

# Candidate addresses U.S. ailments

Last week, Harley Davidson and Otis P. Davenport bemoaned their choice of a campaign manager for Celeste Underwood, presidential candidate. In this installment, the seed planted by Addison Steele (the campaign manager's name) will bear fruit. Celeste's first press conference is about to begin.

"Ladies and gentlemen of the press, please be so good as to take your seat," Addison called suavely above the din. The conference, held at the Davidson-

dential candidate, Madame Celeste Underwood. As you know, she has brought a new and lively style to the presidential campaign, as well as a much needed new face.

Flash bulbs popped. Rosetta Stone, of the *Plagiarist*, rose to ask the first question.

"Celeste, my dear," she said in sweetly sarcastic tones, "Is it true that you bring no relevant experience whatsoever to the position which you seek?"

"Madame Stone," Celeste replied, showing a dazzling smile, "you know not whereof you speak. Throughout all my 40 years, the slings and arrows, *ipso die*, of outrageous *fortuna*, *ma cherie*, have brought me to the point whereby I must seek office." Rosetta looked confused, but impressed.

"Miss-er-Mrs. Underwood," stammered another *plagiarist* staffer, "I've heard it said that you consume over a case of beer a day, and are frequently intoxicated at political meetings. What kind of image does this present to the American people?"

"*In vino veritas*," Celeste replied solemnly, reaching for the Budweiser Otis held out to her. "Personally, I believe that a well-educated president has to know all about beer, both foreign and domestic. If, *Dios bendita*, the Japanese were to take over America's beer market, *Cabeza de vaca!* Disaster could result."

A murmur of approval rose from the audience. Addison motioned frantically to Otis and Harley, who were seated in the front row.

"Er — I think we're supposed to ask her some questions, Harley," said Otis, elbowing his roommate. Harley rose.

"Celeste, how are you going to deal with the Soviet Union, now that their leadership has changed?" he asked.

"Why, I'm going to ignore them, of course," Celeste replied. "If no one pays any attention to them, they will disappear, *tres bien*."

## Mary Louise Knapp

Underwood-Davenport residence, was well attended. The *National Intruder's* chief competitors, the *Plagiarist* and *Tabula Rasa*, had sent their sharpest reporters. KZOO, Lincoln's only public radio station, and KRUD, the university television station, were also represented.

Harley, stifling in his rented tuxedo, noted the lack of commercial media with some irritation.

"You'd think Addison could have invited the *Journal* or the *Star*," he muttered to Otis. "See if you can sneak me a beer, all right? Celeste may be able to get through this on only water, but I sure can't."

Otis, who had received similar instruction from Celeste, moved toward the kitchen.

Otis grabbed two beer bottles, and struggled back to the living room. Celeste, dressed in lavender silk and holding a lily, was already in position behind the kitchen table. Addison, in a green velvet jacket, sat beside her, offering puffs from an elegant, but suspicious-looking pipe.

"Friends, journalists, politicians, and well-wishers," Addison said, "We are here to day for the debut press conference of our delightful, refreshing presi-

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By Dan Wondra

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