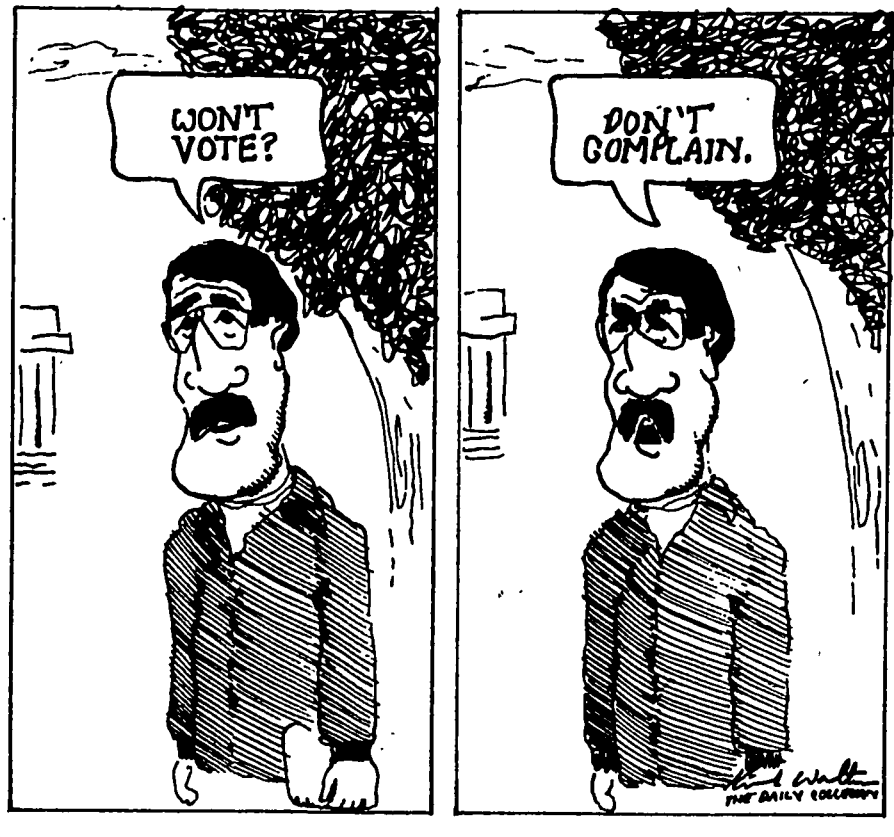


Your choice



About half of all voters are coming down with a severe case of the election day blues—a 24-hour bug that makes them feel as if they have no choice.

Many voters may feel that not voting registers their total distaste for the choices on the ballot. But their negative vote of disapproval for all candidates becomes lost among the non-votes of those who merely stay home because of apathy and complacency.

Less than half of the nation cares enough to come out to the polls; less than half of that 50 per cent is the margin that elects our leaders; this is an unfortunate comment on public interest.

As young Americans, most of our accurate memory of politics is tainted by Watergate and Vietnam. We may feel as if all politicians are alike and that nothing we do can make a difference. But we must try.

It's the principle...Carter gets a lukewarm vote

NBC interviewed its 1,978,635th voter this morning, discovering once again that most Americans can't make up their minds about the candidates. It looks as if the networks, which have been interviewing reluctant voters since the New Hampshire primary, will not have reached all 210 million of us by today, although Tom Pettit gave it the old network try.

Although I am not one of the uncommitted (I have been a less-than-wholehearted supporter of Carter from the first), I must admit that voting will be an unpleasant duty this year. I expect I will close my eyes, hold my nose and pull the lever as quickly as possible. Then I will gather with friends for a "consoling election night party," as one of them described it, and drown my sorrows.

For me there is no choice — I will not help return Gerald Ford to the White House. Ford is no Mr. Nice Guy and no amount of media image-making will convince me that the man who brought us the Mayaguez can be trusted for four more years. In the White House, even benign mediocrity is intolerable and Ford's predilection for secret wars and secret agency investigations is anything but benign.

More important in my decision is my utter contempt for Ford's running mate. If there is anything more frightening than

a trigger-happy president, it is the prospect of a trigger-happy vice president succeeding him. Dole alone is reason enough to vote for Carter and Mondale.

Still, I will not be happy voting for Carter. Not because of his religion; or his choice of interviewers, or any other gaffe he has made, but rather because I sense he lacks a vision of America which transcends single issues or controversies.



Kathleen Pavelko

What Carter has is some ideas and good intentions with which I happen to agree, but behind these specifics there is no general understanding of Americans as a people and the United States as a nation.

It is not enough to favor alternative energy development,

Little gained in final blitz Last gasp in campaigns

I come from a broken home. My mother is a left of center Democrat and my father is a practical, issue-oriented real live Republican. The two minds meeting in an after-dinner political discussion are not unlike Godzilla exchanging ideas with the entire Japanese Navy over coffee — lots of fireworks but very little communication.

