

Editorial Opinion

Get smart

Students need to attend USG debates to help plot the University's future

Aldo Barovero, Roger Czulewicz, Courtney Malveaux, Leslie Osborn, Mark Stewart, Jim Van Horn.

Do you know who these people are?

You should. One of them will be the next Undergraduate Student Government president. He or she will serve as the liaison between the University administration and the students.

Here are the candidates and some of their main goals:

■ Write-in candidate Barovero hopes to restructure USG's legislative branch while maintaining USAB and Academic Assembly, to eliminate the office of USG vice president and to visit Harrisburg to address recent state funding cuts to the University.

■ Czulewicz and running mate Janine Salomone plan to address inadequate student health care and understaffing at Ritenour Health Center, to help eliminate tuition increases and to address inadequate student parking. They have also expressed concern about communication between USG leaders and the student body.

■ Malveaux and vice presidential candidate Saul Trieman want to stop USG infighting, funding for radical speakers and backing of left-wing political issues. They plan to redirect the USG Department of Women's Concerns and create three new departments to address financial, academic and community services.

■ Osborn and Michael LaFlam want to create a Department of Higher Education Affordability to fight tuition increases and open Uni-

versity budget expenditures. They also plan to increase student representation on University committees and increase involvement with the State College Borough Council.

■ Stewart and Merryl Werber plan to increase and improve student services such as allowing students to use their meal points downtown, providing buses to away basketball and football games, adding weekend HUB Eatery hours and establishing an 800 number for class scheduling.

■ Van Horn and Kim Thorsen plan to restructure USG by combining the USG Senate, Academic Assembly and USAB into a 40-member USG Assembly, lobby the University's Board of Trustees for an open budget, bring fast food restaurants into HUB eateries and extend HUB student organization office hours.

Perhaps the biggest issue to surface in this year's USG election is the inclusion of the sexual orientation clause into the University's non-discrimination policy.

Czulewicz/Salomone and Malveaux/Trieman do not support adding a sexual orientation clause to the University's non-discrimination policy. The other candidates support the clause.

In the end it is up to the voters to decide which issues are most important.

Know the facts. Go to the USG election debate at 7 tonight in Findlay Commons in East Halls and the final debate at 7 p.m. Thursday in the HUB Assembly Room. And vote wisely, because the direction of the University is in your hands.

OWMAN THE CREATION: SHOWN BY TRIBUNE



Reader Opinion

Policy of hate

We have been avid supporters of Penn State women's basketball during the past two seasons. Not only has it been great fun to watch a team that plays well together, it is nice to see that so many team members get playing time; a true "team" rather than five or six players and 10 or so bench-sitters. As a team, they are deserving of much praise for hard work and outstanding performance.

However, we were hurt and disappointed after reading recent accounts of Rene Portland's policy concerning the sexual orientation of athletes.

Mass media reports indicate that Portland discriminates against Penn State students, or potential Penn State students, who are homosexual.

We suggest that University students, faculty and staff members boycott Penn State intercollegiate athletic activities until it is clear that discriminatory practices are eliminated from all of those activities.

If any representative of Penn State, including an athletic coach, is engaging in the administration of policies of hatred, then the University community has a responsibility to censure those policies.

An institution of higher learning should foster an environment free of hatred and fear, recognizing the inherent worth of each individual, rather than to facilitate oppression.

Anthony Fleury
graduate-speech communication
Mary Dineen Fleury
graduate-communication disorders



'Explore the fantasy'

It is hard to believe that the sun will ever shine again in State College and that it will ever be spring.

Despite the weather outside, spring is right around the corner — Spring Week 1991 begins April 13 and registration takes place Thursday and Friday in the ground floor of the HUB.

Since January, the Overall Committee has been hard at work creating new programs and restructuring Spring Week, keeping in mind the goal to make this year's event University-wide

Where to write

State College and University Park residents may submit letters in person at 123 S. Burrowes St. with photo identification. Others may write to:

The Daily Collegian
Letters to the Editor
123 S. Burrowes St.
University Park, Pa. 16801-3882

All writers must provide phone number and address for verification. Letters may be no longer than two typewritten, double-spaced pages. Letters of up to three pages may be submitted as forums. The Collegian reserves the right to condense or reject submissions. Submissions become the property of Collegian Inc.

However, there is only so much a seven-member committee can do. The Overall Committee has done all it can to make it as easy as possible of the entire University population to "Explore the Fantasy." It is up to you and your friends whether or not you participate or let this tradition pass you by.

Registration once again is Thursday and Friday in the ground floor of the HUB. We invite all students to make the most of their time in Happy Valley with Spring Week 1991.

Paul Moses
overall chairman, Spring Week 1991

Congrats!

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and to thank the Penn State men's and women's basketball teams for an absolutely tremendous job well done.

While most people were thinking about the "last this," "the end of that," and the "it's over syndrome," I was thinking about firsts. I was thinking about the many firsts accomplished this year by the two programs.

For the men, 1990-91 was the first time they won the Atlantic 10 Tournament. Consequently, this season they were in the NCAA tournament for the first time in 26 years. They won their first game in the tournament in 36 years by beating UCLA for the first time (in as many tries.) And, finally, Bruce Parkhill became the first head coach to win a tournament game his first year in the tournament.

Congratulations and thanks for the memories to graduating seniors Lem Joyner, Marty Joyce, Tony Soskich, C.J. Johnson and James Barnes.

