

DELTA KAPPA EPSILON FRATERNITY

Delta Chi Chapter at Cornell University
Office of the Alumni Historian

ΔX of ΔKE Research Note #19: Maher-Weadon Student Campaign (1967-68)

Updated on Saturday, October 06, 2012

During the 1967-68 academic year ΑΔΦ Brother James Patrick Maher III '66 (1944-2004) led a campaign to abolish student government at Cornell University. ΔKE Brother Donald Alford Weadon, Jr. '67(1945-2008) planned and scripted much of this campaign.

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Contributions to this historical record are desired. They may be sent in any form to H. William Fogle, Jr. '70, ΔKE Alumni Historian, 3237 E. Fox St., Mesa AZ 85213-5520.

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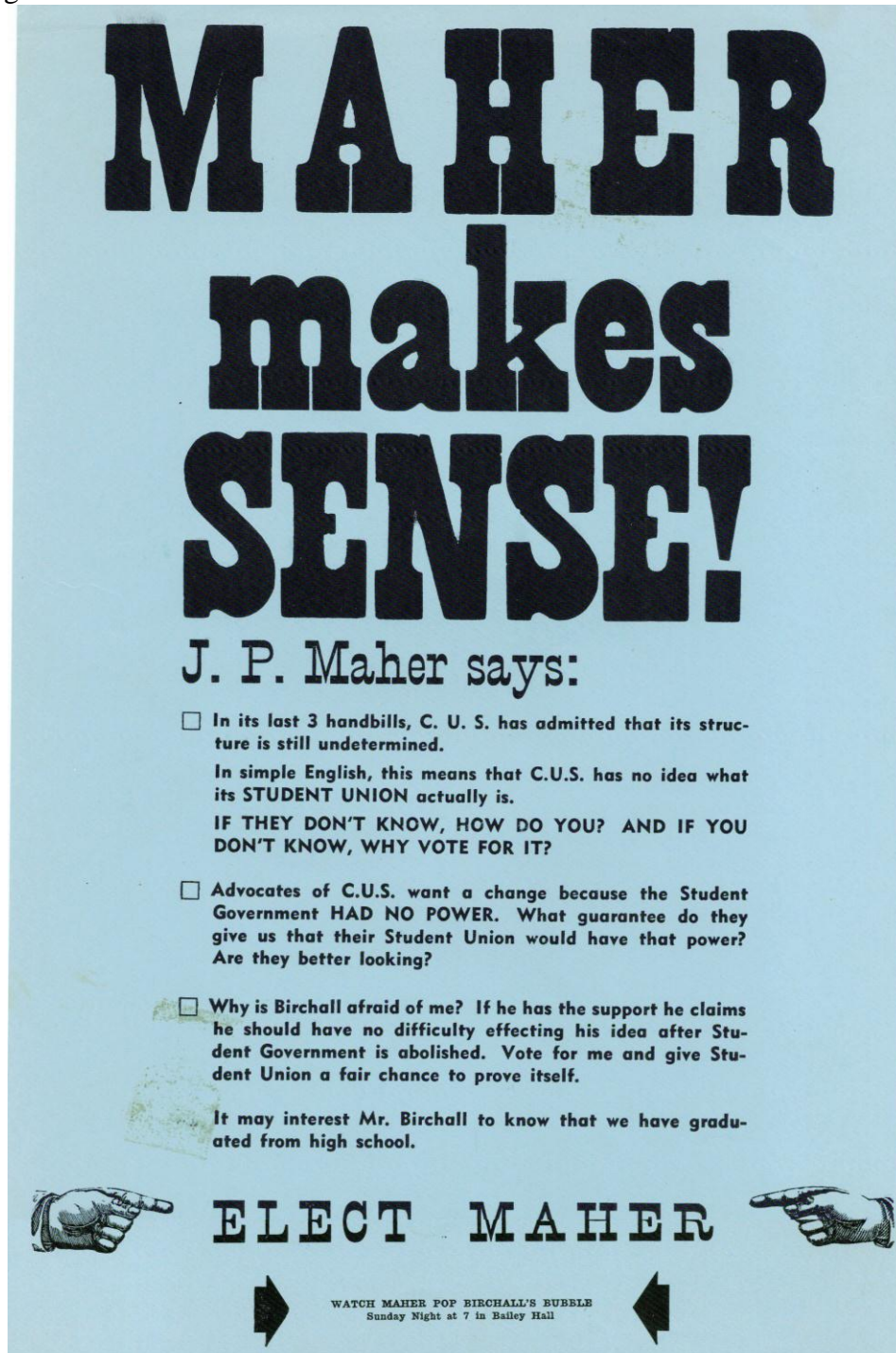
Appendix A — Campaign Memorabilia (Posters, Flyers, etc)

ΔKE8-002. Poster, Campaign. "MAHER MAKES SENSE!", 8 x 12¼", black printing on light blue heavy-weight paper.

Source: Brother Brian Merrick O'Connor '70, June 2010.

Reference: 1967-68 Campaign to Abolish Student Government.

Image:

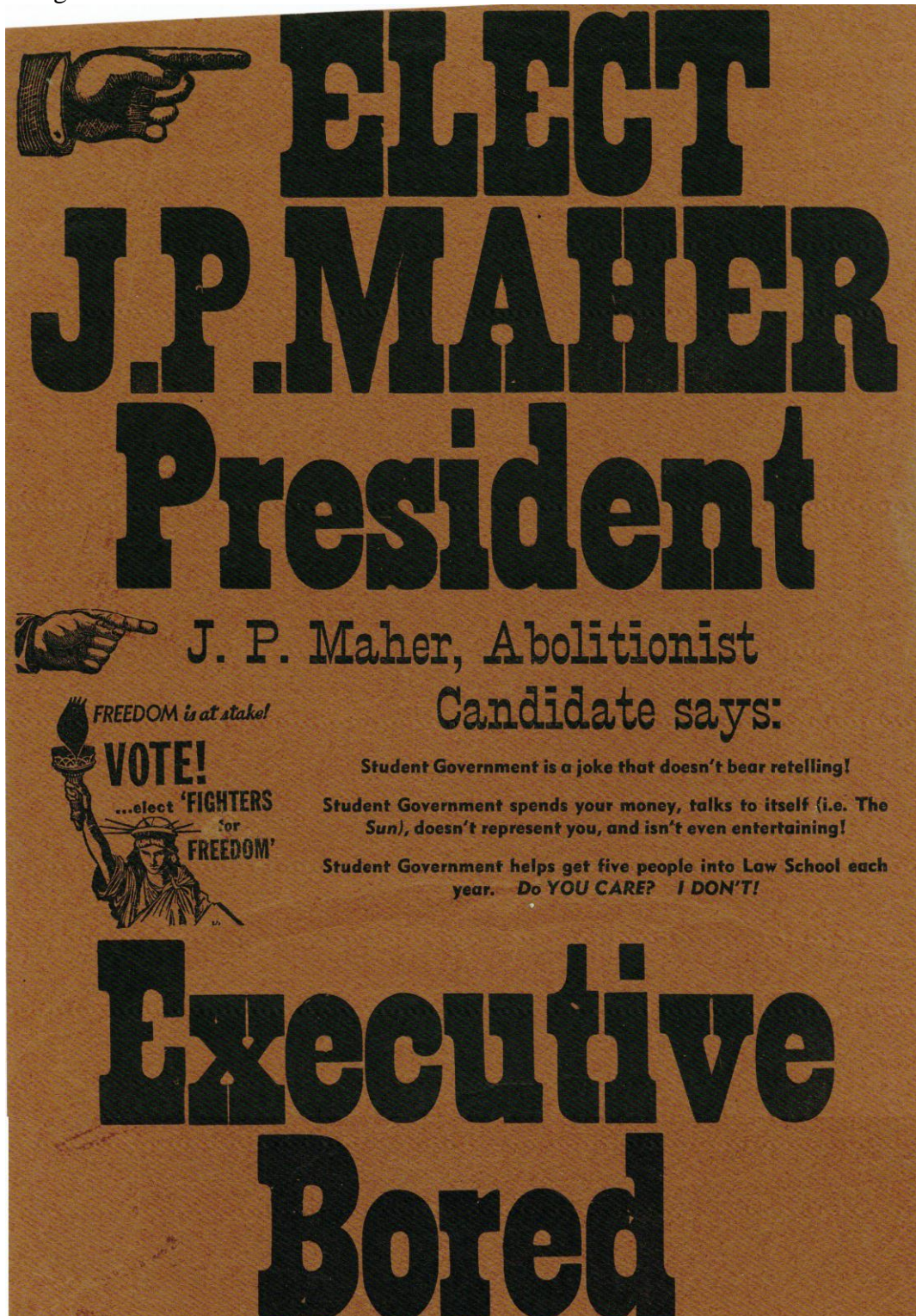


ΔKE8-003. Poster, Campaign. "ELECT J. P. MAHER President" 8¼ x 12", black printing on brown heavy-weight paper.

Source: Brother Brian Merrick O'Connor '70, June 2010.

Reference: 1967-68 Campaign to Abolish Student Government.

Image:



ΔKE8-004. Flyer, Campaign. "Elect J. P. Maher President", 8½ x 11", black printing on maize standard-weight paper.

Source: Brother Brian Merrick O'Connor '70, June 2010.

Reference: 1967-68 Campaign to Abolish Student Government.

Image:

Elect James P. Maher

I, James P. Maher, appeal to the vast majority of students who are in college to live, love, study, and graduate. I appeal to the Cornellian who is not in every activist hootenanny, who declines to wail in protest everytime the Sun blows its bugle.

The Cornell Union appeals for student power and involvement. Remember their well advertised organizational meeting to demonstrate support for this cause? Of course not; you didn't go, only 75 showed up; the same 75 who outrage us at every sit-in, burn-up or random S.D.S. gross-out. A few days later, the same droll trolls met for a "University Wide" meeting on the drug investigation. A student government executive board member promised, "What you decide, we shall do!" If you want this campus run by 75 veteran picketeers, vote Birchall. If not, help me quash Birchall's haphazard hoax.

I say, begin Spring Weekend with the end of student government.


ΔKE8-005. Poster, Campaign. "J.P. MAHER: Abolitionist Candidate for President of Student Government", 7 x 14¼ ", brown printing on off-white standard-weight paper.

Source: Brother Brian Merrick O'Connor '70, June 2010.

Reference: 1967-68 Campaign to Abolish Student Government.

Image:

J. P. MAHER:
Abolitionist Candidate for President of Student Government

 **Platform**

For four years I have followed the ineffective flailings and broken promises of our Student Government. Before each election, inspired, grand, and visionary pledges are solemnly intoned: Student Government, we are predictably told, is in need of a massive overhaul and the candidate, presumably on the basis of his high school experience, will effect that overhaul. Dubious, but lured by the possibility of CHANGE, we cast our votes. We do not vote, remember, for the Student Government as we have known it. We vote for something NEW.

The story continues. Inevitably, within two weeks, the Student Government has slipped from the winning candidate's platform into the usual swamp of ambiguity, committeeism, hypocrisy, international politics (hardly its proper domain), and misty-eyed-self-righteousness. But we have lost interest in Student Government for another year and turn our backs on this adolescent relic.

Tired and bored, I, James P. Maher offer you a *REAL CHOICE*. You have every reason to be skeptical and I no reason to blame you. But I plead with you to stumble out to the polls just once more for, if elected, you will never hear of elections again. If elected, I will abolish Student Government at Cornell.

Still skeptical? Consider this: all but two other Ivy League Schools have recognized Student Government for what it is (i.e. a freak show), and have abolished it. Yale elected a dog in 1957.

I pledge to consider my election a referendum to end a Student Government in which only a fraction of the student body participates, only 25% vote, and from which only vested interests benefit.

No one, on grounds of change or progress, has yet devised a *JOB* for Student Government at Cornell. Why, then, do we perpetuate this annoyance? We are neither aware of being governed nor do we feel that we should be.

