

CIA man scratches bottom of barrel: FBI

"Mr. Homer T. Pettibone? And you wish to apply for employment compensation? What is your job experience, Mr. Pettibone?"

"I'm a spy."

"Ah, yes. It seems that all we get in here these days are unemployed auto workers and unemployed spies. Two of our hardest hit industries. I take it you were with the CIA?"

"Yes, for more than 20 years."

"And what exotic spots around the world did you serve in, Mr. Pettibone? Madagascar? Lisbon? Casablanca?"

"No, Anaheim, Omaha and Brooklyn."

"I take it you amassed a great deal of individual information for your nation?"

"Oh, yes. Like you can't get a drink anywhere in Disneyland, always pack your galoshes when going to Omaha, and never, never ride the subway after dark."

"I see. And the reason for termination of previous employment?"

"Well, to be frank, they caught me spying on Americans."

"Good heavens, Mr. Pettibone, that's shocking!"

"Yes. Yes, I know. The entire country was shocked to learn that we had compiled dossiers on 10,000 Americans. I always said, 'If you can't nail a Russian, nail an American.' But they had to let all of us go."

"All of you?"

"Well, spying's a one-on-one ballgame, you know. So there were 10,000 of us spies, plus the dossier filers, the secretary who made the coffee and . . ."

"But you have seen the error of your ways?"

"Oh, yes! The very idea of a government spying on its citizens is abhorrent in a democracy. I can see now why it caused such a furor. And I'm ready to come in out of the cold. But what kind of a job am I fit for?"

"We'll determine that, Mr. Pettibone. Now, do you operate any business machines?"

"Just the usual - tape recorder, Minox camera . . ."

arthur hoppe innocent bystander

"Do you speak any foreign languages?"

"You betcha sweet . . ."

"Other than Brooklynese?"

"Well, naturally I'm fluent in gobbledygook and I have a smattering of grammatical English."

"Hmmm. It seems that the only position for which your education and experience qualifies you is spying on Americans."

"I knew it! My wretched betrayal of our cherished democratic heritage by spying on my fellow citizens has doomed me to walk the streets, alone, disgraced and jobless."

"Not at all, Mr. Pettibone. Just take this employment application form over to the FBI."

"The FBI! But with my disgraceful record, why would they . . ."

"You don't understand, Mr. Pettibone. While the nation was shocked to the core at the thought of the CIA doing a bit of spying on Americans, the FBI is revered for doing it all the time."



Homecoming events disturb Brantz's manager



UNL Chancellor James Zumberge and Gary Brantz

The middle of January may seem like an inappropriate time to discuss the subject of Homecoming Queen, but a series of events linked to last fall's election continues to disturb me.

As many may recall, Gary Brantz was elected queen by a substantial margin, then disqualified for alleged campaign irregularities. Chris Evans was named queen at the Homecoming game. Brantz challenged his disqualification in ASUN Student Court, won his case then relinquished the title to Evans.

What are the hidden facts behind this series of events? As Brantz's campaign manager, I will relate them as I understand them.

The 10 Homecoming Queen finalists are chosen each year after interviews before a panel of students and administrators. During interviews, Brantz made the first cut but failed to advance to the final 10.

Not deterred, he decided to run as a write-in candidate for two reasons. First, interest in the election has declined steadily in recent years to the point where less than 2,000 students voted in 1973. Brantz thought a male candidate would heighten interest in Homecoming, and he succeeded in this regard. By mid-afternoon of election day, the Nebraska Union polling place had run out of ballots.

Second, Brantz thought students might want to honor a fan, rather than a pretty girl who might not even attend Husker athletic events.

After Brantz made his decision to run, I checked with Gary Hall, ASUN electoral commissioner, to make sure our campaign plans were legal. He assured me that they were. I posted mimeographed signs in dormitories, fraternities, sororities and classroom buildings, the same as had been done with signs picturing the 10 finalists. I also reserved a booth in the Nebraska Union for election day.

Brantz and I sat in the booth, and people frequently asked where they could go to vote, not only those voting for Brantz but those voting for the other candidates as well. We obliged and showed them. Others asked Brantz how to spell his name, and he obliged in that regard, too.

Then late in the day, Brantz went to the polling place with candidate Nancy Stohs to determine if candidates could vote.

While at the polling place, some friends came up and asked Brantz where they could go to vote for him. He pointed out the table and spelled his name for them. Apparently, this is the incident which led to his disqualification.

One of the poll workers tried to talk students out of voting for Brantz. Not wishing to cause a hassle, Brantz and I decided not to protest.

We then were tremendously shocked when on the morning of the Homecoming game the Lincoln Journal informed us that Brantz had won but was disqualified. We found that Jim Eiberger, Cornco's president, and Carolyn Grice, Tassels president, alone had disqualified him, so we tried to convince Grice before the game to reverse the decision. Our appeals fell on deaf ears.

Because of the unfairness with which Brantz had been treated we appealed to the Student Court. The court ruled that neither the ASUN electoral commission nor the two spirit groups had the authority to disqualify a candidate without allowing that candidate a self defense. It also held that no official election rules were in effect at the time of the election, only guidelines, and that even if rules were in effect, there were not enough evidence to merit a disqualification. The ruling was unanimous in Brantz's favor.

Through all these proceedings and even afterwards, much hostility was directed at Brantz. That is the part that is hard for me to understand.

Most of those who objected to his candidacy did so because they felt it was a threat to "tradition." That feeling probably was reinforced by the now distinct possibility that the Homecoming Queen election will not be held this fall.

"I just don't think that the idea of a queen appeals to the student body as a whole," Ken Bader, UNL vice chancellor for student affairs, has been quoted as saying. If voter turnout in recent years is an indication, he is entirely right. It seems the only ones who vote are those who know the candidates personally.

If that is all the Homecoming Queen election has evolved into, it needs to be done away with. Maintaining tradition for tradition's sake is asinine. And Brantz in no way destroyed "tradition"; He merely brought to light deficiencies that were already there.

Members of Evans' sorority have complained that Brantz's candidacy diverted attention from Evans. How much attention would she have received if Brantz hadn't run? Probably not as much as she actually did.

Voters clearly showed a preference for Brantz, yet supporters of Evans were still angry. Would they have been as infuriated if another girl had beaten Evans? And was Brantz to be blamed for the confusion surrounding this year's election? In both cases, the answer is no.

One last incident takes the cake. As part of its ruling, the Student Court directed that an announcement be made at the Nebraska-Oklahoma game concerning its decision to name Brantz queen. Bader wouldn't allow the announcement because Evans still had time to appeal the decision. Brantz wasn't the "official" winner, he said.

Yet Bader had no reservations about letting it be announced to 76,000 people at the Homecoming game that Brantz had cheated in his campaign and that Evans was queen despite the fact Brantz still had time to appeal his disqualification. Was Evans the "official" winner at that time?

Brantz has been treated unfairly ever since he first filed an application, and I finally felt I should speak up in his behalf. Perhaps this article will clear up some misconceptions and prevent such unfairness in the future.

Dennis Onnen