

opinions

The Daily Collegian
Thursday, Aug. 30, 1984

editorial opinion

Help choose a leader

Most students haven't lost their summer tans yet and September is still a few days away. But it is not too early to start thinking about the November elections.

Students not only have an opportunity to help choose who will serve as the country's leader for the next four years, but also to elect Centre Region politicians to important legislative posts.

For many, this year will mark the first presidential election in which they are eligible to vote. This is no small event. Each voter must choose between increasing taxes and increasing nuclear arms; no abortion and no school prayer. Also, the president that we elect will probably have the opportunity to appoint at least three new Supreme Court justices.

Moreover, students should consider the local races which could have far-reaching effects on the University and local community. The candidates that we elect will have an impact on the amount of financial aid students receive. Ultimately, the candidates will even influence tuition.

Ten years ago tuition accounted for only a little over one-third of Penn State's expenditures. But last year, tuition paid for nearly half the University's expenses. In other words, state appropriations continue to provide a lesser percentage of Penn State's general fund budget.

For State College residents, taxes will be a key issue in the race, one which all potential candidates should address.

Republican Lynn Herrin is seeking his second term as state representative of the 77th Legislative District. Opposing him are Consumer party candidate Tom Ortenberg of State College and Democratic candidate Annabelle S. Wenke, a University English composition lecturer.

In the 171st Legislative District, Republican candidate Charles Wilmer is challenging incumbent Ruth C. Rudy, D-Centre, for the position of state representative.

And it is State Rep. Bill Wachob, D-Elk and Clearfield, against U.S. Rep. William F. Clinger, R-Central Pa., in the race for the 23rd District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

University students have shown in the past a desire to make their thoughts known. Last year's borough council elections showed the type of impact the student vote in State College can make. A record number of student voters resulted in three of the four USG-endorsed candidates elected to council seats.

The importance of these local races, in addition to the presidential race, is the force behind the Undergraduate Student Government's extensive voter registration drive. This year, USG will push for voter registration more than in past years.

USG officially kicks off the drive Sept. 12, when consumer advocate Ralph Nader speaks in Eisenhower Auditorium. USG members plan to visit residence halls and students receive. Ultimately, the group also plans to phone registered students to inform them of current issues and encourage voting.

USG will also work with the Council of Branch Campus Student Governments to conduct a similar drive at the commonwealth campuses.

The deadline for voter registration is Oct. 6.

Voting is not only a right but also a privilege. And while it is hard to think about November when it is still warm enough to wear shorts to classes, the elections are really not that far away. Thanks to USG, it will be easier than ever to register and stay informed about the candidates and issues.

The first step students must take to prepare themselves for the election is to register to vote and to start watching the candidates — now.



Columnist applications are still available in 126 Carnegie and will be accepted through Sept. 1.

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Alecia Swasy Business Manager
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reader opinion

Intentions

Recently we all received a letter from the executive vice president about the new computerized billing and registration system. We at PSSGSSBDBT, Penn State Society of Second Guessers and Back Seat Drivers of the Board of Trustees feel that you should know what was really meant to be said in this letter. Thus we are publishing here selected parts of the letter sent to you, with what the University really meant to say. Please note that this is not the original, only its intentions.

As you probably know, Penn State has implemented a computerized billing, housing and registration system to serve you and other students more effectively. Since first born, you will be allowed to enjoy Penn State for one more semester.

The system also provides a quicker response to the billing needs of the University, while not allowing the student to make changes, or the secretaries to live peaceful lives. We have also ensured that the system will fail at least once a day during drop/add thus allowing you all to pay an additional \$6 for this joy.

Nonetheless, the process of bringing the system on-line has not been without its problems, and you and your family should have been adversely affected. We have yet to solve the problems with drop/add. At present we estimate that the average student must spend 2.7 hours in line per credit to drop/add. We feel that this is much too long for the good things that are being done during the fall drop/add we hope to set a new national record for time waiting in line. (The current record stands — no pun intended — at 5.8 hours per credit.)

We anticipate that a system of this magnitude will present some glitches in its shake-down period, but we are deeply sorry if you are not yet inconvenienced by this new system. Our goal is to have each student be adversely affected by this new system by Spring '85.

We realize that this is a major task, thus we ask that if you received your bill on time, had no troubles with the

billing system, had no troubles with your class schedule, and did not need to drop/add, please contact us. (Since there should be only a few of you, there will be a minimum amount of time waiting in line.) Those of you who are wondering about such trivial things as student ID stickers for the football games, car parking stickers, or organization registration, don't worry. We promise to screw it up royally.

For the majority of you who have been inconvenienced, forced to pay more, or dropped from school by the computer because you took more than six days to pay your bill, you must understand, this was our intention. If you will simply re-pay the fees, double pay your tuition, and allow us to keep both your security deposit and your first born, you will be allowed to enjoy Penn State for one more semester.

