



# The Campus

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## Alumni: How politics have changed

By **JAY SHANK**  
 Staff Writer  
 shank01@allegheny.edu

As the 2024 presidential election nears and the atmosphere on Allegheny's campus seems to get more tense, alumni from multiple generations reflected on the political climate when they were students.

"Civility is dead," said Matt Betush, '06, assistant professor of chemistry and biochemistry.

To Betush, the most important difference between his time as a student and his time as a faculty member is that now it is almost impossible to have conversations with people who do not agree with each other.

"I remember vividly that the Allegheny Democrats and the (Allegheny) Republicans co-hosted an event in the campus center on election day," Betush said, referring to the 2004 presidential election in which President George W. Bush faced off against Sen. John Kerry. "People went up and they colored states blue or red based on what they thought was going to happen. People were watching it jointly, you know? I mean, that was a pretty split election but it wasn't like there was security that needed to be there. That doesn't happen now."

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## Q&A with U.S. House candidates

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**  
 Editor-in-Chief  
 westbrook01@allegheny.edu

As one of two chambers in Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives plays a key role in U.S. policymaking. On Tuesday, Nov. 5, Meadville residents will have the opportunity to decide whether they want to once again send 12-year incumbent Rep. Mike Kelly to Washington D.C. or send Democratic candidate Preston Nouri instead.

Editor-in-Chief Anna Westbrook, '26, sat down with both Kelly and Nouri to ask about their top priorities and how they plan to best represent Pennsylvania District 16.



JOSEPH KLEPEIS/THE CAMPUS

An American flag flies outside the Tippie Alumni Center on Wednesday, Oct. 30. Since Pennsylvania is a swing state, many students are experiencing the full force of the 2024 presidential campaigns.

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## Q&A with PA House candidate

By **ANNA WESTBROOK**  
 Editor-in-Chief  
 westbrook01@allegheny.edu

On Tuesday, Nov. 5, Pennsylvania residents will flock to the polls to elect their next leaders. As part of Pennsylvania District 6, Meadville residents will choose their next representative to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. On the ballot are Michael Walker as the Democratic candidate and incumbent Representative Brad Roae as the Republican candidate.

Editor-in-Chief Anna Westbrook, '26, sat down with Walker to discuss his campaign and what he believes college students should pay particular attention to when making their decision.

Roae, who is running for his 10th two-year term, did not respond to several requests for an interview.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Westbrook: Why are you the most qualified candidate to represent your district?**

**Walker:** I am from this area. Everything I have is invested in this area. I built a business up from the ground forward. I've been involved in the community and helped build several charities and masons.

See [PA HOUSE](#) | page 3

## ASG approves two new clubs, hears from Cole

By **ANTON HODGE**  
 Staff Writer  
 hodge01@allegheny.edu

The Allegheny Student Government heard from President Ron Cole, '87, and officially recognized two new clubs at their General Assembly on Tuesday, Oct. 29.

eny" campaign launch, Cole met with ASG as a guest speaker, introducing the three key campaign pillars of "Invite, Inspire, Invest."

The three core pillars aim to encourage alumni and current students to invite future students, to use mentorships and opportunities on campus like research and internships to "inspire" students and invest in campus buildings and resources, as well as "achieving a larger endowment for scholarships," according to Cole.

Cole discussed how the administration worked with the student body to create its initiative. He said the student body had several requests. Students wanted the administration to retain Allegheny's core identity as a liberal arts institution while "pushing the envelope" on offerings, create more opportunities outside of degrees, like the recent microcredentials program; and demonstrate the return on investment of an Allegheny degree. Cole also discussed an economic focus on integrating the college more strongly into a part of Meadville.

Read the rest of this story online at [alleghenycampus.com](#).

