

'Puppies' get their just desserts

As the breathtaking episode of last week reached its dramatic conclusion, Celeste's young followers were swamping her table. Called "Puppies", or "Poor Unprofessional People," these youthful voters represent a powerful, but hitherto ignored, political base.

As the Puppies, more animated with every pitcher of beer they consumed, became more exuberant, the guests of honor became less so.

"Ronald, I think we had better leave soon," Nancy murmured, touching a perfumed handkerchief to her forehead. "I fear I may be ill."

Mary Louise Knapp

"Now, now, my dear, we can't leave before dessert," her husband said. "Why don't you run to the powder room for a little while?" Edwin Meese, another guest, called for more soup.

"I sure am glad this stuff is free, because I'm going to eat a lot of it," he said.

The dessert, a flaming concoction of brandied cherries, ice cream and meringue, appeared. The Puppies, diverted from their contemplation of Addison's velvet jacket, began to cut large slices of it.

"Forsooth, 'tis a most excellent ending to a fine meal," quoth a Puppette (female Puppie) named Bernina Kenmore Singer.

Bernina, whose parents owned several large sewing machine companies, had spent the past 20 years in college. She led a hand-to-mouth existence as a cocktail waitress and the beneficiary of government loans. She was chronically short of money.

With these qualifications, it was only natural that she should have risen to the top of the Puppie organization. Acting in that capacity, Bernina wobbled to her feet and raised her glass.

"I propose a toast," she shouted. "To our beloved Celeste — may she defeat the old man now in office, the Baptist guy, Carter's old crony, and the cute guy!"

"Amen," the others replied. Celeste smiled modestly.

"Did you ever hear such shocking ignorance?" Nancy whispered to her husband.

"It comes from not praying in school, dear," Reagan replied. "I've told them time and time again."

"Welfare cheaters, all of them," said Meese, digging deep into the dessert bowl.

"And to her running mate, Antoinette — may her reputation shine as brightly as the diamond bracelet she wears!"

A second chorus of amens followed. "Stolen goods," Meese muttered.

"And in conclusion," Bernina said, "I herewith present our candidates with a complimentary keg of beer, to be drunk or sold at their convenience!"


Reagan choked on his steak. Nancy slid under the table. Meese called for another bowl of soup.

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