

election '81

Tomorrow is election day, isn't it?

By JACKIE MARTINO
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Vote. The word is sounded from everywhere at this time of the year—in newspapers, on the radio, from the candidates themselves. Most students are saturated with the election by the time the polls open on Nov. 3. Right?

"I haven't even heard anybody say anything about it," said Rebecca Brawley (1st-business administration). "I couldn't tell you who the candidates are; I haven't seen any information on it at all."

To make students more interested in the election, Brawley said, the candidates must expose them to more information.

Brawley is registered to vote at home because she is not informed about local politics, she said.

Gall Allen (1st-chemical engineering) said neither he nor any of his friends has discussed the election.

"We're more concerned with the way it is at home," Allen said.

Daren Stoske (4th-recreation and parks) said, "I talked to my one roommate about (the election)."

However, Stoske said she discussed the election at her home, where she is registered to vote.

Stoske said she does not see the candidates making enough of an effort to inform the students, and suggested increasing candidate visibility as a possible way to make students more aware.

"Maybe handing out pamphlets on College Avenue," Stoske said. "Or maybe just being on College Avenue."

Irene Kerko (10th-quantitative business analysis) said, "I haven't heard too much about it. A lot of people I know vote absentee (ballot)."

Also, students are often more concerned with University politics than with State College government, Kerko said.

"Students definitely tend to be apathetic (about the local election)," she said.

Kerko said, however, that local government officials, as well as students, do not realize the effect they have on each other.

"I think it's kind of a mutual thing between the students and the government up here," she said.

"More effort, in addition to informing students and getting the issues out there," must be made for students to become interested in the election, Kerko said.

However, Robert Stuber (4th-political science) said candidate effort is not the problem.

"They've made an effort," Stuber said. "I don't think the students really care."

But, he said a more extensive campaign in the future could increase student involvement.

"Mainly activate them to get them to vote and make them feel that they play an important part of what goes on in the area," Stuber said.

Bill Cluck, Undergraduate Student Government president, said, "I think that as many students as usual (as compared to previous elections) are involved or concerned with the local election."

The State College Municipal Council should not have to "wave banners" trying to get students to become involved, Cluck said.

Although the council should try to become involved with student concerns, Cluck said, "I think it's up to students to become involved."

"I think that too many students think that the local

election doesn't have any effect on them."

Even though students are generally a transient group, Cluck said, the local election still has an impact on their lives.

"I think the local government affects the students as much as it affects any local citizen," he said.

Cluck said students are affected by many issues being considered by the council—a shortage of parking downtown as well as a lack of bike lanes, for example.

Agreeing with some students who said the candidates have not been available during the election this year, Cluck said, "The candidates can always make a better effort."