**Cole on Allegheny's strategic pathway**  
 As a continuation of the "In for Allegh-

## Delgado gives talk on race, religion and reproductive rights


By **PAIGE KAGENI**  
 Staff Writer  
 kageni01@allegheny.edu

Professor of History and Religion Dara Delgado held a talk in the Collaboratory of the Lawrence Lee Pelletier Library to speak about the connections between race, religion and reproductive rights on Tuesday, Oct. 22. The talk followed her article published in "The Conversation" in early October, which provided commentary on a speech given by Democratic party presidential candidate Vice President Kamala Harris, to Zeta Phi Beta sorority members.

Harris' speech, which directly addressed reproductive rights, race and religion, caught Delgado's eye and inspired her to write about the significance of the moment.

"It was in this moment with a predominantly black audience that she (Harris) tied together this conversation on democracy and freedom and abortion access with religion and faith, and she expressly said it," Delgado said.

Read the rest of this story online at [alleghenycampus.com](#).



## The Campus

On Election Day, shuttles will run 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. from Brooks Walk to the polling locations.

Polling locations according to dormitory address:

<p><b>First Christian Church</b> 502 N. Main St. Ext</p> <p>Allegheny Commons North Village A          College Court North Village B          Crawford Hall North Village C          Delta Tau Delta North Village II          Edwards Hall Phi Kappa Psi</p>	<p><b>Grace Methodist Church Annex</b> 828 N. Main St.</p> <p>Baldwin Hall Walker Hall          Brooks Hall Walker Annex          Schultz Hall</p>
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*In this week's Campus...*

**GET DOWN WITH DOWN-BALLOT RACES**  
 In an election dominated by the presidency, Staff Writer Joseph Klepeis, '26, explains why it is important to know about all of the races.  
 Page 4

**THE STATE OF OUR DEMOCRACY**  
 Contributing Writer Walker Cunningham, '25, sat down with Associate Professor of Political Science Andrew Bloeser to talk through some major themes of this presidential election.  
 Page 5

**A LOOK BACK IN TIME**  
 The Campus is no stranger to covering politics. Contributing Historian Daphne Womack, '27, collected notable stories written by Campus staff over the past 149 years of its existence.  
 Page 6

**FRIDAY**  H: 78° L: 44°  
 Rain: 45%  
 Sunrise: 7:38 a.m.  
 Sunset: 6:08 p.m.

**SATURDAY**  H: 64° L: 37°  
 Rain: 4%  
 Sunrise: 7:39 a.m.  
 Sunset: 6:07 p.m.

**SUNDAY**  H: 64° L: 41°  
 Rain: 5%  
 Sunrise: 6:40 a.m.  
 Sunset: 5:06 p.m.

HOUSE *from page 1*

*These interviews have been edited for length and clarity.*

**Anna Westbrook: Why are you the most qualified candidate to represent your district?**

**Preston Nouri:** I've been born and raised here in western PA. I get to see western PA and Erie in the five and a half counties that we represent in a very nuanced way. My family lives up and down this district. We've been here about two generations.

Just watching what has happened here in the greater last forty years of the Rust Belt — people here leave due to a lack of opportunities and immobility. People are now choosing between the only place they've ever called home and the future that they deserve.

I understand that intimately. I had to make that choice. I went down to D.C., I worked at the State Department, I worked in the House of Representatives and most recently I finished up at the Pentagon at legislative congressional oversight.

In an area like western PA, that has desperately needed a champion to come back to bring a future to it, I'd believe I'm qualified to do that. I was doing that at the Pentagon and I was able to do it for Uncle Sam, so I'd much rather be able to do it for my people in western PA. We've had Mike for the last 12 years and don't really have anything to show for it. With my experience over at the Pentagon, my commitment and connection to this district, and the ability to know how to get dollars in the appropriation process rolling, Western PA is going to have a better future under me.

**Mike Kelly:** Resumes are pretty important. We have two candidates for the office, one who has absolutely no resume, nothing that you can go back on and say this is somebody that should be considered to be handling all the different things that take place as your congressional representative for Pennsylvania 16.