We must let spontaneous groups represent student interests, as they arise, rather than perpetuate useless committees which preside over interests which have long vanished. Let us reevaluate. *Let need dictate structure, not vice versa.*

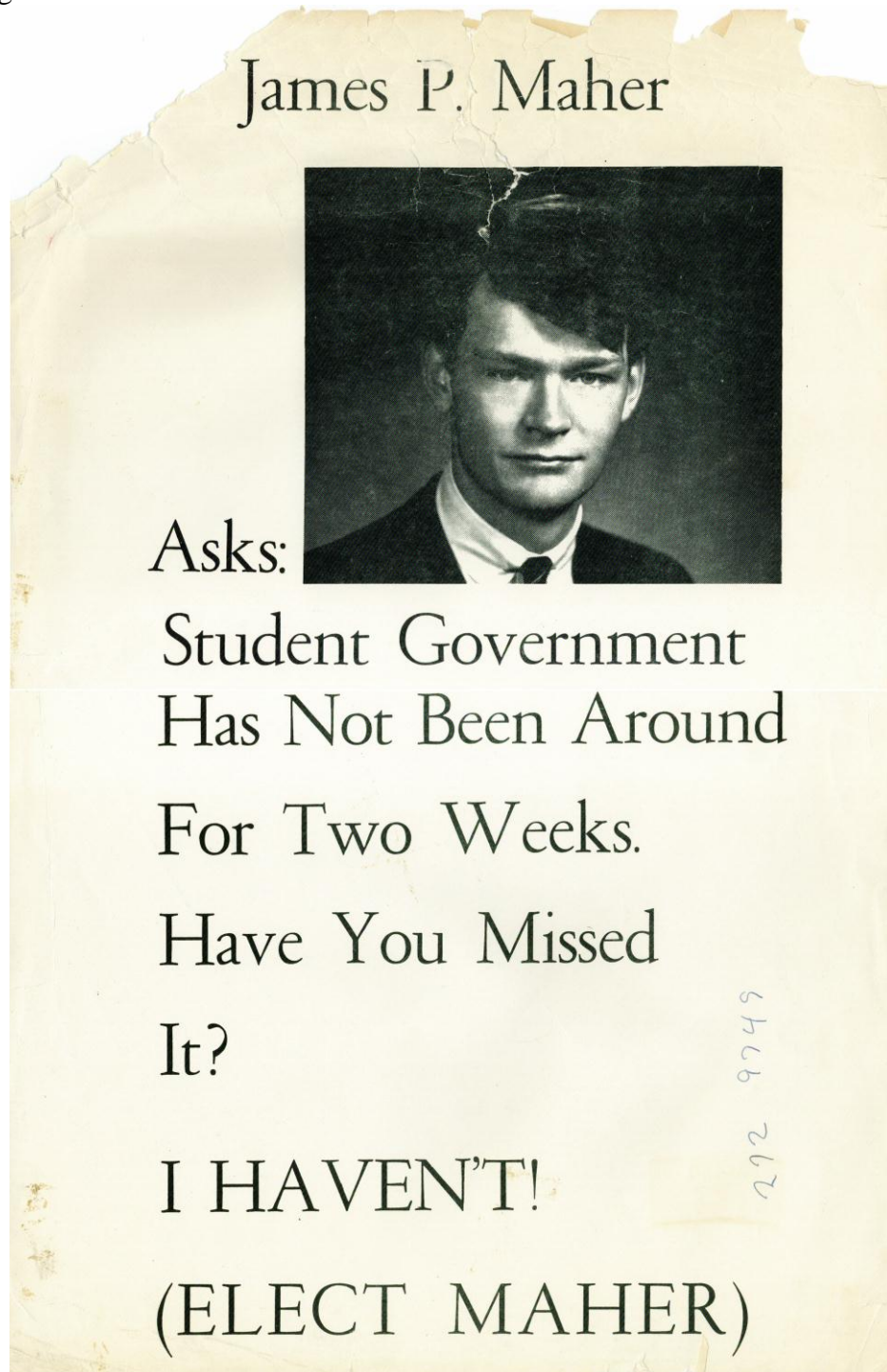
Vote for me and clear the air of unhappiness, frustration, accusation, resignation, boredom, and outright idiocy.

ELECT MAHER PRESIDENT

MAHER
HOT LINE
272-8280
Questions Get A

HE GETS THINGS DONE
AWAY WITH

ΔKE8-006. Poster, Campaign. "James P. Maher", Photograph of JPM (5¾ x 5"), "Asks: Student Government Has Not Been Around for Two Weeks. Have You Missed It? I HAVEN'T (ELECT MAHER)" 11 x 17 ", black printing on off-white heavy-weight paper.
Source: Brother Brian Merrick O'Connor '70, June 2010.
Reference: 1967-68 Campaign to Abolish Student Government.
Image:



ΔKE8-007. Poster, Campaign. "THE GOLDEN AGE OF COMEDY", 11 x 17", black printing on off-white standard-weight paper.

Distinctions: Drawing of Laurel and Hardy, Harry Langdon, Will Rogers, Ben Turpin and lovely bathing beauties in a careening automobile chased by a dog and (mostly behind the word GOLDEN) the Keystone Kops.

Source: Brother Brian Merrick O'Connor '70, June 2010.

Reference: 1967-68 Campaign to Abolish Student Government.

Image:



"Jumps and explodes see R. Birchall boldly enter a live lion's mouth, disguised as a raw slab of roast beef !"

*James A. Perkins

"Greatest cast of star comedians ever as easy to swallow as a vaseline sandwich"

**Mark Barlow

THE GOLDEN AGE OF COMEDY

In the past week, Student Government has spent hundreds of your dollars to tout their long - awaited restructuring proposal. They've told you how new it is, how big it is and how good it is, but they haven't told you what it is, or how it works. Do you really believe that 50 Birchall supporters strutting or surging through the halls of Student Government will be any more efficient than the magnificent seven who currently rule the roost? (My trained Marmoset has more finesse, not to mention ability.) I, J. P. Maher, say no matter how thin you slice Student Government, it is still cold turkey.

VOTE NO don't give campus wide approval to the congenital incompetents of

the Executive Board by making more jobs for the maladjusted.

VOTE NO The Golden Age of Activities Corridor sight gags and pastryballistics comedy is at its gotterdamerung. I asked a student if he had seen Student Government's last proposal for restructuring. The student replied "I hope so".


VOTE NO and watch as Birchall and his claptrap crew destroy themselves and Student Government in a Spring long flail of referendums, sit-ins, sit-ons, burn-ups, pawn-offs, etc., which should provide us all with one last hearty laugh as we bid High School and all its trappings, ADIEU.

*22 East End, N.Y.C.
**101 High St., L.A., Calif.

ΔKE8-008. Poster, Campaign. "WANTED! INFORMATION LEADING TO THE DISCOVERY AND APPREHENSION OF THE NEFARIOUS BALLOT STUFFER", 11 x 17", black printing on brown very light -weight paper.
Source: Brother Brian Merrick O'Connor '70, June 2010.
Reference: 1967-68 Campaign to Abolish Student Government.
Image:

WANTED!

INFORMATION LEADING TO THE DISCOVERY AND
APPREHENSION OF
THE NEFARIOUS BALLOT STUFFER



THE NEFARIOUS BALLOT STUFFER

REWARD!

I, James P. Maher, in the interest of justice and personal honor, do hereby proclaim a REWARD of \$50 (fifty) dollars for information instrumental to the discovery of the dastardly malfeasant who deliberately and surreptitiously stoked well over 350 (three hundred fifty) bogus ballots into the maw of the polls less than one week ago. The intent of the clandestine rogue was not only to disrupt the course of campus democracy, but also to heinously implicate one or both of the candidates (hence the obvious cramming of a small number of ballots, while the remainder mysteriously escaped detection by the vigilant Elections Committee).

The forthright Student Body of Cornell University can little

tolerate nor long ignore this malicious deed which has let loose the tongues of rumour, accusation and slander. The blackguard must be apprehended. Furthermore, once the truth of the matter has been established, the integrity of those persons and publications whose mindless J'accuse has rung in the ear of the body academic for these many days without substantiation, must be carefully weighed and re-evaluated. We must let evidence precede accusation, not vice versa.

Observe, listen, and investigate. Help apprehend the scruffy culprits who have perpetrated this tasteless affront to our collective dignity. Return sanity, honor and justice to our Campus.

\$50-FIFTY-50\$

All information must be validated by the Protectors Office before being eligible for the REWARD.

ΔKE8-009. Poster, Campaign. "THE MAHER PROPOSAL (Or) Send the Mobileers to Washington in the style they deserve", 12 x 19¾", black printing on very light -weight blue paper.

Source: Brother Brian Merrick O'Connor '70, June 2010.

Reference: 1967-68 Campaign to Abolish Student Government.

Image of Marx Brothers in barrels marked "KIPPERED HERRING" from the film *Monkey Business* (1931) followed by text:



Student Government, in its cosmic wisdom, has proposed to stoke the coffers of the Fall Mobilization with \$1,000 (one thousand dollars). Although I, James P. Maher, believe that this vast quantity of YOUR wealth could be more profitably spent to provide food and shelter for our rag-tag remnants of high school Jacobinism, I have no intense objection to this perverse philanthropy if it is in tune with the majority of the Cornell Student Body. It seems, however, that our teenybop governmental tyros wish to trod barefoot over the will of the students.

In order to smother any potential explosion of student disgust, Mr. Birchall & Co. have sought to cloak parochial bias in Democracy by decreeing an inconvenient Referendum next Wednesday in which the healthy, indifferent majority of Cornell students will obviously not participate, thus leaving it to the minithrongs of our scruffy radical fringe to sprinkle the bottoms of the ballot boxes with an all-too-thin layer of affirmation for our activities-corridor activists' monetary clearance sale. This subtle fiasco

is a blatant affront to the collective dignity of the student body: it is a violation of the principle of individual political prerogative.

I regret that in order to quash this ridiculous routine propounded by Birchall's Benefactors, Inc., you must wearily trudge up the hill and cast your veto on Wednesday; but unless you vote NO, you will have subsidized the world's most miserable transportation undertaking since the Executive Board took a chain-drive Mack truck back to campus this fall!

When defeat rings down about the ears of our duly elected leaders, as surely it must, I predict that they will be in a quandry as to the status of the misappropriated \$1,000. I say, invest that money in the student body from whence it was forcefully appropriated under the euphemistic guise of "fees". Vote yourself YOUR share in the wealth that washes down the bureaucratic sewer each week. Vote for the MAHER PROPOSAL!

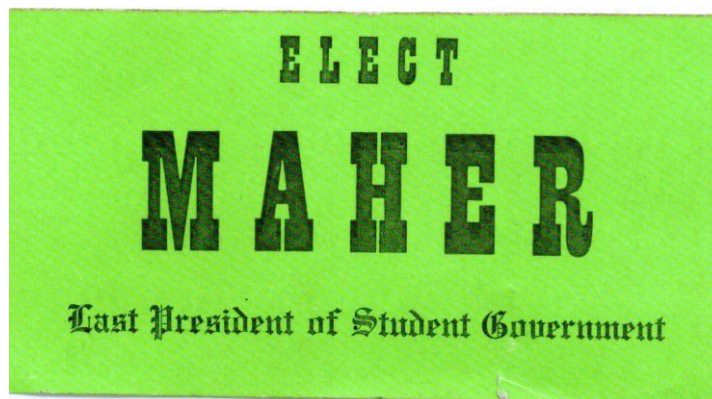
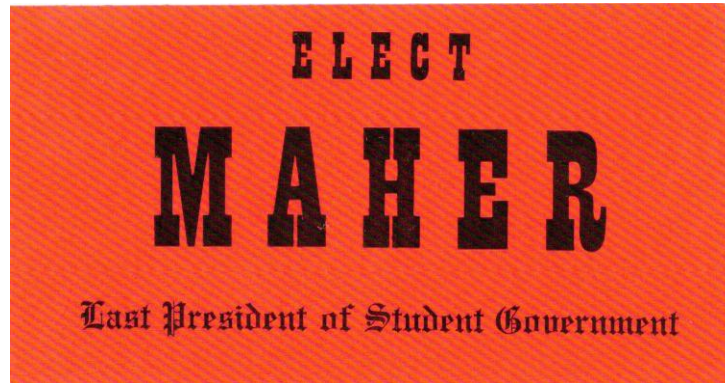
What is the MAHER PROPOSAL? Watch this space for further developments!

