

OPINION and REVIEW

Editorial:

Is Delco Just A Holding Tank?

by Jennifer Darr

The 1990-91 school year is over and we now have newly elected SGA representatives for next year. Do you know who they are? I don't think many of you do. Furthermore, do you care?

There has been a big problem on this campus for quite some time. Many people have been trying to figure out why it exists and how to resolve it. Despite the efforts of others, this problem continues to fester.

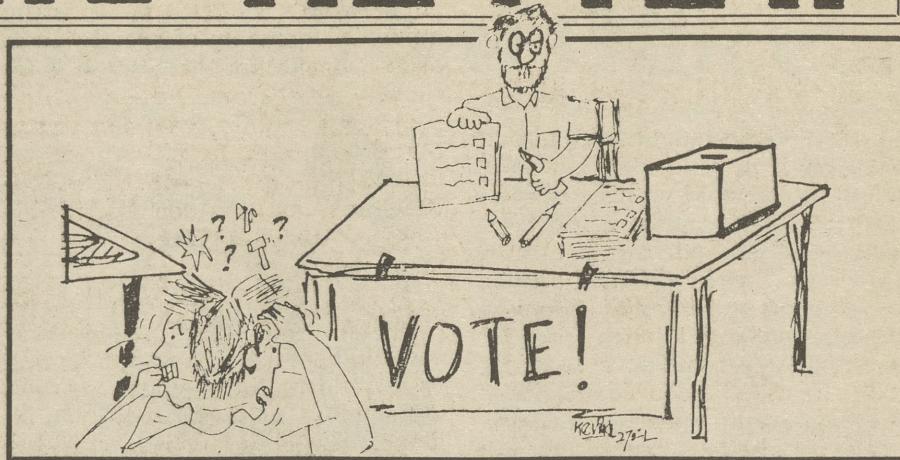
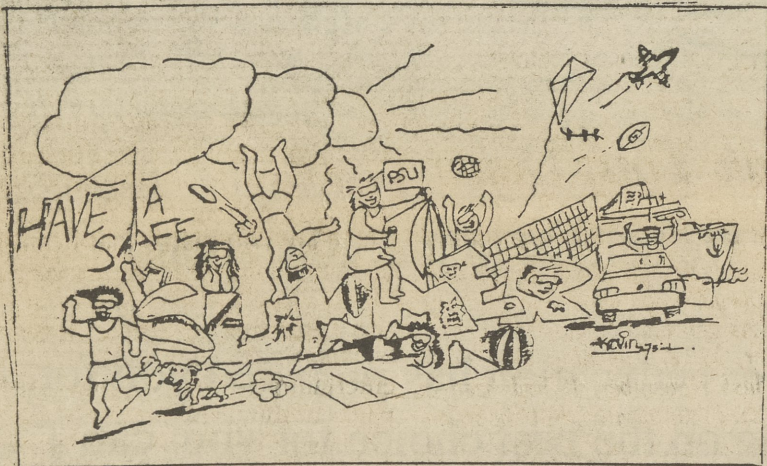
The problem that I am talking about is apathy. Apathy is insensibility, indifference, lack of concern, basically just not giving a damn about the world around you.

The Student Government Association is a vital organization that was established for the benefit of all students. If I were to go around this campus and ask students at random to name the current SGA officers or next year's newly elected officers, I don't think I would get too many correct answers.

Out of 1500 or more students at this campus, only 185 voted. Since most of the students on this campus pay their own tuition, it amazes me that they don't show concern in areas that could directly affect them. The student government has a lot of say in what goes on around here. I know that when it comes to my education, I like to know what is going on and who is speaking in my behalf.

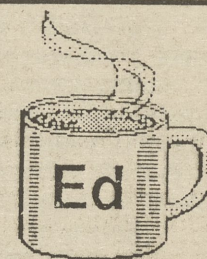
Penn State Delco has become like a holding tank for students who are waiting to go to University Park. Most of the students on this campus go to their classes and, when they're done, they either go to the mall or go home. There are plenty of exciting things to do on this campus, but no one seems to want to get involved.