I've been there 12 years, also on one of the most important committees with Ways and Means because we have jurisdiction over many different aspects, including taxes, health care, social security, numerous things. Been there, done that. Subcommittee chairman for tax policy. In these positions that we're in, you need to take a really good long look at what people have done, where they have been in their life. I'm a father of four, a grandfather of 10, I run my own business. I just have more on-the-ground experience and more experience in life than my opponent. When you're going to hire somebody to represent three-quarter

ters of a million people at a federal level, you should probably consult with somebody who's actually done it. There's a big difference between the two of us.

**Westbrook: What do you believe to be the most pressing issue facing your district today? If elected, what would your top three priorities be within the first six months?**

**Nouri:** It's jobs. It's bringing money and opportunities back. You know, GE and Zurn, before they folded, we had about 35,000 jobs in Erie County alone, and they're all gone. Those were \$50,000 to \$250,000 jobs that really put food on the table, put roofs over people's heads, allowed people to stay in the area. We see our healthcare infrastructure, especially in a lot of rural communities, being bought up by some of these weird healthcare conglomerates. We see our education suffering.

We've got a real opportunity here with the legislation that already has been set aside. Being able to do that in a real way is something that I aim to do in the next six months.

Additionally, try to focus on trying to deal with costs. The last four years we've seen costs rise 25%, 12% due to inflation and another 13% due to corporate price gouging. What it comes down to is making sure that we're able to hold corporations and monopolistic influence accountable so that people aren't getting screwed over at the grocery store. And then making sure that people have more money in their pockets to be able to deal with it. One of the biggest reasons why I started running is I've got friends and family here working 65 to 70 hours a week. Being able to fill that gap as the federal government here and making sure we start setting up authorities and getting those in place is what I hope to be able to do in six months and then hopefully the next year and a half after, be able to run some of those to ground.

**Kelly:** Well, I think everybody's primary situation right now is the fact that they're looking at the dependence we have — we weren't dependent on anybody in the world for energy. Inflation is a result that nobody could possibly deal with right now and say, "I think I can handle this." It's off the charts. We went away from relying on domestic energy. We went offshore to get it, and that's driven the price of everything up. You cannot possibly look at where we are right now blessed with so many different assets and when it comes to our own energy supplies and make a determination that we are not going to rely on those, we are going to cap those off and we're going

to go to other people around the world to supply it for us.

So you look at inflation. Everything costs more than it did, more than you expected those things that you have to have. It's not an option. That includes going grocery shopping or energy. We've seen inflation take off at a level that nobody's seen in half a century.

The other thing is immigration. We have seen unprecedented levels of illegal immigration coming into the country. We're missing about 375,000 children who came here and we've lost track of. Who knows what situation they're in.

So three main issues: immigration, inflation and domestic energy. I think those are three things that affect every single person.

**Westbrook: Is there anything about your campaign that you hope college students pay particular attention to?**

**Nouri:** I am not too much older than most of them (Nouri is 25). I am from this area, committed to it, graduated from University of Pittsburgh, have a lot of friends who have gone to Allegheny, Gannon, Penn State, and a lot of them had to leave western PA to find any kind of real employment. One thing I really want to do is tell college students that it's still up to them. The amount of work and the energy that students are putting into this future here is not going to be forgotten. They're not going to just get absolutely crushed under the amount of crushing student debt. I'm trying to be representation for the future, especially since I understand exactly where they are.

**Kelly:** Their education. Education gets everybody ready for life. What is it that you're studying? How do you think it's going to help you as an individual? As part of the most incredible experiment ever — it's self-government — how is it getting you ready for that? There's no other place in the world like America, and that's because of what we've done as a country from our initial foundry. The safety and security of our homeland is critical. The education of our youth is absolutely necessary in order to maintain the most incredible experiment ever. People are looking to the next generation to take over. The question is, "Are we putting them in the best position we could to face a world that's changing dramatically?"

