

Two evils

Two candidates are seeking the state Senate seat vacated by Rep. Joseph S. Ammerman when he won election to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Or are there? It seems that the two candidates do not differ significantly on the relevant issues they are likely to deliberate upon once one or the other reaches the Senate floor.

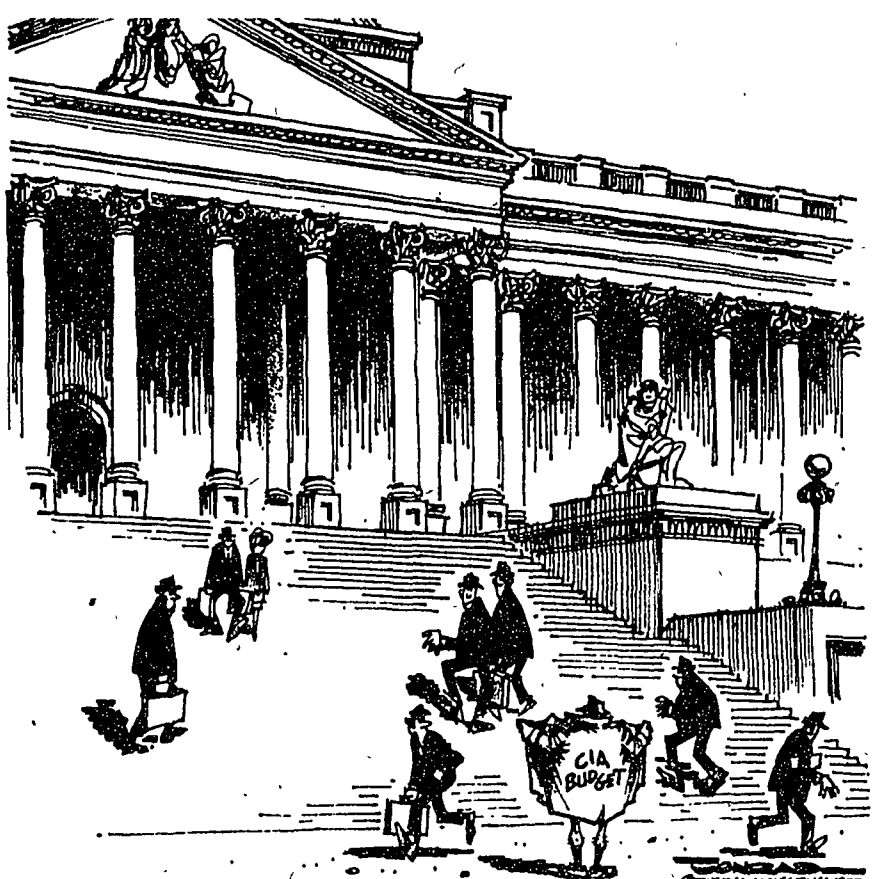
Republican J. Doyle Corman and Democrat G. M. McCrossin both agree on decriminalizing marijuana, lowering the state drinking age to 19, supporting an ethics bill for the legislature, passing sunset legislation, working to get more of the University's appropriations request fulfilled and utilizing more coal to meet future energy needs.

But not only are the two candidates similar on the important issues, they both have their share of poor qualities that detract from their ability to do a credible job in representing the 34th Senatorial District.

Corman was a Centre County Commissioner in 1972 when the Board of Commissioners were ruled against in federal court for "frustrating and impairing the right to vote of students at Penn State." Some students were not permitted to register without having numerous means to validate their residency in the county. The judge said the commissioners adopted these rigorous residency requirements "as a result of their apprehension over the student vote."

As for McCrossin, he has not impressed The Daily Collegian as being sincerely committed to finding out how his constituency feels about the issues. His nomination by the Democratic party appears to be more motivated by gratitude for contributing heavily in past Democratic campaigns, especially to the campaigns of Joe Ammerman. He is 70 years old and it is unlikely that if elected he could remain in the Senate long enough to gain needed experience and prestige among the other senators.

Therefore, The Daily Collegian believes it irresponsible to consider endorsing either candidate. Vote for one or the other but it is not going to make too much difference who wins. The voters lose.



