

OPINION

THE DAILY
Collegian

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Letters

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ENDORSEMENT, 5TH CONGRESS

Pipe best choice for students

In the race to represent Pennsylvania's 5th district in Congress, Democratic candidate Michael Pipe admits to being the underdog.

But we believe that Pipe has the right ideas and initiatives for Penn State students and will truly fight for us in Washington — more so than the big dogs who may let our concerns fall to the wayside.

Pipe stood where we were not long ago. He graduated from Penn State just last year, and now knows what it's like to live paycheck to paycheck as an assistant manager at Five Guys Burgers.

Though his youth and inexperience count against him in the eyes of his critics, Pipe's ideas to improve the job market, the energy crisis and healthcare reform deserve the attention a seat in Congress would

bring. Just as graduating seniors hope for a lucky break into the job market, Pipe deserves a shot.

Resurrecting the job market is also Pipe's No. 1 priority. He wants to help boost the economy by focusing on infrastructure and creating more clean-energy jobs, which obviously also benefits the environment and our energy independence.

It's new initiatives like this, and not just providing the yes or no vote, that Pipe promises to fight for.

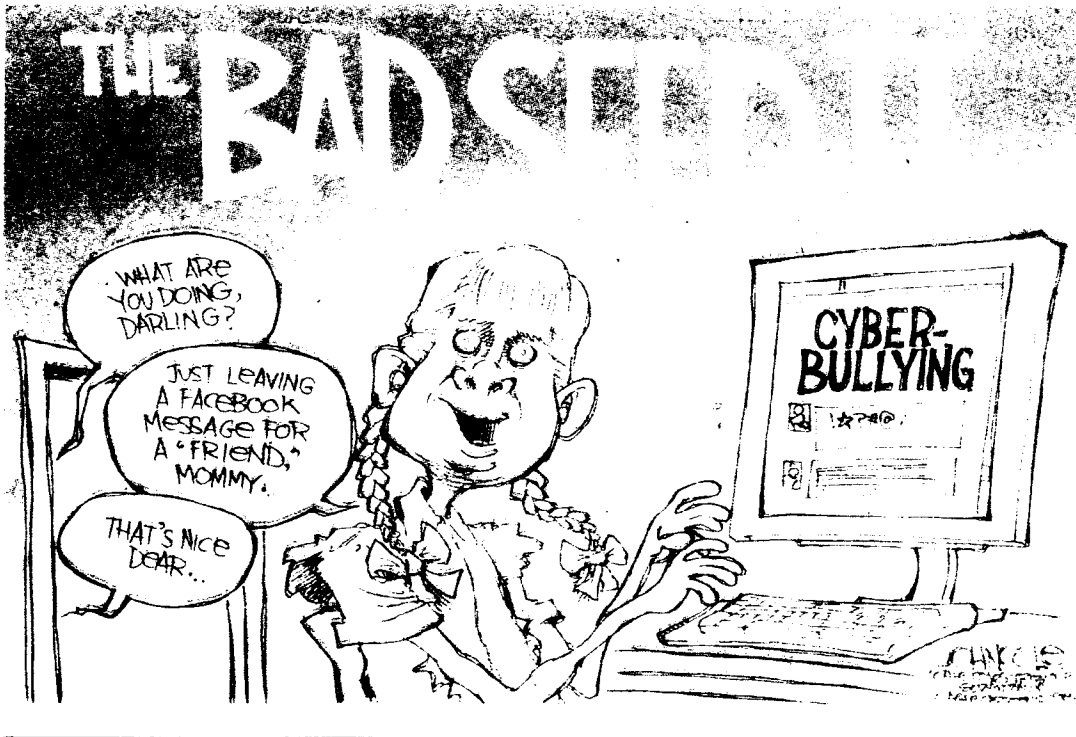
His proximity to Penn State, both physically and emotionally, also ensures that Pipe will keep our best interests in mind if elected. He said he will take a personal stance in combating raises in tuition cost as sitting down to discuss the matter with Graham Spanier himself.

