

opinions

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The Daily Collegian
Monday, Oct. 27, 1986

editorial opinion

Here . . .

Doing right by human rights

Raising awareness of human rights issues is paramount to creating an enlightened University community. Human Rights Day, sponsored by the International Student Council and 13 other student organizations, featured speakers, films and live performers in the spirit of education and awareness.

Unfortunately, the excellent goal was marred by controversy among some groups who accused the event's organizers of political bias.

Whether there was a bias — intentional or otherwise — is uncertain. But if the intent to increase human rights awareness is sincere, future efforts to organize such programs should be made in the spirit of educating, not politicizing.

The high cost of liability

Gayle Beyers' resignation as assistant director of student organizations and program development can be looked upon as part of the price the University must pay in its fight against alcohol liability.

Beyers cited the University's final decision to sever ties with Greek organizations without consulting her as one of the reasons for her leaving. Since 1983, Beyers served as an adviser for the University's 52 fraternities and 20 sororities.

Granted, the University must protect itself from alcohol liability. However, it should not pursue this goal at the expense of one of its most valuable assets.

East Halls election woes

The Centre County Board of Elections may decide tomorrow if University students living in four East Halls residence halls will get their own polling precinct this year or if they'll have to travel about one mile to the College Township Municipal Building to vote on Nov. 4.

About 160 East Halls voters signed a petition last April requesting the formation of the new precinct. But for the past seven or eight years similar requests have been denied because election officials say they are concerned about poor voter turnout and staffing problems.

However, if nothing else, the persistence of students living in this area over the years shows they really are concerned about this problem and will try to iron out the problems involved with creating a new district.

County election officials should at least give student voters a chance to prove their doubts wrong.

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Disinformation disbelief

The Reagan administration's reported policy of deception to throw Moammar Gadhafi off balance has stirred a hornet's nest in the American press. It also led to State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb's resignation.

The biggest danger in "disinformation" is that the American people simply will stop believing what they are told. Knowing that your government is willing to lie plants the seeds of cynicism.

— The Jamestown (N.Y.) Post-Journal

Foundation for immigration legislation

Myths and half-truths about immigration to the United States have been the foundation on which 15 years of immigration reform bills have rested.

Undocumented immigrants have become an easy political scapegoat. It is far more convincing to blame unemployment, inadequate funding for social services and cutbacks in education for undocumented immigrants than on complicated economic factors.

Each immigration bill Congress has considered is not based on a foundation of facts. And that is where the danger lies — in creating more problems while trying to solve an ill-perceived one.

— The (Tucson) Arizona Daily Star

Finger lickin' good

News stories recently reported that some Eastern restaurants have discovered that chickens raised in close confinement don't taste the same as those that get a little exercise during their brief lives.

So, their menus now feature "range chicken," a name that sparks visions of herds of chickens roaming free in mountain pastures or rolling plains.

It's likely that what eastern restaurants call "range chicken" is what Westerners have known as "barnyard chicken." "Range chicken" commands higher prices than "barnyard chicken." Eastern clucks will plunk down a lot of scratch to give themselves that bird.

— The (Butte) Montana Standard

Young doctors on drugs

Is anyone shocked by the Harvard University survey of doctors in which 25 percent respondents of all ages said they had taken mind-affecting drugs recently?

In the survey, nearly 40 percent of doctors under 40 admitted they used marijuana or cocaine with friends.

If habitual psychoactive drug takers in the medical profession are not cured or weeded out, public suspicion toward physicians is likely to widen until it seriously damages the entire profession.

— The Muncie (Ind.) Star

The opinions expressed by other newspapers are not necessarily those of The Daily Collegian's Board of Opinion.

What issues?

Candidates say 'Vote for me because my opponent is a slimeball'

"During a campaign, the air is full of speeches; and vice versa." — Lawrence Peter

A week from tomorrow America will be asked to select the people who will represent them at local, state and federal levels. Normally, people vote for a particular candidate based upon their impression of the person(s) running as well as a candidate's stand on an issue.

However, the campaigns in this area, let alone in the rest of the country, have left me wondering not only about my impressions of the candidates, but about their stand on issues and even if they know what the issues are.

Most candidates have tried to use the media (television, radio, newspapers) to advertise — or rather sell — themselves. But most ads have not been the type that say "vote for me because I'll . . ." Rather, most ads say only "how can you possibly vote for that slimeball?"

If I were asked to provide my impression of the candidates based solely on their advertising and media presence, it would go something like this:

Bob Casey has tried to tell me that as lieutenant governor, William Scranton was never on the job. He's also tried to tell me Scranton was inept at those duties that he did participate in.

Scranton, for his part, has stated that Casey was essentially too busy earning money in private practice to perform his duties as auditor general under Gov. Milton Shapp. As a result, it was Casey's fault that corruption was widespread under Shapp.

None of these ads tell me anything about the candidates views on a fifth-year eligibility for Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency grants. Not once do they mention how they feel about disbanding the Liquor Control Board. Never do they say how they plan to bring jobs to Pennsylvania, but the candidates constantly promise to do just that.

Scranton has now decided to take his negative advertising off the air. He has called for Casey to do the same. We shall see.

Most of the ads I've seen or heard for Bill Wachob have said nothing more than that Rep.



Bill Clinger is a tool of the oil and gas industry. Clinger's ads have stated that Wachob is a liar and owes the Clinger family an apology.

These ads are on the heels of the "Actor's Guild" campaign ads presented over the summer. These included an appearance by Ed Asner on behalf of Wachob and radio spots for Clinger that had Charlton Heston saying Asner was a communist and therefore Wachob must be one too.