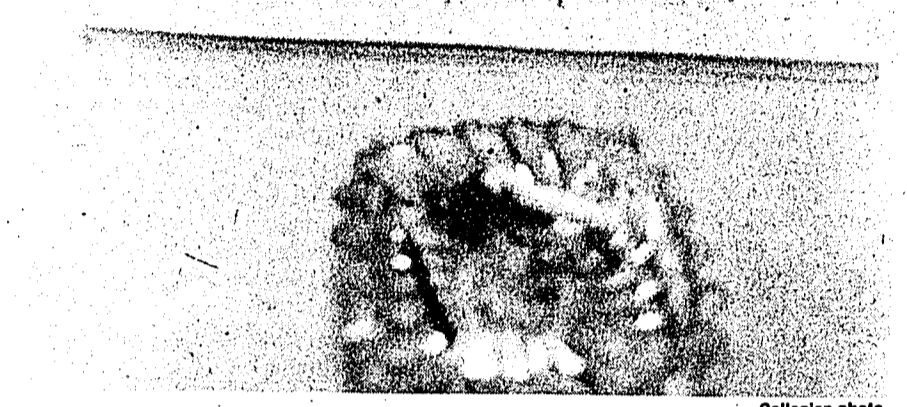
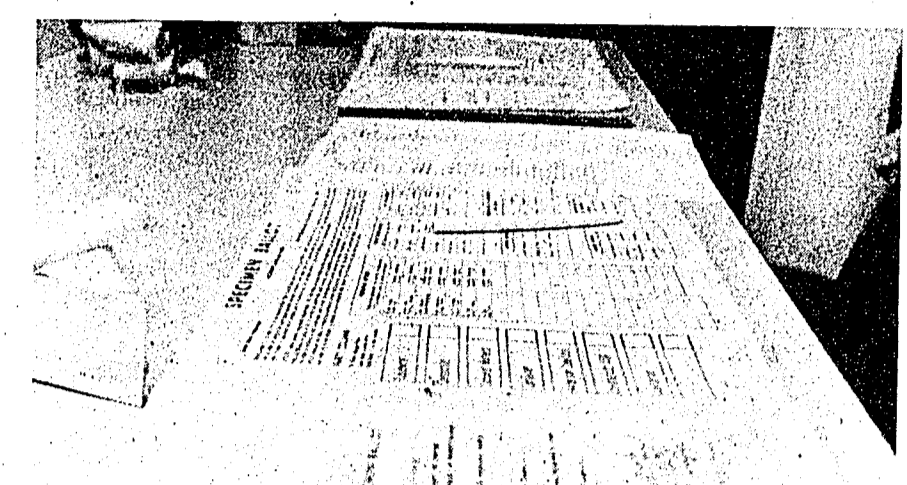
He added, however, "Some of the candidates have been accessible."

Student involvement with the local government cannot begin only at election time, Cluck said. Instead, students must receive information on a weekly or daily basis about what is happening with State College politics.

Cluck said local government will become increasingly more important in the future, because it will have to make up for a lack of state and federal funding because of Reagan's budget cuts.

Local government must look toward the future, he said, but, "I'm not so sure local government does know where they want to go in the next 10 years," he said.

USG has been trying to increase student involvement in the local election through a Candidates Night, held on Oct. 21, and a voter registration drive, Cluck said.



Throughout the night tomorrow, election workers will tally returns at the Centre County Courthouse in Bellefonte. Returns from student districts are often the first to arrive at the courthouse when a local election occurs—or are often the last when the election is national in scope.

Candidates tested on student issues

By ANNE CONNERS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Knowledge of student issues by State College Municipal Council and Centre County district attorney candidates was tested at a recent candidates night sponsored by the Undergraduate Student Government's department of political affairs.

Six of the seven municipal council candidates—Republican Ralph Way did not attend the candidates night—answered seven questions about student issues.

Candidates were asked to list what they thought the top three issues affecting students at the University were.

Ray Boyle, Consumer Party candidate, ranked housing availability and date, ranked housing availability and livability, representation concerning town legislation spending and campus reorganization as the top three issues.

James Deeslie, incumbent Democratic candidate, listed education, housing and town development as the top three issues.

John Dombroski, Republican candi-

date, ranked housing, transportation and parking, and education as the top three issues.

Felicia Lewis, incumbent Democratic candidate, rated costs, housing and jobs as the top three issues.

Grove Spearly, Democratic candidate, listed the cost of education, living facilities and transportation as the top three issues.

And Gary Wiser, Republican candidate, listed housing, tuition and the loss of student aid as the top three issues.

Candidates were also asked the cost of tuition for in-state and out-of-state students. Tuition for in-state students is \$616 per term and \$1,237 for out-of-state students.

Boyle said: \$600-\$610 for in-state students and \$1,200 for out-of-state students.

Deeslie said: \$525 for in-state students and \$1,075 for out-of-state students.

Spearly said: \$52 for in-state students and \$1,022 for out-of-state students.

Wiser said: \$50 per credit for in-state students and \$270 per credit for out-of-state students.

Dombroski and Lewis did not answer the question.