A there's global issues. I don't think the world's ever been more unstable — no matter where you look right now, it seems that there's an upheaval. How strong are you to

face those stiff winds that are blowing our way?

**How do you plan to incentivize people raised in the area to stay and to attract new people to settle down in the district?**

**Kelly:** People would usually go where they can find a job. They can usually go someplace where they find that they have stability, that it's very safe to be. Education is always a big part of where people go. Healthcare is a big part of where people decide to live.

At this point in my life, I've had a pretty good look at what things are important to people. I think we look at education today — and especially public education — we say, "Is the future generation getting the same opportunities we had in the past? Are we encouraging that?" The biggest rise in education right now is homeschooling. That really is a result of the pandemic. We see people now questioning curriculum and questioning textbooks and thinking, "What is it that we're trying to get our children ready for?" The youth represent 25% of our total population but 100% of our future. If you're not getting those ready for the future and put them in a place where they can be in a safe situation — it's really critical to do. I think we've kind of lost sight of that.

There's no other place in the world like America, but right now, because of the incredible number of people who come into our country illegally, we've really lost track of what makes us safe and secure.

**Westbrook: Is there anything else you want to add?**

**Nouri:** There's 24,000 college students here in this district between our eight universities. Students in this district will be the deciding vote. And it's just trying to tell students and then show people, especially younger folks, how much power they do have in the electoral process.

**Kelly:** There's usually more than one issue that's important to people. People should look at the different things on the table right now. If you're a one-issue person, the question is: How does that fit into the overall safety and security of the U.S. as we go forward? I say, "Well, you need to take a look at the whole situation before we make a judgment of what's important, what's not important." What is it that you look going into the future, America's future, that you're going to be willing to do or you're going to be prepared for?

ALUMNI *from page 1*

Betush said that type of environment does not show up now and that the contention around politics pervades many everyday occurrences, like while teaching class and talking to his neighbors.

"My roommate and I, we disagreed politically but when we had discussions it was fine," Betush said. "It's so easy to want to incorporate hatred into politics and it's like, we can't do that. I don't really have a lot of political ideas that I'm really passionate about, right, but (now), even if I did, I'm not bringing it up in class. Or even talking to friends!"

Kelly Boulton, '02, Director of Sustainability, has had a similar experience.

"Politics at that time was a lot more civil," Boulton said, referring to the election in 2000. "We (Allegheny College Democrats) would engage with the College Republicans to get people registered to vote. So there was a lot more, like, 'Hey, we're in this together.' It's a lot more polarized now. My sense of the general political climate is like, we just don't talk about it now. We definitely don't collaborate with each other."

Voting in 2004, Betush explained that the biggest issue politically he encountered during his time at Allegheny was same-sex marriage. Even then, though, Betush said hatred was not spewed nearly as much as he believes it to be now.

"I think the biggest incident we had on campus was when someone wrote on the sidewalk in front of the campus center with chalk, 'The Bible says Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve,'" Betush said. "I don't think

they ever found out who it was. But there weren't protests or anything. I mean, that was the biggest thing that happened."

Kimberly Womack, '85, was a student on campus during the 1984 presidential election between Ronald Reagan and Walter Mondale. During her time, Womack said students were generally not involved in politics, unless they were members of political organizations. However, there were protests on campus advocating for the college to divest from investments related to apartheid in South Africa, according to Womack.

"They even set up a tent camp where the alligator statue is now," Womack said. "There were people camping there to protest the apartheid. Other than that, there wasn't really much else going on. It was kind of quiet."

In general, this seemed to be the consensus among Betush, Boulton and Womack; unlike today, they did not really feel the need to be constantly heavily involved in politics as students.

In the upcoming 2024 presidential election, Pennsylvania is one of the key swing states that will determine the outcome of the election. Boulton — originally from Ohio — explained that during the 2000 election, she had not really needed to consider the impact of voting in a swing state.

