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Election day sacred day in academia

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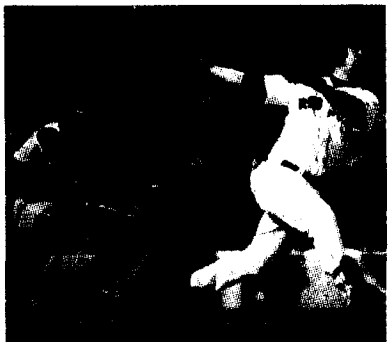
On Oct. 14, 2004 the Student Government Senate unanimously passed a resolution entitled "The Election Day Resolution." "There was a loud yes vote from the entire senate," said Rodney Horton, SGA president. The resolution urges the faculty to avoid scheduling exams and major assignments due during the week of the presidential election.

SGA decided to introduce the resolution to give students a chance to vote in the elections even if they have to go back to their hometowns to participate. "We aim high in hopes that the faculty will at least give us the day of elections even if they can't do the whole week," said Horton.

SGA developed their resolution from a similar resolution passed in the SGA at Penn State Erie, the Behrend College. "We wanted to reach out to those who see Nov. 2 as a regular day because it is not just a regular day," said Horton. "It is an empowering day."

Dean Madlyn Hanes and Assistant Provost Dr. Bill Mahar are supporting the resolution and are joining SGA in their call for the resolution to be observed.

"I've never missed a vote," said Horton. "I want to give students the same opportunity to vote in this election."



What's on 7
Baseball playoffs; October brings in the regulars. PSH Intramurals offers escape from school stress.



What's on 9
The Capital Times visits North Street Zephyr Express in Harrisburg. Review inside.

Presidential debates to be debated

By Nat Melincove
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The umbrella topic of foreign policy and homeland security welcomed the first presidential debate between President Bush and Senator John Kerry with much ballyhoo and more bang to follow.

The exchanges were pointed and the attacks relentless in Coral Gables. Kerry was highly critical of the president's handling of the "war on terror" while Bush maintained his stance that the American people need a president that will be firm in the face of terror.

"I don't see how you can lead this country to success in the war in Iraq if you say 'wrong war, wrong place, wrong time,'" Bush said. "The way to win this is to be steadfast and resolved."

Bush went further by explaining Kerry's indecisiveness on the war. He said the senator voted for the invasion of Iraq and voted against the \$87 billion earmarked for war and reconstruction in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Kerry came back with perhaps his best line of the night. "I made a mistake in how I talk about the war," he said. "But the president made a mistake in invading Iraq. Which is worse?"

The 90-minute debate was the first of four between the campaigns. Bush and Kerry argued in two others, while Vice President Dick Cheney faced Kerry's running mate Senator John Edwards in their own debate.

The University of Miami played initial host to the candidates and veteran moderator Jim Lehrer of NewsHour on PBS. Lehrer chose the topics and underlying subjects to amass his own questions, not shown to anyone prior to the debate. Many wondered if Lehrer, going into his 10th presidential debate, would ask more pointed questions than he has in

the past.

The topics of the night were the war in Iraq, terrorism, foreign policy and homeland security. These were all areas where Bush was considered to have an advantage according to pollsters.

The evening's greatest exchange dealt with Bush's criti-

our troops. Mixed messages send the wrong signals to our allies. Mixed messages send the wrong signals to the Iraqi citizens. And that's my biggest concern about my opponent," Bush said. "There must be certainty from the U.S. president."

Kerry had a quick response for the ideological incumbent. "You

country doesn't agree with the decisions I've made, and I made some tough decisions. But people know where I stand. People out there listening know what I believe, and that's how best it is to keep the peace."

Kerry instantly cited two major concerns with the administration's handling of the war: the

Bora," the senator said. "With the American military forces nearby and in the field, we didn't use the best-trained troops in the world to go kill the world's No. 1 criminal and terrorist."

Kerry said Bush "outsourced the job to Afghan warlords, who only a week earlier had been on the other side fighting against us."

Kerry was insistent in reiterating that the president had misled the country into war. Kerry was not as clear in his plans for Iraq, a problem most undecided voters cited. He only offered that his approach to Iraq would offer the country a "fresh start and new credibility."

Bush said his opponent did not understand the global war on terror. The president's message in avoiding another 9/11 was determined, confident and resolute.

A Gallup/CNN/USA Today poll of voters who had just witnessed the debate found that 53 percent thought Kerry did a better job, opposed to 37 percent for Bush. The survey consisted of 615 registered voters and the margin of error was plus or minus 4 percentage points.

The senator was not long-winded in his remarks and replies, dropping a long-held undesirable label of his debate style. With his control of the room, many debate critics believe Kerry prevented Bush from putting the election away.

The president has a history of solid debate performances, indicative of his strong debate team. The simpler style of Bush is said to be more appealing to voters. His short, quick answers make his message come across with more clarity.

A major criticism of the president's performance was his facial expressions and the angry, frustrated tone in his replies. As Kerry spoke, the president was caught puckering his lips and gri-

Please see VOTE on 5



Photo courtesy of Yahoo images

Presidential candidates John Kerry and George Bush shake hands after a heated debate. This year's presidential debates have been the cause of much debate over who dominates the popular vote. Although there is contradiction about who is winning, America will vote on Nov. 2, 2004.

cism of Kerry being an unfit commander-in-chief because of his wavering stance on the war on terror.