Because many students are concerned about off-campus housing, the questionnaire asked the candidates what the 1980 vacancy rate for apartments in State College was.

Boyle was the only candidate to answer the question correctly with the figure of 0 percent.

Deeslie and Lewis said 5 percent, Dombroski said 1.5 percent and Wiser said 6 to 8 percent. Spearly did not answer the question.

Candidates were also asked if they favored the annexation of East Hall residence halls Stone, Stuart, Hastings and Snyder back to State College. The dorms are now a part of College Township. Thus, students in these four dorms vote in College Township.

Boyle said the issue would need to be studied and Wiser said the dorms should not be annexed back to State College.

Deeslie, Dombroski, Lewis and Spearly said the dorms should be a part of State College.

State College Municipal Council candidates



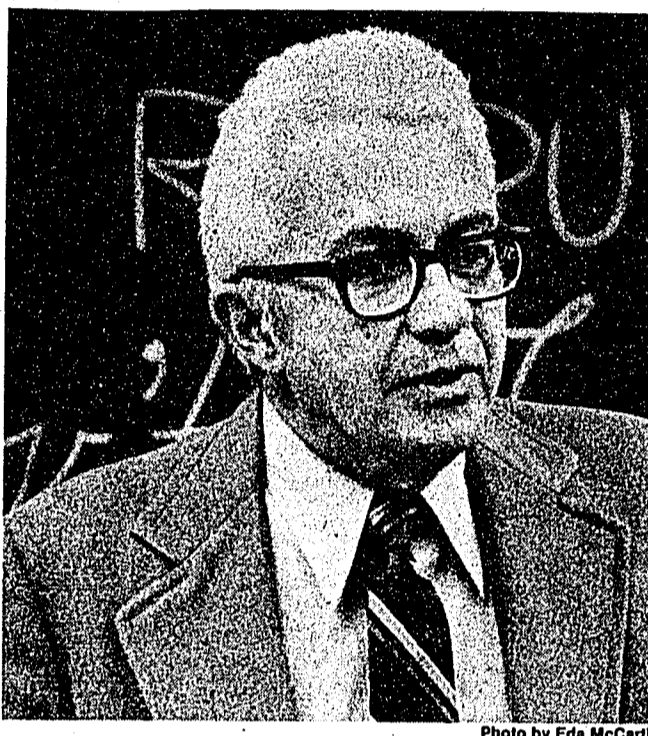
Ray Boyle



Grove Spearly Jr.



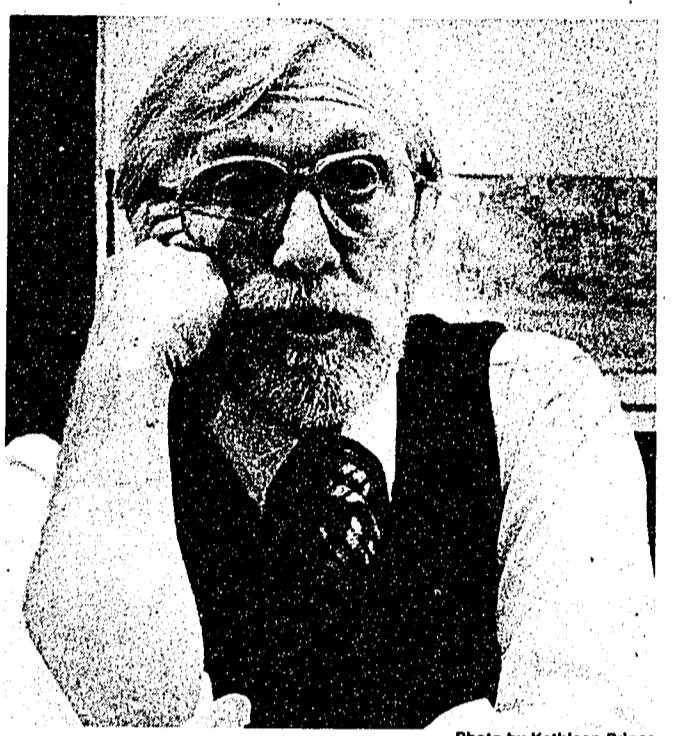
Felicia Lewis



John A. Dombroski



Gary A. Wiser



James Deeslie

look at local campaign issues

SMSA funds: a dream come true?

