

# opinions

The Daily Collegian  
Monday, Sept. 10, 1984

## editorial opinion

### The other side of the fence

When Canadian Prime Minister John N. Turner and his Liberal Party were soundly defeated in elections last Tuesday in our neighboring country to the north, the people of Canada seemed to be sending a message to all those watching.

And to America's delight, their message, one of both national and international unity, was heard loud and clear.

Brian Mulroney and the Progressive Conservative Party won a resounding 211 of the 282 seats in the Canadian parliament, the most lopsided majority in Canadian history. The Liberal Party, which Pierre Trudeau kept in power for most of recent memory, lost 107 of the 147 seats it held after the 1980 elections.

There are many implications of Mulroney's victory, both for Canadians and for relations between Canada and the United States.

The Progressive Conservatives, better known as the "Tories," have been sounding a theme that appeals to the population of this often fractious country.

Mulroney and the Tories are promising a national unity for Canada.

During the years of Trudeau and Turner, the Liberals' policies in Canada had divided the population over several issues.

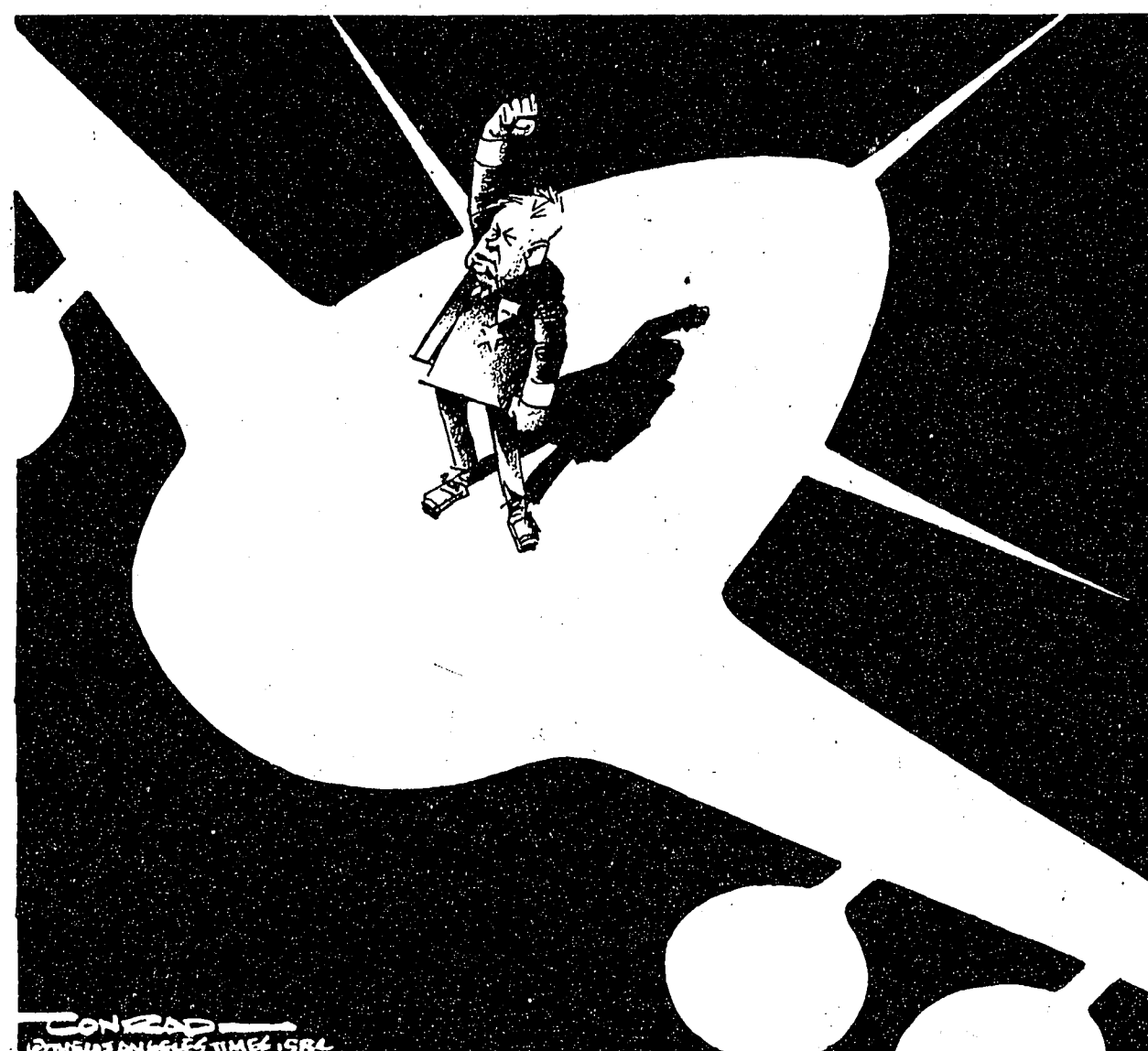
But the astounding victory of the Tories has solidly put them in control — the electoral landslide of the election speaks for itself. Even Rene Levesque, the Premier of Quebec who wants independence for his province, expressed his readiness for cooperation with the new government.

