

ELECTION '88: STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Republican Ferro set to unseat incumbent

By LAURA VIANI
Collegian Staff Writer

Calling the 171st district race a competition between excellence and average, Republican Greg Ferro is trying to unseat incumbent state Rep. Ruth C. Rudy, D-Centre and Mifflin. Rudy has already served three terms in the 171st district.

Ferro, in his first campaign, has made four issues — ethics in government, day care, public water problems and roads and infrastructure — his main campaign focuses, and has been campaigning door-to-door in the area.

Ferro has been a State College Area High School history teacher since he graduated from the University in 1971.

He also teaches Business Administration 297B, Orientation to Business Administration, at the University. Ferro has taught the course, which is open to minority students only, for four years.

"The course helps minority students matriculate through business," he said.

Because of his work with minority students and graduation from an integrated Philadelphia high school, Ferro said he is particularly sensitive to minority issues.

Ferro student-taught at Thomas Jefferson High School in Philadelphia, which he called one of the worst high schools, academically and financially, in the city.

"I teach at Penn State, so I have an advantage over my opponent on what Penn State needs," Ferro said.

He agreed with Rudy that the amount of higher educational funding in the state is not realistic with what the institutions' needed and recommends a 10percent increase in state higher education funding.

Recent state legislation appropriated a 7.5percent University funding increase over the 1987-88 budget in state funding for the 1988-89 fiscal year. University President Bryce Jordan had originally requested a 19percent increase in funding and Gov. Robert P. Casey had recommended a 3.4percent increase.

Ferro said the University, which

relies on the state for part of its operating budget, receives less funding per student than other state-funded universities.

He attributed this to the fact that the University of Pittsburgh and Temple University have more state legislators in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia catering to their needs.

"I think it's a case of the squeaky wheel gets the oil," he added.

More educational funding is necessary to create more jobs in Pennsylvania, Ferro said. Education creates a pool of trained professionals that attracts industry to the state.

The research at the University must also be funded to continue the spin-off effects that are beneficial to society, Ferro said. He cited the University's agricultural research that benefits the state's agriculture industry as an example.

Ferro said that if elected he would try to form a committee of people in the Centre County area who benefit from Penn State funding. The committee would be bipartisan and would discuss issues related to the University.

"I can work with both parties ... (a bipartisan committee) is not an optional type thing," he added.

On the issue of abortion, Ferro said he is pro-choice with some restrictions.

He supported state legislation requiring women under the age of 18 to have parental permission to obtain an abortion or a judge's consent in the case of incest.

The candidate said he does not support abortion as a primary means of birth control, but he said, "If you're going to put a gun to my head, I'm pro-choice."

The candidate said the state needs to take a stronger stand against apartheid in South Africa and pull all investments from South Africa in protest of the apartheid system.

"On this issue, I part with the Republicans ... it's really modern day slavery," he added.

Ferro was born and raised in Philadelphia and his first teaching job was with the State College Area School District. He has resided in Centre County ever since.

Democrat Rudy relies on experience in race

By LAURA VIANI
Collegian Staff Writer

State Rep. Ruth C. Rudy, D-Centre and Mifflin, has stated several times during her campaign that she's running on her experience as a legislator because she and her opponent have no major differences on issues.

Rudy is running for her fourth term in the state House of Representatives against Republican Greg Ferro for the 171st district.

Rudy is a member of the Penn State Caucus in the state House, which is a committee consisting of 73 lawmakers addressing University concerns.

The University "definitely needs more funding. Higher (education), in general, has not been receiving enough funding," Rudy said.

Last spring, Gov. Robert P. Casey recommended a 3.4percent increase in University funding. University President Bryce Jordan had originally requested a 19percent increase.

Rudy said Casey's recommendation was not an accurate estimate of the kind of funding the University needs.

"I thought (Casey's recommendation) was entirely too low," she said.

Casey raised the possibility of supplemental appropriations for the University and other state universities in July. Recent legislation will allow the University to receive \$1.5million for the Biotechnology Institute and \$2.28million for new instructional equipment.

Rudy said during budget talks she added an amendment of \$1.5million to one of the supplemental appropriation bills being considered.

The state legislature needs to look at the way state universities are funded, Rudy said. As it is, Temple University and the University of Pittsburgh receive more increases per student than Penn State, she said.

Rudy also said she is supportive of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency increasing its funding cut-off income level from \$38,000 to \$40,000.

"I think (education) is one of the

best investments," she added. Rudy also wants to focus on primary education during her campaign.

