

State College Borough Council candidates



R. THOMAS BERNER
Republican
Age: 43

R. Thomas Berner, the only incumbent to run for re-election, is the professor-in-charge of journalism in Penn State's School of Communications.

Prior to joining the Penn State faculty, Berner, a 43-year-old republican, was the city editor of *The Centre Daily Times*.

He has served as the chairman of the Centre Region Code Committee and is a member of the Council of Governments' Executive Committee. He is a member of the board of directors of the Pennsylvania League of Cities, of which State College is a member.

During his first four-year term on the Borough Council, Berner said he:

- Expanded space for senior citizens at the Fraser Street Plaza.

- Served on an advisory committee to recommend ways of spending Community Development Block Grant funds.

- Helped in the creation of a government-education TV channel.

- Preserved residential neighborhoods from zoning changes that would alter the neighborhoods.

- Passed a requirement that new high-rise buildings provide sprinklers as a safety measure.

- Advocated pedestrian rights.

Berner said if reelected, he will work towards obtaining a strong fiscal base for the borough.

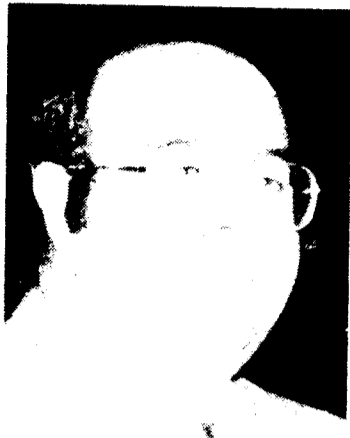
At the Undergraduate Student Government's Meet the Candidates night, Berner told students he spoke in opposition to the sales tax at the House Finance Committee meeting, because the tax falls unfairly on students.

Berner has stated he is against rezoning to preserve neighborhood character. He has suggested that the council form a committee to study how the borough can protect against random development that disturbs State College's ambiance.

He said he is opposed to in-lieu parking because "it will push parking into the streets." Instead of providing a fund which developers can contribute to for a future garage, Berner said he believes all developers should be required to provide parking.

Berner has stated that he is in favor of aesthetically improving Calder Way, but believes converting the alley for pedestrian use only is impractical and not feasible for businesses that must use the street for transporting products.

He favors the Centre County recycling project and said that "it should have been done 20 years ago."



PETER E. LANG
Republican
Age: 41

Peter E. Lang has served as the property manager of the Garden House Realty Inc. for the past ten years.

Lang's business conduct was given the highest overall rating by a brochure distributed by the Organization of Town and Independent Students. He was a Chamber of Commerce board member as well as a COG Rental Housing Advisory Committee board member.

Lang said he believes his strong background in business as well as his willingness to listen to all sides form a strong base for the decision-making he would encounter if elected to borough council.

Lang said that he is not one who believes in band-aid solutions and will implement cost-effective programs after a great deal of evaluating. Rather than continually adding money to the budget, Lang said he will analyze it creatively if elected.

Lang said that if elected, he would try to implement a recycling program in which recyclable products would be marked up a dime and consumers would receive a nickel deposit back when returning them. The other nickel would go to the recycling center, he said. The system, which exists in New York, Massachusetts, and other states would "pay for itself and not be a burden to tax payers," he said.

Lang told students at the Undergraduate Student Government Meet the Candidates meeting Tuesday night that he believes the University should take back some of the responsibility for providing non-alcoholic activities on campus for students.

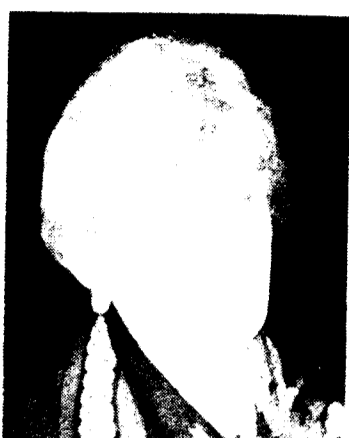
"When I was in school you always knew you were part of the school," he said. "Now you're out on your own."