And for Americans, the Tory victory strikes a chord of cooperation also.

One of Mulroney's chief selling points of the Progressive Conservative party has been his intentions to improve relations with the United States. In recent years, the Liberal party has not expressed a desire to work closely with America. Trudeau and Turner effectively kept their neighbors on the other side of the proverbial fence at arm's length.

Now, with next Monday as the likely starting date for the new Canadian government, both the United States and Canada have a new opportunity to mutually and beneficially open the somewhat rusty lines of good communications.

In these times of repressive governments, coups and civil wars, it's encouraging to see a new government with a strong majority behind it, promising unity both within and beyond its borders.



"OUT DAMNED SPOT!"

## the Collegian

Monday, Sept. 10, 1984  
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Editor Business Manager

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## reader opinion

### A pep rally...

On the evening of Sept. 6, the students of Penn State came out to Eisenhower Auditorium and truly showed their colors. Colloquy sponsored what was touted as "The Pornography Debate," though what actually occurred more closely resembled a high school pep rally.

Women Against Pornography representative Dolores Alexander was showered with boos and other assorted verbal abuse during the presentation of her opening comments, while Mr. Reems received vigorous applause when he announced an upcoming television appearance with Telly Savalas. Reems was presented further kudos when he treated the audience to his subtle wit, describing himself as a "lay person."

But the truly pathetic part of the evening was yet to come. Judging from their response, the majority of the audience seemed to be in favor of Reem's viewpoint of pornography as a healthy expression of the beauty of open sexuality (though the beauty of a how-to book on child molestation eludes me). However, at the first mention of lesbian and gay rights, the audience immediately reacted with loud boos. What a travesty!

Though, admittedly, expecting serious debate between an involved political activist and anyone described as "The King of Porn" is asking a bit much, one would expect an audience comprised of the recipients of "higher education" to be able to maturely consider a fairly simplistic question.

John F. McGuire, senior-marketing  
Sept. 7

### ...for pornography...

I went to last night's Colloquy actually expecting a fairly tame audience response to a serious topic of debate. Silly me. I keep forgetting that, though I keep getting older, PSU students just get younger every year.

The debate between Dolores Alexander, founder of Women Against Pornography, and pornography advo-

cate, Harry Reems, turned into a real circus thanks to the raucous pro-porn portion of the audience.

Although Reems believes that pornography promotes "adult" attitudes about sex, and "mature" sexual relationships between (consenting?) adults, I fail to see how any of those screaming pro-porn morons in the audience could possibly ever have any kind of mature/adult relationship with another human being. Sorry boys, I just don't buy it.