ΔKE8-010a & -010b. Sticker, Campaign. "ELECT MAHER, Last President of Student Government", 3¾ x 2", black printing on fluorescent red-orange and light green with adhesive backing and release paper.

Source: Brother Brian Merrick O'Connor '70, June 2010.

Reference: 1967-68 Campaign to Abolish Student Government.

Images:



The above materials, all donated by Brother Brian Merrick O'Connor ΔKE '70, have been deposited in the Cornell University Archives (Collection 37-4-1535) maintained by the Division of Rare & Manuscript Collections, Carl A. Kroch Library. Cf. BMOC message, Wednesday, November 26, 2008 3:31 PM. Images of large items have been pieced together from scans of details.

Appendix B — Cornell Daily Sun News Clippings

The following items appeared in the *Cornell Daily Sun* during the academic years 1965-1969.

Cornell Daily Sun, Volume LXXXII, Issue 131, 29 April 1966, Page 3

Appointments Made

James Maher '67 and James Tyrell '69 were also named Tuesday to the Appointments Commission by the Executive Board of Student Government. Also Mark Sherrid '69 will be a member of the freshman program committee, replacing Martin Gold '67.

Cornell Daily Sun, Volume LXXXII, Issue 140, 12 May 1966, Page 16

Maher Condemns Smoking

"The ordinary cigarette is the most dangerous object ever invented in the history of man," said James P. Maher '67 in winning the Class of 1886 Speech Contest last night.

"Nothing except air and water is consumed in greater quantity than cigarettes. Eighty million cigarettes are consumed each day by the American public alone," said Maher.

Maher, himself a smoker at one time, displayed a two ounce container and said, "The average smoker inhales this amount of nicotine in just two years. If this much nicotine were placed in the water supply of Mary Donlon Hall, every girl living there would be dead within a week."

"According to the American Medical Association, the life-span of the average smoker is six years shorter than that of the average non-smoker," said Maher.

"Unfortunately the trend toward cigarette smoking has been increasing recently," said Maher.

First prize in the contest, limited to sophomores and juniors, is \$100.

Student Government

Problems Beset Board

Student government, as Cornellians have known it since 1958, is apparently on the way out.

Neither of the two candidates participating in the presidential runoff election last May were in favor of maintaining student government in its present form.

One favored changes designed to make the organization more responsive to the desires of the student body, while the other advocated abolishing it entirely.

At the top of the student government pyramid of control is a nine-man executive board. The board consists of a president, vice president, fraternity representative, independent representative, and four other student representatives elected on a wild card basis.

In actuality, however, none of the board members is elected by or responsible to any one segment on campus. All students receive identical ballots and may vote in all categories if they choose.

Beneath the executive board in the pyramid of power are several committees. These include the Elections Commission, the Finance Commission, the Scheduling Coordination and Activities Review Board, etc.

While each group chooses its own members through individual interviews, the board maintains the power to appoint their chairmen and to overrule their decisions at its discretion.

Also included in the student government power structure are several delegated responsibility groups. These organizations include the Interfraternity Council, Women's Student Government Association, and the Willard Straight Hall Board of Managers.



RICHARD G. BIRCHALL
Heads Board

The executive board rarely takes any action on what these organizations do. Although it officially has final power, the board carefully avoids jurisdictional disputes.

To interest freshmen in student government, the executive board established its own orientation committee last year. The committee replaced a traditional program called Freshman Rotation.

Under Freshman Rotation, approximately 20 students were chosen through a series of interviews to serve as ex officio members of each student government commission. By observing the day-to-day operation of the organization, the freshmen were thought to have gained the experience necessary to become student leaders.

Since most student participants in the rotation

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Board Battles Prices, Seeks to Restructure

Continued from Page 15

program went on to occupy the key positions in the organization, many charged the program with fostering a student elite. This led to the program's demise.

The student government orientation program presented a series of lectures and seminars opened to all freshmen throughout the fall term last year. Although such topics as Cornell's judiciary system and its student code drew as many as 100 freshmen, by the end of the program interest waned and 40 students became the average audience.

The small attendance at student government forums is no shock to one familiar with student government at Cornell. At a university of approximately 9,000 undergraduates, turnout of 2,600 is considered average for a student election.

Last November the executive board tested its influence among students when it called a boycott against food sold by the University's Department of Housing and Dining. The boycott was sparked by a rise in the price of milk and soft drinks.

The boycott was successful during its first day as 300 students picketed Willard Straight Hall and the Department of Housing and Dining lost \$1,000 in receipts. However student concern with rising prices in the Straight Ivy Room soon diminished.

The week after the first boycott the University had taken no action and the board was prompted to call a limited ban on

the purchase of milk and soft drinks.

The second boycott reduced milk sales by 48 per cent. Finally, the attempt to reduce prices collapsed when the Freshman Class Council withdrew its support and a member of the board resigned.

The board was forced to accept a pledge by the University to study the efficiency of its food service facilities without any guarantee of lower prices.

The decline of interest in student government and its failure to attain the goals it set for itself leads to the question of restructuring student government.

Last year's president, David M. Brandt '67 was elected on a pledge to restructure student government. Instead of the nine-man executive board, Brandt called for a truly representative student senate.

Throughout its term, Brandt's board toyed with the idea of offering students a referendum on restructuring. Members of the board were assigned to draft proposals for a student senate and a student-faculty senate to be submitted to undergraduates for their approval in a referendum.

The board decided to hold the referendum as late as March 21, with little over one month left in office, but later abandoned the idea. Instead they chose to make the referendum part of the ballot in the April 21 student

Continued on Page 46

Exec Board Plans Change; Union Candidate Wins Post

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government elections.

A week before the election it became evident that restructuring would be the dominant campaign issue. Two of the four presidential candidates favored either the student senate or student-faculty senate proposals and were eliminated from contention by the first election.

The real fight for president was between a candidate endorsed by and in favor of the newly formed Cornell Union of Students (CUS) and one advocating the complete elimination of formal student government.

The student union idea was born on this campus one week before the election. Its founders called it a permanent organization to articulate student demands.

Student leaders predicted some day thousands of students would attend each "open and democratic" meeting of the organization. They envisioned it as the collegiate analogue of a New England town meeting.

With about 75 students attending most of its open meetings, the union announced its endorsement of a slate of candidates for the executive board.

However, at the polls, the union proved mighty as it elected four representatives to the board as well as its presidential candidate Richard G. Birchall '68.

Birchall's victory was not an easy one. He was opposed by James P. Maher III '66 who captured students' votes by charging student government with "bumbling incompetence" and calling for its death.

Maher's campaign proved imaginative and well run. Two days before the election, Maher staged a wake to signify the death of student government highlighted by his emergence from a coffin on the Straight steps.

The Constitution of Student Government requires the president to win by an absolute majority which was highly unlikely with four candidates in the race. Maher polled four hundred votes more than Birchall yet was forced to face Birchall in a runoff election.

The election ball's poll on restructuring student government showed approximately in favor of abolishing student one-third of those voting to be government with an equal fraction favoring a student union.

The first runoff was hotly contested. It was unexpectedly voided, however, when incidents of ballot stuffing were discovered.

The ballot stuffing incidents sparked charges of election irregularities on both sides, a fruitless investigation by the University proctor and finally a second runoff election.

Birchall squeezed into office in the second runoff election by a mere 117 votes and in so doing gave the student union-endorsed candidates a majority on the board.

Temple of Zeus . . .

Opening Greeted With Praise

"I do feel kind of short" admitted Carl J. Jones '70, peering up at a white plaster figure of Zeus which loomed with a blank stare, much of its head cracked away.

Jones' friend, David J. Halperin '69, was seated at the same table in the Goldwin Smith coffee house, and was worried. "What happens if the other half of his face falls?"

But the remains of Zeus' visage did not fall, and most students and faculty members consuming coffee and free doughnuts at "The Temple of Zeus" yesterday morning were not worried, but pleased.

"I think its great," commented James P. Maher III '66, who campaigned last spring to dissolve Student Government. "You can stay away from the throngs of peasants in the Straight," he said.

"Comfortable" and "quiet" were also among opinions — almost all complimentary — expressed by "Zeus" patrons, who may snack on coffee, doughnuts, tea, milk, and orange

juice amid a host of figures copied from the Greek god's shrine in Olympus.

The coffee house will be open this week from about 8:45 a.m. to noon. Later, these hours will be extended to 4:30 p.m., and supplemented by special evening programs, according to Gilbert W. Reynolds '68, who is managing the concession on a nonprofit basis.

Stephen M. Parrish, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, called the lounge "beautiful," and praised its acoustics.

Letter to the Editor

Insult and Injury

We are cordially piqued that Sunday's panel discussion of student representation declined to invite a representative of the Cornell Abolition Party. This movement last year recorded a clear plurality in the first student government contest and finally lost by a mere 100 irrelevant co-ed votes in the concluding der-election, more the victim of wide disinterest than wide disapproval.

The Abolitionists further regret that one scheduled speaker, our honorable president, failed to show up. It is rumored that Mr. Birchall was off looking for the Student Union which has been missing since his last stirring campaign speech of the spring. His absence, was not without a fortuitous quality as it spared the campus from one of Mr. Birchall's well documented public subtractions from the sum of human knowledge.

Let us, therefore, address ourselves to the question of student representation which our very president recently ignored. The Abolitionists believe that students are above all, curiously enough, students; students engaged in an intense, all-consuming preparation for the positions of responsibility and management that campus activists so recklessly pursue now. In our opinion, the university should be a quiet reservoir of knowledge, not a surging torrent of barricade building and ceaseless ideological flailing.

The issue to which our virile young energies should be dedicated therefore is the personal pursuit of maximum academic development. This is an end only attained by the individual efforts of each of us seeking the greatest benefit from the many opportunities offered here. With proper application in this regard, I pray that our noisome, adolescent managerial tyros will dazzle the world of the future with their mature talents. If some persist in trying to run the university and paying \$2050 per year for the privilege, we suggest that these be supplied with \$3.95 monopoly sets. The remainder of student government funds can then provide munificent revelry for the vast majority of us who have more to do at college than play self-important grown ups.

J. P. Maher III '69

Letters to the Editor

Enough and Maher

To the Editor:

Not since the reign of President Malott have Cornellians had so much pap, bovung, and irrelevancy slung into their faces in the name of reason. We refer, of course, to the literature spewed forth by various of the anti-referendum factions.

Dig, it, man, if you're for the war you're for the war, and you want people to vote 'no.' That's perfectly legitimate. But to attack the referendum itself on completely spurious grounds is ridiculous.

Take J. P. Maher III. His 'Maher Proposal,' which can be seen about the campus, is so enveloped with veritable vermillion verbiage, so pinked with purple prose patches, that it is well-nigh incomprehensible. But if you can carve yourself a path through the obfuscation, get down to his nitty gritty, you find his argument boils down to this: the referendum is unfair because only the activists will vote. This is nonsense.

It's not just the radicals who can vote, and it's not just the radicals who will vote. Maher was himself defeated last year by the present Executive Board. Is it not possible that sour grapes have colored his opinion as well as his prose?

And then there is the Committee for U.S. Policy in Vietnam. In their ad in yesterday's Sun, they whine that the Executive Board is forcing them to contribute to the Mobilization. Again nonsense. The entire point of a referendum is to let the students themselves decide whether or not to appropriate the money. Perhaps their support of Marshal Ky and company has made them forget about democracy. Who would they rather have decide where our money goes? The Administration? Proctor George?

