

# Letters to the Editor

The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and campus and off-campus affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double spaced, signed by no more than two persons and no longer than 30 lines. Students' letters should include the name, term and major of the writer.

Letters should be brought to the Collegian office, 126 Carnegie, in person so proper identification of the writer can be made, although names will be withheld on request. If letters are received by mail, the Collegian will contact the signer for verification before publication. Letters cannot be returned.

## Stop off-shore drilling

**TO THE EDITOR:** Viva Committee Against Off-Shore Drilling (COSD)! As a resident of Pennsylvania and a student at the University, I heartily endorse any effort against this tyrannical form of "progress" that offshore drilling represents. Not only do I not want to pay out-of-state tuition, I don't want to experience any more occurrences like I had this past summer.

My dad and I were sailing off the Maryland coast in his second-hand 63-foot schooner in an area not too far from an off-shore drilling station. Our maps warned us that the continental shelf was a good one and a fourth miles from our location. Suddenly though, dad spotted a darkened area of water with odd cross-currents running through it. We recognized it immediately as the continental shelf and shifted course. We missed it by a few feet. Unfortunately, a few others hadn't. A life preserver and some shreds of clothing were floating in the area.

It's clear that off-shore drilling caused this shift of the continental shelf. My dad and I almost lost our lives. Where will it all lead? To out-of-state tuition, at the very least. Help stop it now. As Bobby Seale used to say, "Seize the time!"

**John Redmond**  
9th-law enforcement

## Flower power

**TO THE EDITOR:** We would like to take this opportunity to commend the flowers of Penn State. Now, we are not flower-agricultural majors nor flower-power freaks. In fact, we have no idea of what even the popular names of those dainty, little plant-creatures are. Let alone, the scientific jargon (Floweritis Emergis in Springalis?). We just happen to think that all those purples, and yellows and reds deserve a mention. It has been a rough spring for them, and a lot didn't make it past the breaking-surface, peek-a-boo stage. But the ones that made it and blossomed are certainly pretty and would probably appreciate a pat on the bud.

**Jonathan L. Giles**  
8th-education of exceptional children

## ARHS open elections

**TO THE EDITOR:** Article II of the ARHS constitution states, "All undergraduate students residing in the residence halls of the University Park Campus shall be members of ARHS." Clearly, as dorm residents, we are members, yet we have no voice in deciding the officers of that association. The President of ARHS represents us in dealing with the University, yet we have no say in what kind of person will represent us.

The present ARHS council also violates the theory of one man, one vote. All dorm areas have three voting members on the executive council: a popularly elected president and two representatives. The three voting members from North Halls represent 1100 students, and the three voting members from East Halls who represent over 3600 students, have no more voting power than that of the North Halls members, who represent 2000 fewer students.

ARHS, despite professing an interest in open elections, has fought them at every turn. The open elections referendum, in which over 40 per cent of the members voted, passed by a 5-1 margin. The Daily Collegian has supported open elections, saying that they are only natural. The USG Senate, representing 23,000 students, urged ARHS to obey the wishes of its members as expressed in the passage of the referendum.

While the ARHS executive council pleads for delays and accuses the USG of not supporting unity among student governments, it itself is the only group not in unity with the wide support open elections have on campus.

**Allen Snyder**  
Director-Bureau of Residential Life  
and several students

## Drilling necessary

**TO THE EDITOR:** I have just read a disturbing letter in your paper about off shore drilling. I would like to know if the Committee Against Off Shore Drilling is serious, or are they making fun of a sober situation?

My grandfather was one of the main forces behind the concept of off shore drilling. As one of the original derrick workers he brought home many gushers. Unfortunately, five years ago, while working off the Maine coast, a gimcrack winch broke loose from its casting and severed his left arm. This is a constant reminder to his loved ones that although it is dangerous, off shore drilling is necessary if the country is to grow and prosper.

I believe in the right of free speech for all factions so I will be at the rally next week to voice my support for, not against, off shore drilling.