"You cannot lead if you send mixed messages. Mixed messages send the wrong signals to

can be certain and be wrong. And certainly sometimes can get you in trouble," he said.

In his introduction the president said, "I've shown the American people I know how to lead. I understand everybody in this

inability to capture al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden due to their focus on Iraq and the loss of alliances crucial to keeping the peace around the world.

"We had Osama bin Laden cornered in the mountains of Tora

Rendell speaks out about upcoming election events

By John Fox
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With the presidential election around the corner, politicians at all levels of government are busier than usual. Some of those duties include doing appearances in support of their party's candidate or fielding additional interview requests from college journalists. One such busy public official is Pennsylvania governor Edward G. Rendell. Rendell spoke with one such college journalist in his office at the Pa. capitol building about his accomplishments, musical interests, and relationships with the people of Dauphin County.

Elections loom ominously in the hearts and minds of all Americans so it seemed natural to ask if Rendell planned to run for a second term in 2006.

"As of right now I do," said Rendell. "I am pleased that in the first 20 months I've accomplished all five of my major campaign promises and would like to

be around to see these programs implemented. The education program for early childhood just started and I would like to see it run successfully. The 2.3 billion dollar economic stimulus program has all been passed into law but the implementation will take 3 or 4 years. I want to be around for that. The gaming and property tax reduction hasn't been implemented yet. I would like to be around to implement that."

Rendell's enthusiasm to see his programs through completion suggests that he will more than likely run for a second term, though he said he will weigh in health and family considerations when formally announcing his decision in January of 2006.

The middle class has become a battle ground during this presidential campaign, especially since the middle class traditionally votes Republican. Democrat John Kerry is aggressively going after that vote by promising huge tax relief to this financially burdened demographic while Rendell discussed the

Republican strategy.

"In terms of the middle class, I think the Republicans have done a very good job in various campaigns," said Rendell, "even going back to 1994 when Newt Gingrich and the Republicans took back control of the congress. They've done a very good job propagandizing. For example, they use the term *étax* and spend fiscally irresponsible Democrats. Well, that's just not in accord with the facts. Clinton eliminated the deficit. It was zeroed out," he said.

Rendell said that with a Republican president and Republicans controlling both houses of congress, the country has the largest deficit in the country's history.

He said, "So, who are the fiscally responsible ones, Democrats or Republicans? Clearly, the Democrats. Yet, if you polled the middle class on who could best manage their money, Democrats or Republicans, they'd say Republicans because the Republicans have done a very

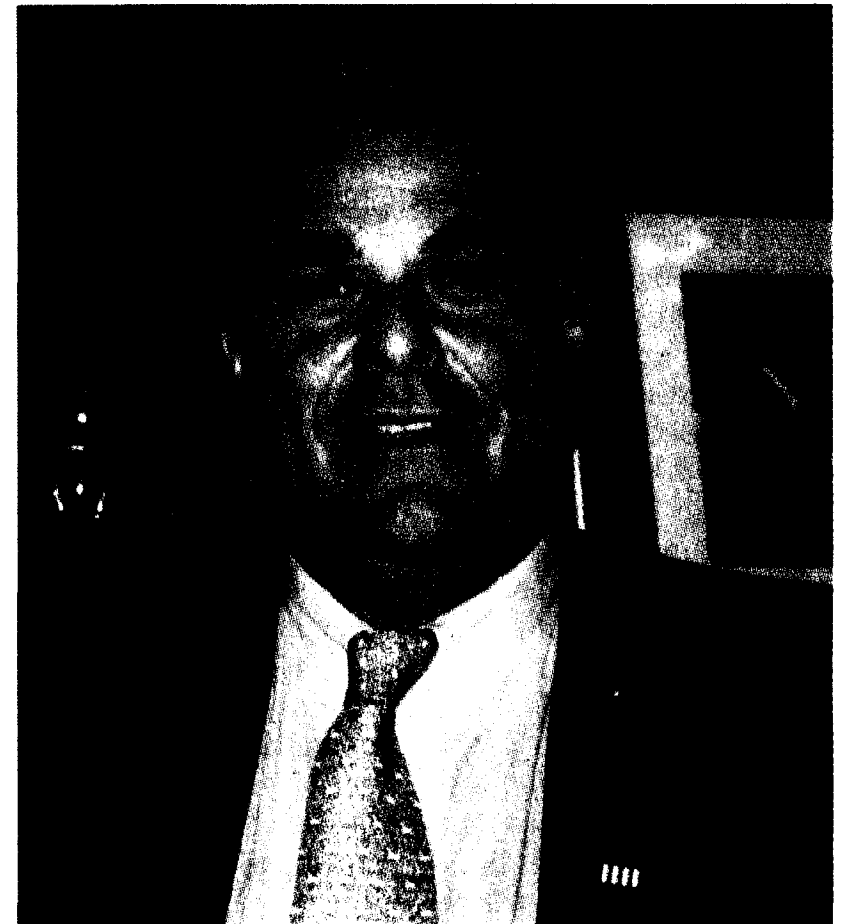


Photo by Jennifer Kauffman

Pennsylvania Governor Edward G. Rendell

good propaganda job."

Rendell said that the typical middle class voter would also side with the Republicans with respect to national defense. To expose this belief as fallacy, he

Please see GOV. on 2

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