Yet somewhere along campaign trail '76 I became convinced that all my formative years spent digesting my evening meal around such phrases as "Humphrey will end the war" and "Don't blame me, I voted for McGovern" were beginning to pay off in return for occasional indigestion.

Watching the behavior of the two candidates for president has not put me on unfamiliar ground. Thanks to the openness of my parents I at least have a sense of history and a sense of perspective that sorts out the issue from the non-issue, the good point from the cheap shot.

Perhaps it is good that the days begin to get shorter the week before Nov. 2. Mud throwing and cheap shots tend to replace constructive debates on platforms and philosophies. In general, the last week of a campaign does no real good in informing the potential voter, it merely serves as a catch-all for worried

campaign managers to spend gargantuan sums of money on a closing media blitz that will tend to distort both candidates' stands on the issues doing no one any good.

In the campaign's last days, both the Ford and Carter machines have been concentrating on the same vote-heavy territory: New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, all now leaning slightly to Carter. Both candidates face hectic, grueling schedules. Ford, for example, has hit nine states in one five-day stretch and will not return to Washington until after he has cast his ballot in Grand Rapids today.



Doug Root

Carter and the party hierarchy have spent more time and money in this last week than at any other period in the campaign trying to convince the crowds that staying at home in this election is as

good as voting for President Ford. In a working class neighborhood in Tampa, Florida, Carter cried, "There are indications that over half the American people are not going to vote! They are saying, 'I'm a coward, I'm afraid of the future, I'm giving up on my nation.' If we don't participate, the Republicans will be there four more years." In this respect, the last week of this year's election had the potential to do some good rather than serve to further confuse the already confused.

So, there will be people moved to vote today; swayed and courted into the voting booth on the basis of some television gimmickry or last-minute campaign acrobatics. If you happen to find yourself as registered and in front of the voting booth today, make your vote count by taking five minutes to get a general idea where each candidate stands on the issues that matter most to you. Being politically aware is a matter of personal responsibility. The college student who votes without informing himself is the same as the student who tries to take an exam without studying — dumb.

But the college student who does not vote at all is to be pitied, for he is ignorant, and there is nothing with less potential than the ignorant student.

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, 128 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.

Irresponsibility

TO THE EDITOR: On November 2, we Pennsylvanians will send people to Washington to represent our interests. One such person has already represented us for 13 years — Representative Albert Johnson. Here is a short report on what he has done on matters concerning the environment over the years:

- 1) Voted against the appropriation of more funds for solar energy research;
- 2) Voted against the establishment of fuel efficiency standards for American autos and appliances;
- 3) Voted to limit the liability of nuclear plants in case of accident (slightly alarming when you realize that Pennsylvania has 11 plants in operation, under construction, or planned);
- 4) Opposed protecting parts of the upper Allegheny River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

These, and many other examples of Johnson's environmental irresponsibility exist. Is this truly a representation of our interests? It is an important matter — the natural environment is not only something luxurious and beautiful to look at, but a vital part of the flow of life. I do not like to live a game of seeing how long we can survive while the health of our environment is flailing and falling. Some people seem to think that it is dispensable, and can be passed over if personal (monetary?) interests prevail. We have a hand in seeing that the above does not continue to occur — or does — by voting.

Elisebeth Hildebrand
Boalsburg resident

Communication

TO THE EDITOR: Michael Imsick has done it again! After his first column extolling the virtues of students who disregard walkways and go where they please, I wondered what would be next.

The triviality of your editorial page reached a new high in last Thursday's Collegian when Mr. Imsick ridiculed the Catholic Folk Mass. The thing that irritated me was Imsick's total lack of knowledge of what the Mass is about. What the Mass is not about is a folk-rock concert (though many Bob Dylan tunes have been adapted for church use).

Mr. Imsick's argument about the dullness of Mass is typical of those who go to be entertained. "I don't get anything out of it, what's the point?" is the standard line. Again, the Mass is not meant to be entertainment. It's morning. It is a worship service where people both individually and as a group communicate with God in the highest form.

Perhaps had Michael Imsick studied the readings and thought about their meaning before the Mass, instead of waiting for Judy Collins to take the stage, he would have seen the relevance of the service. A student who goes to class unprepared and expects the instructor to educate him without putting in any effort himself will not profit from the experience. So it is with Mass. Students, believe it or not, do pray at other times during the week; the Mass is the culmination of those prayers, together with the physical reception of Christ.

Brian Golden
2nd-broadcast journalism

On your honor

TO THE EDITOR: I was rather surprised at your editorial of Monday, Oct. 25 in which you bemoaned the deficiencies of the honors programs at Penn State. You seem to think that the more academically-minded students deserve more consideration than is being shown them now. As you put it, "Only a few students find honor at Penn State."

