

Sausages and inflated pumpkin go gonzo

DENVER (CPS-CUP) - "Is there life after student government?" asked the sign hanging from the neck of one University of Texas student reveler as he snorted a quick hit of laughing gas and rejoiced in his party's smashing victory in the school's recent elections.

The winner, himself clad in a stovepipe hat, tails and sneakers, had to step around a

fellow party member dressed like an inflated pumpkin to outline his aims for the upcoming year.

Later that night it was no ordinary victory party that was celebrated. But then, it was no ordinary student political party that was celebrating. The "Arts and Sausages Party" is their name, anarchistic absurdity is their game. Their motto (among

others) is "you can hang us on the wall or eat us for lunch but don't throw us away!" Most surprising of all - they now hold the two top student positions at the 42,000 student school.

Just some of the Arts and Sausages' campaign promises include: turning the university health center into a "clinic of social acceptability" which would provide euthanasia on demand and house a permanent hair removal facility as well as a sweat gland relocation section.

The UT police would be disarmed under a Arts and Sausage administration they said, and the school would be protected by groundskeepers armed with wolverines. They would re-name the university "Fat City" to go along with the slogan "Money Talks" and pay toilets would be installed in the faculty and administration restrooms. "Their number twos

will make us number one," quips Adkins.

As might be expected, the Arts and Sausage platform was not well received by everyone involved. Assailed by the student newspaper as well as their opponents for not taking things "seriously", Adkins and his vice-presidential partner Skip Slyfield responded by saying, "When our opponents say 'issue' we say 'Gesundheit'".

But yet, the Arts and Sausage party did one thing few other student political groups are able to do - they got students to come out and vote. Sixteen percent of the UT student body cast ballots in this year's elections, three times the usual number for a similar large, state school, according to Frank Till, a National Student Association official in Washington who closely follows the student government game across the nation.

Last year, a University of Minnesota student sparked a bit of interest by running on the "Pail and Shovel" ticket. His main gripe was that there were too many gorillas on the Minneapolis campus, and they were always cutting into cafeteria lines and running amok on campus, ruining curbs.

This year's "Tupperware Party" candidate promised to leave town if elected, like he did two years ago after a successful bid for office at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. "Student government has always been considered a joke around here," says the editor of the student paper, the Minnesota Daily.

On the other hand, Till says students at expensive, private schools turn out in droves for student government elections. "Even at the most apathetic campuses 35 percent will vote but usually at private schools it goes up to 70 or 80 percent," he explains.

Till feels many students tend to reflect the voting patterns of the parents, and if this is true, staying home on election day appears to be definitely in vogue.

The UT's Arts and Sausages duo recognized this dire situation. "This is an election year, it's dangerous to have the mass of voters apathetic and bored about politics," says President-elect Adkins.

"All our plans are directed at getting excitement and energy in. We're going to drag student government wailing and screeching into the streets where students can deal with it," he explains.

"This is gonzo politics," Adkins continues. "We don't want to tell students what to do. Students are big enough to do what they please."

Says vice-president Skyfield, "1976 is the year to be funny and creative. We're going to enlist creative energy."

Says outgoing student president Carol Crabtree, "It's a new approach to student government."

Smokers shafted

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The U.S.D.A. says that it takes only 1.9 pounds of tobacco to make 1000 cigarettes today, in 1952, 2.7 pounds were needed.

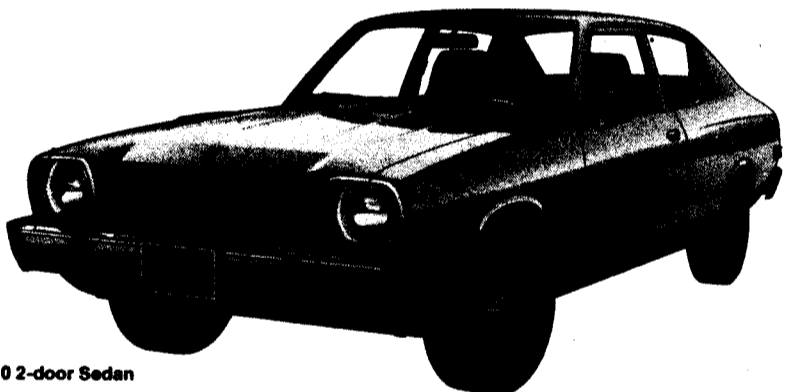


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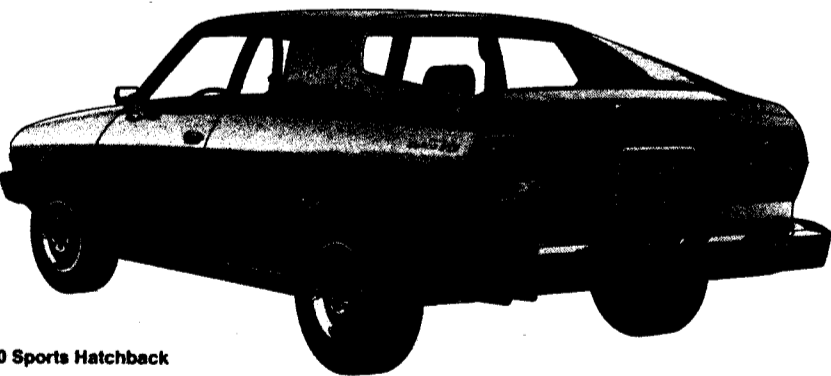
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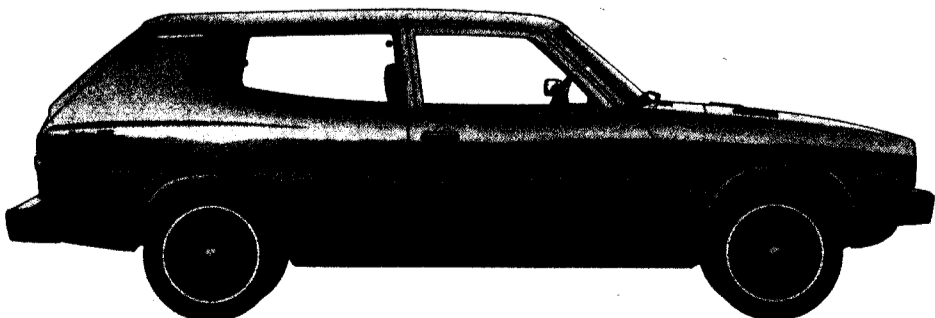
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