Referring to the incident in the Spring of 1986 when undercover police officers arrested underage student drinkers at 16 fraternities, Lang said, "I don't think covert operations are warranted either."

He agreed with other candidates in saying that closing Calder Way to all traffic is not feasible to businesses that receive deliveries on that alley.

Lang said he is also concerned with tax reform and would contact the state legislature to create more reasonable ways of taxing area residents.

He said to make State College a better place to live, both short and long term planning goals must be put into effect.



JEAN MCMANIS
Democrat
Age: 62

Jean McManis has worked in administration and inter-organizational relations in corporate and nonprofit organizations for more than 40 years. During this time, she has managed staff, prepared and administered budgets, and developed programs.

She held positions with ITT, the American Cancer Society, the Guggenheim Museum, March of Dimes, Hill and Knowlton, and two newspapers.

McManis retired from Penn State early this year as Director of Publications and University Editor after 27 years.

She said her top priorities are improving University and town relations and to encourage healthy downtown businesses while retaining the ambiance of residential areas.

"Growth can't and shouldn't be stopped. Unplanned, disorderly growth can be avoided though," McManis said.

If elected she said she will work to provide essential services, such as police, parking, water and recycling in a functional and cost-effective manner.

At an Undergraduate Student Government sponsored Meet the Candidates Night, McManis told students she supports planned economic and cultural growth in State College and that the community should grow with the University.

Strengthening council relations with USG, the Interfraternity Council, and the Organization of Town and Independent Students is another goal McManis hopes to accomplish.

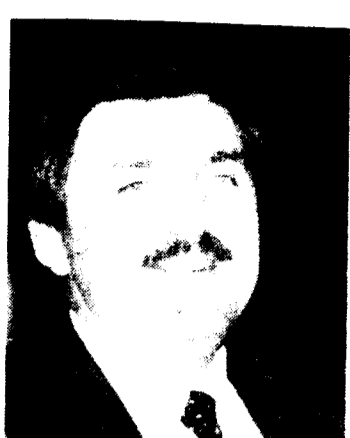
"You're not our neighbors, you are us. All the issues that concern students — the environment, clean air and water, the right kind of town to live in — concern us," McManis said.

She said she hopes to see more student participation with State College committees and commissions because issues of concern are similar.

One way McManis said students can become more aware of timely issues is by having *State College Magazine* distributed on campus.

McManis said she hopes to change the in-lieu parking program, through which developers can donate money to the borough for a future parking garage instead of providing on-site parking.

She said she is disturbed by the large number of in-lieu parking applicants the borough has taken. McManis said she is even more alarmed that developers whose proposed projects are outside the area are being allowed to participate in the program.



DANIEL WALLACE
Democrat
Age: 34

Daniel Wallace is director of real estate for Uni-Marts Inc. who has worked in management for 11 years.

Although Wallace said he has had no political experience, his enthusiasm will compensate for it, he said.

His top priorities are local tax reform in conjunction with changes at the state level and to continue the borough's economic growth while maintaining and improving the quality lifestyle.

If he is elected, Wallace said he will strive to keep the downtown healthy by encouraging economic growth. The University as well as town can benefit from economic growth which could enrich State College's cultural diversity, he said.

At the Undergraduate Student Government's Meet the Candidates meeting on Tuesday, Wallace pinpointed specific issues that need to be addressed by council. They are: enlargement and updating of existing water and sewage infrastructures; concervative zoning to create good aesthetics and architecture; transportation; and parking expansion.

Headway can be made on transportation improvements by looking at transportation cooperation between the University and council, continuing with plans to extend Park Avenue to the bypass, and analyzing the possibility of building a walkway across South Atherton Street, he said.

Wallace said the council should dedicate more time towards developing the borough's natural resources.

Tourism is an opportunity that has been ignored and which he would like to promote, Wallace told students.

"We have a beautiful campus and we should have both sides of College Avenue working together," he said.

Wallace told students he believes the town should promote more responsible social outings without the focal point on alcohol.

He said he did not know what issues to specifically address, but said he supported the three-year plan to gradually phase alcohol out of the Phi Psi 500.