The 1990-91 season was one of firsts for the Lady Lions as well. They were the first Lady Lion team to win 29 games. They were the first Lady Lion team to be ranked number one by the Associated Press poll. They were the first team from the Northeast to be ranked number one in the AP poll, which has only had 14 other teams occupy that spot in the history of the poll. Finally, this was the first season they drew more than 5,000 and 6,000 fans for the Rutgers and James Madison games respectively.

Congratulations and good luck to Terri Williams, Shelly Caplinger and Tanya Garner, the graduating seniors.

It's been a great year and a hell of a run, but let's not forget the most important "first" of all; the Nittany Lion and Lady Lion basketball teams will always be first in our hearts.

Thanks again for a fantastic year!

R. Michael Kuney
senior-international politics

the daily Collegian

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Students' letters should include semester standing, major and campus of the writer. Letters from alumni should include the major and year of graduation of the writer. All writers should provide their address and phone number for verification of the letter. Letters should be signed by no more than two people. Names may be withheld on request.

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Remembering Mom, Dad and life as a middle school geek

Nostalgia is part of human nature. People like to sit around and remember how great everything used to be when they were younger. I mean, that's what movies are for, right? High school memories, college memories, falling in love, getting married and having children are popular movie subjects.

Am I the only one who's noticed the absence of movies about middle school?

You remember middle school... it's that holding tank we're dropped into to sink or swim through our pubescent years.

In my mind, no matter how bad high school got, middle school was a thousand times more hellish. Many of us try to block out those few years of horror. Especially if we weren't "cool."

At least in high school if you aren't cool you can tell yourself it's because you don't want to be. You can rationalize.

But in middle school, you haven't learned a key lesson of life yet: "Rationalize to Survive."

And so, not only are you fighting your first battles with acne (and losing badly), but you are yanked hard from elementary school

My Opinion



Laura Wexler

security into a world where, if you don't fit in, you stick out. You're doomed to be a very small minnow among a mass of adolescent sharks.

Okay, so maybe I had it worse than you all did, seeing as I was a middle school geek, but I really believe middle school mentality is the same everywhere.

Let's face the facts: There is no place on Earth ruled so tyrannically by the majority than middle school.

Everybody wanted to be so average — no smarter, no taller, no nothing.

But who were we kidding? And why the hell did we turn our backs on ourselves in order to fit in with a bunch of people who were turning their backs on themselves?

I wish someone had taken pity on

me in middle school. You know, tapped me on the shoulder and said, "Yeah, Laura, you're pretty much a geek. But, hey, it's better to be a geek than an identity-less carbon copy." But, alas, no one clued me in (besides my parents, and what kid listens to their parents at age 13?) and so I tried my hardest to convince everyone that I was just like them, that I was normal too.

But I had a few disadvantages that put me behind from the start. First of all, my parents were weird and embarrassed me nonstop through my middle school years. People routinely asked me if red was my natural skin tone.

My father was a kid's nightmare. Yes, Morris Benjamin Wexler gunned through the neighborhood every day (at the exact minute I stepped off the school bus) in his rundown, two-mile long Cadillac, tipping his ten-gallon cowboy hat to us in passing.

Here I was in suburbia... where everyone else's dads wore Levis and Adidas on the weekends and my dad wore plaid floods held up by rainbow-striped suspenders.

And then there was me. While all the other girls had long straight hair, I was known as "Sonny" to anyone

Here I was in suburbia... where everyone else's dads wore Levis and Adidas on the weekends and my dad wore plaid floods held up by rainbow-striped suspenders.

over 30 because my hair was crew-cut short. Everyone else sported the Jordache label across the tight seat of their jeans. Not me. I had generic jeans three sizes too big (growing room, according to my mother, who was not known for her compassionate fashion sense.) It was eighth grade before I convinced my practical-to-the-point-of-ridiculousness mother that I was tired of the neighborhood boys recognizing their outgrown clothes on my body. She finally stopped buying my clothes at garage sales.

By far, my biggest disadvantage was the elementary school teacher who decided to include me in the elite group of "Gifted and Talented" children (fondly remembered to all as the geeks.)

"No, no, not me," I screamed to my parents after the first day of seventh grade. "I'm not smart. I'm normal. I'm average. There's been a mistake

and it's ruining my life!"

Useless, all my screaming was useless. I was branded a GT dreg, thrown into the pits of unpopularity to rot until the last day of eighth grade when I would finally be free.

What a nightmare.

I never want to go back to middle school. But if I did, I would do things a lot differently. Because by this time in my life, I like myself a little more and care a lot less about the majority.

And what a relief it was to stop acting like someone I wasn't. What a relief it was to stop acting like I didn't know my parents. I never ever thought I would say this, but I have to thank my parents for being so nonconforming. Because I shudder to think of the woman I would be today if my parents had allowed me to try to shove myself in a certain mold.

When my mother tried to comfort me, her poor geek daughter, by saying, "Those other kids are all

jealous of you." I know she was lying. But what she was really saying was, "Be you, Laura. And screw the other kids." I just didn't want to hear that then.

Things are so different in college (thank God). In fact, they're opposite. People are more interested in you if you aren't normal. I don't mean if you're mentally imbalanced. I just mean that if you have your own style, whether it's dyeing your hair purple or burying your nose in a book, you have a better chance of people wanting to know you.

Somehow, most of us have matured from our middle school days. And that's good to know.

Things aren't perfect here, but at least you have a better chance of being accepted, even if you don't follow the latest trends or any trend at all, than you did a few years ago.

I feel I must end in due homage to my parents who suffered with me during my adolescence. For they always said, "As you get older, your parents seem smarter."

How true.

Laura Wexler is a sophomore majoring in English and a Tuesday columnist for The Daily Collegian.