSU."

Beckstrom said there is not enough time left in the quarter or money left in the ASSU budget to hold another election. He said that "all the present senators will continue until next autumn quarter when we will hold another election."

Election Commissioner Craig Spearman, reached by phone early this morning, added, "I follow the rules by the letter. The rules state one election in the spring. There is nothing about two elections. I feel really sorry for all the candidates, but rules are rules."

The COP based their decision on an obscure bylaw in the ASSU Constitution which states that the COP may take "whatever steps necessary" to insure a democratic election whenever there is reason to believe that injustices may occur.

Although these powers of the COP have never been used before, Epstein felt their action was justified. "The Hammer and Coffin slate was putting up trash," said Epstein. "They had one poster implying that the ASSU doesn't care about students. The poster had no note of who wrote the poster except for a very tiny hammer and coffin in the lower right hand corner. If this isn't reason to toss them out of the election, then what is?"

Beckstrom said that the KSVP slate also had irregularities in their campaigning, but he failed to specify any. "The KSVP slate is not any more moral as far as we're concerned, and that's all that matters," said Beckstrom.

When asked why the senate election results were also nullified, Mathewson said, "I really don't know for sure, everything happened so fast. Mark said all the results were off, and I always do what Mark

says."

Both Epstein and Mathewson believe that the COP will more effectively handle the issues now that the council is made up of experienced members. "I have always felt that the COP should have a longer term," said Epstein, "and now we have it. The results should be interesting to observe."

This view contrasts with the current COP's campaign pledges of last year when the candidates promised that they would complete their plans, including establishing a pizzeria in the Boathouse and an ice cream parlor at Encina Station, in one term. When an editorial in the *Stanford Daily* complained about the ASSU's failure to live up to those promises, Epstein called the newspaper and threatened to "punch out" editor Karen Springen.

Another possible controversy surrounding Epstein surfaced earlier yesterday evening. Susie Creigh, a freshman planning to major in medical microbiology, asserted that she saw Epstein cheat on a midterm examination in a class taught by chemistry professor James Collman, the same professor Epstein charged with Honor Code violations last week.

In his charges, Epstein claimed that Collman and his teaching assistants proctored examinations in Collman's Chemistry 33 class. Creigh, a student with Epstein in that class taught last fall, said, "He (Epstein) had some stuff written in his notebook which was sitting on the floor, and every five minutes he would drop his pencil as an excuse to peek into his notebook."

After the exam, Creigh notified Collman of Epstein's behavior. "Right after class I went to the professor; I wasn't going to let him raise the curve," said Creigh.

Creigh said the Honor Code Commission is presently investigating her allegations against Epstein, and that her decision to "go public" with the information was because of Epstein's allegations against Collman. Epstein would not comment on the issue last night.

## Ellis

### Continued from front page

to go back on what they told us, its like, ... like grand theft."

"I've said this all campaign long to you folks, there's only one way to play the game — you play to win," he went on.

"I... I just don't get it. That's not what student government is all about.

"Life isn't fair — I swear to God, it isn't."

Ellis' voice faded with these last words and began to sob again. After two attempts at speech, he found it too difficult.

Trey Ellis hung up the phone a new man, a broken man.

**Article XIII, Section 3, Paragraph 1 of the amended Constitution of the Associated Students of Stanford University states that 'Whenever the Council of Presidents has reason to believe that an injustice has been done to or may be done to the democratic processes of the ASSU by virtue of immoral campaigning, incompetent candidates, or any other reason the Council finds legitimate, the Council may take whatever steps necessary to repair or to prevent such injury to these democratic processes.'**

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