None of the ads for these "gentlemen" touch on issues such as the deficit, defense funding, tax reform, social spending or SDI.

The Arlen Specter-Bob Edgar race has definitely been the most vocal, at least on one side of it. Edgar has coined a cute phrase by saying there are two Arlen Specters; one who votes for an issue and one who votes against it. If I have to hear this ad one more time, I think I'll shoot my radio.

Specter, for his part, has done his share of name calling. Both candidates have fielded ads against the other that talk about the voting absences of the other, a tactic employed by several other candidates as well.

Needless to say, these ads touch about as many pertinent issues as the Clinger-Wachob ads.

The only thing I've heard about the Lynn Herman-George Field race is that Field went to the University of Pittsburgh. Having talked to graduates from both schools, I'd suggest these two candidates both find some other qualifications prior to election day.

At least two recent debates have yielded similar results. The first debate between Clinger and Wachob last Monday started out as a slug-fest but soon yielded at least a short period of intelligent discussion of several key issues. The debate between Edgar and Specter, however, was an excessive exchange of tirades and insults from start to finish.

It is becoming a sad fact that voters cannot rely on the media to present the candidates views on the issues. This is not the media's fault, which speaks poorly of our candidates.

The media provides the resource: a tool for reaching millions of people at once. The power of this tool, used effectively, can be staggering. The potential for candidates to get their message across is there; if only our candidates would use it in a positive way.

If we write off the media for the rest of this campaign, as it seems we must do, the only way to obtain factual information would be to sit down with each candidate, one on one, and talk about how they feel about the issues.

While I have been fortunate enough to do this with several candidates, I realize the impossibility of this undertaking. It is impossible for voters to nail a politician down long enough to converse intelligently and impossible for the candidate to talk to everyone. This alone should encourage the positive use of the communications media.

There have been several open forums for candidates in the University community. Hopefully, there will be many more. Hopefully, the candidates will stick to their side of the issues and not further blast their opponents.

In the movie *The Candidate*, after Robert Redford won the campaign he looks up at his campaign manager and asks: "What do we do now?"

I can only hope this time, it's not the American voter saying that same line at the ballot box.

Mark Johnston is a senior majoring in mechanical engineering and a columnist for the Daily Collegian. His column appears every other Monday.



the daily Collegian

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reader opinion

Challenger

Much has been said about the rising cost of attending Penn State. Tuition goes up every year, making an education at this University unaffordable for many people.

Penn State tuition and the University's share of funding compared to Pitt and Temple have become the main issues in the race for the 7th House District seat in the state legislature.

The winner will play a key role in promoting the University's interests. Herman has held the seat for four years and his record is evidence of his ineffectiveness. Field is an aggressive challenger with the enthusiasm to work for state funding.

Field has proposed to work with Democrats and Republicans to form a Penn State coalition to broaden support for the University.

This idea is innovative. It proves Field is ready to defend the interests he will be elected to represent.

Field will do well in Harrisburg. He deserves to be elected.

Craig Wheeland
graduate-political science

Endorsements

Hi, I'm Joe Isuzu and I've got two things to tell you. First, buy this car. It gets 10,000 mpg and costs \$5. Plus, if you're a Penn State student, you'll get a \$2 million rebate.

Second, we should all follow the Undergraduate Student Government endorsement. The vast majority of students voted in the last USG election and it resulted in a victory for the people now in power.

They represent student to the "Y" and since they all major in areas like engineering and chemistry, we know they ran for the love of Penn State and had no selfish motives.

It's a misconception that they were elected to represent students to the administration. Their job is to advise us on campaigns. They formed a non-partisan committee to endorse political candidates.

No one has ever accused USG of being liberal. Having an even mix of two Republicans and eight Democrats, their honesty is ensured because no members had any political ties and none were already affiliated with the local races.

We should not use our own judgment in deciding who to vote for. We should let our astute leaders make up our minds for us and follow their endorsement. If we do, the tooth fairy will leave us money under our pillow.

Robert J. Hyneman
sophomore-foreign relations

What do you think?

The Daily Collegian welcomes letters from students, faculty, staff and area residents concerning issues and topics of interest to the Collegian's readership. With the semester at the half-way point, many important issues confront the University.

Authors must present letters to the editor (no more than 1 1/2 pages, double-spaced) or forums (up to three typed pages, double-spaced) to the Collegian in 126 Carnegie Building during office hours.

The opinion editors reserves the right to edit letters for length and to reject letters if they are libelous.

Texas Instruments Job Fair

Tuesday, October 28, 1986

Penn State HUB Ballroom

Interviews Scheduled

TALK TO TI'S MAJOR PRODUCT & SERVICE GROUPS.

TI's technical managers want to see you. They want to tell you about the job opportunities in the many technologies which make Texas Instruments a leader in electronics.

That's why TI is having a Job Fair on the Penn State campus, October 28 through 30. It gives the company three days to bring in key engineers and managers to meet you. They'll come from TI labs and sites to describe programs, answer questions, and schedule interviews.

If you're a top student, particularly in EE or Computer Science, this is an event you won't want to miss.

SIGN UP FOR INTERVIEWS IF YOU ARE GRADUATING WITH THESE DEGREES:

Bachelor's, Master's or PhD degrees in:

- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

- Industrial Engineering
- Materials Technology
- Physics
- Computer Science
- MBA with technical undergraduate degree

Briefings and sign-ups for interviews: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., October 28, HUB Ballroom.
Interviews (by appointment): October 29 and 30.



Briefings & Sign-ups

Interviews

For more information, please contact the Penn State Placement Service.

Please bring your resume and a copy of your transcript or a list of courses.

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