By KATHY ANDREWS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Most of the candidates for State College Municipal Council agree that the municipality has a housing problem which could be resolved with the money the area is eligible to receive from the federal government.

State College has been designated a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area as of the 1980 Census and is eligible for \$2.3 million in Community Development Block Grants.

Candidate James Deeslie, an incumbent Democrat, said SMSA funds could be used to buy land on West College Avenue.

"We have problems on West College," Deeslie said. "We, as council, cannot buy buildings, but we can accumulate land and sell it."

However, Deeslie said council can only make recommendations about the appearance of buildings, not dictate aesthetics.

The candidate also said he supports putting money into hiring more code enforcement officers.

Deeslie said he would like to see the bloc grant money to first go to senior citizen housing.

"I want to complete the senior citizens housing project on Bellaire Avenue," he said. "We're never had enough money to complete it and it certainly applies in this case."

Deeslie also said he supports programs that would benefit the region, such as code enforcement and public works programs, specifically road improvements. This would benefit the entire area and keep taxes down, he said.

Republican John Dombroski said it is difficult to comment on how the SMSA money can be spent.

"We haven't so far identified who the low- and moderate-income people are in State College and how we can use that money according to regulations," he said. "It pays to be cautious when dealing with federal funds."

Dombroski said council should find out from other communities what they have done with SMSA funding and should get citizen input on the matter.

Dombroski said SMSA money can be used for housing if there is a problem, but the regulations on how the money

is to be spent must be carefully followed.

He said he does not know if the SMSA funds could be used to improve the substandard housing on West College Avenue, since that is a private business.

Grove A. Spearly, Jr., a Democratic candidate, said he thinks citizen input should decide how the SMSA money is spent.

"I'd like to see small-scale, community-based housing projects, such as five people to a house," he said. "It could even be inter-generational, not just housing for the elderly."

Deeslie said the council should spend the SMSA funds on smaller projects.

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Over-regulation viewed by candidates

By KATHY ANDREWS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Although some of the State College Municipal Council candidates believe there is over-regulation from municipal council—as with the sign ordinance and the anti-smoking proposal—Felicia Lewis, a Democrat and incumbent, said the existing sign ordinance is a protection for small businesses who would otherwise be forced to compete with the size of national franchise signs.

"You cannot have effective planning without effective ordinances," Lewis said. "This maintains the highest level of quality in State College, which benefits the citizens and the University."

Lewis said the sign ordinance was established in the late 1960s and early 1970s when national franchises entered the city with large emblems and motifs.

As a result of the sign ordinance, the State College Holiday Inn has one of the smallest signs in the United States and McDonald's was constructed without any arches, Lewis said.

Lewis also said she does not believe voluntary compliance from businesses would work in State College, as other council members have suggested, even though some businesses have used personal restraint and good taste in going along with the appearance of the community.

On the State College Board of Health's proposed anti-smoking ordinance, Lewis said she would like to hear more views from the citizens.

The council listened to a report by the board last month on the possibility of an ordinance to ban smoking in public places and decided more information was needed on the enforcement of such an ordinance and a formal definition of public places.

Unless there was a large number of public support, Lewis said she believed it would be virtually impossible to enforce such an ordinance in bars. However, she said it would not be as difficult to enforce in restaurants.

James Deeslie, a Democrat and incumbent, agrees with Lewis in defending the sign ordinance.

"We have careful zoning and land use control in the borough," Deeslie said. "A lot of the ordinances should be strengthened and not weakened."

Deeslie said the sign ordinance has done a fantastic job for State College. Tacky commercial strips with billboards are not seen in State College as a result of the ordinance, Deeslie said.