On and on it goes. If you support our policy, and agree with the Vietnam war, then by all means vote 'no.' If you support the Mobilization, vote 'yes.' But vote on the issues; it is the conduct of the war, and only the conduct of the war, that concerns us today.

Howard A. Rodman '71

To the Editor:

In its very essence, the Maher Proposal advocates the establishment of the two party system at Cornell. For too long our unimaginative and presumptuous one-party Student Government has nauseated us with its spasmodic radical frothings: the prolonged death throes of cynical high school bureaucratic dropouts. Only the creation of the TWO PARTY SYSTEM at Cornell, as embodied in the Maher Proposal, can restore a sanity-balance to the increasingly intolerable student political scene.

Whereas the majority of Cornell students are human beings and owe their biological allegiance to life, love, and libation, I propose that there be a Campus-wide celebration of Life: If the Student Body so decrees by their write-in mandate for the MAHER PROPOSAL, there will be two parties held on October 20, 1967. The one, to which the entire Campus is invited, will feature the elegant presence of the Student Body, *jeunes filles* from Wells, Goucher, Vassar, and Wheaton, two bands, and drink for all. Entertainment will be provided. This will be the first time since 1934 that such a party will have been staged at Cornell by popular will.

The other party will be staged for Mr. Birchall and the Defective Board who will have been barred from the Campus-wide party as punishment for their foolishness. This party, conceived in despair and born in misery, will be staged in any nameless Collegetown hovel of Mr. Birchall's choice. *Sic Transit Gloria.*

I urge, therefore, the resounding defeat of the referendum, and the writing-in of the MAHER PROPOSAL which shall again usher in the social grandeur for which Cornell was formerly famed.

I propose that our juvenile psuedo-statesmen's petty political apoplexy be overwhelmed by a Campus-wide celebration of gaiety which is not only the privilege of youth, but also one of its main responsibilities.

J. P. Maher '69

Guest Room

Student Government: RIP

DIED. Friday, October 13, 1967, 3:00 a.m., of senility and mistreatment, Cornell Student Government.

The day is cool. The wind is from the East. The sky gray and cloudy. A trace of rain. At noon, in front of Willard Straight Hall, a small panel truck backs across the sidewalk to the entrance, depositing six men dressed in black and a small wooden coffin. An immense crowd of three or four gathers to witness the demise of the well known public figure. Included is a young student, sardonically grinning, his ROTC cap in his hands, J.P. Maher, about to become a rebel without a cause.

It is a time when the eulogies are read. The minister begins:

"Friends, Cornellians, Students, I come to bury Student Government not to praise it. The evil that an organization does lives after it. The good is oft interred with its constitution. So let it be with Student Government. The noble Maher hath told you Student Government was ambitious. If it were so, it was a grievous fault. And grievously hath Student Government answer'd it.

"The organization was born in riots and the havoc of chaos. Established to give the student body an opportunity to express its needs, it grew. Through toil and trouble, tempests, its voice screamed, bringing influence, changes. It was built on the principle that students can more effectively deal with

When campus attention became centered on foreign policy, Student Government moved to act. But Maher told you Student Government was ambitious. The Conservative Club told you Student Government was subjugating the rights of the minority by voting funds to a cause not all students agreed with. Then the air remained silent, for Student Government, impotent and senile, unable to reassert its role as acting in the interests of the majority of students just as any organization acts in the interest of the majority of its members, did nothing.

"Student Government was bludgeoned to death in Willard Straight Hall, on Triphammer Bridge, in Mann library, in Noyes Center, not by Brutus or Maher or the Conservative Club, but by its enraged members who knew no need for representation and returned it to the status of a high school student council, empowered to charter and distribute funds to various clubs. No, there was no conspiracy, only the will of the citizens to refuse action. So passes the will for concerted action and with it, any semblance of a real Student Government."

The pall bearers carried the coffin solemnly to the depths of the great hall. One young man muttered, "Weddings are always so sad." The crowd dispersed, leaving J. P. Maher wondering what to do.

Paul A. Rahe, Jr. '70

Letters to the Editor

Ultimatum

To the Editor:

In the debate over recruiting at Cornell the petitioners made a serious attempt to appraise the University Administration on purpose, design, and possible consequences of the demonstration yesterday at Barton Hall. The Administration responded in predictable fashion: a rationale (unacceptable to the demonstrators) was presented for allowing the recruitment to continue, a slight concession was granted to the demonstrators in the form of a phone call from President Perkins to the White House protesting General Hershey's policy of drafting those who would obstruct recruitment, and the ball was passed to the demonstrators for the next shot.

The important aspect of negotiations with the University administration is always "who breaks the faith?" In this situation it will be the demonstrators. We wonder however, whether in fact negotiations with the administration, if they ever take place again, should begin with a mutual assumption of "good faith." In previous encounters between demonstrators and the Administration, the latter has not bargained in "faith": the Day Hall sit-in two years ago, the food boycott and the marijuana crisis last year, stand in testimony to this assertion.

But that question at the moment remains in the background; the pressing question before the administration now, is what to do if today it finds a riot on its hands. Insofar as the demonstrators will determine whether a provocative confrontation is appropriate, they in fact have the upper hand. Administrations cannot administer sweet remedies to a riot; they must, and no doubt will bring a riot to a quick and therefore violent conclusion.

The Cornell administration has gained the respect and the begrudging admiration of its

adversaries in the past for its slick maneuvering. It is apparent that slick maneuvering will not work today. It remains for the administration to avert a possible riot by cancelling the Marines' appointment at Barton Hall indefinitely.

Peter Agree '69

William H. John Barclay, Jr. Grad.

Charles Marshall '68

Cop Out

To the Editor:

I regret that the recruiting controversy has been lost in the familiar liberal mire of selective indignation, i.e., freedom of speech is fine for their causes, but for Marine murderers — never! The real issue is seldom mentioned and little understood.

Item: In an unprecedented display of executive pusillanimity, the administration has banned military recruiters from Willard Straight Hall until "permanent policy is worked out." We can presume this means Doctor Perkins told Mr. Barlow, "Don't worry, Mark. Just take two aspirins, go back to your Day Hall hiding place and call me if anything changes."

Item: Though the administration rationalizes this action as a means to "gain full deliberation", etc., the nasty threat of another left-wing gauche-out no doubt influenced our ethically shy chief executive.

I propose, in those forgettable words of the Student Union platform, "let the students decide." If a referendum were held on this issue, Cornellians would soundly declare that Willard Straight Hall shall not be intimidated by any minority. Then, inspired by the leadership of the students, President Perkins might try a bit himself.

J. P. Maher III '68



"Ask me no questions and I'll tell you no lies!"

End of The Road

A Volkswagen belonging to James P. Maher III '66, abolitionist candidate for president of the Executive Board of Student Government last spring, was found yesterday vandalized

Maher said he had left the car in the Chi Psi fraternity parking lot Monday when he had been unable to get it started.

Observer

Abolition

Robert N. Cowen

When James P. Maher first offered the campus a chance to abolish student government, his proposal was rejected. Although many students responded to his colorful and imaginative campaign, even more students were shocked at the thought of eliminating an organization which probably exists in some form on every campus in the world. It now appears, however, that Maher's suggestion has taken root and may yet prove successful this spring.

It is unfortunate that many well-meaning faculty will mourn the death of student government. They have always relied on student government as a representation of student thinking on campus. The executive board president, as a representative of the feelings of the entire student body, could be contacted by any concerned faculty member who was interested in student feelings about the inhospitable atmosphere of University Halls or the faults in the present judiciary system.

Faced with apathy and uninterest on the part of their constituencies, executive board members have always chosen to act on the basis of their own consciences.

When real issues have arisen to capture the interest of large numbers of students, student government has rarely been at the forefront of confrontations. The recent meeting in the Memorial Room to discuss University policy with regard to communication with the selective service system was not organized and led by the executive board. Instead, an ad hoc group formed to lead the discussion and to meet with administrators. In such instances of real crisis on campus, student government has always been ignored in favor of some ad hoc organization. Students have never demonstrated any faith in their student government to bargain for them when a real issue is at stake.

Even in its day to day

operations, when given the opportunity to accomplish constructive goals without the pressure of student-administration confrontations, student government has failed to act. Despite encouragement from the Dean of Students office for over a term, the executive board has failed to draft a student code. At a time when the Faculty Committee on Student Affairs has expressed a desire to approve an updated guide to student conduct, the executive board has failed to take rapid action. The executive board also failed to make any recommendations this fall to change the undergraduate judiciary structure.

Although two faculty committees released reports on the judiciary early this fall, the executive board made no effort to push for reform until the recent collapse of the Undergraduate Judiciary Board.

Similarly the Executive Board has failed to push for any academic reform.

The executive board is now attempting to restructure student government. Their plan is to replace the nine-man executive board with a 50-member student senate. Considering the present attitude toward student government on this campus, it is dubious that 39 candidates will offer to run for seats up for election. It is even more doubtful whether 39 students will ever be encouraged to sit through lengthy regular meetings. However, there is no doubt that the organization will fail miserably in any attempt to represent the campus and to legislate for their constituencies.

As Maher said last spring, if there is a genuine need for a student government organization on this campus, it will arise through the efforts of genuine student leaders with the backing of the student body. In any case, student demands will still manage to make themselves known through the variety of interest groups and ad hoc organizations which are so numerous at Cornell.

Birchall, Maher Join Gov't Race Again This Year

Key opponents in last year's student government elections — Executive Board President Richard G. Birchall '68 and James P. Maher '66 — have announced they will run in this year's race.

They join a proposed coalition of seniors who hope to do away with student government and replace it with increased representation on the Faculty Committee on Student Affairs.

Before any officially become candidates, however, they must sign up for the positions in the Straight Activities Corridor. About 20 unaffiliated students have already done so.

Members of the coalition will be "people the students have grown to know and respect, not any elitist group," according to organizer Thomas A. Bodden '68.

Although his planned slate of 39 candidates — one for each

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Birchall, Maher Join Gov't Race

Continued from Page 1

residential constituency — was not complete last night, Bodden said there were a few people still to be contacted about running.

Yesterday afternoon one of the members of the group, Mimi Herwald '68, came and crossed her name off the sign-up sheet.

When asked why, she said "This was something I was talked into. I don't want to be part of something people consider an elitist group."

All candidates whether in or out of the coalition, will receive a copy of this year's modified election rules which set "no limit on expenses" in campaigning.

etaoin shrdlu

A Code in the Head

Arthur M. Shapiro

Oy and vey. I mean, it seems the Student Code (whatever that is) is being revised by Student Government (whatever that is); all of this as election day (whenever that is) for the Student Senate (whatever that is to be) draws nigh.

All concerned, i.e. Day Hall and the Activities Corridor, agreed that the Student Code, as it stands, stinks. At the behest of the former, the latter, i.e. Messrs. Birchall and Kaminsky, put their heads together and picked a Committee to draft a new Student Code. The Committee comprises Birchall, Kaminsky, Tracy Sillerman, Steve Simmons, Ann Benedict, Steve Hadley (of SCARB), and the four surviving members of UJB. If the composition seems familiar, it only reflects the fact that Kaminsky and Birchall just don't have that many friends. The Committee is receiving the benefit of the opinions of Prof. Ralph Bolgiano, of the FCSC, and Associate Dean of Students Stanley R. Levy, who does not bake rye bread.

This rather routine committee will undoubtedly produce a rather routine document. To that extent there are no grounds to howl. Administrative mediocrity, on both the Executive Board and Day Hall levels, is so thoroughly institutionalized here that even the New Left is hard up for horrendous Establishment faux pas upon which to generate righteous indignation.

The Student Code revisers promise to hold open hearings on "touchy" aspects of the document, e.g. those affecting "freedom of speech." The rest they feel fully competent to dispose of themselves. Well, it doesn't really make any difference. Nobody cares. Nobody knows what the current code says; nobody will know what the next one says, and nobody, including the law schools, really cares who writes it.