From the editor Fond farewell to former editors

Dear Jerry and Sheila,
Six terms ago I was a first term writing police log stories and covering the last gasps of PennPIRG organizers. My by-line appeared perhaps once a week in The Daily Collegian. I did my stories and went home to goof-off and sometimes to do homework.
Both of you seemed like ominously important people to me at that time. I became a bit nervous when I had to ask you a trivial question. I worried when I thought you were disappointed with one of my stories. And you made my day when you gave me a little praise of encouragement. Many an evening I trekked home from Carnegie Building to Shunk Hall overjoyed that you had said, "Nice Story, Jeff."
But times change so quickly.
Now I occupy the editor's seat for this newspaper, a seat which each of you have occupied. A seat that, until one occupies it, one cannot understand how uncomfortable it sometimes can get.

In light of what I have learned this past term about being an editor, I have a deep admiration for the way both of you filled that position. In retrospect, I now perceive the subtleties in your management of the newspaper that I failed to recognize before this term.



jeff hawkes

Of course, you expanded the paper to include an op-ed page, a living page and a full editorial page. You organized the staff into a workable system of news beats and beat coordinators in order to reduce the chaos and inefficiency in which a newspaper quickly can degenerate. You recruited a large and

hardworking staff. And you motivated the staff to sacrifice the time and effort to make the Collegian an award winning newspaper.
These are a few of the obvious changes you instituted.
But what really made both of you successful editors is the way you operated on a day-to-day and person-to-person basis. Often you sat down to help staff members improve their writing.
There were times when a reporter came to you saying that an administrator or faculty member would not talk. Immediately, you were on the phone calling that person's boss to find out why he refused to talk with a reporter.
There were times when you defended the integrity of the newspaper from so-called student leaders who wanted the Collegian used as their personal propaganda instrument.
There were times when you took the blame from an irate reader for an inaccuracy printed which you had

nothing to do with.
There were the times you wanted to tell a fool: "You're a fool," but you restrained yourselves. There were times you wanted to hang up on those chronic complainers. You didn't. There were times you almost lost your temper. You remained calm. There were times you wanted to leave the office and not come back. You stayed.
This past term has been a test of my wit and patience. Thank you, Jerry and Sheila, for your help when I needed it. Thank you for your support of decisions I've made, for a sense of perspective when things seemed dismal, and for encouragement that came from too few others.
The Daily Collegian will never be the same for any of us once you graduate. Good luck in the real world (as if you need it). You know we love you. You know we are really going to miss you.
Love,
Jeffrey

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. The editors reserve the right not to print letters if they do not conform to standards of good taste, or if they present an opinion which may be irresponsible or libelous. 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.

Get with it

TO THE EDITOR: I picked up my football tickets for next season yesterday. The lady gave me sophomore tickets. I said, "What's this? I sat in the sophomore section last fall. Next year is my third year at Penn State and I'm supposed to sit in the junior section." "No you're not," she said. "This six on your application means that you're going to be sixth term next fall. Have you recently changed your major?" So that was it. Just because I had changed my major, and

had lost a term doing so, I was going to end up sitting in the sophomore section again at football games. Makes sense.
Why should tickets be sold on the basis of class rank, and not on how many terms a person has attended Penn State? Is this some form of added punishment for someone who has lost a term through either switching majors or flunking courses? Unless I go to school next summer term, I will never get senior football tickets and the chance to view a game from the coveted 50-yard line.
For an extra season now, I'm doomed to having to watch the Nittany Lions coming and going, and I won't get a chance to

see them going left and right during my college days. I'm sure that many other students have been in the same situation. C'mon Penn State, get with it!
Dave Ruppen
5th-business administration

