

# UI Two-Party System is Badly Needed

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Editor

Formation of the new "Illini Party" by a group of campus moderates and conservatives gives the University a much-needed two party political system.

SCOPE's notable defeat in the recent Senate election was not so much a rejection of its liberal platform as proof that most of the student body apparently didn't have the slightest idea what SCOPE is.

**Another party — with different opinions, a fresh platform, and conservative policies — will provide SCOPE with badly-needed opposition, and in the end will probably contribute to the overall goals of student government.**

It's a shopworn maxim that it takes two to make a fight. But it also takes two to have an argument or a disagreement. Where students have an instinctive distrust of a one-party, "railroad" type political system, they might take an active interest in a bilateral setup that provides for both sides to be publicized.

The "Illini Party" is still apparently divided within itself between down-the-line conservative factions and moderates who favor more liberal policies. One area of disagreement already has been picketing, with the conservatives favoring flat rejection of it, the moderates pointing out that it is a time-honored tool of student dissent.

**The Illini Party will probably not be helped at first identification with well-known campus conservatives such as Ron Link, Dick Kinney and Jim Shonkwiler. SCOPE and liberal publicity has been directed against these three Senate Conservatives for so long**

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## 'Illini Party'

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**that it is possible many students consider them reactionary.**

As Link pointed out at the organization meeting last Sunday night, many students have probably been talked into believing they are liberals by the highly vocal liberal majority in Senate.

Therefore, identification with Senate's "Big Three" right-wingers may be a handicap at first. Yet these three, and Illini Party president Jim Hefele, will provide the leadership and experience needed to get a political party off the ground.

**And perhaps the forum which the Illini Party will provide will allow the so-called reactionaries an opportunity to fight back and make known their side of the issue.**

In specific platform content, the two parties may not be too far apart. The SCOPE platform, as announced for the last election, was middle-of-the-road in many areas, and took almost no strong liberal stands on political issues.