What will happen to the Birchall-Kaminsky Code when it gets into the Day Hall machinery is not at all clear. A lot will depend on what the FCSC decides to do with the student judiciary system,

which FCSC just dropped in its lap. Perhaps it will find another lap in which to drop it. It is difficult to chew out the Boy Wonders of Downstairs at the Straight when the Wonder Boys of Downstairs at Day Hall are pirouetting like Balanchine dropouts.

Ho hum. Gilbert and Sullivan might enjoy our nabobs, but precious few of us do. If the election for the Student Senate gets 53 voters it will be a success, because it will prove that at least three candidates have girl friends. It would be much nicer if, instead, the student body elected the flock of mallards at Stewart Park to do its legislating. The babbling would be similar, but the cost would be reduced to a few pieces of stale bread a week. Then we might even get our Fees back.

Why is Student Government at Cornell such a Goddawful farce? Is it just because Birchall, Kaminsky, et al. are a bunch of boobs? No. The job, in this case, makes (unmakes?) the man. The constant association with the nonentities in Day Hall contributes mightily. Student government is essentially a reactive apparatus. It can thrive only in the presence of an adversary, which logically should be Day Hall. But the traditional issues have petered out here: sex, booze and pot are old hat. Even if they weren't, Day Hall's policy of no policy has made it well-nigh impossible to do anything. In short, student government has no more excuse for existence than does a Dean of Students' Office without a Dean of Students.

If Day Hall were as evolved as the Amphioxus, with just a trace of support down its dorsal midline, life at Cornell might be a little more challenging. As it is, it's pure ennui. One might be forgiven for hoping that, once elected, the Stewart Park ducks waddle en masse onto the first draft of the Birchall-Kaminsky Code and do what comes naturally.

Jim Maher has some strange ideas. Abolition was not one of them.

Letters

Abolition

To the Editor:

I have been recently deluged with the accusation that I sullied my roguish dignity by joining the "prestigious" seniors, many of whom became prestigious by association with the very student government we now pledge to abolish. To these I say, imitation is the most sublime form of flattery. I am flattered that a united front has recognized that most students have not the slightest urge to be represented by "king for a year" office hunters.

Naturally, a handful of about to be toppled turkeys are scurrying to find a real need for their beloved student government. One Baker Dorm crusader is begging his building mates to "give student government another chance." As a bored observer of seven years of student elections, I feel the above sentiment more realistically reads "give me the same chance a generation of alienated before have had to sort out my little life in the 50,000 dollars per annum activities corridor playpen." Another frosh candidate has even pledged to live in his dorm next year to best represent his constituency (which, of course, will have long since moved to better quarters). In that, this young lad seems to be the first Cornellian willing to spend a second year in the University Halls, I suggest that he is a big deranged, even by student government standards.

Against the sea of cant, there stands a historical rarity, a group pledged to establish a government with provision for its immediate termination. I support those running for this noble and long overdue reform and hope you will vote for the senior abolition slate. My regrets to the inevitable casualties of our revolutionary movement but I do pray that once we smite the political maidenheads of our naive student government chieftains, they will seek a more respectable form of self amusement.

J. P. Maher, '68

Abolitionists Elected To Senate Majority

By MARK KATZ

The end of a formal student governing body at Cornell seems imminent as a result of last week's Student Association elections, in which abolitionist candidates won a majority of the 39 seats.

A comparison of the names of the abolitionists on the "Axe the Hacks" posters put up around campus last week with the names of the winners shows that the abolitionists took 22 of the 39 seats.

However, Thomas A. Bodden '67, an abolitionist who won from the Collegetown district, said last night that, "The number is more like 30, if not more."

He explained that several candidates who did not run as abolitionists "have since then expressed a desire to work with us."

Steven J. Simmons '68, another Collegetown abolitionist winner, said that, "We will proceed as quickly as possible to abolish our own positions on the Student Association and to get five voting student members on the Faculty Committee for Student Affairs."

"To have these five members represents a legitimate interest group," he continued, "whereas the former reps didn't represent any legitimate interests."

Simmons finds it "a relief to know that Cornell students will not have to face and financially support a new 50-member governing board which would have been even less effective than the Executive Board."

He noted that the small turnout at the polls, approximately 1100 for the three-day voting period, goes on to prove the abolitionists' point of view.

The first meeting of the Student Association is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in Bache Auditorium in Malott Hall.

"I think that Wednesday night should start a full re-examination of where the students stand and what should be done," said Richard G. Birchall '68, president of the now defunct Executive Board of Student Government.

He went on to say that, "Putting five students on the FSCA isn't the only thing that has to be done" but agreed that

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Majority of Abolitionists Elected, Plan to Dissolve Association Soon

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the Association "has got to go."

The constitution of the Student Association, which was approved in the election held last December 7, provides for 11 college representatives in addition to the 39 elected according to constituencies, bringing the total membership of the Association to 50.

The names of the 11 college representatives, who were, for the most part, picked by the

individual college councils, will be announced by Wednesday, according to Gregory C. Churchill '69, member of the Executive Board.

The winners of the 39 seats are:

University Halls — 1: Richard M. Warshauer '71; 2: Edward T. Moore Jr. '71; 3: David J. Mallon '71; 4: Matthew B. Rabach '71; 5: Arthur B. Spitzer '71, and 6: Reid H. Weingarten '71.

North Baker, South Baker, Baker Tower, Boldt Tower — Richard S. Diamond '71.

Founders, Lyon, Mennen, McFaddin — Edward H. Marchant '68.

South Balch and Comstock — Nancy Singer '70.

North Balch — Diana L. Telling '68.

Donlon — Margaret L. Mead '71, Christina M. Lundquist '69.

Dickson 5 — Susan Deitz '71.

Dickson 6 — run-off to be held today between Caren B. Arlas '71 and Susan R. Silkowitz '71.

Risley — Elaine Elinson '69.

Collegetown — Mark A. Belnick '68, Thomas A. Bodden

'67, Richard G. Caldwell '68, John K. Davis '67, Kenneth A. Reich '68, Charles S. Roll Jr., '68, Jack G. Saunders '70 and Steven J. Simmons '68.

North off-campus — Steven M. Bengis '68, Seth S. Goldschlager '68 and Todd L. Kiplinger '68.

South off-campus — J. P. Maher III '66, Gregory W. Morris '68 and J. T. Weeker '69.

Fraternities, sororities, cooperatives — A: David A. Shannon '69; B: Stephen J. Hadley '69; C: Thomas E. Albrow '69; D: Jeffrey H. French '68; E: Kenneth I. Levin '70; F: William F. Jankun '70; G: Saunders E. Wilson '69; H: Susan J. Mascette '68; I: James W. Jandacek '70, and J: Catherine L. Forrester '68.

James W. Jandacek '70, who would like to preserve the student senate at least long enough to try it out, said "it looks like the seniors will get what they want." He is waiting for the appointed seats to be filled. "I don't know how the abolitionists will hold together," he added.

CSA Defeats Motion to Dissolve, Rejects Plan for Campus Ballot

By MARK KATZ

The four-week old Cornell Student Association defeated yesterday 18-10 a motion which would have provided for its own immediate abolition.

Following this defeat, the CSA also rejected a proposal to hold a campus-wide referendum within the next ten days to ask students on whether they think student government should be abolished and replaced by five voting students on the Faculty Committee for Student Affairs.

The Association did, however, elect Mark A. Belnick '68 and Stephen J. Hadley '69 to sit on the FCSA as voting members. Student government has been entitled to send two delegates to sit on the FCSA as a result of 1963 faculty legislation.

Belnick and Hadley take the place of the two head officers of the defunct Executive Board of Student Government, President Richard G. Birchall '68 and Vice President Arthur M. Kaminsky '68.

At Urging of FCSA

The CSA meeting was held at urging of the FCSA which asked that the group meet again in order to elect the two students to

sit on the faculty committee.

Six members of the 12-member FCSA were present at the CSA meeting, including Prof. David Pimentel, entomology and limnology, chairman.

Passage of the abolition proposal would have left the University without any formal agency of student representation, since the FCSA is still considering the CSA's proposal of five voting student members.

"Complex Issue"

Pimentel called the situation "a very complex issue," noting that to meet the demands of the student proposal "is going to require not only our consideration but also that of the faculty councils and the University faculty."

Another FCSA member added that the proposal might not be acted upon for a few months and after that students came out rather strongly against the abolition plans.

"If we abolish ourselves now, we can't do anything for the rest of the year to get on the FCSA," said Arthur B. Spitzer '71.

"You abolish this year and you'll never get anything," was Kaminsky's reaction.

"Irresponsible and Capricious"

Susan G. Mascette '68, president of the Women's Student Government Association and a CSA member, called the Association "irresponsible and capricious" for taking such a move before the establishment of another form of student representation.

James P. Maher III '66,

however, asked that the organization abolish itself as quickly as possible, saying that each future meeting will draw fewer and fewer members.

Twenty-eight members of the 50-member student senate were present at yesterday's meeting, which was the Association's second.

One CSA member said following yesterday's meeting, "I'm not going to any more of these stupid things."

"Confusing But Profitable"

"Confusing but profitable" was the way in which one of the FCSA members described the session.

The CSA also elected Steven M. Bengis '68 and Miss Mascette to sit on a University council which will help choose the new dean of students. Vice President for Student Affairs Mark Barlow Jr. had asked the CSA to select the delegates.

Thomas A. Bodden '67, one of the abolitionist leaders, quit the Association following the defeat of abolition, but later withdrew his resignation.

"I initially offered my resignation because abolition of student government had been thwarted," Bodden said, "but now I see that there's hope."

"Full Speed Forward"

"We now intend to go full speed forward to abolish ourselves," he added.

The FCSA will continue to work with the six-man CSA subcommittee chosen at last month's meeting to help effect the placement of five voting students on the FCSA.

Solo

Review: The Gentle Gentlemen

Fred J. Solowey

The Gentlemen of the Right, Spring 1968.

"Life'd not be worth livin' if we didn't keep our enimies." F. P. Dunne's Mr. Dooley.

The Cornell Conservative Club occasionally provides proof of its existence through the publication of its conservative opinion journal. The spring issue of The Gentlemen of the Right is fairly well done, even though it makes only a half-hearted attempt to convince anyone that conservatism is a viable alternative to other forms of politics.

"The Gentlemen" emphasizes philosophy and more often than not, its writers seem unwilling to get down to the "nitty-gritty," and the magazine suffers greatly from this. With the notable exception of Arthur Shapiro (who could be characterized as one of the few "real world" conservative who shows his face), the contributors to "The Gentlemen" would seemingly much rather say their piece and then return to the "important things in life" (like drinking 1961 Clos de la Roche).

As a reviewer with leftist

learnings, I will not discuss the specific views expressed. Most of the writing, though uninspiring, is respectably executed, and the magazine should receive the attention of the student population. I say this, confident that the gentle "Gentlemen" will not shake anyone up. If anything, perhaps some attention might shake up the "Gentlemen" enough to get them to step out of Theta Delta Chi long enough to engage in gentlemanly battle with the left.

The most interesting material in "The Gentlemen" is the interview with, and the article by that bombastic, arrogant, and insipid character, James P. Maher, III. What is so bad about Maher's material is that it is the journalistic equivalent of his oral expression. He is articulate but offensive, intelligent but often quite inaccurate. The interview with Maher and his article help sell magazines; people often love to read about love affairs, and Maher obviously has one with himself.

Banner Brawl

A public objection to the banner hung outside Willard Straight Hall Friday reading "Your money supports racism," sparked a "scuffling match" at about 12:30 a.m. according to Director of Public Safety Lowell T. George.

James P. Maher '66 protested the banner over the loud speaker system because it was hung without permission, according to George. Two other students tore it down and the scuffling for the banner ensued. George said no one was hurt but the incident is still under investigation.