"It's one of those things that I didn't think about too much when I was in college," Boulton said. "Swing states have definitely become more of a conversation. I mean, Pennsylvania is the swing state, so there's a lot more conversation about coming to Al-

legheny and registering to vote in Pennsylvania."

Maybe the most outstanding difference between voting then and now is the presence of social media and Wi-Fi. In fact, none of the alumni interviewed had Wi-Fi at the time of the presidential elections.

"I really think that social media and the expediency of news is the biggest difference between our two worlds," Womack said. "Occasionally, there would be newspapers. Of course, the student newspaper was a source of information. But it was a time period where unless you sought it (the news) out, it wasn't easily accessible to you."

In a lot of ways, Betush thinks social media might be part of the cause of the recent increase in political polarization and violence.

"We can consume content 24/7," Betush said. "When something happens, there's 25 to 50 videos of that thing on the internet right away. In 2004, text messaging was pretty much the limit. We didn't have Wi-Fi. You can always point to this 20-second sound bite that someone said, and it's usually part of a broader conversation and that becomes misconstrued."

Despite the less extreme political environments during Womack's and Boulton's times on campus, it is something that did matter to them. Even though Womack was not heavily involved with political organizations on campus, she still voted. "I think it must have been really important to me," Womack said. "Because I took the time to

get a mail-in registration. That was not an easy thing to do then. It wasn't one of those things where you could just hop online and register. I mean, it took effort back then. So, I'm inclined to say that whatever was going through my head at the time, I felt and knew that it was important for me to honor that privilege and responsibility that we have as citizens."

If Boulton could offer one piece of advice to current students after reflecting on her own time as a student, it would be that continued engagement with politics is crucial to the outcome of who gets elected into office.

"I know we, as student organizations, were on campus trying to register people," Boulton said. "I think something I observe now is that sometimes our human nature is if we're given a choice between two candidates and we don't 100% love either of them, I think there's a tendency to disengage. If we choose not to engage because they're not perfect, then we lose the opportunity to get the candidate we can really work with."

Overall, Betush, Boulton and Womack all believe politics now are as important — and maybe even more important — as they were during their times at Allegheny.

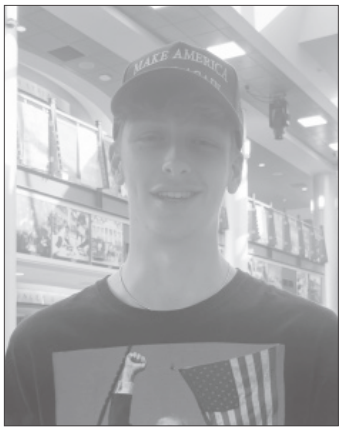
"I think the tendency to back out of the conversation and back out of voting when it's not perfect is really scary to me," Boulton said. "Go vote. Everyone needs to vote. It's the only way we get any say in anything. So, just go vote."

By AUBRYANNA SNYDER  
Features Editor  
snyder02@allegheny.edu

# Ask Allegheny

By RAY KRISHTUL  
Social Media Manager  
krishtul01@allegheny.edu

## What political issue matters to you the most in the upcoming election?



Left: Braeden Means, '28  
Major: Economics

**"The amount of immigration, illegal fentanyl causing deaths over our border. Fentanyl so far has done more damage than two Vietnams combined."**



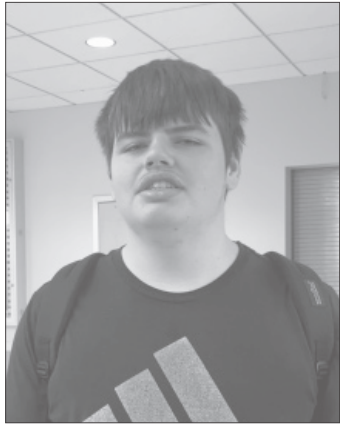
Left: Lucas Bradley, '27  
Major: International Studies & Spanish