John Dombroski, a Republican, said if elected, he would like to take a look at the ordinances that have become restrictive. He said some ordinances have been used to harass the program and not solve it.

Dombroski said he believes that instead of a sign ordinance, voluntary compliance among the municipal government, the community and the Chamber of Commerce could control offensive signing in the business area.

Deeslie said he does not think an anti-smoking ordinance would be easily enforced in public places. Harassment and a lack of uniform enforcement would result from such an ordinance, he said.

John Wiser, a Republican, agreed with Dombroski in saying an anti-smoking ordinance could not be easily enforced.

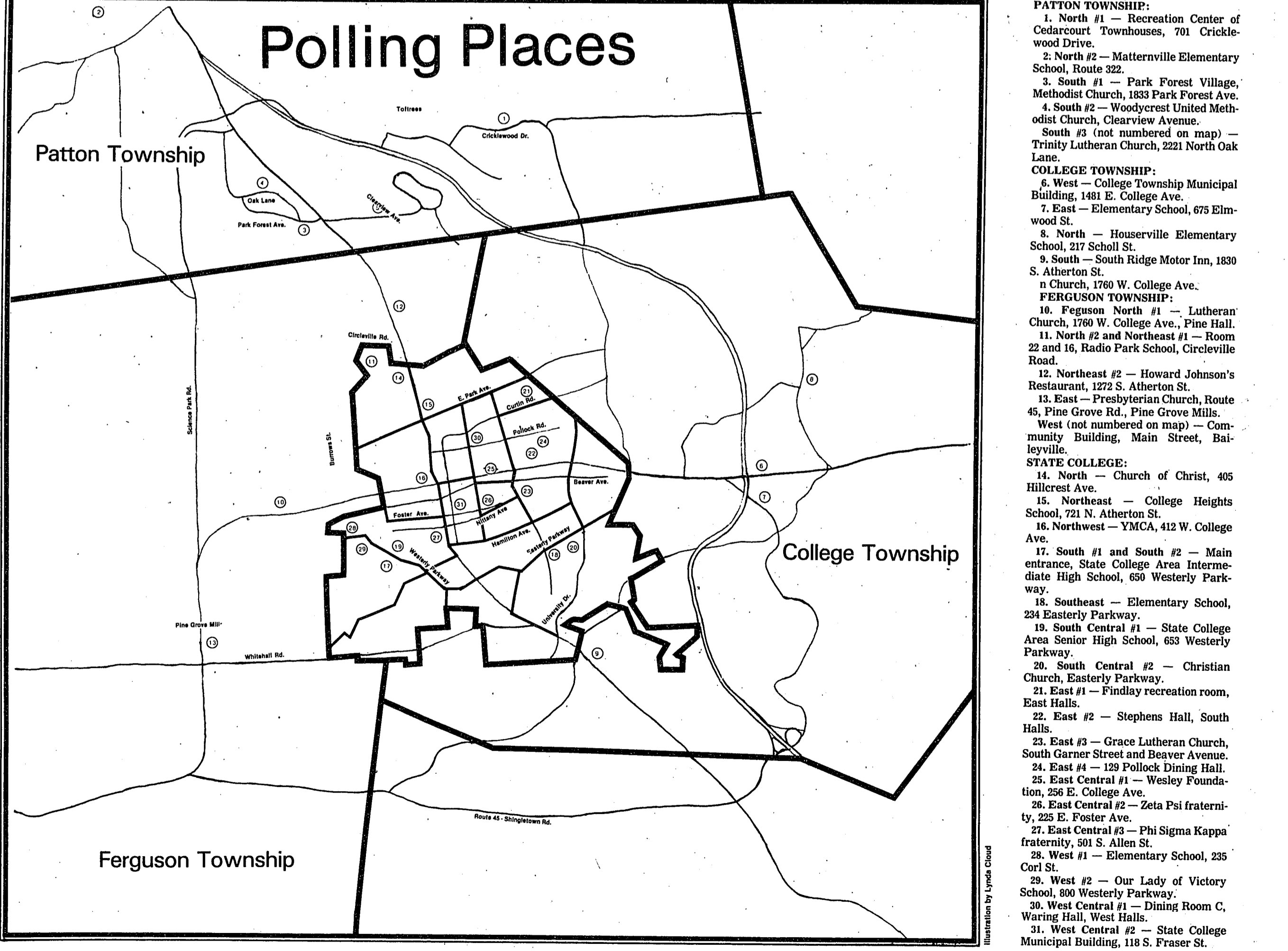
He said area restaurants should be encouraged to provide separate sections for smokers and nonsmokers. However, it may not be economically feasible for some businesses to provide such sections, he said.

