

## editorial opinion

### Democratic voters should make informed choices based on the issues

Tomorrow, the Democratic voters of Pennsylvania will get their chance to decide the direction of the Democratic presidential campaign.

The campaign to this date has been nothing less than a circus at times. Former Vice President Walter F. Mondale went into the campaign as the clear front-runner. It was just a matter of time before the other seven candidates dropped out in the shadow of the great Mondale machine.

But the upset-minded primary of New Hampshire changed the entire scope of the Democratic campaign. All of a sudden, a little-known Colorado senator named Gary Hart began to make a sudden surge at the front-runner status.

In the meantime, five of the original eight candidates have dropped out. The third remaining candidate, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, has made strides with his campaign also. Following poor showings early in the campaign, Jackson has built a core of support that has given him strong showings in recent primaries and has made himself a force that must be reckoned with in the Democratic race.

And now, with tomorrow's primary in the state that will send the fourth largest block of delegates to the Democratic convention, it is time for the Democratic voters of Pennsylvania to make an informed choice on the Democratic presidential race.

Pennsylvania also holds the distinction of a major force in the momentum of the Democratic campaign. The supporters of Gary Hart need a strong showing in Pennsylvania. If Mondale wins

Pennsylvania by a big margin, the Hart campaign will indeed be jumping for Mondale's coattails.

To make an endorsement at this point in the campaign would be extremely hard. Many of the issues in the race so far have not come under close enough scrutiny. Among the three candidates, their stands on some of the issues are not that distinguishable to make any one of them a clear front-runner.

One issue the Democratic campaign has not talked about nearly enough is programs in education. One has to dig deep into the campaign to find exactly where the candidates stand on this issue.

If there is any issue central to a university community in this campaign, this would be it. President Reagan's swashbuckling cuts into federal education programs have been widely criticized. If the Democratic front-runners want the vote of student populations, it would be in their favor to address this issue squarely in the future.

Another problem this country faces is the Reagan deficit. All three of the Democratic hopefuls have come out in favor of cutting the deficit, but with some fine distinctions.

Mondale and Hart would both scale down the defense budget, but cut out tax breaks for the rich. Jackson, in addition to making massive cuts in the defense budget, would increase taxes on the wealthy and on big business.

All three candidates propose ways to halt the massive build-up of this country's nuclear arsenals. Also, all three candidates have offered alternatives to present situations in Central America and the



#### Middle East

Jackson favors talking with the church in El Salvador and not supplying covert aid to the rebels. Jackson also favors talking directly with the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

Mondale favors moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and would tell Amin Gemayel that the U.S. forces in Lebanon are not there on an open-ended basis.

Hart opposes covert aid in Central America also, and Hart has criticized Mondale's willingness to keep U.S. troops in Honduras — which critics have said are there to intimidate neighboring Nicaraguan troops. Hart also favors moving the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv, but he has disavowed a letter he said staffers sent to a Zionist group

promising to negotiate any such move.

On big business, the candidates are a little more divided. Hart voted against the bail-out of Chrysler because he did not want to burden the taxpayers if the company failed. Mondale totes the Chrysler deal highly, calling it one of America's greatest success stories. But Mondale has also been criticized for being in the back pocket of labor. Indeed, labor organizations have been stumping for Mondale with the greatest enthusiasm seen in some time.

Jackson favors the type of loans that Chrysler got because of the number of jobs that are on the line. Jackson has not courted labor to the extent Mondale has, and has been picking up some big support

from many people in labor who would rather choose a candidate for themselves than have the union tell them who is best.

These are some of the issues that will be the base of the Democratic platform when it comes down to trying to oust Reagan in November. But before the Democrats go against Reagan, they must come out with a leader of their own.

The Democrats in this race have been criticized for their near-constant attacks on each other. While they have been trying to rip each other to shreds, they have left some key issues in the dark.

And as the race enters the home stretch, issues, not personality slurs should dominate the campaign.

## the Collegian

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## reader opinion

### Something amiss

Today marks an all-time low for the American judicial system, in my opinion. Today two men were executed for their crimes of murder. They are the latest victims of our nation's most barbaric criminal punishment — the death penalty. This year will see an all-time high for executions since the death penalty was reinstated by the Supreme Court.

