

SGA analyzed as to "Who won on election day?"

By PETE von REICHBAUER

The stakes have been pulled up, the posters have been pulled down, the campaign literature has been put into the waste baskets, we have punched our IBM voting cards and Joe Espy is our new SGA president.

Just what did we do on election day? By giving Espy a landslide win, did we indirectly endorse the Machine? Was Espy's victory a win for strict conservatism? Who won on election day?

On election day, April 8th, a minority of the student body went out and voted. Approximately 3,700 students out of nearly 12,000 students. One of the things must be examined is the reason why so few students voted.

If they had eyes or ears, they couldn't help but know that an election was going on. They had a number of voting places to go to. And the weather was not that bad.

I think that it can be concluded fairly that a great number of Capstone students don't give a hoot about who runs their SGA. One of Espy's immediate tasks will be try to breach the communication gap that separates the SGA and the student body.

Did we endorse the Machine by giving Espy such a large

win? Were the victories of Espy and the other identified Machine members a sign that the Machine, with all its alleged power and money, is unbeatable?

Joe Espy's win was not a victory for the Machine, but a win for Joe Espy. He and the assorted other victorious identified Machine members might have been helped by their membership, but the real acid test came on election day.

The election showed that the individual is all important. And people — even many of those members of the Machine — will vote on the individual, not on his membership in an organization.

In the bastion of the Machine, the school of Commerce, the draw of the personality is most evidently seen. There, Adrian Grant, candidate for Commerce school president, defeated a Deke, an identified Machine member.

Johnny Galloway, also a non-machine member, handily won his election to the senate, and came within four votes of being the top vote getter in the Commerce senate race.

No matter how much money, or how much power, in the end the individual is the most important. Each

member of a political group knows that it is incumbent upon them to produce the best possible candidate, or else they will lose.

In the selection of Joe Espy, the Group chose an individual whose personality and politics are well in tune with the majority of Capstone students.

Was Espy's victory a win for strict conservatism? Anyone who has had a conversation with Joe Espy knows that he is a conservative in his politics. But he is a conservative in the contemporary sense. He does not oppose change; he opposes unnecessary change.

He will not become a puppet of the administration as some have claimed. When he talks to Dr. Rose, he will do just that, talk to him; he will not attempt to dictate to Dr. Rose. And, it is doubtful that he will permit the administration to dictate to the SGA.

Who won on election day? The student body did. No, we did not get the greatest possible candidates elected to office, but we did get a great number of new, dedicated young students elected to office, who show all the signs of breaching the communication gap that separates the present SGA and the student body.