The Collegian is in a position to aid these students — but it doesn't. I have been told by a member of your staff that the forensic team's activities are "not important enough to print." The Collegian rarely covers exhibits at Zoller Gallery or recitals at Music Building recital hall. I have never read anything in the

Collegian concerning the activities of the Lion's Paw or the honorary fraternities and sororities on campus. University Readers gets little attention, as do the lectures sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta.

You called honors students "our main defense against classification as a football school." The Collegian, with its rather limited coverage in the area of academia, is one of our main reasons for such classification.

Barbara Watkins
5th-journalism

USG defense

TO THE EDITOR: As the USG Senator who sponsored a resolution this past Monday night to enable the judiciary committee to investigate the discipline system, I today feel compelled to defend myself and the committee even before we have collected a single datum.

The editor of the Collegian terms the investigation "an exercise in futility;" she says of the committee, "It may only be doing students a disservice in the longrun," whereas she acknowledges the system itself as being "not perfect."

Actually, since we have been working diligently for about three days as I write this, such criticisms may be a bit premature, though not out of character for the editor. Ms. McCauley is paranoid about student awareness to such a degree that she must put it down long before it starts.

The last paragraph of Thursday's editorial says of us "disciplinary reformers": "They are probably not willing to accept the consequences that go along with it" ("the real world"). This is the same editor who told us to "take it easy" on the alcohol issue and give up trying to bring the University into the twentieth century, and the same editor who accused Tony Carozza of selling out in taking a staff position while the UPI charged the administration with "backing down."

Sheila told us not to vote in the USG elections last spring, and not to participate in tuition rallies. If the editor has a place for suggestions, might I suggest a follow-up story on Ray Weber's appeal for justice?

Tom Heltzenrater
USG Senator, South Hall

Bag the bus

TO THE EDITOR: As a service to the State College community, I would like to recount the following incident. Early last August I had to make a round trip to the Philadelphia area by way of our town's only commercial transportation services — the Greyhound bus lines.

Never having traveled long distances by bus, I was aghast at the irresponsibility that was exhibited in the baggage transfer at the Harrisburg change-over. If I hadn't been watching from inside, the bus would have departed without my suitcase. My expressed anxiety was reacted to with nonchalance. I was instructed to load my own baggage. This was on the way to Philadelphia.

On the return trip, I was by no means so lucky. When I got off the bus in State College, I was one of three passengers whose luggage had failed to make the relatively short trip. This I could not believe. All of my clothing and some valuable photography equipment were contained in the suitcase.

The attitude I encountered at the State College Greyhound Office was patronizing and unconcerned. They accepted no responsibility whatsoever and refused to make any telephone calls in an effort to find the baggage. Indeed, I was informed that any communication between bus stations would have to be made by letter.

Well, here it is almost three months later and I have just received reimbursement for their mistake. However, the check amounted to only one-half of the total value of the contents because photography equipment is one item that I am only now informed is not covered by their insurance.

Will this unfortunate series of events preclude any future dealings I have with Greyhound? How can it? I am a student without a car or even the wherewithal to fly home. My only

alternative is to do business with an outfit that, in a very short time, I have come to despise. A competitive means of travel would certainly check the arrogance which Greyhound's monopoly has seemed to foster in our town.

Jeffrey T. Leonard
graduate-counselor education

Foot in mouth

TO THE EDITOR: I write this letter in reference to a Jerry Schwartz article which appeared in the Collegian Oct. 27. Jerry spins a tale of being "accosted" in the name of hoof and mouth disease. It seems that many of Jerry's articles start out by belittling his subjects. He then goes on to say that he does not mean to ridicule them. There seems to be a bit of inconsistency there Jerry.

If in order to get your readers' attention you need to be "cynical," then maybe you ought to re-evaluate your writing talents.

Michael Morgenstern
10th-rehabilitative education

In reverse

TO THE EDITOR: Recently, much has been said about the low levels of minority enrollment at Penn State. I have a few comments on the issue related to an editorial opinion in the Daily Collegian on Oct. 26.

I believe everyone recognizes that there are too few minority students enrolled at the University. However, some points must be noted. Mention was made in the editorial that in the opinion of some black students, a basic reason for the situation was the inadequacy of financial aid to blacks. This is sheer madness, for financial aid is inadequate totally.

We all recognize, that for too long, blacks were discriminated against and to some degree still are. No one

likes this fact. However, to provide more financial aid to a specific group of students, black students, is a blatant form of reverse discrimination. This is just as bad as the discrimination everyone agrees is wrong. Financial aid should be increased totally, not for one particular group of students just to raise the level of enrollment to a "quota level."