Although Wallace publically opposed the business privilege tax, he said he now believes the tax should be staggered accordingly.

On the in-lieu parking issue, Wallace said, "it has bugs that need to be worked out."

"A third garage is needed. We used to encourage developers to build from one property line to another. But now we need parking space."



D. JOLENE WEST
Republican
Age: 34

D. Jolene West is an assistant book specialist at the Penn State Bookstore.

West said being a business woman for the past 13 years has given her experience in sales, management and personnel.

After watching State College develop for the past 11 years, West said, "It's my turn to help it grow."

She served as bookkeeper, assistant publicity person and publicity chairman for the past two Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts and helped plan the local observance of the Harmonic Convergence this summer.

West is a volunteer for the Second Mile and a co-teacher for senior high students at the Presbyterian Church of State College.

She said she believes her interaction with students while working at the Penn State Bookstore will help her form better University-town and student-borough council relations.

"Students are the greatest life force here. I work eight hours a day with them and know where they're coming from," she said. State College residents "have to realize that students aren't always adult, and students have to remember that long after they're gone we'll be here."

If elected, West said she will focus her attention on improving residential street safety by increasing lighting and will attempt to eliminate wasteful spending while developing cost-saving policies.

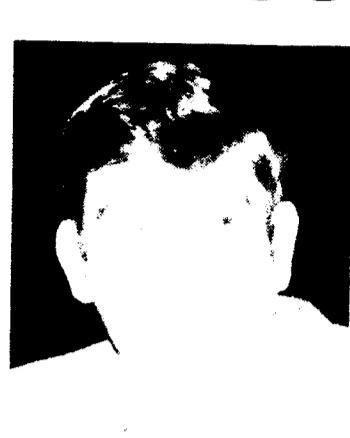
West stated she is in favor of imposing the same business privilege tax on University-related businesses, such as the Penn State Bookstore and the Creamery, that downtown businesses pay.

West also suggested imposing a \$3 to \$10 renters fee tax on all residents who rent. She said she would rather have a flat fee than have income tax go up.

West said this tax would not be discriminating to students because renters include professionals who would be taxed. The tax is not limited to students, she said.

West said she does not favor closing Calder Way to all traffic because it would impose additional traffic congestion on already crowded College Avenue, but she suggested eliminating all parking on Calder Way.

West said she disagrees with in-lieu parking because until another parking garage is built there will be a lack of parking spaces for those living in dwellings whose developers contributed to the parking fund instead of providing on-site spaces.



GARY A. WISER
Republican
Age: 44

Gary A. Wiser is a programs manager for HRB-Singer, Inc. and a captain at the U.S. Naval Reserve Center in Altoona.

Wiser will run for his second non-consecutive term in borough council. He served as a council member from 1982-1985.

A part-time instructor in continuing education at the University, Wiser is a certified member of the American Society of Traffic and Transportation.

Wiser was the 1980 chairman of the Interscholastic Advisory Committee to the State College Area School Board, a Centre County Solid Waste Authority member from November 1986 to February 1987, and a member of the St. Paul's United Methodist Church Administrative Board and Finance Committee from 1982 to 1985.

Wiser said if elected he will review fiscal planning in light of a loss of revenue sharing and explore new sources of tax revenue.

He plans to focus on the health and safety issues. At the Undergraduate Student Government's Meet the Candidates meeting Tuesday night, Wiser told students something must be done to accommodate solid waste because State College's landfill will be filled to capacity very shortly. State College's sewer system has now reached capacity and must be expanded, he said.

Another health issue the council must address is the quality of drinking water, he said. Council must take measures to ensure the quality continues, he added.

Wiser's third focus of interest is citizen participation, which he said he hopes to increase.

Wiser said he wants to continue and expand interaction between COG participants, the University, and borough council.

He told students he believes University growth does not necessarily mean unorganized borough overdevelopment.