"I think we have to be concerned with basic education as well as higher education, because basic education is where it all begins," Rudy said.

Rudy is the main sponsor of a bill designed to forgive college loans of first-year teachers who agree to teach in low-income urban and rural areas.

The Secretary of Education would administer the loan forgiveness program and determine which areas are to be targeted, she said. The bill has just unanimously passed the House and is on its way to the state Senate.

The representative said she is also looking into minority issues.

Rudy said she has met with University officials to discuss affirmative action concerns and why more minorities are not being recruited by the University.

One problem is the decrease in the percentage of high school graduates, she said, and the black population has been especially hard hit.

The University "has less of a group (from the minorities) to choose from," she added.

Rudy also attended the meeting between University officials and student leaders held at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center last spring to discuss minority concerns and demands.

"I do feel the (University) administration should have (released minority information) sooner to the press than they did," she said.

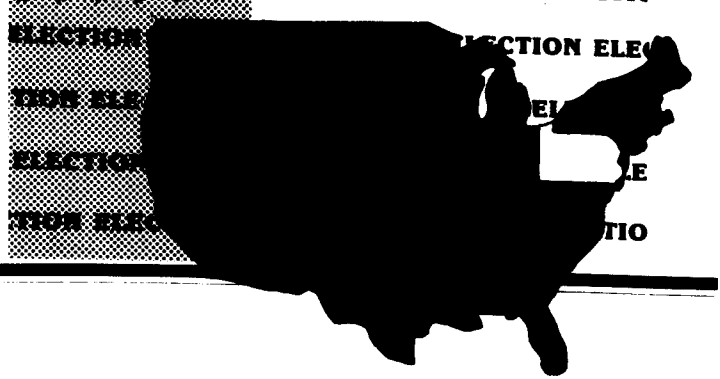
Gov. Casey appointed Rudy to the Pennsylvania Commission for Women last May.

The 20-member commission, established in 1972, is designed to ensure women receive equal opportunities throughout the Commonwealth and to keep the governor informed of women's status in the state.

In accordance with the Democratic Party's stand on abortion, Rudy is pro-choice, although she is personally opposed to abortion.

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Republican Rep. Herman proud to run in unopposed campaign

By KARA M. HADO
Collegian Staff Writer

A local state representative said he thinks it is an honor to be running unopposed for the 77th District seat in the state House of Representatives.

Lynn Herman, R-Centre and Clearfield, said, "I'm not resting on my laurels; I'm really running a campaign."

Herman, currently serving his third term in the seat, worked as the administrative assistant for the Department of Education and an administrative analyst for the Department of Transportation in Harrisburg before being elected to his current post in 1982.

Herman said as a representative, he meets with University officials and the House Appropriations Committee chairman and staff to work on the capital budget request — which provides money for University building rehabilitation projects and infrastructure improvements.

Recently, Herman said he worked to pass a bill to approve the \$28.8million Convocation and Conference Center to be built near Beaver Stadium. Herman said the bill, which was passed by the General Assembly last Thursday, is now before the governor for his signature. Herman said he considers the bill to be the first step toward construction of the center.

In terms of minority recruitment, Herman said he supports the continuation of the University's \$200,000 appropriations for that purpose.

Herman said he is staunchly opposed to abortion. "The only exceptions should be in cases of rape, incest, or when the pregnancy endangers the life of the woman," he said. Herman has served on the Commit-

tee for Education and the sub-committee for Higher Education for the past six years. "I am a strong supporter for state assistance for higher education," Herman said.

Rosemary DeNunzio, research analyst for the sub-committee for Higher Education, said Herman worked with the sub-committee and the University's Veteran's Association to provide for fifth year student loan eligibility for certain students, including University veterans, orphans, and wards of the court.

"(Herman) is very responsive to the real problems of the people," DeNunzio said. "In Harrisburg, he works well with his colleagues in the House. He can get people to support his ideas," she added.

"If the legislation for fifth year eligibility doesn't pass this session, I will definitely re-introduce it next session," Herman said.

"I feel all of higher education should work together to get increased support from the state," Herman said.

Mike Rosenstein, executive director of the Appropriations Committee, said he meets with Herman with "great regularity" to review both the capital and operating budgets of the University.

Rosenstein said Herman has been most helpful in terms of providing information about the University. "(Herman) sensitizes my office with the needs of the University," Rosenstein said.

"Rep. Herman has been a forceful advocate for higher education generally, and Penn State specifically."

Herman said he will also re-introduce legislation to require local water authorities to test for Giardia cysts on a monthly basis.

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