



V O T E

ELECTION EXTRA

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Grover Cleveland

GOVERNOR

**RIGGS HIGH SCHOOL, PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA
VOLUME 31 ELECTION SPECIAL JANUARY 1976.**



2nd semester Student Council

Madigan, Merwin to represent students, Reorganize Student Council if elected

Pat Madigan and Terry Merwin are making their bid for the mayor and vice-mayor positions on one supposition — that both offices should be filled by representatives of the majority of the students at Riggs High.

"Many mayors have been elected by large majorities," Pat noted, "but they often fail to represent the majority which elected them."

This is a major problem facing the school according to both candidates — a lack of representative student government and therefore a serious lack of action.

"It's obvious, by the amount of apathy and dissent among students, that the feelings of the majority aren't being represented," Pat said.

Terry echoed his statement and went on to say, "Not much action takes place because the people elected often don't realize the problems of the majority of the students who want action."

Pat and Terry see several issues which are important to the students. However, if elected they intend to deal with the main problem behind the issues, a need for change in the student council.

"There are several problems and areas that need change, but we feel the main problem lies in the student government set-up itself which seems to prohibit or at least slow action on individual problems," stated Pat.

Citing sophomore study halls as an example, Pat and Terry pointed out that the problem could be dealt with easier if student government was reorganized.

"If the majority of students feel that sophomore study hall is unfair, then action should be taken that would show the faculty and the administration how the students feel. This large voice is the best way for change," Pat declared.

In reviewing their qualifications for the major and vice-major of the Riggs High student body, Pat and Terry stressed that while all the candidates have good qualifications, they feel they possess the most important — the ability to represent the ideas and feelings of the student body majority.

"We reflect a cross section of Riggs High and that will help us to serve all the students if elected," Terry said.



Doug Gullickson, mayor candidate, reports his progress as Charlie Jansen, vice-mayor candidate, with a smile. (photo by Laura Pottratz)

Gullickson, Jansen bid

Doug Gullickson and Charlie Jansen are running for second semester mayor and vice-mayor on a platform based upon the expansion of school supported social functions.

When asked to elaborate on this, mayor hopeful Doug Gullickson noted that in the past two years the only school dances besides the annual Junior-Senior prom have been the homecoming dances, which have traditionally been good fund raisers for the Student Council.

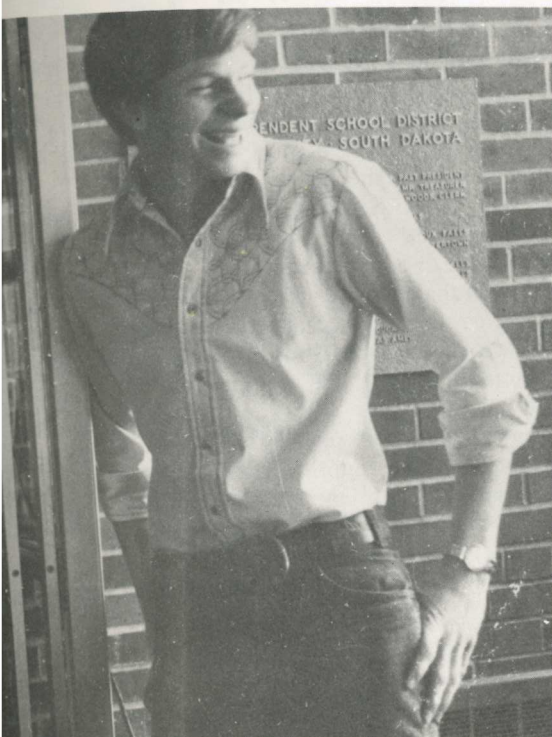
"Historically, mayor candidates have promised too much and accomplished too little," according to Doug. Putting school government into perspective through examining previous candidates objectives, Doug and Charlie feel they should concentrate their efforts (in conjunction with the student body) in achieving a number of practical, attainable goals, rather than focusing on one unattainable idealistic project.

