

Eye On Columnists

Verbal Fisticuffs Round II: Voting

Pro: Dan Delaney

As I've noted in my previous forays into partisan debate, the only way to change a government is to use the tools it allocates to its citizens. Any student of the United States' 229-year-old administration cannot refute the molecular level of voting.

It is the equivalent to a red blood cell in the American collective body.

In actively choosing not to vote, a person is forfeiting their role as a citizen. Realistically, non-voters are giving up a privilege that millions of humans could only dream of having. Claims that voting in elections is ineffective and trivial help perpetuate that mantra.

By spreading this theory, the potential voting body becomes ineffective.

Only by utilizing the opportunity presented by their governing body and motivating others in their constituency to do the same will they be able to put their beliefs into play.

Of course my opponent will claim that this is all common knowledge and that I'm ignoring enormous faults embedded deep within our electoral system. I will be the first to admit that our system of putting representatives in office can be severely

crippled by the antiquated postulates installed by our nation's founders. These errors are inherent in any government. No constitution can remain current and fair permanently, and in order for it to remain in effect it must be fixed or "amended."

In order for the system that the apathetic so eagerly protest to be changed, they have to play by the rules that they are expected to abide. In saying that voting will do nothing, they are deleting their opinion from the national opinion.

I will reiterate; there are problems with our voting system. I beg you to change them! Please!

There are two paths to follow in changing the electoral process: voting, or actively reprising against the United States (which many times takes the form of violence).

Apathy aids nothing but the conditions that citizens claim so unfairly repress them.



Image from google.com

Con: Amar Ganti

Changing regimes, overthrowing tyrants, or exchanging one oppressor for another? These are all possible reasons to cast your ballot for the upcoming SGA election here on your beloved Penn State Delaware County campus.

Except for one thing. Voting on a campus of this size and with a University wrapped in miles of red tape, your vote hardly counts. Despite the promises made by both parties, and most likely you've only heard of one, these groups cannot instill the changes that they promise they can.

These elections, these groups are a mere façade of the belief that students can help bring the students needs to fit University policy.

To make any changes that these groups promise, would be to unite (take control) all the clubs on campus and force them to change their annual activities. Essentially do what Hitler did with Europe except the

genocide would be the uniqueness and freedom of the clubs on campus.

The parties only differ by stating they'll simply do a better job than the other. With these drastic dissimilarities it does not matter who come out the victor, the same outcome will happen.

In a campaign where it's the previous reign versus the IST club, excuse me, "The Lion's Party," the true way to see whom will better lead this campus to unfulfilled promises will be seen at the debates held on Monday, April 10. I have no reason to believe that this year's debate will be any different from last year's where the answer to each question was "We need more student involvement" and the rebuttal "We need more student involvement but we'll do a better job" only fueled the need not to vote.

If the hardly seen Blue and White Party actually wins, next year will be exactly the same as this year. If the over-advertised Lion's Party wins the results will be similar.

It would be better to combine both parties to create the Blue and White-Lion Party and take away the titles of winner and loser. In the end, no matter who you vote for, we all lose.

The True Ethics of Morality

Lion's Eye Featured Columnist:
Amar Ganti

Everyone is moral and ethical. At least that's what information you would come across if you asked everyone whether or not they acted morally... and took it at face value.

Of course this subject is awfully subjective. The gray areas seem to spread over the playing field, lightening the black and darkening the white ever more so, now, than ever.

In a decade which could be easily labeled "The Decade of Corruption and Scandals," and its motto "...Sometimes you have to get your hands dirty, make compromises," morality and legality have never been so close.

Eron finally has gone to trial, with the most outrageous defense, bribery has now become a common negotiating tool, lobbying gets filtered while earmarks get through. Senators are asking the National Ethics Board to investigate them and Philadelphia wants many of its politicians to take ethics courses, while businesses have had ethics meetings, classes, and training over numerous years now.

The fact is that no matter how much education we receive on what is right and wrong, it will not help the situation. These people know what is upright and what is dishonest. They just opt to do the immoral.

So, if people know right from wrong, why do they do wrong? The financial rewards outweighed the fears of prison sentences and futures in careers. Marion Shapiro Barion, Jr. is one person who seemed to not incur any long-term repercussions for his drug use and affairs with prostitutes as mayor of Washington D.C. He got re-elected to a fourth term. I guess he can serve as an idol to future criminals in the public eye. And to make things better. Barion just plead guilty for tax fraud and drug use.

So how did the powerful in America become so easily

corruptible? There is no real answer to that question, at least not an easy one.

It is hard because doing the right thing hardly benefits you, sees no immediate resolution, and often causes more stress than if it was merely let go.

Cheating on tests, stealing doughnuts, or even committing a hit and run all have right and wrong options, clearly on different scales though. Cheating does not harm anyone; stealing the doughnut causes a financial loss of \$0.65 on a business and the hit and run claims a life. Not cheating would take hours on your part to study for the exam, paying for the doughnut would take money out of your pocket, and admitting to the hit and run can cost you your freedom.

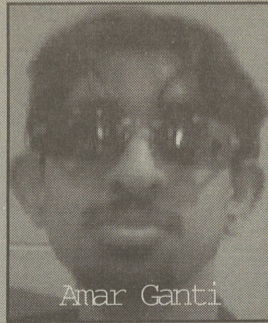
Things can be rationalized. It's only one test, its only \$0.65 and this person's life is already gone, why should mine be taken away?

But rationalization doesn't work. Clearly you should turn yourself in, repay the \$0.65 and take your failing grade.

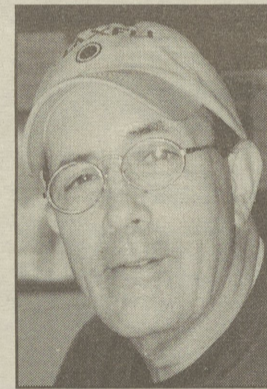
How can we make the doing the right easier? The truth is that for simple things it's nearly impossible. It's a principle that you have to be slowly instilled with. But we can stop the corruption and scandal eruption on the large scale.

Stricter laws would help deter these actions, however, payoffs would then just become bigger. The only way to stop corruption at its core is by encouraging employees and political assistants to come forth when they realize illegal activities are happening, instead of labeling them a snitch and stopping them from receiving future employment.

I'm not completely advocating or condoning the act of being a snitch or a so-called tattle-tale, but there are certain levels where you need to acknowledge the difference between exposing a scandal that will hurt a lot of people and telling a stranger that someone was talking about them.



Amar Ganti



Staff Profile: Tony Iacono

By Gerry Dungan

Tony Iacono started as a self-described janitorial worker, but after seven years of service to the campus, students feel like they know him better than that.

"I feel good cause I know them on a first name basis," he beamed.

Iacono is tall and a Burt Reynolds kind of handsome, without the sour attitude or mustache.

When asked why he and the students get along so well he said that "they keep me young."

Tony loves NASCAR, "I like cars crashin' and the smell of burning metal," but he has a bigger passion: Penn State Delaware County.

"This is a close knit community, I made a lot of positive friends," with many of those friends coming to him for a quick "sup ton" or even advice.

"If they asked me things, I hope I made a little difference."

Easy going and a kidder, Iacono would, at the very least make a lasting impression. But that doesn't mean the "whistling while you work" doesn't have a serious side to him.

"I'm the kinda person who don't want credit," he said with his Mona Lisa smirk sliding away, "I just want to help them out."

Suddenly he looks into the distance like that guy from Seinfeld whenever that Eagles song came on.

"I would just hope that whoever I help," a single tear freed itself from an experienced and grateful eye, "that person helps another when they get my age."