**"The threat to U.S. democracy, as well as human rights"**



Left: Max Garvin, '25  
Major: Political Science

**"Protection of women's rights and a representative body of the United States population."**



Left: Stephen Neal, '28  
Major: Software Engineering

**"Obviously the environment. I feel like our environment's kind of been in a rough spot."**



Left: Destiny Gee, '27  
Major: Theater

**"I am more concerned about the abortion ban."**



Left: Liv DeRosa, '25  
Major: Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

**"Abortion rights, access to healthcare, housing crisis, pretty much anything really related to economics. There's too many to list honestly. I'm just ready to vote."**



Left: Regina Keaton, '26  
Major: Political Science & Psychology

**"Reproductive rights. I feel like that's just one of the biggest problems because either way you go, there's a big decision to be made."**



Left: Sunny Stout, '26  
Major: Environmental Science and Sustainability

**"Healthcare, specifically trans access to healthcare and abortion."**



Left: Liam Shields, '27  
Major: Environmental Science and Sustainability

**"Environmental policy, especially building on the green energy projects that have been in progress the last four years... And preservation of our democratic institutions."**



Left: Matthew Sigler, '25  
Major: Computer Science

**"Getting the economy back on track, reducing inflation and making America more affordable. (And) border security. We should have a country that's going to be safe for everybody."**



Left: Molly Suppo, '27  
Major: Computer Science

**"The economy because I have a tiny car and paying 30 bucks to fill my car kind of sucks."**



Left: Gary Murray, '26  
Major: Political Science & History

**"As a Black American, I'm going to vote for the plight of Black people. Also, I'm worried about immigration...how we're treating people. I'm worried about humanity."**

## PA HOUSE from page 1

Overall, if I'm going to run for an office and represent it, I'm going to represent the people I come from.

As far as qualifications, I have 15 years in heat treatment, working bottom-up and ended up becoming their quality control guy and metallurgist. Then I went from that to opening up my own business. We took it from our concept to having a full-on brick-and-mortar spot so you're dealing with finances, government paperwork, and it's an alcohol business so you're dealing with government certifications and everything else there on both of my jobs. So I have experience in dealing with the government and its ins and outs as well as dealing with the problems that actually plague the local area.

### What do you believe to be the most pressing issue facing your district today?

I would say the most pressing issue facing the district today right now is the fact that we have a crumbling infrastructure, which is causing a shrinking population so we have less opportunities being created in the area. It's causing tax-base issues and a bunch of — it's an avalanche of problems all based off the fact that we just don't have the tax base to invest into our infrastructure to build opportunities there.

### How do you plan to incentivize people raised in the area to stay and to attract new people to settle down in the district?

You need to create opportunities and jobs. I believe the area itself is beautiful. I mean we got this huge resource that — with our outdoors and everything. All we do need to do is build up the infrastructure and the opportunities and jobs to bring these people in, and I do believe once they come in and see this area itself and have a good paying job, you're going to see this community get back to where it was at the height at its tool and die boom.

### If elected, what would your top three priorities be within the first six months?

Within the first six months, I would be working with the

local townships and government structure to receive the federal and state funds that have already been earmarked for infrastructure. We've had a pretty big infrastructure act federally and there is spending that's happening on the state level already earmarked with the state budget, we just don't have a lot of the infrastructure set up for the townships and stuff to receive these funds. People bought into our area to build it up, so that would be the first thing I'd be working with.

I would also be looking at making Woodcock Park a state park. We can put it up on the Pymatuning park system — kind of extend that in there too not at a whole lot of cost, but actually to be able to keep that part from crumbling and to bring camping and tourism and stuff going into our area. Again, like I said, the outdoors is a huge resource that we have in our area to attract people. Having a state park there would definitely highlight that.

The last thing I would be pushing for is our state constitution — putting women's rights enshrined into that so that it can't be assailed and can't easily be changed by whoever is in office. It's great that we have a lot of the stuff that we do here in Pennsylvania, but we need to take that a step further and make sure that it's protected the way it needs to be.