Collegian Forum

PSU: all's not well

Editors note: The following Collegian Forum was submitted by the four students who have brought suit against the board of trustees. They are Jim Scarantino, Drienne Benner, Ann Ziminski, and Jeffrey Aaron Glazier.
What inspires political action? All too often the motive is personal gain; too infrequently, adherence to an ideal. Usually political action springs from a disturbing feeling that all is not well with the established system, that someone or something is trampling on the rules of the game.
Our challenge to the Penn State Board of Trustees springs from the latter sentiment. All is not well with Penn State's governing system; the board of trustees is trampling on the constitutional rules of the game.
You may label our action "radical." But, to rephrase another writer's words, if radicalism is defined as a force against basic value systems of a society, then Penn State is the chief protagonist. The board of trustees, as presently composed, violates America's basic values of equal representation and equal protection under law.
We have been weaned on the ideal that people should not be subjected to the dictates of a government they had no hand in choosing. Yet at Penn State, students must live their daily lives under terms set by a governing body elected without their participation. Our litigation seeks to rectify that injustice by providing student representation on the board.
Our suit also challenges the election procedures followed in electing alumni trustees. A ballot is automatically mailed to dues-paying members of the Alumni Association. Non-members must request a ballot. The distinction drawn between Alumni Association members and non-members is in violation of the equal protection guarantees of the 14th Amendment. Since when did one have to pay dues for the right to vote? Penn State's governing system is

saddled with an ideology prominent during the rise of commercial and industrial capitalism: the regime censitaire. According to this theory, the affairs of the public must be left to those with "real stakes" in the game through the possession of land or through investments in business. The franchise was accorded to those who owned land, invested in business or those who had acquired a direct interest in the maintenance of the country through their investment in professional skills. The implicit notion is that since these were the only people "really" affected by the actions of government, only they could and should participate in framing public policy.
The structure of the board provides twelve seats to representatives of agricultural (usually agri-business) and industrial interests, and not to any other interests. As the story goes, these groups receive special representation because, since they hire PSU graduates, they therefore have an interest in the education of PSU graduates.
This formula may have been justified during the 1800s when PSU was dedicated to the training of farmers and engineers. But today, no such justification can be concocted, no matter what amount of doublethink is applied. PSU now has ten undergraduate schools and offers degrees in over 100 fields of study. Graduates (if they are hired at all) are hired not only by agricultural and industrial groups, but by commercial, journalistic, medical, labor, educational and many, many other groups. These people have the same interest in PSU as do the agricultural and industrial concerns, yet they receive no representation whatsoever. One could go on almost indefinitely listing those interests which have been ignored at PSU until one has named every citizen in Pennsylvania. One would eventually conclude that those people represented by the agricultural and industrial trustees

have no more of an interest in PSU than any other Pennsylvania taxpayer, but they receive such special treatment that they implicitly appropriate to themselves representation for the entire public of interests — when in fact they represent no more than their own narrow concerns.
Perhaps we have bypassed an important point: should an institution of higher learning exist to serve the needs of employers or to serve the needs of students? The question has been raised before; but, we raise it for the first time in relation to the political structure of the University.
Also, the selection procedures for the special interest trustees unduly favors sparsely populated counties. Each county in the Commonwealth is represented by three delegates at a convention to choose the agricultural trustees, and three at a convention to choose industrial trustees. This means that Forest County (pop. 4,926) receives the same number of delegates as Allegheny (pop. 1,605,016) or Philadelphia (pop. 1,948,609) counties. This malapportionment is strikingly similar to the malapportionment the Supreme Court has declared unconstitutional in elections for state legislatures. Surely constitutional guidelines for public institutions such as legislatures should hold equally as well for a public institution like Penn State.
We are asking that the court enjoin the alumni, agricultural and industrial trustees from conducting any official business, and that no further elections for these positions be held until the Pennsylvania Legislature provides a new system for the selection for trustees that comports with the U.S. Constitution. As long as independent alumni are discriminated against, as long as students are denied their due rights and as long as agricultural and industrial interests are represented to the exclusion of other interests, all talk of democratic ideals at Penn State will ring dismally hollow.