In addition to trying to promote social functions, Doug and Charlie will turn their attention to mandatory attendance of study hall by all sophomores, regardless of academic

Mayor hopeful, Pat Madigan, throws out opposing candidates' platforms as vice-mayor hopeful Terry Merwin sweeps away the remains of the old regime. (photo by Shelly Wooley)



Leaders to be elected Tuesday



...a call through to his campaign manager to
mayor candidate, flashes his best campaign

...or mayor, vice-mayor slots

achievements or behavior. They hope to negotiate a release for the students for the remainder of the year, pointing out it was managed successfully last year.

In citing their qualifications for office Doug and Charlie explained that both had qualified for Boy's State and are sympathetic with the desires of the student body majority. Doug was the vice-president of his class last year and presently is president of the National Honor Society. Charlie is a National Merit semi-finalist and currently citizen-of-the-month.

The runningmates expressed their concern that the election might degenerate to a popularity contest or an election based on purely sexist lines, instead of a selection of the pair most qualified for office.

Commenting on the current apathy and disillusionment of the students toward school government and school activities in general, the pair feel that it is important for the mayor and vice-mayor to work in cooperation with the student council and administration in accomplishing objectives benefitting the majority of the student body.

Mayor hopefuls Warne and Rezac Set high student participation goal

Clara Warne and Mary Jo Rezac have entered their petition to run for mayor and vice-mayor in the second semester of the 75-76 school year with the intent of increasing student participation in policy making.

This is not Clara and Mary Jo's only goal, but they believe it is the most important, because without it, no other goals (of which there are many in their platform) can be accomplished.

Their remedy to this problem is workable. After each student council meeting, an assembly in the gymnasium would be held to inform the student body of the course of the meeting and to gain their general reactions of the main issues which affect the students. This would change what Clara calls, "the student council's failure to always represent the majority's beliefs."

A large issue at stake is the question of Sophomore's study hall. Clara and Mary Jo offered this suggestion to that problem, "Sophomores must now begin to show that they are able to restrain themselves if they want to be granted the privileges of open study hall." The matter would then have to be taken to Mr. Lonbaken and the School Board for consideration.

The "mayor hopeful" was quick in reminding Sophomores as well as upper classmen that open study hall is a privilege, not a right and should be treated in that manner.

"Another problem facing the RHS students is the lack of excitement around the school," added Mary Jo. The candidates believe that the Student Council did a good job last fall to improve Homecoming, but it has failed to raise any school spirit since then in areas other than Homecoming.

A few suggestions they made for increasing interest in school were to have more lyceum, a factor that they pointed out has disappeared this year. They also favor various dress up days, possibly once a month. "However, these social goals are the least of our problems," said Clara.

The candidates firmly believe that individual student participation is the key to a better school and an increased interest in Riggs.

Both Clara and Mary Jo have served

on the Student Council in past years and have a knowledge of student council procedures. However, they believe that the greatest of all their qualifications is the fact that both of them can devote full time to trying to accomplish their goals if elected. They feel that their opponents are unable to promise this.



Hanging around the universal gym, these cute feminine politicians, Clara Warne (top) and Mary Jo Rezac, are looking for the best places to hang their campaign posters. (photo by Laura Pottratz)

Election Tomorrow!

Tomorrow the students of Riggs High shall be voting for the candidates of their choice to fill the position of Mayor — Vice-Mayor now held by Beth Schleuter and Julie Sibson.

Candidates will be attempting to rally support by addressing the student body during fourth hour today. Voting will be held during 2nd period classes tomorrow. If you are not in class 2nd period you can vote in the study hall.

Mock conventions spark past elections

Vroom!! Vroom!!

A Hell's Angel follower sped into the gym on a Honda as a white clad klansman followed solemnly behind. A moment later a cowboy yell came from behind a "Texas" sign, and suddenly a rap from the chairman brought silence from the students.

This happened at one of the school National Conventions six years ago. This is something few Riggs students know about today because of the amendment to the Student Council constitution which eliminated the practice of patterning the school's elections after the national presidential elections.

In 1976 a constitutional amendment was adopted which provided for nominations by political partisen. The Junior class (in the spring election) and the Senior class (in the winter election) were divided into two political parties called Federalists and Nationalists. Each party chose their candidates for mayor and vice-mayor at mock national conventions. Then the parties carried on extensive campaigns for a week before election.

