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## Editorial

## Informed voters make the difference



It's that time of year again. With the whole country watching the goings-on in the presidential primaries, everybody seems to be talking politics. Now the political talk on campus is starting to shift to the Student Government Association elections scheduled

for April 7 and 8.

Currently, potential candidates are drubbing up student signatures with the hope of acquiring enough to gain the nod of approval to enter the race.

Soon those candidates who do make it into the race will be spewing forth rhetoric in the hopes of gaining students' votes. Interestingly enough, those votes are incredibly hard to come by. Not for any particular candidate or ticket, but for all of them.

In the past few years, the race for the office of president of SGA has been decided by a handful of votes in each election. But keep this in mind: during each of those years, the number of students who actually voted hovered around an incredibly sad 25 percent.

This sort of gives new meaning to the old saying, "Every vote counts." Since every vote does count, it is imperative that the voters are an informed group of students.

To that end, SGA has organized two "Meet the Candidates" programs where students will have the opportunity to learn about the different candidates and ask them questions about their plans for the office they seek.

The first program is scheduled for Monday, March 30 at noon in the Wintergarden. The second is slated for Monday, April 6 at 8 p.m. in the Perry Hall lobby.

In the interest of making informed decisions come election day, it is vital that students who plan to vote attend one of these programs. It is just as important for students who currently don't plan on voting to be in attendance. Perhaps a few minds will be changed, and a few more votes will be cast.

After all a few more votes will, more than likely, make quite a difference.

# The Collegian

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Editor Todd J. Irwin

Business Manager Adrienne Shrawder

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> Assistant Editor Vicky Snyder

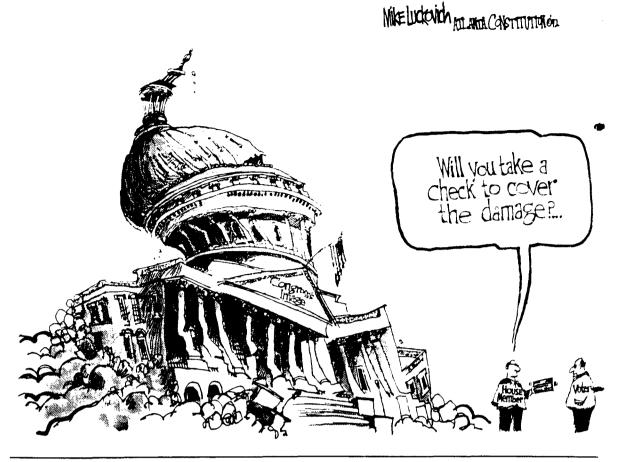
> > News Editor

Ad Layout & Design Rob Pfendler

#### Istribution Manage Joe Mycka

#### Advisor Dr. Mike Simmons

Letter Policy: The Collegian encourages letters on news coverage, editorial content and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced and signed by no more than two persons. Letters should be no longer than 400 words. Letters should include the semester standing and major of the writer. All letters should provide the address and phone number of the



## Letters to the Editor

### The challenge

It appears that this year's election will include only two tickets for the position of Student Government Association President and Vice President.

The Elections Committee has scheduled two open forums in order to "meet the candidates" during the campaign phase of the election. As a result of the narrow field contending for these positions, it would truly benefit the student body if a debate between these two tickets could be held during lunch in the Wintergreen Cafeteria to facilitate the discussion of issues which are pressing to the student body.

John Mack and Jake Sherosky would like to challenge Joe Mycka and Greg Farrell to a public debate in the abovementioned location, at a time that will accommodate both parties.

The presidential candidates will debate first, directly followed by the vice presidential candidates. Let's put the student body first in this year's election.

> John J. Mack Fifth semester History

Valentine's Day."

Our openness towards safe sex is great, but it has evolved as a result of tragedy. With thousands of people afflicted with A.I.D.S., we are more conscious of our sexuality than ever. Ultimately, it all comes down to choice, though. People can choose whether they are going to engage in sexual relations or use contraception.

By voluntarily handing me a condom without asking me if I want or need it, is stepping over a thin line. Two assumptions are made when automatically giving someone any form of contraception, in absence of a request. One, the assumption that the person is involved in an intimate relationship, and two that the person believes in and uses contraception.

Certainly, the intentions behind distributing the condoms were good, but tact was not employed. Informing us, as students, of the availability of contraceptives is important and beneficial, but equally important is consideration for students' reactions to various means of conveying that information. And using Valentine's Day as a justification for blatantly friends in the community, Giant Eagle, who came through for us when all others turned their backs. This year we collected over \$300 for the playground construction at Emerson Elementary.

Once again, thank you for your time, resources, and pennies.

Marty Jackson Eighth semester EET

The author of this letter is the Chairman of ODK's 1992 Mile of Pennies Committee.

Ed. Note: If you would like to voice your views on an issue, write a Letter to the Editor.

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Rob Pfendler Distribution Manager

Mark Owens	writer for verification of the letter. The Collegian reserves the	Leesh 1 Shenselw	dispersing condoms, detracted from the nature of the holiday.	provide the address and phone number of the writer for
Assist. News Editor Loretta Russ	right to edit letters for length and to reject letters. Letters should be submitted to <i>The Collegian</i>	Jacob J. Sherosky Fourth semester MIS	Valentine's Day is not isolated for lovers, it is for everyone. And	verification of the letter. <i>The Collegian</i> reserves the
Features Editor	office no later than noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired		not everyone is "doing it."	right to edit letters for length and to reject letters if they are
Robb Frederick	publication date. Letters submitted to The Collegian	No condom tact	Tesha Lynn Nesbit Sixth semester	libelous or do not conform to standards of good taste.
Entertainment Editor Christi Luden	become property of the newspaper. The Collegian is	no condom tact	Communication	submitted letters become property of <i>The Collegian</i> .
Assist. Entertainment Editor Craig Campbell	published every Thursday during the academic year on recycled paper.	Valentine's Day is usually celebrated with cards, flowers, candy, etc. Now in the 1990's,		Letters should be submitted to The Collegian office, first floor of the Reed Union Building or
Sports Editor Greg Geibel	<b>Postal Information:</b> The Collegian (814-898-6488) is	condoms have found their way into the special day for loved ones. In the Health Center on	Thank you	The Collegian mailbox located in the SGA suite also on the first floor of the Reed Building no
Assist. Sports Editor Matt Cissne	published weekly by the students of The Pennsylvania State University at Erie, The Behrend	Feb. 14, they handed students condoms with an instructional	On behalf of Omicron Delta Kappa, I would like to thank all	later than noon on the Tuesday prior to the desired publication
Copy Editor Dawn Brenneman	College; First Floor, The J. Elmer Reed Union Building, Station Road, Erie, PA 16563.	leaflet and said, "Happy Valentine's Day." Organizations sold baskets of candy with condoms attached, "Happy	those who helped make this year's Mile of Pennies the most successful ever. I would	date.
		, condoms acticited, riappy	especially like to thank our	