

Packers' fate fitting finale for conservative team

Coming off a successful hunt in the 1980 election, members of the National Conservative Political Action Committee have mounted their horses again for the continuing charge of the Right Brigade.

Last year, the committee dubbed NIC-PAC by the medias targeted several senators and congressmen for defeat because of their liberal philosophy. The country needed a change, they said and the best way to accomplish their goals was to rid the Senate and Congress of people not in step with Republican proposals.

Last year the group established itself as perhaps the king of the political action committee hill by defeating five of the six senator they had targeted for defeat.

Of the Gang of Six targeted, George McGovern, John Culver, Frank Church, Birch Bayh and Warren Magnuson were all dumped in favor of conservative candidates. Only Alan Cranston of

California survived what many Democrats thought was liberal Armageddon.

This year's targets of political extinction are Sen. Paul Sarbanes of Maryland and congressmen Jim Jones of Oklahoma, Jim Wright of Texas and John Brademas of Indiana.

All are Democrats and all apparently have their own ideas about what is best for the country. Hence, in NIC-PAC logic, they must go.

Jones is the chairman of the House Budget Committee and has been unwilling to follow the Reagan administration's proposals down the yellow brick road to economic bliss. Hence, he must go.

The group plans to spend millions in its attempt to defeat the 1982 version of the Gang of Four.

It's no secret that politics is becoming beholden to special interest groups. These groups offset grass-roots political movements in favor of those who can contribute large sums of money.

McGovern formed a group called Common Sense to help make the groups like NIC-PAC more accountable to responsible campaigning. He has said they distorted his and other candidates records in the campaign.

This time around people will be smarter than to blindly follow the NIC-PAC group. They will realize that the money coming in is from outside interest groups, not from people in the state of the targeted candidates.

Perhaps the faction that the NIC-PAC represents will suffer a political backlash from its 1980 election successes.

The NIC-PACers, like the Green Bay Packers, agree with Vince Lombardi philosophy of "Winning isn't everything. It's the only thing."

It is hoped the NIC-PAC group will suffer the same fate that awaits the Packers this year — a losing season.

Tom Prentiss



Gun purchase topping list of easy things to do today

What a day! First, had to go to supermarket. Hate shopping. The missus had given me a list:

"2 lbs. potatoes." Old potatoes? New potatoes? Sweet potatoes? Frozen french fries? Bagged assortment, Check.

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"1 cube marg." What brand? Who knows? Check. "Doz. eggs." Large? Jumbo? Super? Who cares? Check. "1 head let." Iceberg? Romaine? Butter? Why not? Check. "1 gun."

Guns? Where did they keep guns? Never can find anything in supermarket. Up one aisle, down the next. Ahah! "Aisle 15 — Pet Foods, Cake Mixes, Guns, Sundries."

Pushed my cart down aisle to shelves where guns rested, each in its own little, plastic-wrapped Styrofoam tray. Which gun? .22? .38? .45?

Picked up .22. Label in corner read: "Price per lb. \$24.79 — Price, \$31.65." Now was that a better buy than the .38? ("Price per lb., \$16.42 — Price, \$42.55.") Hate comparison shopping. Hefted .38.

Clerk came up. "Please, sir," he said. "do not squeeze the triggers."

Asked clerk if he had any specials. "Well, there are these Saturday Nights for only \$29.99," he said. "Just got a fresh shipment in from Florida."

Asked him which gun he would recommend. He frowned. "That depends," he said. "What did you plan to use it for?"

"To kill people," I said testily. Such a

dumb question! Is there any other use on earth for a handgun?

The clerk smirked. "Anyone in particular?" he inquired.

"Mind your own business!" I snapped. Really, talk about nosy! If I were buying a leg of lamb would he want to know whom I was having for dinner?

I must say that put him in his place. He retreated quietly. I picked out a nice .38, placed it in the cart and headed for the checkout counter. "A double bag, please," I told the clerk. "And don't put the gun on top of the eggs."