Pipe promises transparency, and to visit the

district as much as possible. He said he will put focus on direct dialogue with students specifically by providing stable representatives of his office on each college campus in the district. This would ensure that students will always have a place and an outlet to voice their concerns. He promises to not fall subject to what he calls "D.C. amnesia," where representatives say one thing in Washington and another to their constituency.

We believe Pipe's promises, and as a young, bright-eyed candidate yet to be tainted by the game of politics, he will go into the position with no ties, new ideas and a fresh perspective.

Congress needs a change, one in which representatives do what's best for the people, not their party. We believe that Pipe's election would signify this change.



Halloween perfect for letting loose

By Jessica Uzar

WHEN I was younger, my mom used to buy my

Halloween costumes one size too big so that it would fit over the layers that I would undoubtedly be wearing to keep me warm. I, along with other Pennsylvania youth, have trick-or-treated through rain, snow and freezing weather.

The costumes in college are drastically different.

Instead of bundling up against the cold valley winds, I now pretty much expect to wear as little as possible.

When you shop online, a high majority of the adult costumes are skimpy and expensive. The less fabric it took them to make it the higher the price. Though this irks me, retailers can do that because these costumes are what sell.

Sex sells. While boys are congratulated on their creative ideas and awesome costumes, girls are judged, instead, on how good their bodies look in their costumes. No one cares how original it is as long as it's low-cut, short and skimpy.



MY OPINION

And though the Susan B. Anthony part of me tells me I should be against this, I'm not.

Girls and women are often portrayed and treated as sex objects. Halloween, especially college style, is an accurate depiction of this. I think during Halloween, girls often play into that idea themselves, attempting to look sexier than any other girl at the party.

If we want to attract the fittest male of the species, we have to be the most attractive female. And that means looking our best.

After all, if we can't attract him physically, he won't want to reproduce with us, right? That's one of our most basic instincts.

Study after study shows that males — particularly college males — think about sex every few minutes. I don't think anyone argues with that, and I bet that number goes way up come Halloween night.

Most boys admit that they are obsessed with sex. I was once told by a guy friend that he was jealous of girls because girls could "get laid" whenever they wanted and not have to work for it or pay for it.

I think that's logical, but females do have to work for it in a way. Instead of paying for drinks that hopefully lead to the actual act itself, girls dress to show off more of their body than their brains.

I like dressing a little promiscuously every once in a while because I find it fun. But those kind of outfits often do attract boys who only want eight hour-long relationships, or sometimes even less than that. So, women just have to be careful when showing a lot of leg this weekend if that's not what they want.

If you're going to pick one day a year to let loose, Halloween is it. Dressing promiscuously is normal for this holiday.

After all, it's Halloween — go out and live it up. Pretend to be something or someone you are not. Not only do skimpy costumes show you off physically, but it also drives boys' fantasies wild. Two birds hit with one stone. So I say go crazy and wear something that would be appropriate attire at a party in the Playboy mansion. Just don't send those pictures to your parents.

Just a warning though — if you're staying out for the night, just remember that you're dressed as a bumblebee or firefighter or Lady Gaga and that's even more embarrassing than walking home in your dress with your heels in your hand the next morning.

Jessica Uzar is a junior majoring in journalism and political science and is The Daily Collegian's Wednesday columnist. Her e-mail is ju125@psu.edu.

LETTERS

Party critics can't cherry-pick

In response to Tuesday's column "Tea Party is scarier than a nightmare," in Oplinger's Halloween scare-fest, straw man after straw man is burnt under the harvest moon. No, Oplinger, Tea Partiers don't want to eliminate the funding of roads, bridges and police officers. This is not inconsistent with a small government philosophy.

Infrastructure, like your local police and fire department, presents a public goods problem where the case for government intervention is at its strongest. It is difficult to boil down the viewpoints of a mass movement into a few sound-bites. This makes it tempting for commentators to cherry-pick viewpoints on the fringe (or in this case, ones that don't exist at all) to address.