Harry Goldman, senior-quantitative business analysis
President PSSGSSBDBT, An Equal Opportunity Hecker
Aug. 27

Don't blame the pitcher

The findings of a study of beer drinkers reported in an Aug. 28 The Daily Collegian article seem unfounded based on the other information given in the article.

Granted that there is a correlation between the amount of beer consumed and the use of pitchers. But do the pitchers cause people to drink, as suggested by the article, or do people who want to drink more buy pitchers? What is the source of Mr. Geller's statement: "People don't want as much beer as they get in that pitcher, but they figure it's cheaper and feel compelled to 'clean the plate'?"

Is this inference from observing beer drinkers or did he conduct interviews, or obtain this information from some other source? It seems pathetically simplistic to blame the pitcher for the amount of beer consumed.

OF COURSE, TAXES WOULD ONLY BE THE LAST RESORT...



DEFICIT REDUCTION PLANS

1. HOPE IT GOES AWAY.
2. IGNORE IT.
3. FORGET ABOUT IT.
4. PRETEND IT ISN'T THERE.
5. TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
6. WISH IT AWAY.
7. MAGIC.
8. BLUE SMOKE.
9. MIRRORS.
10. TAXES (wink).

The reasoning behind the statements concerning group drinking seems equally poor. Groups of people drink more beer per person, over a longer period of time, than solitary drinkers. Is that a fault, or the nature of group drinking? And what is the relationship between group drinking and drunken driving?

The fact that people in groups drink more is not in itself a problem. Do people who drink in groups get involved in a disproportionate number of accidents? That is the relevant question. On the face of it there seem to be reasons why group drinking is good. People in groups may take care of each other and since they spend more

time in the bar, they may be less drunk when they leave. I cannot fault the concern of Mr. Geller about drunk driving. However, his findings as reported in this newspaper are very superficial. In order to make changes in the system, more relevant information is needed about the links between who drinks, how they drink, and how it affects drunk driving. Examining beer drinkers in bars is inadequate and misleading.

Alan Wintersteen, graduate-French studies and business administration
Aug. 28

On their own or not, they are a force to be reckoned with

Earlier this summer, I had the distinct pleasure of learning that I would be sharing an apartment with three women. I wasn't at all hesitant about moving in with members of the opposite sex, in fact, I was really looking forward to it. Four days into the semester and still no complaints.



Chris Reilly

I had heard all sorts of horror stories about living with women: the fact that they always fight, are moody and just generally hard to get along with. But I, in my infinite wisdom, shrugged it all off and decided to

have a go at it. As it turns out, these three ladies could possibly turn out to be the best roommates I've ever had.

I consider myself to be fairly unbiased when it comes to dealing with females. I don't expect a woman to cook my meals, clean up after me or wait on me hand and foot. I believe in doing my fair share of the work and I don't expect preferential treatment.

I like women (I'm sure all of my male friends will be breathing a collective sigh of relief after hearing that), but more than that, I also respect them. However, after watching the endless speechmaking and hoopla of the Republican Convention, I came away with the distinct impression that the women of the GOP are little more than hostesses to their male counterparts, serving up large doses of subservience and obedience to the party, and receiving little, if any, respect or recognition in return.

Take, for instance, the party platform. No mention of the Equal Rights Amendment

there. Sorry ladies, says Reagan, you'll have to do it on your own. Obviously, Reagan felt that 44 percent of the delegates at the convention had nothing worthwhile to offer.

I found this rather disturbing in light of a recent political first, namely the nomination of a woman for vice-president. I don't claim to be an ardent fan of Walter Mondale, but I do respect him for finally recognizing that a woman is capable of handling the second highest office in the land, if not the presidency itself.