It should be noted early that the actions of these men were nothing less than barbaric themselves. Any person who takes the life of another human being does deserve to be severely punished. However, punishing murder by murder seems both illogical and morally wrong.

These criminals are viewed as utterly hopeless, anti-social human beings. They cannot be rehabilitated or made productive to society. So what the hell good is this human life. It will save the state thousands of dollars a year, too.

Some "experts" tell us that capital punishment acts as a deterrent to murder. However, I believe that this "myth" has been disproven by statistical fact. So let's throw that out the window right now.

Thank goodness that we live in America, America, the most advanced country in the civilized world. America, home of baseball, hot dogs, apple pie and death by lethal injection. Thank goodness our country isn't as uncivilized as some of those third world countries. We all know how barbaric they are.

I feel that when a society has put the decision of life and death in the hands of a select few "justices" things have

gone too far. Tell me what right this group has of deciding life and death for another human being. It seems odd that our country's best solution to murder is murder itself.

What the issue really boils down to is the philosophy of life and let live or live and let die. I know what my philosophy is and have no doubt that it is right. Can you say the same about your philosophy?

Dave Ulery, junior-industrial engineering  
April 5

### Must the majority rule?

Regarding Patrick Bayer's letter on April 3, we feel we must add our own "two cents."

In his letter he notes a recent poll which finds 80 percent of the American public in support of a school prayer amendment. He then quotes Abraham Lincoln stating that our government is for the people. Understand, however, a majority can be wrong.

What percentage of American southerners supported slavery in the 1800s? What percentage of the German people supported Hitler and his Reich? Weren't the Greeks and the Romans highly supportive of slavery and male domination? Didn't the Romans have a good time at the Colosseum? Wasn't witch hunting one of the most popular sports of medieval Europe and colonial America?

Mr. Bayer, aren't you a history major? Surely you must know a majority does not constitute right or wrong.

The fact is that school prayer is unfair, discriminatory, and is a last ditch effort by the religious leaders of this

country to attempt to regain the influence they have been losing for years. So please don't complain about your "dead freedoms"; to us, can't you pray on your own?

Mark Kaufman, freshman-computer engineering  
Garth Longdon, freshman-computer science  
Robyn Beck, sophomore-DUS  
April 3

### On the road to recovery

As a resident of Johnstown, I was disappointed about the recent free lance page.

When people ask me where I'm from and I say Johnstown, they usually say something about floods. I reply by saying Johnstown also has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country. I usually get a startled response.

The pictures showed the economic situation well but the photographs are not characteristic of the city. In my opinion, the feature makes it look like there is no hope.

The article only showed bad points and no area of recovery. Currently, there is heavy reconstruction going on throughout the city and people have not lost hope.

The next time someone asks me where I'm from and I reply Johnstown, I hope they say "Oh, yeah, Johnstown, the city which had high unemployment but never lost hope."

Daneen Hewitt, freshman-management  
April 4

## Boredom unavoidable, even when the weather is better

Despite the many inches of snow, I really think that spring has finally arrived in State College. The air is becoming warmer and people are engaged in the normal spring activities such as frisbee throwing and baseball. Gradually the snow will melt and the snowball fights will end. And most of all, people will be busy enjoying the spring — or will they?



During the spring months there are hundreds of things for students in State College to do. There are the organized events such as the Phi Psi 500 and the Regatta and the more spontaneous activities of picnicking and softball. Yet, I predict that the listlessness which many people feel all winter will return after people are set in routines of spring.

through the winter months complaining about being bored and having nothing "fun" to do. But once spring and summer arrive, people still complain of boredom.

Actually, it makes a lot of sense that people are just as bored if one considers that there are probably as many activities that are characteristic of winter as there are of spring. Sure, the weather is usually a bit more temperate, but for a lot of snow enthusiasts, weather does not seem to matter much.

So the questions stands, why are so many students here bored? Some would argue that State College is just a tedious place. While I might agree during one of my more apathetic moods, this answer does not make sense. Boredom is not just a symptom of State College life. This city may not be New York or Washington, D.C., but students in all different types of colleges experience the same fatigue and stress from feeling bored.

