

# Abler Democratic candidate for municipal council



(Photo by Patrick Little)

By VICKI SANDOE  
Collegian Staff Writer

"The campus and community are like Siamese twins who insist on working separately," said Ronald Abler, Democratic candidate for State College Municipal Council.

In an interview Monday, Abler stated he would like to see more explicit and open cooperation between the college administration and the municipal council on such issues as downtown parking and land use. Abler said he would like to unite both sides of College Avenue into a single community.

"I think there are some contacts between the administration and the borough at the present time and I'd like to see them increase through more meetings and discussions on community problems," Abler said.

Abler said he was glad to see students have input in local decision making processes through the Organization for Town Independent Students and other similar organizations, and said that he would be receptive and eager to receive and contend with student problems.

"If you look at statistics, two-thirds of the citizens are students and certainly require representation of council," he said.

One of the main student issues is busing and Abler

believes in expanding the bus system by having buses run more frequently and extending routes so that more people can use them.

There is a good chance of seeing more buses in the future, Abler said. Increased revenues may be utilized to some degree in providing more buses for the students and community, he said.

An advocate of senior citizen housing, Abler said the proposed project on Bellaire Avenue is a step in the right direction. The location, which seems to be some distance from downtown, is the only drawback, he said, and the low cost per unit seems to be an advantage for the elderly. Abler said there will be \$700,000 worth of housing for a \$200,000 investment.

A supporter of the Allen Street Mall, Abler said it will definitely benefit the downtown area.

"I'm in favor of the Allen Street Mall and any other projects that make the downtown area pleasant to pedestrians," he said.

Abler is a member of the College Heights Association, a group dedicated to preserving the College Heights as a residential neighborhood. He said the organization's main goals are traffic control and zoning and land use.

These neighborhood organizations are starting to catch on, Abler said, mentioning as an example the newly formed Fairmont Heights Association.

"I'd be perfectly happy to see students such as those in fraternities or apartments form associations. In this way, they can take part in the decisions concerning their areas," Abler said.

On the Human Rights Ordinance, Abler said he hadn't seen a convincing case of discrimination yet.

"I don't believe anyone should be discriminated against, but if it should happen and if a civil rights ordinance would help, I would be in full support," Abler said.

Abler said he doubts that a budget cutback is possible for the municipality.

"You can cut back everything if you're willing to take the consequences, but the residents have good government and are happy with the borough's services," Abler said.

An increase in taxation would not be due to massive borough expenditures, but to the rising costs of supplies and maintenance for the city, he said. If inflation continues to rise, there will have to be an increase in taxes, he said.

Abler, associate professor of geography, said he believes he has a rather unique knowledge of the similarity of our problems with those of other cities. He said he would listen to the concerns of the citizens and try to act in the best interest of the group.

## Stiles wants tax reorganization

By KIM EATON  
Collegian Staff Writer

A reorganization of taxes, beginning with a general business tax, could save State College residents some money, according to Charles E. Stiles (14th-architectural engineering), democratic candidate for State College Municipal Council.

Stiles said a decision by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court allows businessmen to be taxed by their income rather than by land assessment. A business can now cut taxes by expanding, he said.

"In essence, the residents are paying for this expansion," Stiles said.

Stiles said to cover the losses in taxes by the government, a two mill tax raise was imposed on the residents.

"I'd like to institute a general business tax to cover the gap so these expansions wouldn't be at the residents' expense," he said.

Stiles said he would like to see more stringent laws concerning local conversion apartment units. He said his engineering background would benefit here since he knows the building codes and standards for the units.

"West College Avenue is turning into a bit of a slum. The landlords of these units are just draining money out of

the students," Stiles said. "We should preserve the integrity of the neighborhood."

Stiles said the site for the Bellaire housing plan is a very poor one.

"I see the \$2,000 better spent on several small lots closer to businesses and churches," he said. "Then it wouldn't be so institutionalized."

Stiles said he supports both senior citizen housing and low-income housing.

"This is not an artificial town merely of the young and the rich," Stiles said.

