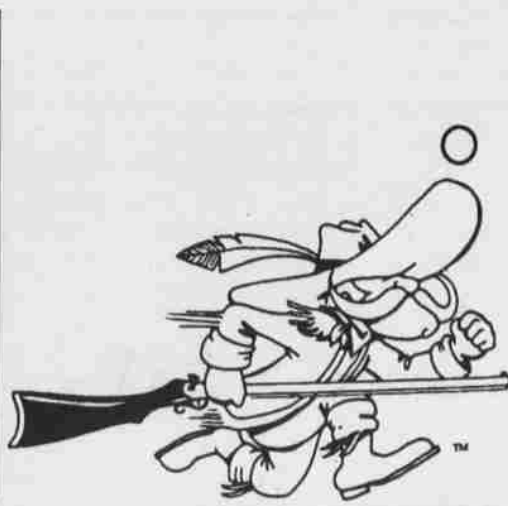


PERSPECTIVE

REBEL
YELL



In Your
Face... With
Jay Sapovits
Returns Thursday in
Perspective

Why have homecoming elections?

BY ROXANNE WARREN
STAFF COLUMNIST

"Have you voted yet?"

This was the eager inquiry of many election hopefuls this past week. They manned the MSU courtyard like a bevy of fresh-faced used-car salespeople.

"Have you voted yet?"

"Yes, I have, thank you!"

Thank you? Thank you for what? Interrupting your train of thought? Interrupting your conversation? For making you that much later for class than you already are? I don't think so.

"Have you voted yet?"

If you haven't, a sheepish half-smile settles uncomfortably on your face as you mutter incoherently in their direction, hoping they won't insist on engaging in persuasive conversation. It is an impressive undertaking—approaching hundreds of students you would normally never say more than two words to and saying five, 10, maybe even 20.

I admire the students seeking seats on the Student Senate—it is an important responsibility, and

student interest is essential. Spare me, however, the superficial requests for my vote. Telling people your name as you obstruct their path is not my idea of campaigning.

Both Student Government and *The Rebel Yell* have made an effort to present a more complete picture of candidates to the student body. More movement in this direction would be optimal. Interested students should have resources available to learn as much as possible about the ideas and views of those who may be controlling student money.

Moving on to the Homecoming King and Queen elections, forgive me if I seem obtuse, but I really do fail to see the point. Exactly what does it mean to be Homecoming King or Queen? I'm all for tradition, but what is the criteria by which we must make our selection? What function is to be performed by the King or Queen once they have been chosen? Let me guess. Is it... an appearance contest? A popularity gauge?

Aren't these artifacts dredged from the depths of our high school days?

Electing Homecoming Kings and Queens is a nationwide practice—as is the Rosebowl Queen,

Queen-for-a-Day, Prom King and Queen... is this some kind of American societal fetish spawned by our fascination with monarchy?

"Carrie" seems to be a fine example of a homecoming queen—not merely a figurehead, but someone who actually wields a little power

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once the crown's on.

Realistically, no matter how you slice it, trying to convince people to affix your name to a title, whether it's Queen, King, Senator, or whatever because you are, essentially you, is... well, it's just plain silly. (Plus it's the same

kind of drivel that politicians drum up when they don't have a legitimate agenda—and who can respect that?)

It's the 90's boys and girls, so get real! If you've got a brain, write down what you're about and hand that out *en masse* instead of your latest "Glamour Shot," but let's not be discriminatory. If all you have to offer is your resemblance to Cindy Crawford or Fabio, perhaps some reproductions of your latest swimsuit pictorial might be in order. At least we'd see exactly what we're getting.

Roxanne Warren is a *Rebel Yell* staff columnist. Her column appears every Tuesday in the *Perspective* section.

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