

Back Bernie, A Man of the People

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Everybody likes to pick a winner. One week before the election, most newspapers have hopped aboard one of two careening bandwagons.

In considering the three candidates for Governor of the State of Vermont, however, The Campus finds it can not endorse either of the potential victors.

Major party candidates dominate the race for Vermont's highest elective office. On November 3 either Democratic State Treasurer Stella Hackel or Republican House Majority Leader Richard Snelling will be elected to the governorship. Unfortunately, The Campus finds little to support in either of these candidates.

The candidate we back for Governor is not a Republican or a Democrat, and he will lose the race. It may seem naive or a waste of news space to endorse a candidate who has no chance of winning, but we believe a vote for Bernard Sanders, candidate of the Liberty Union Party, means something.

Bernie Sanders represents the only real choice in this election. The difference between Stella Hackel and Dick Snelling is negligible. Both are conservative bureaucrats who lack vision and perspective. Both look at Vermont government from the top down.

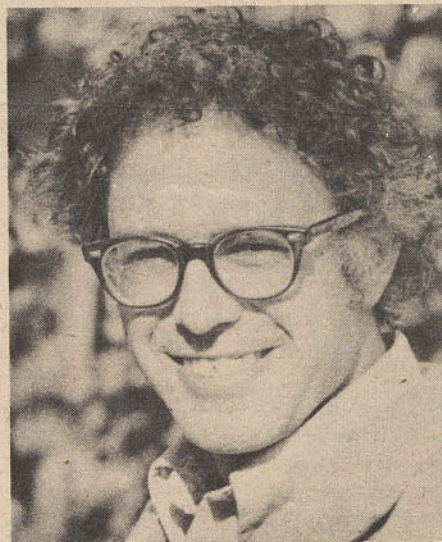
Bernie Sanders is a man of the people. His vision is of a government which serves the people; not the rich people, not the industrialists, but the 30,000 unemployed people in Vermont, and the 50,000 Vermont

workers who earn less than \$3 per hour. Sanders' perspective is broad, encompassing the 200,000 people in the state's work force; their needs, their desires. He seeks to rebuild Vermont—from the bottom up.

The major issue in Vermont, as in the nation, is the economy. Native Vermonters are finding it very difficult to afford to live in their home state. The taxes in Vermont are the third highest in the entire nation, yet in terms of per capita income, Vermont ranks very near the bottom. Sanders says this state is in the midst of a severe economic depression. His opponents, he says, "don't talk about that." But if you talk to Vermont's working people they'll tell you—it's painfully true.

Hackel and Snelling share the philosophy that the way to get Vermont on the road to economic recovery is to give tax and other incentives to industry and to the rich. They say we must encourage industry to move to Vermont so more jobs will be available, and we must entice the rich to establish residency here. Hackel claims the rich own second homes in Vermont but establish residency elsewhere to avoid Vermont taxes. Snelling claims if you increase corporate taxes, industries will leave the state.

Sanders' response to that philosophy is: If you don't tax the rich, and you don't tax the corporations, who are you going to tax? "The poor bastards who work here and can't afford to leave the state!" Sanders' primary



Bernie Sanders

aim as Governor would be to completely revamp Vermont's economy so as to provide meaningful jobs and a decent standard of living for the ordinary working people of Vermont. There is no nobler objective.

Sanders is a self-proclaimed radical and admitted socialist. He's aware that he represents a stark contrast to the mainstream politicians. In fact, the Liberty Union Party surfaced, he says, because "a group of people felt on fundamental issues there essentially is no difference between the Democrats and Republicans."

Because his views are radical, he has been ignored and slighted by the conservative Vermont press. The major newspapers in this state pretty much take him

salt—an amusing phenomenon, but not entirely serious. Sanders is serious. As serious as the problems facing this state. And the people he appeals to are taking him seriously.

The Liberty Union candidate for governor won six percent of the vote in the last election. Sanders projects this November 3 he will get 20 percent. That's not an outlandish projection. He'll get the votes of those who are dissatisfied and disheartened, and he'll get the protest votes from those who normally vote major party but who cannot bring themselves to cast a ballot for Hackel or Snelling.

Although one of those two major party candidates will win this race, the election may not be for naught. The winner's awareness of working Vermonters' desperation for a change will be significantly heightened if Bernie Sanders is the choice of one-fifth of the electorate.

Sanders does not expect to win. "What we hope this campaign will do," he says, "is give some people some knowledge and confidence that they don't have to be children begging those great powers in business and government for jobs and a decent standard of living. The Liberty Union wants people to realize their power, and we are working very hard to make people more active, to give a voice to the voices."

If you feel your voice is unheard, lend it to the increasingly loud chorus that is the Liberty Union. Cast your ballot for Bernard Sanders.

—Kim Reiland
for The Campus Editorial Board