It is my understanding that Penn State was established as a "reasonable cost" school of higher education provided for the use by any and all students who meet the educational requirements that the University has set. For those financially in need, there are many forms of financial aid available regardless of race, creed, color, or national origin. This also means that financial aid is not increased according to race, creed, color or national origin. If this financial aid is provided on the basis, then it would appear to me that blacks and other minority students have elected not to attend Penn State, which is their right.

If more financial aid was given to blacks specifically, you would in essence be taking that choice away from them. Would you consider that fair? In summary, as was noted in the editorial opinion, "it is time to accommodate black students by providing the things all students need."

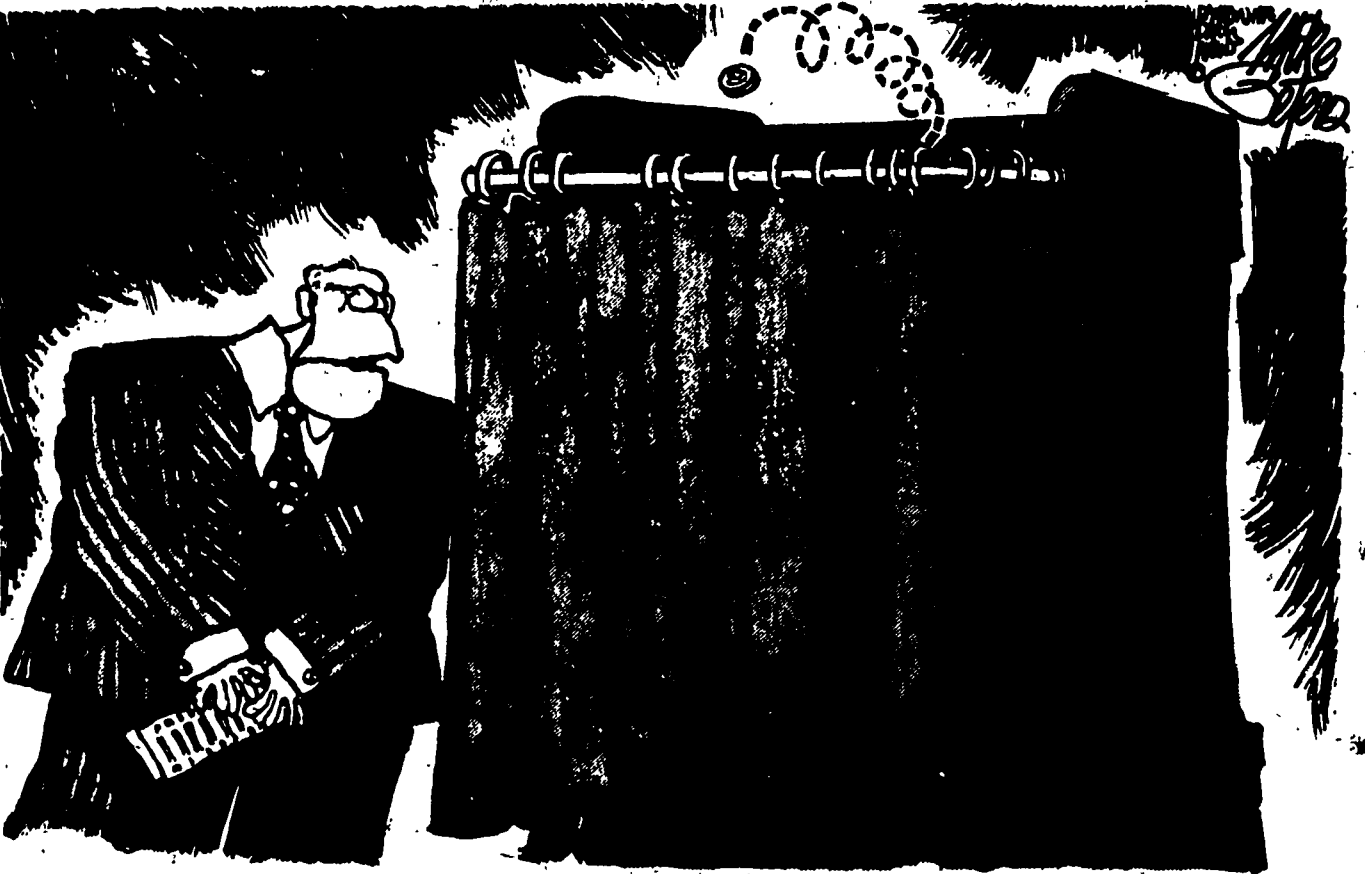
Alex N. Barenblitt
7th-promotions management

the Collegian

SHEILA McCaULEY
Editor

NADINE KINSEY
Business Manager

The Daily Collegian is published by Collegian, Inc., a private, non-profit corporation which bears legal and financial responsibility for the newspaper. The Board of Directors of Collegian, Inc., is the controlling body of the corporation.



"Psssst..... YOU DONE, BETTY.....?"