Indeed, it is commonplace among most people and considered by psychologists to be one of the major causes of stress for individuals.

Now my father and many of his generation have told me that in the "good ole days" kids knew how to have fun. Then, I hear how television is the root of 70 percent of the evil in this country and so on. They consider it to

be a problem of our culture. And as much as I hate to always agree, I think they have a point.

From my perspective, it seems that people have been raised with a certain compulsion to work. Most of us have (or should have) at least discussed the renowned Protestant work ethic that pervades this country. Thus, many of us are taught to be achievement oriented. When younger, we were given permission to have fun, but it was not necessarily encouraged. Presently, as college students, a lot of us are not even given that permission, either by our parents and professors or ourselves. We're told to work.

Who needs permission to have fun? What a ridiculous idea. But is it? Students (at least some of us) spend a lot of time worrying about our major, our classes, and our homework — all of which is condoned worrying. But it appears odd when someone is anxious about how they are going to enjoy that permission, either by our parents and professors or ourselves. We're told to work.

Consequently, we don't plan our leisure hours in order to make sure that we will be doing something we want. Thus, many times, we don't enjoy our night or afternoon out. Or we become bored, not knowing what to do. But, isn't this plight only that of the

fortunate and aren't there much more important things about which to worry? Of course, there are. Yet, not spending one's leisure time wisely hinders our ability to think and work. As mentioned previously, boredom is a leading cause of stress, which can lead to a variety of other serious problems. So what does one do? While the answer to that question varies with each individual, certain generalizations can be made. Students feel different things, all of which they tie under the subject heading "boredom."

For some, those who are constantly working or studying, "boredom" means wanting a break from all that work.

For those who seem to "party" most of their college years away, "boredom" means needing to find a different way of having fun.

And for the middle group, those who work a lot, but do find time to eat dinner or read a book for pleasure, "boredom" indicates a state of wanting to have fun, but either not being able to pinpoint what "having fun" entails or not being able to do the things at which one has fun. And, I would venture to say that it is this group into which most people fall.

For the over-achiever type, the easiest way of alleviating boredom is giving oneself that permission to enjoy and to take a break

from working no matter how many pages are left in the book. Those in a near constant state of partying have probably given themselves the permission to have fun and probably should think about giving themselves permission to work.

But it is the last group for whom most of the problems occur. While feeling the pressure to achieve, this group acutely feels the pressure to have a good time, especially because "everyone else is." Thus, they are torn in opposite directions.

To overcome these pressures, these people have to realize and accept several facts. First, it is all right to have fun, even when every scrap of work is not done.

But second, "having fun" is not something that just happens. It should be planned on the basis of individual preferences and limits. Thus, to have fun or alleviate boredom takes a little time and imagination, and there is nothing wrong with really planning or working on ways to have fun.

Consider that people major in Recreation and Parks and that some people spend their lives' work showing others how to have fun. It may take a little work, but isn't it worth it?

Linda Menghetti is a senior majoring in political science and a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

## opinions

### Graduate committee dedicated to improving family housing

Editors note: This forum is part of a continuing series on graduate student life at Penn State by the Graduate Student Association.

By Saras Menon

The following article looks at the major concerns of graduate students living in family housing and how their recently-formed committee is helping to identify and resolve some of the existing problems. It focuses both on immediate issues as well as long-term considerations, essential in serving an expanding graduate community.

In response to several problems created by the policies of the Housing Office toward the renting and maintenance of the graduate family housing facilities on campus, the resident of Eastview Terrace and Graduate Circle formed a committee under the auspices of the GSA earlier this year. Although the committee has been functioning for only a short while, its experience in tackling a few of the issues has been an extremely positive one, and has provided the basis for continuing to press for improved conditions in family housing.

Early in January, several families received termination notices, because they would have exceeded the number of returning adults in the apartments in the 1984-85 academic year. They were faced with a serious disruption in their academic plans because most of the graduate students were in the final phases of their

degree program. The absence of affordable alternative housing downtown would have been a further financial burden, particularly at a time when a student's main energies need to be directed at completing the degree and seeking employment.