Maher said he left town this weekend upon George's suggestion.

Executive Board Dies

Student Government Nonexistent

Student government at Cornell has been called everything from a "dynamic" institution to one of "bumbling incompetence," but one fact stands out for sure — there is none at the present time.

The 1967-8 school year saw the demise of the 10 year-old Executive Board of Student Government, and its replacement, the Cornell Student Association, passed out of existence less than two months after its first meeting.

Right now, a special Presidential Commission, established by the Faculty Committee on Student Affairs and endorsed by the CSA shortly before its dissolution, is meeting to "explore the entire role of students in the decision-making process at Cornell."

Composed of four students, four members of the University faculty, four administrators and a chairman, the Commission is due to report early this fall on the subject of an appropriate student structure.

Results of last year's two major elections made it apparent that the campus was overridden with apathy in one form or another — only 1145 of the University's approximately 10,000 undergraduates voted in the referendum which abolished the Executive Board, and even fewer voted to elect representatives to the CSA.

Starting with the question of whether the "traditional role played by student government at Cornell was relevant in light of the present complexion and needs of the community," the Commission will view student government in a new context, as both the nine-man executive board and the 50-man student senate were inadequate to meet the vaguely defined needs of Cornell students.

Restructuring An Issue

It is generally expected that the Commission's findings will indicate a trend towards increased student representation, since the FCSA and CSA both endorsed this principle last term.

The Cornell Student Association was created in a referendum held last Dec. 7, with the new constitution holding a 7 to 3 edge over the alternative of keeping the executive board.

An earlier campus referendum on the question of restructuring student government was held

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Student Gov't Bodies Die; New Structure May Arise

Continued from Page 12

along with the executive board elections of spring 1967. At that time, about one-third of the voters favored abolition of student government, while another third supported the formation of a student union.

With the approval of the new student senate constitution, later to be named the Cornell Student Association, the decade-old executive board passed out of existence. The Executive Board had been formed in 1958 following a series of riots on campus. The board was designed to assure students a voice in student affairs.

Richard G. Birchall '68 had won the May, 1967 election over James P. Maher III '66, an ardent abolitionist, although Birchall himself admitted that he did not want to keep student government in its present form.

Abolitionists Elected

In early March of this year, elections were held by constituency for the seats of the CSA. Again voting turnout was small, but the abolitionist candidates captured a clear victory over their pro-student government opponents.

The end of a formal student governing body then seemed imminent, but early abolitionist promises, were abandoned when the CSA saw that the FCSA was in no hurry to meet its proposal to increase student representation on the FCSA.

FCSA Chairman, Prof. David Pimentel, entomology and limnology, had called the situation "a very complex issue." At the April 5 CSA meeting, a motion to abolish itself was defeated, much to the surprise of many of the members and more especially, to the surprise of those students who had elected abolitionist.

But it was at its fourth meeting, on May 7, after the Presidential Commission had been established, that the CSA passed into history.

Student Code Revised

Meanwhile, other aspects of student government have been changing as well.

A new student code, revising the one in effect since 1963, was drawn up last term by a student committee. The old executive board sponsored the committee, headed by Arthur C. Kaminsky '68, vice-president of the board.

This code distinguishes

between University and civil jurisdiction in law enforcement, and calls the excessive use of drugs "a medical and counseling problem" while seeking to outline the principal drug abuses. The 1963 code had been noticeably vague in this area.

Less than a week before this code went to the FCSA for approval, a remodeled University judicial system was approved by the faculty. This new system called for joint student-faculty committees which will have jurisdiction in cases of student misconduct.

Also included in the student governing structure are several delegated responsibility groups, including the Interfraternity Council, Women's Student Government Association and the Willard Straight Hall Board of Managers. The Executive Board had final powers in decisions made by these groups, but as it rarely used this power, the board's absence hasn't affected the operations of these groups.

Although the CSA proposed the formation of one Nominations Committee which would obviate the need for a number of these other committees, the future of all of these groups and of Cornell student government in general is in the hands of the 12-man Presidential Commission which has been meeting this summer in Ithaca.

Appendix C — Biographical Data, James Patrick Maher III

AΔΦ Brother James Patrick Maher III '66 (b. 15 December 1944, d. 3 August 2004).



Death Notice, The Cornell Alpha Delt

The Cornell Alpha Delt, Spring 2006, p. 14.

JAMES P. MAHER III '66, aged 59, formerly of Miami, is missing and presumed dead after his plane was lost while he was on a business trip to Central America in early August 2005. He was the owner and president of Morgan Price & Company Inc., exporters of paper products to Central and South America. He began his career as founder of Vintage Vendors, one of the first companies to import Argentinian wine to the United States. He also served as a legislative aide to several U.S. congressmen. A graduate of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York., Mr. Maher was a member of Alpha Delta Phi and the Quill and Dagger Club honorary society. He served in the Army during peacetime and was a captain in the Army Reserves. Born in Summit, Mr. Maher lived in Short Hills before moving to Florida.

U.S. Embassy, Teguchigalpa, Honduras, Alerts



JAMES P. MAHER

DOB: December 15, 1944
Gender: Male
Age now: 61 yrs.
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 160–180 lbs. (approx)
Hair Color: Brown / Grey
Eye Color: Blue
Missing Date: August 3, 2004
Missing City: La Ceiba / Pico Bonito
Missing Country: Honduras

ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
IN TEGUCIGALPA, American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit at (011) (504) 238-5114, ext. 4400



EDUARDO BRAGA

DOB: March 20, 1964
Gender: Male
Age now: 41 yrs.
Height: 6'
Weight: 180 - 200 lbs. (approx)
Hair Color: Black
Eye Color: Black
Missing Date: August 3, 2004
Missing City: La Ceiba / Pico Bonito
Missing Country: Honduras

ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION SHOULD CONTACT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
IN TEGUCIGALPA, American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit at (011) (504) 238-5114, ext. 4400

Missing Aircraft & Pilot Data

N-number : N9911S
Aircraft Serial Number : 70011
Aircraft Manufacturer : ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL
Model : 700
Engine Manufacturer : LYCOMING
Model : TI0-540 SER
Aircraft Year : 1978
Owner Name : AIR ANTILLES INC
Owner Address : 7131 NW 26TH AVE
MIAMI, FL, 33147-6201
Type of Owner : Corporation
Registration Date : 10-Dec-2002
Airworthiness Certificate Type : Standard
Approved Operations : Normal

Source: <http://www.landings.com/landings/pages/search.html>

Name : MAHER, JAMES PATRICK
Airman's Address : 1581 BRICKELL AVE
MIAMI, FL, 33129-1215
FAA Region : Southern
Date of Medical : Mar, 2004
Class of Medical : 3
Expiration of Class 3 : Mar, 2006
Airman Certificates : Private Pilot
Airplane Single and Multi Engine Land

Name : BRAGA, EDUARDO JOSE FONTES
Airman's Address : 3216 NE 13TH ST APT 7
POMPANO BEACH, FL, 33062-8108
FAA Region : Southern
Date of Medical : Oct, 2003
Class of Medical : 3
Expiration of Class 3 : Oct, 2006
Airman Certificates : Airline Transport Pilot
Airplane Multi Engine Land
Commercial Pilot Privileges only
Airplane Single Engine Land
Rotorcraft Helicopter
Flight Instructor (exp: 30-Jun-2006)
Airplane Single and Multi Engine
Instrument Airplane

The Miami Herald News Reports (2004)

Miami Herald, The (FL), August 8, 2004, Section: Broward & State, Edition: Broward, Page: 3B

LOST PLANE: 'NO ONE SAW' IT

JONATHAN ABEL, jabel@herald.com

The search continues for two South Florida men reported missing over the jungles of Honduras.

Their twin-engine Rockwell Commander plane lost contact with air traffic controllers about 5 p.m. Tuesday after taking off from Goloson International Airport, 210 miles north of Tegucigalpa. The two men, pilot Eduardo Braga, 40, of Pompano Beach, and James Maher, 59, of Miami, were headed to Costa Rica.

"My first thought was to jump on a plane and go find him," said Braga's wife, Cindy. "But people talked some sense into me. I can't speak Spanish and I can't fly."

The plane left Opa-locka airport Sunday morning for Cozumel, Mexico, Cindy Braga said. It stopped in La Ceiba, Honduras, on Monday, and from there took off for Costa Rica on Tuesday.

Family and friends said the flight was business trip for Maher, who is president of a paper company, Morgan Price & Co.

Over the past week, Honduran military aircraft have been retracing potential flight routes searching for the plane or its wreckage.

"The search is continuing, but without any positive results so far," said Col. Rafael Moreno, a spokesman for the Honduran military.

The electronic locating transmitter has not been activated, which could mean that the plane landed and the two men are simply unable to make contact with the outside world, Moreno said.

That is what Cindy Braga is hoping happened. "They don't see debris. No one saw anything," she said. "Because the place is a jungle - a Third World country - they may not be able to communicate."

Cindy Braga said that friends of Maher residing in Honduras are helping to search for the missing men.

For Cindy Braga, the wait to learn of her husband's location is nerve-racking. The couple, who have been married for eight years, have never gone several days without communicating.

One thing gives Cindy Braga hope: Her husband, she said, is an excellent pilot so she "doesn't worry as much as [if it was] someone else [piloting]."

Braga, a native of Brazil, moved to the United States when he was in his late 20s. He became a citizen and worked a variety of jobs, including as a waiter and a banker, before becoming a flight instructor.

"He's always dreamed about flying," Braga said. Much of his clientele is Brazilian; Maher had been one of his students.

In New Jersey, Maher's mother had only just learned about her son's disappearance. "This is very disturbing," Rita Maher said, but declined to comment further.

Weather conditions do not seem to have posed a problem, Mario Medina, an aviation official at Goloson, told La Tribuna, a Honduran newspaper. "There was good visibility, no rain, all conditions were excellent."

Herald staff writer Darran Simon and Herald translator Renato Perez contributed to this report, which was supplemented with material from *The Associated Press*.

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Miami Herald, The (FL), August 8, 2004, Section: Metro & State, Edition: Final, Page: 6B

SEARCH CONTINUES FOR TWO MEN, PLANE

JONATHAN ABEL, jabel@herald.com

The search continues for two South Florida men reported missing over the jungles of Honduras.

Their twin-engine Rockwell Commander lost contact with air traffic controllers around 5 p.m. Tuesday after taking off from Goloson International Airport, 210 miles north of Tegucigalpa.

The two men, pilot Eduardo Braga, 40, of Pompano Beach, and James Maher, 59, of Miami, were headed to Costa Rica.

"My first thought was to jump on a plane and go find him," said Braga's wife, Cindy. "But people talked some sense into me. I can't speak Spanish, and I can't fly."

The plane left Opa-locka Airport Sunday morning for Cozumel, Mexico, Cindy Braga said. It stopped in La Ceiba, Honduras, on Monday, and from there took off for Costa Rica on Tuesday.

Family and friends said the flight was a business trip for Maher, who is president of a paper company, Morgan Price & Co.

Honduran military aircraft have been retracing potential flight routes searching for the plane or its wreckage.

"The search is continuing, but without any positive results so far," said Col. Rafael Moreno, a spokesman for the Honduran military.

The electronic locating transmitter has not been activated, which could mean that the plane landed and the two men are simply unable to make contact with the outside world, Moreno said.

That is what Cindy Braga is hoping happened. "They don't see debris. No one saw anything," she said. "Because the place is a jungle - a Third World country - they may not be able to communicate."

She said friends of Maher in Honduras are helping look for the missing men.

For Cindy Braga, the wait to learn of her husband's location is nerve-wracking. The couple, who have been married for eight years, have never gone several days without communicating.

One thing, gives her hope: Her husband, she said, is an excellent pilot so she "doesn't worry as much as [if it was] someone else."

Eduardo Braga, a native of Brazil, moved to the United States when he was in his late 20s. He became a citizen and worked a variety of jobs before becoming a flight instructor.