It's just as unfair as labeling everyone who supports Obama as communist. The truth of the matter is that the size of the government has dramatically increased. Federal debt is racing towards 100 percent of gross domestic product for the first time since World War II. Simultaneously, entitlement programs like Social Security are becoming more trick than treat — eating up an increasing portion of the federal budget. Nightmare spending scenarios, however, aren't just scary stories. Greece reveals the real and spooky consequences of overreaching government. Next week, lets vote to keep the horror stories where they belong — in our nightmares.

Kai Kaapro
graduate-law

ADL shields corrupt policies

In regards to Tuesday's article "SJP listed as 'anti-Israel,'" The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) should be the last organization on the planet to designate any organization as anti anything. The ADL shields Israeli policy by invoking the "complexity of the conflict" without ever illuminating it.

In 1993, the ADL was charged in a San Francisco court in connection with conspiring with a rogue police officer to spy, harass and intimidate several political groups and thousands of Americans. The ADL helped prolong the apartheid rule in South Africa. Among those the ADL spied on were anti-apartheid activists who were fighting for civil rights for the indigenous black South Africans living under apartheid rule. The ADL disguises itself as an organization to fight anti-Semitism, a noble cause, while in fact its true agenda is to silence anyone critical of Israeli policy.

SJP is on the ADL's blacklist mainly for raising more than \$5,000 as part of national effort to provide humanitarian aid to Gaza. These funds help provide basic items and humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza such as notebooks, textbooks and pencils, which are prevented by Israel from being imported there. Recent investigations by the United Nations and reports by human rights organizations like Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch frequently criticize unrelenting Israeli settlement expansion, the siege of Gaza, the military occupation of the West Bank and brutal Israeli violence that has killed thousands of Palestinian civilians.

Shadi Ghayep
graduate-engineering

Problem is in Hamas support

In response to Tuesday's article "SJP listed as 'anti-Israel,'" I find it, at the very least, ironic that Students for Justice in Palestine maintain that they are not a hateful organization. Perhaps it's admirable that Ms. Qader and her organization promote peace, compromise and understanding, but that view certainly isn't emblematic of the Palestinian leaders or citizenry.

They have overwhelmingly rejected Fatah, which sought that same two-state solution in favor of Hamas, a terrorist organization whose goal is the eradication of Israel. I agree that there must be justice in Israel and Palestine, but unless the SJP comes out as strongly against Hamas as they have against Israel, they have fallen into the same trap that they rally against.

Devon Edwards
junior-sociology

ADL has lost real credibility

Tuesday's article, "SJP listed as 'anti-Israel,'" states Students for Justice in Palestine was listed as "anti-Israel" by the Anti-Defamation League. The Anti-Defamation League is a shameless apologist for the state crimes of Israel. Masquerading as a group that fights anti-Semitism, the real purpose of the ADL is to defame anyone who dare question Israel's foreign policy. In fact, the ADL went so far as to call Norman Finkelstein, a Jewish American intellectual whose parents survived the holocaust, a holocaust denier and anti-Semite because Finkelstein criticized Israeli policy.

The group has little commitment to civil rights or anti-discrimination work. The idea that a group that has fundamental objections to Israel's foreign policy is "anti-Israel" is an idea one only finds taken seriously in dictatorships, where to disagree with decisions of the leader is a crime. If American's truly care about Israeli people, they will disagree with Israel's leaders and force them to accept the internationally agreed-upon peace solution. Otherwise, Israeli leaders will eventually destroy the two-state solution and evoke more war and terrorism against their citizens.

The fact that we are even talking about whether or not SJP is "anti-Israel" instead of more substantive things like the Goldstone report or the lack of U.S. involvement in a real peace process means the ADL has already done its job, distracting from real issues.

David McLaughlin
Class of 2010
Former Students for Justice in Palestine
president