As a result, a committee was formed and attempts were made at ascertaining the reason prohibiting school-age children from residing on Penn State property. Two reasons were offered by the housing authorities: 1) Family housing is unsuitable for older children, and; 2) The University could be asked for payment in lieu of taxes to the State College municipality — if there were a large number of children attending local public schools. It was the latter that became the central issue in the negotiation for lease extensions.

The committee researched the problem by contacting State College Area School District officials, the Borough Tax Office, the County Board of Assessment and the State Department of Revenue in Harrisburg. We were able to show that, at this time, payments in lieu of taxes is a voluntary payment, and that Penn State takes minimal risk in allowing school-age children to reside on its property. Pending U.S. legislation, moreover, would make lease restrictions on children illegal.

At a meeting organized by the GSA, representatives of the committee presented the entire issue to University President Bryce Jordan. He appeared sympathetic to the problem, observing that in his personal experience

the availability of graduate family housing had considerably eased his graduate studies.

The committee also stressed its concerns regarding the long-term policy of the University towards graduate family housing. This, too, was of particular interest to Dr. Jordan, who emphasized Penn State's commitment to the expansion of the graduate community. As a result of these efforts the housing officials agreed to meet the committee and have agreed to a discussion of guidelines for the lease extension procedure.

Another important outcome of the efforts of the committee was the strengthening of community feeling in the two neighborhoods. The concern of the residents who were not directly affected by the lease termination was heartening. They offered suggestions and joined with the affected residents in petitioning the Housing Office. More importantly, though, this resulted in the airing of concerns that affected other residents as well.

One such problem is the waiting list of applicants, maintained by the Housing Office. Applicants have been considerably perplexed in the past by the sudden allotment of apartments to families who have been told earlier that they are way down on the list. There is an increasing number of returning adults at the Housing Office leads to speedy allotment. The Housing Office could dispel such doubts by publicly posting the waiting list in its office. This would help applicants who have to decide whether to renew their off-campus leases,

and would also assist residents (who move out of graduate family housing) with subletting.

A major gain in this experience has been that the Housing Office now deals seriously with the committee. As a result, it has been possible to meet with other individuals in the Housing Office to raise issues regarding the maintenance of housing — particularly, the infestation of roaches in Graduate Circle (which, in the past, has been dealt with only by partial extermination); the clearing of sidewalks during the winter holidays; the condition of the laundry rooms in Graduate Circle; and necessary improvements in the playground equipment. Another inconvenience that has been mentioned is the lack of a safe walkway between Graduate Circle and Eastview Terrace, where a very busy highway (University Drive) has to be crossed. Last year, traffic lights were installed at the crossroads any when a student's wife was injured while crossing the highway.

It is a positive sign that the Housing Office has consented to meet and discuss these, and other problems, with the Committee. If Penn State is serious about improving its research environment and expanding its graduate population, it must consider the needs of married students and single-parents. The increasing number of returning adults at the undergraduate level makes the needs of family housing more broad-based. The Family Housing Committee and the Housing Office have taken the first steps together towards improving the living environment in the grad-

uate family housing areas.

The Committee, however, does not wish merely to pursue and resolve problems and disputes between the Housing Office and residents. We have long-term plans for the enhancement of the community life in these neighborhoods, of which a few can be identified. Efforts can be directed toward organizing orientation and education workshops, recreational activities for residents, cooperative babysitting, neighborhood beautification, and so on. Closely related to many of these projects is a long-felt need for a community center — the committee is particularly keen to assist the Housing Office in exploring sources of funds to make such a center possible.

Residents of Eastview Terrace and Graduate Circle deeply value the availability of graduate housing. It is an economic necessity during the difficult period of graduate study. In addition, we have all benefited from the supportive community found in both neighborhoods. The committee hopes to reinforce this community spirit via its more organized educational and recreational efforts, thus contributing to the improvement of the quality of life in family housing at Penn State.

Saras Menon her husband, Krishna are members of the Family Housing Committee, which was formed this year. The committee welcomes comments and suggestions and can be reached through the Graduate Student Association.

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