"He's always dreamed about flying," Braga said. Much of his clientele is Brazilian; Maher had been one of his students.

In New Jersey, Maher's mother had only just learned about her son's disappearance. ``This is very disturbing," Rita Maher said, but declined to comment further.

The Associated Press, staff writer Darran Simon and Herald translator Renato Perez contributed to this report.

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Miami Herald, The (FL), August 10, 2004, Section: Broward & State, Edition: Broward, P. 1B

MISSING PILOT'S FRIEND, WIFE TO JOIN SEARCH
JASMINE KRIPALANI, jkripalani@herald.com

Eduardo Braga, the Pompano Beach pilot whose plane disappeared in the jungles of Honduras a week ago, once made a pact with a pilot friend that they would search for each other if they ever went missing.

José Fuertes followed through on that pact Monday as he boarded a Honduras-bound American Airlines flight with Braga's wife, Cindy. ``If either of them got into trouble, they would look out for each other," said Fuertes' wife, Vivian.

Air-traffic controllers lost contact with Eduardo Braga, 40, after he took off from Goloson International Airport in Honduras in a single-engine Rockwell Commander at 5:45 p.m. Aug. 3. Braga was flying with James Maher, the owner of Morgan Price & Co. in Miami.

The paper company makes cardboard used to box fruit. Maher and Braga were going to visit several suppliers and customers in Central America, said Maher's employee, Carlos Pachas. ``This is a normal business trip," Pachas said. ``He was due back over the weekend. May God help in finding him."

Two helicopters search for the plane every day for eight hours, said Maj. Lennin Gonzalez, spokesman for the Honduran armed forces.

``We have not received any emergency signals," Gonzalez said.

U.S. Southern Command spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Chris Loundermon said the United States has assisted with the search.

Meanwhile, Cindy Braga's mother, Jean O'Neill, flew to South Florida on Saturday from Cape Cod, Mass., to help. She said Braga's missing plane brought back sad memories. Cindy Braga's father, Maj. Henry ``Hank" Schneckloth, died in 1968 because of a mechanical failure of a plane while flying into Homestead Air Force Base.

``It's a do-over of another time," O'Neill said.

But Cindy Braga's older sister, Mary Jo Smith, said she has hope her brother-in-law is alive. ``They could be surviving," Smith said. ``He would get himself noticed from [rescue] planes."

Illustration:color photo: Eduardo Braga (n)

photo: James Maher (n)

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Miscellaneous Reports

The Cornell Alpha Delt, Spring 2000, p. 6.

At 55, JAMES P. MAHER III '66 had his first son, Patrick John Devereaux—"named after John Devereaux, veteran of the 1798 Irish uprising who later formed the Irish Brigade to help Simon Bolivar liberate South America." Congratulate him at 1581 Brickell Ave., Miami, FL 33149 (jpm@morganpriceco.com).

ComPilots Aviation Portal, Posted Saturday, 07 August 2004 @ 13:42:43 EDT by admin
<http://www.compilots.com/news/article590.html>

Pilot and friend vanish

A U.S. registered light plane piloted has been missing for 3 days in Honduras, officials reported Friday. The plane flew from Miami to Cozumel, Mexico, on July 30 and on Monday arrived in La Ceiba, some 210 miles north of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. It was headed from La Ceiba toward Costa Rica on Tuesday when air traffic controllers lost contact with the plane.

"We don't have any reports that the plane has crashed. It probably made a forced landing. But it is being sought by military rescue units," said Col. Rafael Moreno, an armed forces spokesman in Honduras.

He identified the pilot as Eduardo Braga, 40, of Pompano Beach and the passenger as Jean Maler [sic]. Moreno said two military aircraft have been flying over possible routes taken by the plane, but all efforts have failed as the plane's emergency locator device had not been activated.

Cornell Alumni Magazine Online, Mar./Apr. 2004 Volume 106 Number 5 (Class Notes)
<http://cornellalumnimagazine.com/Archive/2004marapr/notes/1960to1969.html>

Also in 2002: Lyudmila and James P. Maher III, BA '69, took an extended cruise to South America. James's new email: JPM@morganpriceco.com.



Appendix D — Biographical Data, Donald Alford Weadon, Jr.

ΔKE Brother Donald Alford Weadon, Jr. '67 (b. 15 September 1945, d. 23 March 2008)



The Weston Forum, May 1, 2008

Donald Weadon, attorney

Donald A. Weadon Jr. died March 23, 2008. He was 63.

Mr. Weadon was born in Brisbane, Australia, and grew up in Weston. He attended Hurlburt School and then graduated from the Loomis School in Windsor.

He received a degree in government in 1968 from Cornell University, where he sang in the Cornell Glee Club, managed the club's year-long world tour, and was the president of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He also served on the Cornell University Trustee Council.

Mr. Weadon received a degree from the University of California Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco in 1975 and a master's degree from the Harvard Business School Adjunct Program at the Iran Centre for Management Studies in Tehran in 1976.

In 1984, he opened a firm, Weadon and Associates, in Washington, although he occasionally joined larger firms interested in expanding their international trade portfolio. He was a consultant to international technology companies and the Commerce and Defense departments.

He opened law offices in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia; Beijing and Hanoi, and was the first attorney granted clearance by the U.S. Treasury Department to practice law in Vietnam. He also set up a foundation to support Vietnamese orphans.

Mr. Weadon was an adjunct professor of foreign trade law at George Mason University and Golden Gate University Law School and lectured at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on international high-tech ventures.

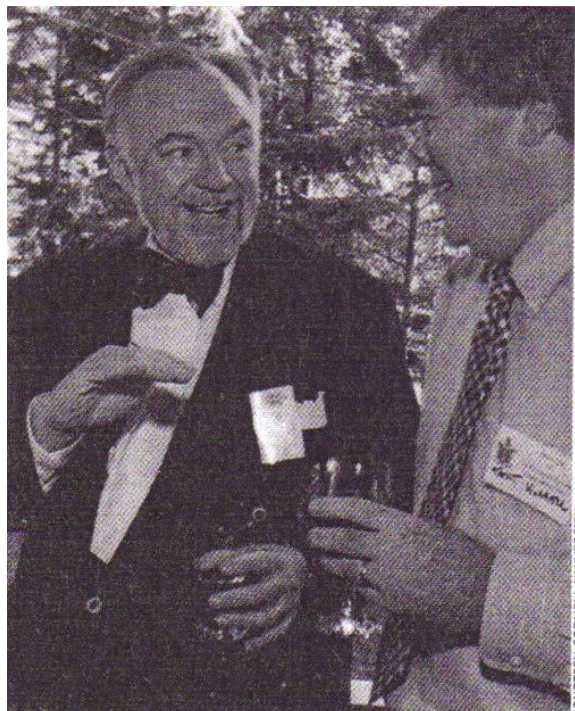
He also contributed articles to scholarly journals, newspapers and blogs, often on issues involving Iran and the Middle East.

Survivors include his wife of 13 years, Suzanne Hayden Cameron Weadon of Washington, D.C., and his sister, Priscilla S. Weadon, a marketing consultant in Westport.

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Donald Alford Weadon, Jr. (1945-2008) —In Memoriam

Don Weadon, who died in the early hours of March 23, following a series of strokes, was born in Brisbane, Australia and grew up in Westport, Connecticut. He earned a B.A. degree from Cornell University, a J.D. degree from the University of California and a master's degree from the Harvard Business School Adjunct Program at the Iran Center of Management Studies in Tehran, Iran. In 1984 he opened a law firm, Weadon Associates, in Washington, DC, and went on to open branches in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Beijing, China and Hanoi, Vietnam. He also formed a foundation to support Vietnamese orphans.



Don Weadon (l) speaks with Dean Kent L. Hubbard at a recent Cornell University reunion.

A great raconteur, Donald Weadon was a man of extraordinary energy and creativity. At Cornell he sang in the Glee Club, managed the club's year-long world tour and was the president of Delta Kappa Epsilon. He also was a member of the Cornell University Trustee Council. He served in the U.S. Navy for four years, completing his duty as flag lieutenant to the admiral commanding the Military Sealift Command, Far East.

He was an adjunct professor of foreign trade law at George Mason University in northern Virginia and at Golden Gate University Law School in San Francisco. He lectured at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on international high-tech ventures, and contributed articles to scholarly journals, newspapers and blogs, often on issues involving Iran and the Middle East.

In 2004 he co-authored an article with William D. Beeman in the *Providence Journal* in which he wrote, "Iran has outmaneuvered the United States diplomatically regarding its nuclear program, and there is little that neoconservatives within and surrounding the Bush administration can do about the situation except gnash its collective teeth." Weadon recommended dealing rationally with Iran on nuclear-containment issues.

Don Weadon is survived by his wife, Suzanne Hayden Cameron Weadon, a stepson, Albert "Allen" F. Cameron IV, and a sister.

—Andrew I. Killgore

Andrew I. Killgore is publisher of the *Washington Report on Middle East Affairs*.

In Memoriam



*George Nesterczuk '66 delivers a eulogy to Don Weadon at the Homecoming reception.
More Homecoming photos are on page two and posted on the DKE website.*

Editor's Note: Below is the eulogy to Brother Weadon delivered by George Nesterczuk '66 at the Homecoming reception in Ithaca in late September.

I thank you for this opportunity to share some thoughts and memories of Brother Donald Alford Weadon Jr. There were many facets to Don's life: his professional work practicing international law, his service to his country, his personal and family life, and his commitment and service to his community and friends.

He excelled at everything he did. A stickler for detail, he executed with verve and panache. His expressive language was strewn with foreign idioms and phrases, in French, Latin, and the occasional German, invariably delivered with humor and grace.

The man had style.

He was a teacher, a soldier, a leader, and a recognized expert in his field. But he was also a family man who was devoted to his wife, Suzie, and their wonderful grandchildren. He was a most excellent friend who spent countless hours working with an extended cohort of colleagues on volunteer work—unpaid, often tedious, but always much appreciated.

I first met Don over 40 years ago, in the spring of 1964, when he pledged DKE as a freshman at Cornell. He was as light-hearted then as he was to the end, with a quick wit and razor sharp intellect. He loved to sing, joined the Glee Club, and then took time off to take them on a world tour. He loved music, became a DJ at the campus radio station, and played classical music late into the night. He developed an early love of wine and pursued that passion while working shifts at the Statler. He joined the ROTC, and upon graduation, was commissioned in the Navy, serving his country during the Vietnam War. As an undergraduate, he served the chapter in various capacities as social chairman, steward, and ultimately, as president. A bon vivant even then, he loved the ladies—but ever the gentleman, he always carried himself with utmost decorum.

We went our separate ways after college. I graduated a year sooner than he and went on to graduate school. Don went into the Navy, then on to law school. He called me about 15 years later, after his arrival in Washington, D.C., when I was serving in the Reagan Administration. We stayed in touch from that point, trading thoughts on the issues of the day and sharing political insights and general good humor.

About 10 years ago, Don took over the helm of the Delta Chi Association. He called looking for help and shared his goal to return the chapter to prominence at Cornell. Thanks to his tireless efforts as chairman of the alumni association, we accomplished a great deal. During his tenure, the membership grew for the first time in years. He led fundraising campaigns to make the major repairs our 110-year-old Lodge so badly needed. He spearheaded a drive to establish the Robert Trent Jones Scholarship fund for the benefit of our actives and watched the endowment grow to over \$600,000. He reopened the lines of communication with our undergraduates and challenged them to take on greater responsibility for self-governance. Working with young adults in transition to independence can be quite a challenge, but it's one Don relished. He provided guidance with a firm but generous hand—generous with both time and good counsel. His legacy will be a whole generation of Cornell Dekes who will remember his towering personality the rest of their lives.

This kind of work is not statecraft, not does it rise to the level of nation building—the stuff that typically consumes the denizens of Washington. But it is the work that Don chose to do because he could make a difference. And he did make a difference. Those of us who are left to pick up the many threads of his work have a much greater appreciation for the burden that he carried on our behalf.