**Richard J. Lee**  
10th-English

## Divided Democrats

**TO THE EDITOR:** The recent letter to The Daily Collegian from Alberta Reede, Voter Registration Chairman of the Centre County Democratic Committee, reveals two problems dividing the party. The first problem is a lack of communication. Although Reede may have tried to call me at the dorm a few times, messages often become lost by roommates. However, Reede, if she wants to be fair, might like to say that Mr. Rudy, Democratic County Chairman, knows I can always be reached through the USG office, where I am Director of Political Affairs. I don't know if Rudy communicated that to her. Moreover, in respect to the letter Reede sent, I did receive it. However, the former Director of Political Affairs for USG, Neil Krum, was already circulating such a special voter registration petition at that time, and another such petition would have been redundant. I am not responsible for the previous petition. If Reede wanted to be fair, she might mention that it was the USG Department of Political Affairs that coordinated the recent voter registration drive, in which over 800 students registered to vote. I challenge Reede and Rudy to top that county-wide. It is a shame that they see students as separates. We should work together. The problem of communication in the party extends into other areas of the party. Reede was not even present for a voter registration seminar sponsored by the Women's Divisions of the State and County Democratic Committees in the Nittany Lion Inn last month.

The second concerns the role of students in the party. The County Democratic Committee and its Chairman are half-hearted in their efforts to recruit students into the party. In their eyes, students are to lick envelopes, but not to make decisions. In addition to their failure to allow interested students to participate in party decision-making, they have not conducted voter registration drives oriented to students, nor have they aided the campaigns of student Democratic nominees for local office. They have discouraged student participation in the party activities by pricing activities out of students' pocketbook range. The Democratic County Committee has become the tool of some business interests and self-interested legislators that see students as a commodity to be exploited rather than a part of this community to be reckoned with on an isopolitical level.

Most importantly, though, the problems the Centre County Democratic party has to face go beyond any isolated personal differences between Reede and myself. Rather there is the question of whether or not students are going to be given equal say in party affairs. One man, one vote and equal say. It's not too much to ask. I'll gladly talk to you about it over a beer (we're grown-ups now) any day. Reede, I'm in the USG office six hours a day, call 863-0295.

**Paul Stevenson**  
6th-liberal arts

## Senior class elections

**TO THE EDITOR:** Two referendums were passed during the USG elections. One deals with elections for ARHS and the other calls for Senior Class elections. The ARHS referendum is being heatedly pursued while the Senior class election referendum is being ignored. My candidacy petition for Senior Class President, with over two hundred signatures of eligible voters, is on file with the election commissioners. No steps have been taken to make others aware that petitions for the office are available, let alone steps to set up the elections. I have been told that the problems with the elections concern the Senior Class not being a chartered organization and not having financial backing. Yet elections have been held every previous year and somehow financed; by whom, and where is that source this year? Why are the election commissioners stalling this year when a student vote indicated that the election is wanted?

**Myrna Jo Marks**  
8th-individual and family studies

## Lettuce boycott

**TO THE EDITOR:** The joke of the week is Otto Mueller's statement that the University cannot make moral judgments concerning the lettuce boycott.

Penn State accepts enormous sums of money for agricultural research from the industrial corporations which own the farms that are abusing farm workers. Every dollar the University accepts from those corporations makes it a conscious agent in a system which keeps migrant farm workers in a state of involuntary servitude. In my opinion, the use of such funds for the maximization of agribusiness profits at the expense of small farmers and farm workers, is a moral judgment of major importance. Mueller also said that if United Farm Workers (AFL-CIO)

lettuce exclusively is purchased for use by the University, the students would not be able to afford it. I can reply to that statement in one word, nonsense. Ever since the original grape boycott began in 1965, United Farm Workers produce has never been higher than the Teamster or non-union produce; in some instances it has been cheaper. Up to the present time, unionization of migrant farm workers has had no significant effect on the price of grapes or lettuce. If food services is being charged a higher price for UFW lettuce, perhaps they should check on the honesty of their wholesaler.

Universities all across the country, including several in Pennsylvania, are supporting the boycott by using UFW lettuce or acceptable substitutes. What is the real reason why Penn State refuses to do its part to end the forced impoverishment of tens of thousands of farm workers?

Viva la huelga!

**Irwin Weintraub**  
Graduate-rural sociology

## Pave-the-World

**TO THE EDITOR:** Congratulations to the Pave-the-World Movement upon the opening of their latest triumph in front of Chambers Building. How nice to have our own little Interstate 80 complete with a median full of tulips. Perhaps the perpetrators of the State College By-pass would have better luck if they renamed their project the "State College Plaza."

As for our newest showcase in cement, are we to be allowed to sit down at least, or is this new highway for thru traffic only?

**Rick Wolfe**  
Graduate-speech

# the Collegian

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