Stiles said he sees no exodus of businesses from the downtown area, and cited the Calder Way Mall as an example. He does, however, see a parking problem.

"There's definitely a parking and circulation problem. We first have to make a distinction between shoppers and commuters." "I'd like to see the on-street parking taken off and bus lanes and bike lanes put in," he said.

Stiles said he would like to work through the Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) to get more student buses to run during high demand periods.

Stiles said if the drinking age is lowered to 19, he would push for State College to

receive resort status. This would mean more bars, he said.

"The owners could build on their own merits, but zoning would keep them from over-expanding," he said.

Stiles said the Human Rights Ordinance is a topic of student concern and said he would support the ordinance. "There's definitely discrimination between married undergrads and grads," Stiles said.

He said, however, that he was pleased that there was no discrimination in the hiring and promoting practices of the municipality.

Stiles said he has lived in State College for four years and feels that his experience as a scoutmaster and as a member of Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity will help him understand the problems of townspeople.

By setting up a work-study program and co-operating with USC, Stiles said he would make Council more accessible to the student.

"I've seen the problems of both the townspeople and the students and as a councilman, I'd like to build a coalition between the two," he said.

"Council has been, for the most part, accessible," he said, "except when they go into executive sessions." Stiles said Council irons out any problems and con-



(Photo by Richard Hoffman)

troversies in these sessions and then only votes on the issues in open meetings. "That's what happened in the Bellaire housing situation," he said, "and that's skirting public opinion."

## Carter favors passage of consumer legislation

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter yesterday asked Congress to pass a package of consumer legislation, including an Agency for Consumer Advocacy, the long-time Ralph Nader goal which has been stymied by eight years of GOP opposition.

Carter recommended four of the five pieces of legislation the organized consumer movement had asked for in January. The fifth, creation of a bank to finance consumer cooperatives, was not recommended but Esther Peterson, Carter's newly named consumer advisor, said it was still under study.

Carter said the new agency would "consolidate" most consumer functions now being handled by other agencies of government.

Asked if that meant the previous administration's program of creating special consumer advocates in each major department was out the window, Mrs. Peterson said the whole matter was still under review.

In addition to the ACA — which passed both houses of Congress but died in conference committee last year because of White House opposition — Carter proposed: — Legislation to give

money to consumer groups to help them better represent themselves in government proceedings and to give federal courts "more discretion to reimburse litigation costs."

— A law which would give citizens more power to sue the government in "appropriate cases."

— Legislation that would expand the possibilities for class action suits, an activity which has been limited by some recent court rulings.

Nader has pinpointed the ACA as the one thing he would most like to leave as a legacy to the consumer movement.

## Carter urges DNA research

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The Carter administration yesterday urged that, despite potential danger, recombinant DNA research be allowed to go forward under interim safety guidelines while stricter government regulations are drawn.

DNA is the genetic material

that carries the characteristics of life, and recombinant research involves transplanting such material from one microorganism to another.

HEW Secretary Joseph Califano outlined the proposed administration bill on DNA research before the

Senate Health and Scientific Research subcommittee.

Califano said recombinant DNA is a "scientific tool of extraordinary potential" but one which poses risks "of uncertain magnitude."

Recombinant DNA could alter a microorganism in an unpredictable way.

## Nuclear proliferation risk cited

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A nation obtaining a nuclear fuel processing plant for peaceful purposes could build an atomic bomb "within days" of renouncing any safeguards it accepted to get the facility, a report to President Carter warned yesterday.

A few terrorists also could construct an atomic bomb, the report said, needing only stolen nuclear material, unclassified instructions and a simple workshop.

Risks of nuclear weapons proliferation are greatest "in regions with the highest

potential for international conflict, such as the Middle East, Southern Africa and East Asia," said the report by the congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

The spread of atomic weapons still can be contained if the United States and other nuclear nations working together, the report said. It cautioned, however, that "there are no single or all-purpose solutions; no short cuts."

Major threats of weapons proliferation are posed by reactor fuel enrichment and

reprocessing plants and by the fast breeder reactor, the report said.

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