"Sure thing," he said. Went home. Missus sore. I forgot "1 qt. mlk." Always forget "1 qt. mlk." Hate mlk. Put groceries away in kitchen. Put gun away in pocket. Had to go to get driver's license renewed. What a day!

Long line for renewal applications. Long line for written test. Lucky I'd studied the laws. "On approaching an oncoming car at night, you must dim your lights within (a) 800 feet? (b) 500 feet; (c) who cares?" Missed five.

Had to stand in line for eye test. Had to stand in line to have picture taken. Did I want to be fingerprinted? I did not. "Look here, young lady." I said angrily, "you have put me through three hours of rigmarole to make sure I know the laws, can see what I'm aiming at and will be identifiable to the authorities the moment I take a steering wheel in hand. Why?"

"Because, sir," she said snootily, "automobiles can kill people."

Such a dumb answer! Who on earth would want to kill anybody with an automobile?

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Removing coed bathrooms a repressive school policy

Spring has come to the college campuses, and at least one university the students are protesting and rallying against a policy they consider to be unjust, repressive and unfair.

It's not the presence of U.S. advisers in El Salvador that bothers the students at the University of Massachusetts, in Amherst, Mass. It's not the prospect of a new military draft. It's not the Reagan administration's proposed cutbacks in social programs.

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The U. of Mass. students are up in arms because the university wants to make male and female students stop using the same bathrooms.

For about 10 years, the coed dorms at the university have featured bathrooms for use by members of both sexes. Men and women wishing to use the toilet facilities or to take showers had curtains for privacy. Now, though, the university administration — under increasing pressure from parents who disapprove of the coed bathroom policy — has announced that the bathrooms will be converted to single-sex status. If the university gets its way, men will use one bathroom, women another.

The policy change has caused an outrage on the campus. Students are protesting the idea of using separate bathrooms. In a campus-wide referendum, 94 percent of the voters said they wanted men and women to share toilet facilities.

The students wanting to keep coed bathrooms issued a "Coed Coalition Manifesto," which began:

"Coed living, including shared toilet facilities, is a valuable part of the educational experience here at the U. of Mass., for it helps all of the participants to learn to relate to each other as individuals, and helps to break down fear and sexism rampant in today's society. Further, and even more important, the coed tradition here at the U. of Mass. helps to foster a feeling of 'family'; of being part of the floor, which is an invaluable asset to the students, whether freshman or senior, in coping with the strains of life here at the U. of Mass."

The university has remained unimpressed by the students' protests. An administrator announced that the new single-sex bathroom policy is "non-negotiable."

But the battle continues. The student newspaper, the *Daily Collegiate*, has editorialized that the idea of bathrooms being confined to use by one sex is "ludicrous and untenable." The Coed Coalition has gathered more than 3,300 signatures on petitions demanding a continuation of

coed bathrooms.

And students interviewed by the press have reacted with shock and indignation that anyone should want men and women to use separate bathrooms.

"I'm all in favor of coed bathrooms," said Lance Wallace, a freshman. "People here are mature college students. I don't see any reason to change."

Karen Brooks, 18 said: "I think it (the proposed change) is dumb. So far everything has been fine. I don't mind being next to guys. They don't peek."

The residents of one coed dorm wrote the college paper to say:

"Those who waste their thoughts on the 'evils' of coed bathrooms are escaping from reality . . . At some time in our lives, most of us will be living with members of the opposite sex . . . We pay to live in these dorms. Why should we be inconvenienced due to someone's overly prudish parents?"

Bob Luz, a resident assistant in a coed dorm, raised the issue of possible danger facing women students who have to go to another floor to use a women-only bathroom.

"In today's society," Luz said, "when violence against women is such a major problem, the administration is asking me to force the women on my floor to climb these unlit, dangerous stairways, sometimes clad only in bathrobes, to use a public facility."

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