What is so bad about getting involved? Did you know that involvement can also help you out in other areas? It establishes friendships, and even better, connections at Penn State. It can also give you experience in certain areas and it looks impressive on your resume. If you are going to be here for two years, why not make the best of it?



THE FRONT DESK

by Ed Tomezsko
Campus Executive Officer



We have done a lot of celebrating in the last few weeks here on campus, for good reason too. But celebrating our successes signals another one of those transitions, saying good bye to friends who are students heading off to University Park and other places and to colleagues who are moving on to other institutions.

Dr. Joan Mandel will become the Director of Women's Studies at Colgate University. She had been an associate professor of sociology and had been on leave this past year. If you studied with her or simply knew Joan, you know what a great person Colgate has received from us. We wish her well. The Honors Convocation was an experience of warmth and excellence. Try as we may to make the ceremony classy and sharp, we still end up making last minute changes (which correct my forgetting to remember). In the end we all had a good time celebrating excellence.

The award winners had the experience of standing up and listening patiently to Dr. Betts tell the audience what caring people and good students they are. Walking across any stage alone is difficult. I shook a lot of sweaty hands. But the warmth emanating from the students and the audience was electric.

Dick Barrett is the campus' 1991 Outstanding Teacher. It's hard to be humble about the good teachers we have here. He carries on a long tradition of teaching excellence and caring about the students. Ironically, he had a class the night of the Honors Convocation, so we told him about the award earlier in the day. Dick's hands were sweaty too.

The Student Awards banquet recognized student leadership and the contributions of the very many students who make this campus exciting. When you lead effectively, someone is happy at you and someone else is mad at you simultaneously. So, all you leaders, if you have everyone happy, watch out; either your organization is ignoring you or you have no organization. Chuck McCarthy did a great job of leading the Student Government Association. He and his staff continued another tradition of excellence. I am very pleased with the work of the SGA and as Chuck knows, leadership was only sometimes easy. Now it will be Chris Cowan's and his staff's turn to lead. The tradition continues.

The Athletic Banquet was great. We celebrated playing for the fun and the glory of the game. Being with these athletes is always a joy for me because I have some feeling for the sacrifices they make to participate. Their coaches are dedicated teachers as well. These coaches are an integral part of the campus' educational environment. These people teach discipline and performance standards and they care. Who cares about people more than the Athletic Director Tiz Griffith?

Penn State President Joab Thomas visited the campus and met with faculty, staff, and students. Dr. Thomas brings to us a very special feeling of what Penn State is and what it can become. His interest in undergraduate education and quality teaching makes the campus proud of its past and confident in its future. The evening of his visit, he joined me in accepting a \$250,000 leadership gift from Ed Renouard, President of Boeing Helicopters, to support our composite structures manufacturing program and to stimulate our desire to have a building dedicated to the application of new and advanced technology.

The *Lion's Eye* is to be celebrated uniquely. Jennifer Darr and the staff are special people. They stood up for the first amendment and resisted censorship. If they did nothing else in the entire year, I will remember that one item forever. But they did plenty else. They reported news and provided opinion. Ed Berman, a good friend as well as publisher of a county newspaper, called *The Lions Eye* a good newspaper. From Ed, that means something special. We are particularly proud of Jennifer and the entire staff.

If you were to ask Dick Barrett, Chuck McCarthy, Jennifer Darr, all of the scholarship winners, the Dean's List students, the student-athletes, Joan Mandel, all of the people who contributed to the quality of life on this campus and are not mentioned by name today what they did that was so special, they would probably say that they did what they were supposed to do.

Dr. Clement in her speech at the Honors Convocation told us to doubt what we hear and challenge ideas in order to learn the truth. Great people like these are separated from the ordinary people because excellence is already a way of life for them, knowledge based in truth matters, and they each recognize there is still something more to be learned. None of them will ever say to us, "I have committed my life to excellence." They just do what they are supposed to do - excellently.

Here's the point. Great people have an illusion. They think that they are ordinary people who are just lucky or who just work hard. They rarely believe that they have done anything of significance. I do not want to break this illusion because the rest of us need the role models. Enjoy the Summer.

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