Barbara Weaver, State College  
Sept. 7

### ...at Penn State?

Why would a large group of intelligent people waste precious time by going to hear two people debate a controversial issue, and then not give them a chance to speak? This is the question that pervaded my thoughts as I sat in an almost full Eisenhower Auditorium.

Perhaps I've overestimated the intelligence of the student body, or maybe the value of the minute has declined in recent times, but I was under a different impression. I had assumed that Harry Reems and Dolores Alexander were invited to the University as guests. Most of the audience, however, seemed to feel that they themselves were the focus of attention.

A barrage of loud and rude comments were made throughout the debate to the embarrassment of both speakers and the rest of the audience. The remarks were humorous, but only to those who made them. The jokers laughed uproariously at the mere mention of rape and gawped in reference to bestiality. Granted, pornography is a seamy issue with the potential to make us feel uncomfortable, but the behavior of this audience was nothing less than upsetting. As a result of this behavior, the strongest thing demonstrated at "The Pornography Debate" was the stand Penn State is capable of making on idleness.

Debbie Caplan, senior-communications  
Sept. 7

## opinions

### Why do you go to college?

It is the ultimate question that sticks in the minds of parents and relatives when you tell them you are going to college. What are you going to do with it? I guess they have a right to ask, but there's no law that says I have to know.

I've had this argument on the value of education at least a million times. I used to tell my relations that I was in liberal arts and they would cringe. The carcasses of liberal arts majors litter unemployment offices throughout the nation. Why not study something useful, they would say, like nuclear-missile engineering or accounting — something practical?

Then I would tell them that I hope to be a writer at some point in the future. That got them off my back. Usually, the palor of severe motion sickness swept across their faces and they would rush to a neutral corner.

It doesn't disturb me; pragmatism is for the squeamish. The security of knowing that I am going to get out of college and earn big bucks would ruin the thrill of the chase. It would be like hunting game animals.

Anyway, I don't think college should be a career training center. That is part of the function, but college should be more than that — it should be a life training center. A place where a person can explore the limits of their abilities.

We are here to discover ourselves and that's a life, and college can be an important tool in that quest. The

facilities on a college campus offer a cornucopia of activities for the adventurous soul without the consequences of failure in the real world. College life is not real life. It's a sheltered area on the battleground of reality. If you take a course or enter a curriculum and then decide you don't like it, you can just drop it. There may be some hassles involved or a minimal payment, but the costs are minor.

Try changing direction after committing yourself to a job or a relationship and you'll find out it's not that easy. There are the bills to pay, the lawyers to pay, the alimony to pay and the loss of security. In college it's very easy to fit in, to find a niche, while in the real world you have to struggle in order to get yourself situated.

The majority of working people you meet are somewhat dissatisfied with their situations. You hear a lot of "if only's" being tossed about. Talk of a niche, while in the real world you have to struggle in order to get yourself situated.

I've had a long and illustrious college career. So long, in fact, that some people think it is my career. I've taken enough different courses, in enough different fields that I could contend for the Guinness Book of Records longest lack of commitment. But all my studies, except very early in my college life when I didn't want to be there, have been enjoyable.

At another school, I was in a curriculum called "general studies." What it meant was that you could take anything the school offered. There

were no requirements; it was free-form education. Every semester, I'd just sift through the course catalogue picking out subjects that looked interesting, from art history to Zen Buddhism.

After all the experimenting, I finally found a subject that enthralled me. So what if it took this long to get here, at least I'm headed in the right direction. And whenever someone tells me that they've got to get somewhere in a hurry, I remind them to "take the long way home."

Now at the family reunions, I don't have to feel ashamed of myself. I tell my relatives that I'm in liberal arts with pride in my voice. Of course, I clarify the statement with a quick "econ."

They just will never understand that the best education is a well-rounded education and that high money value isn't the determining factor in higher learning.