We are diminished by his loss and we truly miss him.

His vision was rooted in the principles set out in the objects of Delta Kappa Epsilon, principles that withstand the test of time:

... the cultivation of general literature and social culture, the advancement and encouragement of intellectual excellence, the promotion of honorable friendship and useful citizenship, the development of a spirit of tolerance and respect for the rights and views of others, the maintenance of gentlemanly dignity, self-respect, and morality in all circumstances, and the union of stout hearts and kindred interests to secure to merit its due reward.

How grandly he lived up to those ideals.

Don strode through life with flair. He expressed himself in bold terms punctuated with exclamation points. There was nothing shy or retiring about him—bright colors, not pastels—and he has left an indelible memory with us all.

Though we mourn his loss, his legacy lives on in this house, in this brotherhood, and in the words of the DKE motto, we will remain "from the heart...friends forever."

Appendix E — Recollection of ΔKE Brother William Alan Morrison ‘70

Excerpt from WAM email of Wednesday, May 05, 2010 12:25 PM, to HWF.

I remember some of Weadon’s posters, which you note, but what I best recall was his radio spots for WVBR, which Weadon worked at irregularly. They were a hoot with the usual cheering crowds and heavy reverb on Maher’s voice as if he was speaking at Madison Square Garden.

Example:

Weadon’s Voice (hushed)

“Student government. . . Can you see it? Can you hear it? Can you smell it?

(sound of crowd)

Maher’s Voice (strident)

“I can smell it!!!”

(crowd cheers)

Weadon

“J. P. Maher. Abolishionist Candidate for Student Body President.”

Appendix F — Recollection of ΑΑΦ Brother John F “Jack” Jolis ‘67

From: Howie Schaffer <hbschaffer@aol.com>

Date: Monday, September 17, 2012 10:20 AM

To: jackjolis@skynet.be, bill.fogle@cox.net

Subject: The 1967 campaign to end Student Government at Cornell

Bill-

I am writing to introduce you to Jack Jolis, who is an Alpha Delt legend and was prexy at the time of some of the Maher escapades. I thought you'd both enjoy connecting. I shared the details you have on the campaign and also Maher's premature demise. Below are recollections from Jack that he can contextualize further.

Enjoy the connection.

Cheers,

Howie Schaffer

hbschaffer@aol.com

Dear Howie,

This note comes as a result of recent chats I've had with Thom Chirurg, who tells me that you've been contacted by both some old DKE brothers as well as a couple of Cornell profs who are apparently writing a history of Cornell, regarding our glorious if doomed revolutionary crusade back in '67 to rid ourselves of the eternal campus pests that then constituted (and no doubt still do) what is laughingly called “student government” at Cornell.

Thom thought that as a primary instigator and participant in this wizard wheeze of a campaign, I might be able to shed a little first-hand light on what actually transpired.

First of all, there were two separate such campaigns -- one in 1967 and a second one the following year in 1968. The fact that they both crucially involved Jim Maher (James Patrick Maher III, ADPhi 19??) makes for some possible confusion, I'm afraid, about who exactly did what, where and when, but insofar as I graduated in the spring of '67 and was already in Vietnam by the time of the second campaign, I can only speak about the first, original one of 1967.

While there appears to be a good bit of evidence that by the time the second campaign came around, in '68, the locus of Maher's support for his end-student-government effort had shifted from ADPhi to Deke, probably due to his ongoing (after 1967) friendship with Don Weadon (and the graduation of many of his original Alpha Delt backers), the indubitable fact remains that originally the entire Abolish Student Government at Cornell idea/campaign was purely an Alpha Delt project, born at and planned and launched from 777 Stewart Avenue.

What happened was this:

One afternoon in the winter of early '67, (at a time when the Cornell campus was completely roiled by and awash in great waves of unseemly and contentious argy-bargy over our then-

strenuous national exertions in Vietnam, Republic of), a couple of ADPhi brothers were, as was their wont, having a bull-session, over a bunch of beers, in one of the brothers' rooms in the Phi.

Specifically, we, (being at the time myself, Sam Glasser, David Ryan and Vicente Aragon), were in whoever's was the second floor apartment which is right above the "flat". Either Dylan's "Blonde on Blonde" or the Stones' "Aftermath" would have been coming from the hi-fi and we were discussing such pressing matters as whether or not we should brave the elements and go grab something at Louie's Lunch Wagon or could we wait for Mrs. Marsh's dinner, and which classes we planned on skipping the next day, with Aragon observing that he hadn't been to a class all month so far, when we were abruptly joined by brother Clay Wrigley, who had just come down from the Hill. He ambled in, helped himself to a beer, and produced a leaflet* from "up there in the Quad" from the seemingly omnipresent Big Brother-like "Ad Hoc Committee (To End The War In Vietnam)" calling for some imminent "Teach-In" or demonstration or other such public nuisance, which he passed around to us and which we greeted with hoots of derision and scorn.

(* Remember, this was ages before computers and cell phones, not to mention i-phones, Facebook, Twitter and all the rest of it, and phone calls still cost a dime in those days -- 70 cents in today's \$ - and mimeographed leaflets were the preferred way of achieving quick, mass "participatory" communication back then -- the only other being, really, "word of mouth".)

I peered at the offending screed and noticed that among the long list of "sponsors" for this upcoming bit of agitprop, amongst the Usual Suspects, was the Cornell Student Government -- represented by the spokesman of the "Student Assembly" or some such bit of bureaucratic pomposity.

So I looked at this and I exploded, (and I'm cleaning up the language a bit, in the dialogue that follows): "What the hell! -- what the hell is this? What do those dweebic jack-offs of the student government have to do with these Viet Congs? Since when is it the job of student government to get involved in this crap? These goddamn people are funded by part of our tuition -- our tuition! -- when the hell did we ever agree to this crap? This is a complete and utter outrage!"

Ryan rather laconically suggested that I write yet another, ah, stern letter to the Sun, but it was Glasser who then first uttered the fateful words, "Who the hell needs goddamn student government in the first place? -- they're just a bunch of ass-kissing self-serving resume-padding house-slaves doing the work of the Administration for them -- the whole thing should be shitcanned -- abolished!"

At that point, I said, "You know, yer right, yer absolutely right -- somebody should run as a candidate for student government on the sole platform of abolishing student government!" The others agreed, and there the matter lay, for a moment.

But then Maher happened to wander into our little group, and, (after also helping himself to one of our beers), he asked, in that guileless innocent way he had, "Hi guys, what's up?"

And we stared at him. And it all just fell into place. Bim!, like that, then and there:

Glasser said "Hey Maher, you useless a-hole, sit down -- we've got just the activity for you for the rest of the semester -- the perfect outlet for your multifarious and devious and most certainly underused talents!"

“Oh yeah? And what’s that?” chirped Maher.

And thus was born J.P. Maher’s legendary and quixotic candidacy to, against all odds, abolish “student government” at Cornell.

Maher took to it like an ecstatic duck to water -- he was veritably born to do this.

In the days that followed he became a whirlwind of enthusiasm and frenetic activity. He enlisted his on-and-off-again “girlfriend” Mavis Bunker (a bright, long-suffering and delightful young lady who happened to be the niece of then-Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker to the Republic of Vietnam) to head the “female branch” of his campaign. Together with Glasser and me, (his original “brains trust”), the three of us plotted campaign tactics, and drafted the texts (Glasser’s specialty) for his many signs and leaflets, as well as his “ announcements” and even speeches (although a prepared speech was a bit of a joke to Maher, who was an absolute master of wild digression and improvisation).

Donations were asked for amongst the brotherhood and beyond, in other fraternity houses and dorms, and some were even proffered. Maher was a surprisingly effective fund-raiser, which was just as well, because all these leaflets had to be paid for.

I had just been elected President of the House and I was cognizant that for all kinds of reasons, not least legal ones, I couldn’t allow its name to get too closely associated with Maher’s candidacy, so we did our best to keep directly-traceable ADPhi sponsorship and support away from his campaign. We, his “ advisers” and “ managers” in ADPhi kept what’ is known in the trade as a Low Profile.

But the fact is, we were that campaign -- in addition to the brothers already mentioned, we had the enthusiastic help and support from such stalwart guys as Peter Kendall (at that time my Vice President), Joe File, Ralph Villegas, Chuck Moos, Rick Burt, Dick Ponte and others -- hell, at one point Steve Irwin even chartered a small private plane and flew it himself over the campus with a banner that said “VOTE MAHER -- END STUDENT GOVT”, and I remember Ryan (who was the House Treasurer), Kendall and myself having to perform some pretty fancy footwork to wiggle our way out of the scowling attention of the Cornell Authorities (in the form intrusive “inquiries” for the University Office of Finances, or some such).

Although we didn’t exactly order them to do so, we also “encouraged” our pledges to volunteer for Maher’s campaign and distribute leaflets and knock on dorm rooms and make phone calls. (Not all of them did, and that was OK -- we even had one brother who was in student government himself, David Brandt, and although he felt a little weird, being in the middle of all this “Maher For {Abolishing} Student Government” hullabaloo, good humor and civility was maintained throughout.)

Although Maher and his backers (us) were deadly serious about ridding ourselves of these arrogant and presumptuous pro-Vietcong drones in Student Government, the whole Maher campaign retained a festive “party” atmosphere about it, (in fact, one of Maher’s slogans was “I believe in the Two Party System -- and I plan to have both of them on the night of my election!”), and throughout the campus it was conducted more like a Mardi Gras carnival than the usual dour, deadly-serious and even more deadly-boring student government campaigns the students had been previously subjected to.

Maher's "campaign rallies, which in truth more resembled sports pep rallies, were largely planned and considerably beefed-up by Alpha Delts -- although we did have significant support from other fraternities, most notably Sigma Phi, Theta Delta Chi, and Chi Phi. (I don't honestly remember any particular DKE involvement at all in that first campaign of Maher's, except for some considerable -- and useful -- air time that he got on the Cornell student radio station WVBR, for which Maher's Deke friend Don Weadon worked).

Anyway, as I say, that whole campaign was one big Lark -- although Maher, despite being the Happy Warrior throughout, worked like a dog to win. For sure, by its end, the campaign to abolish student government had become a Big Deal -- a campus cause célèbre unlike anything Cornell had ever seen before. I remember that near the end of it, even the NY TIMES ran an article, in its B Section, (although sadly not retrievable on the Net) on our campaign -- they were pretty bemused that anyone, least of all anyone at an Ivy League college, would have the effrontery to mount such a challenge to the campus Status Quo -- a challenge that astonishingly and uniquely was not coming from the Left.

In the event, it was a close-run thing. On-campus polls right up to the end of the campaign had the election neck-and-neck, with some even showing Maher ahead. The Cornell Establishment was scared, make no mistake. The counting of the ballots -- if any actually took place, heh -- was conducted secretly (at least secretly from us -- no members of either campaign were allowed to be present at the counting) in the basement of the Straight, late at night, and the result -- a narrow win for the Establishment ticket -- was announced the next day to the general disbelief of many on campus, and certainly to our disbelief. I'm convinced that We Wuz Robbed. But the Administration and the whole Cornell Establishment knew they'd dodged a bullet. And let me tell you, they were mightily relieved.

Anyway, Your Honor, those are to the best of my recollection, the facts as they occurred. As I say, I can't speak at all about the subsequent campaign by Maher the following year, as by then I had more urgent fish to fry in Southeast Asia, and many of my original collaborators among the above-mentioned brothers were also gone. So whatever the Dekes may have to say about that second election is, for all I know, perfectly true. All I know about is that first, '67, campaign.

But I'm happy to continue this conversation with anyone who would care to have it, for any purposes. As I believe the motto of the CIA has it: "You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Faternally yours and xaire,

Jack Jolis

President, Alpha Delta Phi (Cornell Chapter), Spring '67