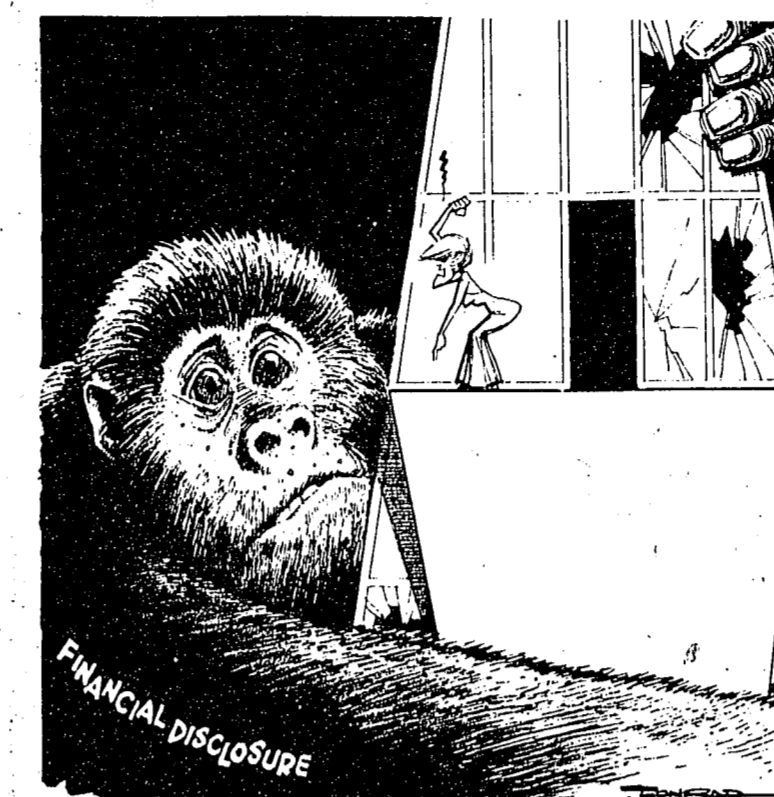
Jimmy Carter, while not one of our more popular presidents, had the commendable trait of asking his wife Rosalyn for advice on domestic and foreign policy matters. Hey, Nancy Reagan offers her husband advice too. When Reagan was recently asked how negotiations on nuclear arms talks were going, Nancy mumbled "Doing all we can." To which the President added, "Doing all we can." While I'm not ridiculing Nancy Reagan (her work to curb drug and

alcohol abuse among the young is commendable), it does seem as though she is more of a housewife, doing "a woman's work," things like redecorating the White House and choosing new chins.

Sure, Reagan has appointed women to positions of responsibility in his administration — Ann Burford and Rita Lavelle at the EPA, for example. They ended up being called before Congress and losing their jobs all for the sake of saving Reagan's image as an ardent environmentalist. Granted, he did hire Burford back, and ended up shooting himself in the foot in the process. All the uproar from environmentalists and ensuing bad press sent Ann packing again.

Is this any way to treat a woman? But alas, all of this is not completely Reagan's fault. Many women in the Republican Party are just plain conservative. A Los Angeles Times survey of the women delegates at the convention showed that more of them approved of the Moral Major-

opinions



Choosing Ferraro designed to divert attention

Walter Mondale — he is perhaps the foremost champion of the welfare state on the American political scene today. He has devoted his career, almost all of which has been in government, to undermining the very institutions which have made America strong: private enterprise, individual initiative, national defense, and so the list could continue.



At the moment, though, he finds himself the underdog in a race for the office he has coveted for years, the presidency of the United States. His opponent has for years promoted

those very ideas and institutions that Mondale has sought to decimate. And, like many politicians before him, Mondale has attempted to distract national attention from his unpopular and failed agenda. He still makes the standard Robin Hood speech to the union crowds and other special interest audiences that cling to the failed tax and spend liberalism of the past. But he has done something provocative, although not entirely unexpected, that was carefully designed to divert national and media attention from the issues to something of secondary importance.

I am referring, of course, to Mondale's selection of New York Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro as his running mate. Many people view this as a landmark decision, reflecting Mondale's abiding sensitivity to the political concerns of American women. It is hailed as a courageous and the most notable stride to date for women seeking equality in American society.

Admittedly, the selection is a historic one. But I cannot share the view that this in some way liberates American women politically. Furthermore, I contend that Ferraro was chosen in adherence to the basest of political motives: her presence on the ticket will clearly distract attention from the issues and substantive debate that ought to decide the election.

Don't misunderstand me; I believe women should have every opportunity in politics that men have. Presumably, that is the goal of most feminists — that sex should be irrelevant as worthiness for public life is concerned. What I find infuriating, however, is that Mondale has opted for an affirmative action vice president. Ms. Ferraro was chosen because she is a woman, and that criterion for selection is not in the nation's best interest.

I reach this conclusion by considering what would be the case if Ferraro were a man with the same political leanings. First, she's as liberal as

Mondale, so her presence certainly doesn't balance the ticket ideologically. Second, she's from New York, traditionally a Democratic bastion. Usually, some effort is made to balance the ticket geographically, but Mondale chose to forego this. Instead, he chose an individual who is a liberal partisan operator, not particularly distinguished in Congress or anywhere else.

But she's a woman, and that seems to make a difference. I don't think it should. It is potentially very dangerous for utterly irrelevant things like gender to come into play.

Instead of playing on the political libido of unthinking feminists, Mondale would be well-advised to stick to the substantive concerns of the American people. Then again, though, Walter Mondale has made a name for himself by relying on substance.

David Klingler is a senior majoring in political science, and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

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