On Jan. 9, 1967 the first conventions were held. Nine states were represented with delegates dressed in native state costumes. The convention halls were

decorated with banners, streamers and propaganda material.

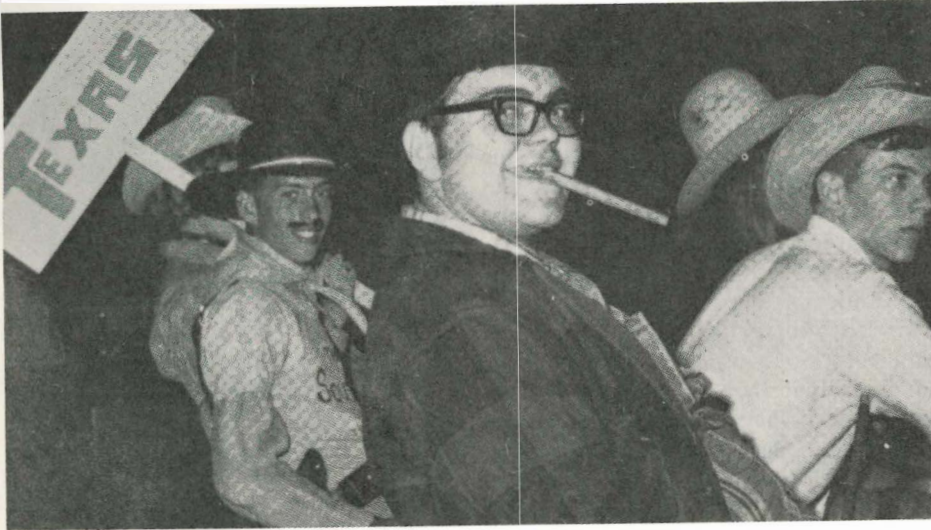
After this the party's platform was read, amended and finally accepted by the party. Following a short recess, the states nominated their favorite candidates for vice-mayor. Several run-off ballots were needed here too before a compromise was reached and a single name won the majority vote.

As a climax, the mayor candidate made a pompous speech calling for total participation in the campaign for election.

The convention agenda started with removal of spies from the opposite party, followed by a few "paid political announcements" by state representatives.

Next nominating speeches were made by delegates from the various states. Balloting took a long time as it was often difficult to get a majority vote for one candidate.

In May of 1972, the Student Council revised the Constitution so that convention rules became more complicated than before. Within a year the total ratification of Amendment II (which deals with class officers and mayor elections) changed the constitution to the present system. This change came about because the 1972 system was "too complicated," a failure, and too many students skipped the conventions or seemed confused as to what to do.



A brief moment during the hectic convention when delegates have a chance to break for pictures for the press. Members of the Federalist party Jeff Fladaboe, Gerry Berg and Rollie Titus determine political policies. (Taken from the May 23, 1969 issue of the "Governor".)

Governor Galloping Poll shows Gullickson-Jansen as favorites for 2nd semester student body leaders

A straw vote only shows which way the hot air blows.

The "Governor" ran a pre-election (straw) poll last week to determine where each set of candidates stood in the upcoming second semester mayor - vice-mayor election.

The "Governor Galloping Poll," a small branch of the National Gallup Poll, was conducted during 4th period last Tuesday.

From the total number of votes in the poll, 523, excluding write-ins, the team of Gullickson - Jansen received 47.2%, the highest percentage. Warne - Rezac came in second with 35.4% and Madigan - Merwin had 17.4% of the votes.

Rolling Stones. "A Ruler of Men."

Although not on the ballot LeAnn Anderson and Elizabeth Sahr received several write-in votes. Some of those said they did not want any of the candidates listed to be the mayor - vice-mayor of Riggs High.

This poll was conducted to determine the candidates' standing at the time the poll was conducted.

We of the "Governor" feel that if you have not yet decided who to vote for, please take the time to consider the candidates individually and do not let this poll influence your decision.



Mayor and vice-mayor candidates team together as dark horse politicians, Tinny Sahr and LeAnn Anderson lurk behind the scene.