Mark H. Smith is a senior majoring in economics, and is a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

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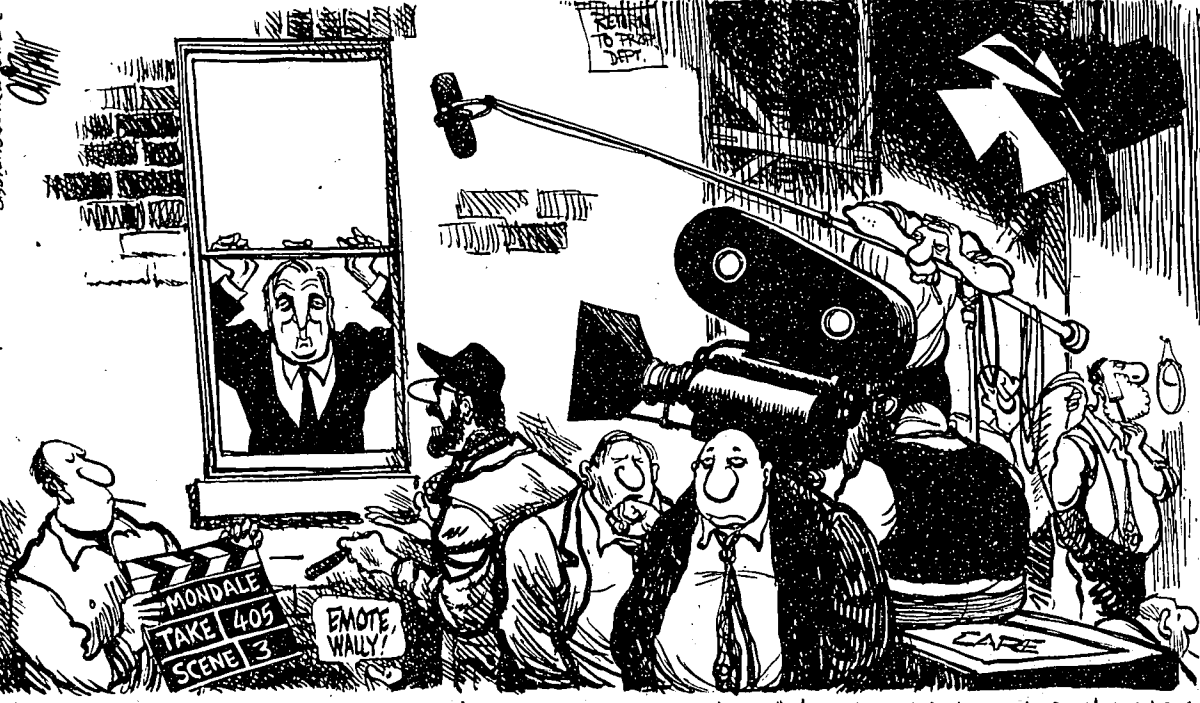
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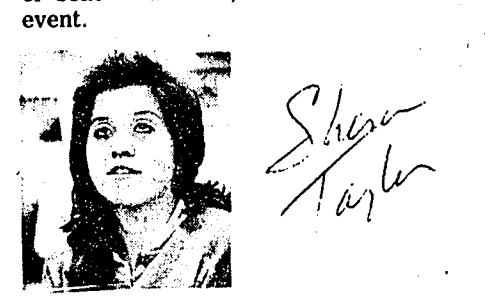
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## A full house, playing with half a deck, attends the Great Porn Debate

I was disgusted. And if I had gone on my own accord instead of as an assignment for a journalism class, I would have left.

The crowd was a rowdy lot — nothing new for Penn State. I doubt Dolores Alexander knew what she was getting herself into. It was the Great Porn Debate, and there was standing room only. The ushers filled row after Eisenhower row, seat after Eisenhower seat — about 2,000 turned out for the event.



