

Kids Talk Politics - Will They Work?

By TIM RICHARD

In one part of the Schoolcraft College campus, students were wrapping up a full day of anti-war speeches, films and meetings.

In the Waterman Campus Center, however, B. Kenneth McGee, a man who makes a living running and winning political campaigns, raised an eyebrow and doubted.

"Politicians," he said, "are not afraid of moralists, they're not afraid of rallies or marches."



"Of every 100 volunteers, 85 want to do speech - writing, research and travel with the candidate. Only 15 will lick stamps, go door to door..."

—Kenneth McGee

"But they are afraid of 12 people getting together and voting in a bloc."

"The potential of (18-20 year-olds gaining political power) is there. But will they vote?"

research and travel with the candidate. Only 15 will lick stamps, go door to door, get on the telephone...if you're a genius, you have to do ungenius-like things."

The glamor of a campaign appears to be in debating the issues and in the slick television commercials. That, said McGee, is because politicians "are used to thinking of the opposition vote as worth twice your own vote."

Thus, it's as important for the candidate to get his sources of strength to the polls as to convert the opposition, and here is where McGee said he makes best use of students.

SOME of the jobs they do well:

- Statistical studies

Farmer Joins Snyder Corp.

Herman Farmer of 32929 Northgate, Livonia, has been appointed engineering manager of Snyder Corp., Detroit - based firm that designs and builds special machine tools and automated equipment.

Farmer, who studied mechanical engineering at Lawrence Institute of Technology, has more than 20 years of experience in engineering management.

STUDENTS, he said, are much like their parents. They lose enthusiasm for a years of special machine tool campaign when they find out there's a lot of work involved.

"Of every 100 volunteers, 85 want to do speech-writing, Co.

on his annual income for his work.

SOME OF HIS observations:

Liberals are more fun to work with, more imaginative, more interesting people. But conservatives, though "frankly dull as hell, get the work done."

Students have a greater chance to take over local government in a small town—witness a 19-year-old elected mayor in an Ohio town Nov. 2. Expect a 40 per cent failure rate. Of 1,000 volunteers, 400 will do nothing. Replace them quickly. Appoint co-chairmen and co-captains on the theory that one person won't produce.

"Most of us are faced with a survival question only three or four times in a lifetime—when we get married, when we have to stab someone in the back to get a promotion. Politicians are faced with survival every single day. They do what they have to do to survive."

"I'm a pro in politics. It's my job. I do it well. And I do it to win."

• Telephone contacts. Young people are "freer" on the phone than older people, more subtle at changing the pitch.

• Election day bell-ringing to get out the vote in precincts where it's lagging.

• Challenging in precincts where the opposition is strong.

McGee's talk was divorced of any rhetoric for liberal or conservative causes, and he said he can work both sides of the street without qualms, though he doesn't care for the far left or far right. He declined to answer a question



MEASURING Livonia Mall for the displays in February's builders show are John Larsen (left) of the Builders Assn. of Metropolitan Detroit and Oscar Kahan, president of the merchants association. Some 90 exhibitors are expected.

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