Grove Spearly, a Democrat, said he is afraid of over-regulation from the council and said he is embarrassed about the anti-smoking proposal.

"People who smoke have just as much of a right as nonsmokers," he said. "On the other side, Ray Boyle, a Consumer Party candidate, said he favors an anti-smoking ordinance as a nonsmoker and for the general health of the public."

Boyle said he realizes what the council is concerned about with a sign ordinance, since State College is a beautiful town. However, he said he believes the council should set its priorities on more important issues, such as energy and transportation.

Ralph Way, a Republican, refused to be interviewed.



Candidates divided on cab company ownership

By KATHY ANDREWS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

State College Municipal Council candidates favor the Centre Area Transportation Authority provides to the riders of the municipality, however not all of them favor the municipality's ownership of the cab company.

James Deeslie, an incumbent Democrat, said he is pleased with the successful ridership CATA is providing and is also delighted to see what is happening with the cab company.

Deeslie said he was a member of the council that voted to maintain the ownership of the cab company and said he would like to see it break even by the end of the year.

The Centre Cab Co. was purchased from the Golden Cab Co. in 1979 and turned over to CATA for operation. Because the company was running at a deficit, CATA asked to be relieved of responsibility for the cabs. The council then voted

to keep the company for at least a year on a trial basis, with a review after six months. This review will come at the end of October.

Deeslie said the advantage of keeping a municipally owned cab company is that it provides services to the elderly and the handicapped.

However, if a private company could continue to provide top service to the municipality, Deeslie said, then it would be a good idea to sell it.

As it stands now, Deeslie said, there are five clean and dependable cabs operating out of the Centre Regional Bus Depot, which is open 24 hours a day. A big plus in that is the cabs can service the bus passengers at any time throughout the day, he said.

Deeslie also said the 30-minute waiting time for a cab has now been reduced to 12 minutes.

John Dombroski, a Republican, said he is in favor of the continuation of CATA, but said he believes the cab company should be in the hands

of private owners.

"When private enterprise operates something, tax money is generated," Dombroski said. "When government operates something, you spend money."

Dombroski said he believes the cab company can be privately operated since he has talked to private owners who are interested in purchasing the cabs.

Grove Spearly, a Democrat, agreed with Dombroski, in saying that CATA provides good services. But the government should not get involved in a private industry with the cab company, Spearly said.

If a private industry would take over the ownership of the cab company, more jobs would be provided to citizens of the borough, Spearly said.

Gary Wiser, a Republican, said he would like to see CATA transferred to the Centre Region Council of Governments instead of it being a municipally owned cab company.

By KATHY ANDREWS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

"This town bases its transportation on the use of the car," Boyle said. "I would like to see a more balanced system of transportation, such as public transportation, walkways and bikeways."

As for the cab company, Boyle said it is needed and does not see much harm in it being run by the municipality. However, "if it becomes a problem, he said he would back the idea of finding a responsible private owner."

Boyle also said the cab company is good because it provides para-transit ridership to the elderly and handicapped, since buses are not equipped to handle them.

Felicia Lewis, a Democrat incumbent, said she would like to see CATA become regionally supportive.

Ralph Way, a Republican, requested not to be interviewed.