The stage was set. The mediator, in a futile attempt to keep the crowd controlled, asked that "we" respect each other. He asked us to save our comments to the question-answer period following the debate. A good portion of the audience failed miserably. The crowd took sides very early — even as the contestants walked onto the stage. Dolores Alexander, founder of Women Against Pornography, was met with animosity; the crowd booed her. Harry Reems, the star of Deep Throat, was met with wild applause. Many rose to their feet, chanting "Harry, Harry."

From that moment on the debate went downhill. It was no fault of Alexander, who remained relatively composed throughout, even though the crowd was less than receptive to her attitudes or philosophies.

Alexander began her 20-minute speech explaining what points she planned to make. But she lost her place. Obviously shaken, she told the audience: "You guys really scared me with all those boos."

The audience listened unsympathetically. As Alexander spoke about posing for "crotch shots," some of the men in the audience made comments that were especially rude. "Just try it some time," she told them.

She went on to explain her first experience with porn, which led her and others to form her group.

It all took place on the corner of 50th and Broadway in New York City at an establishment called Pussy Cat Enterprises, which offers its customers triple-X movies, topless bars and sex supermarkets.

When Alexander told the audience she and others checked out the establishment, she asked that "we" respect each other. He asked us to save our comments to the question-answer period following the debate. A good portion of the audience failed miserably. The crowd took sides very early — even as the contestants walked onto the stage. Dolores Alexander, founder of Women Against Pornography, was met with animosity; the crowd booed her. Harry Reems, the star of Deep Throat, was met with wild applause. Many rose to their feet, chanting "Harry, Harry."

Alexander said the bargains offered by the club — including 25 cents for a look at the topless women and \$1 for a "feel" — shocked, disgusted and angered her. The guy in front of me was amused. "That's cheap. Two-for-one on Wednesday nights," he joked. At this point he turned around and caught me glaring at him.

"I wasn't cheering, it was him," he said, pointing to his buddy, who looked away. Alexander continued. She said what frightened her about Pussy Cat Enterprises was its customers: they weren't freaks or weirdos but average normal men.

"Porn is in every aspect of life," Alexander stated, including videos, song lyrics, movies (other than X-rated ones) and books.

The guy in front of me added: "And in my bedroom."

When Alexander said pornography breeds the mentality that the "boys play, and women are their toys," one woman in the back cheered. The guys chimed in.

"Then as 20 minutes wound down to a close, someone yelled, 'Your time's up.' Two points for the guy in front of me. 'That's not cool,' he said. However, he reminded her of the time limit less than two minutes later when Alexander made another controversial statement against porn.

Alexander closed her speech telling the members of the audience "what you can do about porn." She told us not to support the industry that her group and others believe is degrading to women.

The guy in front of me had other ideas. He said: "What can I do about porn? Buy it!" Another guy, sitting a few seats away, agreed: "I'm going to go out and buy Playboy right after this."

Reems opened his speech with an example that brought pornography close to home. He told us that the woman who escorted him from the airport explained to him how they saw porn flicks often and enjoyed them thoroughly.

Reems seemed to think those Penn State women spoke for the rest of us. Alexander's speech was canned, whereas Reems was spontaneous and dynamic.

Because of the age of pornography, Reems said, we have become more comfortable with sex, adding that the exposure has been a good release for sexual energy.

"Playboy brought us out of the closet," he said.

The crowd cheered. In fact, the birth of home videos, Harry said, has brought pornography into the home and under the control of women.

The guy in front of me listened attentively. When Reems quoted the 1968 Presidential Study which found that pornography and rape were not related, a woman shouted a rebuttal.

A guy from the front of the auditorium yelled: "Shut up, bitch. More cheers." Another yelled: "She wants it." "What about the MS missile?" another woman yelled, after Reems noted that pornography would be banned if it constituted a "clear and present danger."

behind him — or a loud minority — Reems ripped Alexander's argument to pieces point by point. He easily won the debate, a simple task given the crowd.

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