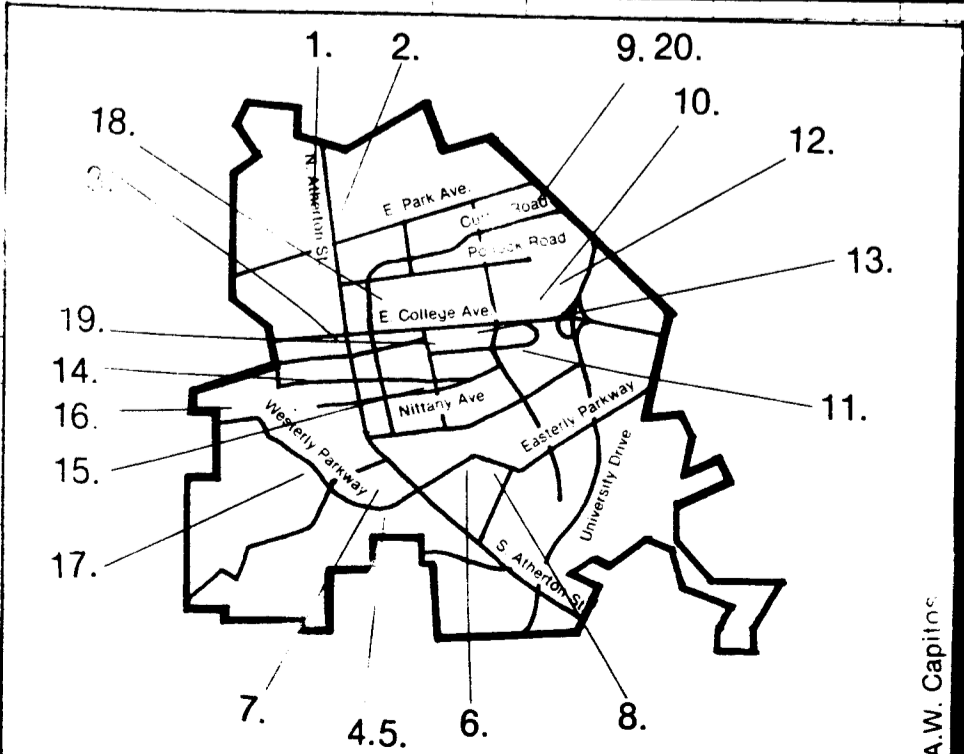
"We have in place the mechanism to retain the quaintness of State College neighborhoods with a cooperative mode to support University growth," Wiser said.

Wiser said he is not in favor of a complete pedestrian walkway on Calder Way because he believes it is impractical and won't help businesses that are serviced on that alley.

Closing Calder Way to all traffic will redirect the traffic onto College Avenue, Wiser said.

After serving as a Centre County Solid Waste Authority member, Wiser said he sees the need for recycling in State College and believes a program should be implemented.

All profiles compiled and written by Collegian Staff Writer Lisa Nurnberger



1. State College North — Church of Christ, 405 Hillcrest Ave.
2. State College Northeast — College Heights School, 721 N. Atherton St.
3. State College Northwest — YMCA, 412 W. College Ave.
4. State College South #1 — State College Intermediate High School, 650 Westery Parkway
5. State College South #2 — State College Intermediate High School, 650 Westery Parkway
6. State College Southeast — Elementary School, 234 Easterly Parkway
7. State College South Central #1 — State College Area Senior High School, 653 Westery Parkway
8. State College South Central #2 — Christian Church, Easterly Parkway and William Street
9. State College East #1 — Findlay Recreation Room, East Halls
10. State College East #2 — Stephens Hall, South Halls
11. State College East #3 — Grace Lutheran Church, South Garner Street and Beaver Avenue
12. State College East #4 — Pollock Dining Hall, Room 129
13. State College East Central #1 — Wesley Foundation, 256 E. College Ave.
14. State College East Central #2 — Zeta Psi fraternity, 225 E. Foster Ave.
15. State College East Central #3 — Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity, 501 S. Allen St.
16. State College West #1 — Elementary School, 235 Corl St.
17. State College West #2 — Our Lady of Victory School, 800 Westery Parkway
18. State College West Central #1 — Hamilton Hall, West Halls
19. State College West Central #2 — State College Municipal Building, 118 South Fraser St.
20. College West (PSU) — Findlay Recreation Room, East Halls

A.W. Caplin