Deep throat

TO THE EDITOR: We find it interesting that the Daily Collegian insists on continuing to quote an "active member of the local Democratic Party" or a "highly placed source within the local Democratic Party" in their series of stories concerning this Tuesday's primary election. As two "highly placed members of the Democratic Party" who aren't afraid to use their names we would like to briefly reply to some inaccuracies which have been attributed to the Collegian's own "Deep Throat."
First, an open primary can only, by definition, be violated when the party organization or a party official endorses a slate of candidates. This has clearly not happened in this election.
Second, the suggestions that an informal relationship between candidates is some kind of a "power play" is either political stupidity or a blatant lie. It is common practice for candidates to distribute literature together, particularly when they are supporting each other. We find it interesting that the very people who have been raising this point are the same people who have utilized joint literature distributions for the past five years. These same people certainly found nothing wrong when they attempted to organize a "student slate." There is certainly nothing wrong with a group of people making a decision about who is and who is not qualified to sit on council, and then acting on this decision.
It would probably be considerably more responsible and considerably more informative if the Collegian would broaden its sources a bit. It would not hurt to ask questions of those people who are not afraid to state their names, it would not hurt to interview all candidates, rather than just a favored few. In other words, it would not hurt to get the facts before playing into the hands of those who believe that the most effective means of winning an election is to create political hysteria and irresponsible rumor and innuendo.
The Democratic Party is not the sole possession of one or two people who are merely representatives of a small and vocal minority, a minority which doesn't represent students or anyone else, only themselves.
Is there a "power play?" You bet there is, but it won't work, because you can't fool the voters with unnamed sources and partisan statements. Misrepresenting the facts has never been a particularly effective way of electing candidates.
Gary W. Potter
State College Democratic Party
Peter B. Meyer
vice chairman, State College Democratic Party

Our final reason for the prank was to be able to utilize the publicity we assumed it would receive to solicit funds for a scholarship. In the July issue of the alumni magazine, the Penn Stater, we are asking alumni to be a part of our hoax and contribute a few dollars to a scholarship fund to be used for students with financial need.
We should also apologize to the Collegian for some of our unethical actions. The letter that appeared in Friday's paper was from a person who has said he was the president of a fictitious organization, the Penn State Historical Society. When no one was in the Collegian editor's office, we switched letters so that the letter would appear.
Secondly, a reporter from the newspaper was in Old Main Thursday evening. Even though she pretended to believe our story, we knew she would go back to the office and expose our scheme. In order to avoid this, we locked ourselves and the reporter in the bell tower until we were assured that she would not publish the story, or until Friday's paper had already gone to print. (Sorry but thanks Laura!) We needed everyone's support whether it was known or not.
In the months and years to come we hope that you can see the humor in the "day the chimes stood still." We called the prank Operation SOB (Save Our Bell). Feel free to add any additional meaning to the letters.
Don Mains
14th-communications studies

Arguing for input

TO THE EDITOR: Students and faculty and their relationship to one another form the roots of our institution. The space for that relationship to transpire is the classroom, the lowest rung of the organizational hierarchy and our closest link to the organization.
The classroom is the smallest unit within the organization; could we say we practice democracy here? Take the Bill of Rights and apply it to the classroom — does one experience the principles of freedom? Some will argue that learning cannot go on in an unrestricted environment; others believe it can.
The claim here is that if we do not experience this freedom that democracy implies in our working-learning places we cannot understand what democracy means: we have abdicated the responsibility to act responsibly. So you tell me, where does student input begin?
David Corey
9th-political science
Drienne Benner
9th-political science

Apology

Last week, the Daily Collegian ran a letter which complained that a wrong diagnosis by a doctor at the Ritenour Health Center might have resulted in serious consequences for the patient involved. The Collegian apologizes for not presenting the doctor's side of the story.

Parmi Nous follies?

TO THE EDITOR: Late Friday afternoon, it broke that Operation SOB (Save Our Bell) was a hoax. The reason members of Parmi Nous pulled the prank might not be legitimate to many people. But, where is the rationale in other activities such as trying to be Emperor of North or dancing for 48 hours other than to do it?
Those persons who view the prank as asinine have the right to do so. For them we would do the entire thing again.
We apologize to those persons who took our project so seriously. You were the ones who made us feel both bad and good. Bad because we knew we were fooling you wanted to be able to tell you the whole story. Good because we knew that there were many concerned students on campus. Another reason we did it was for the benefit of townspeople and alumni.
In the past, freshmen were required to go through a quasi-initiation into campus and had to wear dinks (hats) and do other sometimes humiliating acts. We definitely did not advocate the revival of these freshmen customs, but we did want to bring back the traditional spring prank.

the Collegian
daily

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