### Is there anything about your campaign that you hope college students pay particular attention to?

Whenever I started this campaign, I tried to make it not just about the issues that I'm talking about here, but also about the fact that politics should not be reality TV. What people really should be looking at is platform, endorsements and donations because that forms what that candidate is going to be doing while they're in office and when they continue in office.

If I think college students and younger people should take anything away from that — my campaign in itself — it should be that look at the candidates. Look at what they're really about. Look at who's funding them and try to make the best decision as to what's going to impact their future because everything that's happening now, 10 years down the road it's going to be on you guys.

## CRIME BLOTTER

*Editor's Note: The weekly Crime Blotter is compiled using the Daily Crime Log available on the Office of Public Safety's web page. Crimes reported may still be under investigation. Crimes listed below are collected the Wednesday before publication.*

No reported crime in the past week.

## THE CAMPUS

Since 1876

### EDITORIAL STAFF

Anna Westbrook	Editor-in-chief
Anna Westbrook	News editor
Aubryanna Snyder	Features editor
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Ray Krishtul	Social media manager
Joseph Klepeis	Copy editor
Henry Grefenstette	Editorial cartoonist
Mauro De Giorgi	Business manager
Michael Crowley	Faculty adviser

Advertising (814) 332-5386  
Editors newspaper@allegheny.edu  
Box 12, Allegheny College  
520 North Main St. Meadville, Pennsylvania 16335

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# Progress starts at home

By **JOSEPH KLEPEIS**

Contributing Writer

klepeis01@allegheny.edu

It's a presidential election year and that means — for those of us residing in Pennsylvania or other swing states — being bombarded with political ads. The majority of these ads are solely focused on the top of the ticket.

There's a great deal of importance in voting for the president. I don't disagree with that notion, but I find most people unaware of the multitude of other races on the ballot that can and will impact their everyday lives.

“

**It's something entirely different to shake hands with a candidate and talk one-on-one about issues.”**

—**JOSEPH KLEPEIS**  
*Class of 2026*

I am registered and already have voted — oh, the beauty of mail-in voting — so allow me to use the Meadville area election as an example. Here in town, there are elections for a U.S. Senate seat, a state attorney general, a state auditor general, a state treasurer, a U.S. House of Representatives seat and a seat in the state General Assembly.

If you vote here, think about these offices and see if you can name the candidates running for them. I find a lot of people are woefully uninformed.

Take 10 or 15 minutes and research the candidates running for these offices. I could tell you who to vote for, but I believe it best if each citizen takes it into their own hands. This is the political version of, “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.”

I'm sure some people are pondering this question. How do these offices affect me and my everyday life? The answer: in more ways than you can imagine.

People running for these offices, especially those at the bottom of the ticket, are far

more accessible to the average person than the president. I've met candidates for the General Assembly, the U.S. House of Representatives and the auditor general. These meetings all took place in Meadville and all occurred in the last two months. Those willing to sojourn up to Erie could have also met and spoken with candidates for treasurer, attorney general and the US Senate in the past month.

It's one thing to go to an event and hear a presidential candidate speak. It's something entirely different to shake hands with a candidate and talk one-on-one about issues.

Once these candidates become elected officials, they have the power to directly influence your way of life. Are you interested in recreational marijuana legalization in a state that lacks legislation? Contacting your state or local representative or senator can help change that. Do you think natural gas drilling near you has contaminated your water? Reach out to the office of the auditor general to see if they can investigate.

These down-ballot races can get even

more local. County commissioners, mayoral, city council, township supervisors and magistrates are just a few examples of other hyper-local races that affect the lives of citizens far more often than the presidential races.

Do you want a local tax increase or decrease? Has a fixed bus route you take to work stopped arriving? Are street lights in your neighborhood malfunctioning? All the answers to these questions lie in the hands of local officials, and by way of voting, you.

I believe there's great importance and civic responsibility in voting in the presidential election. But again, I implore you to take the time out of your day to research the other races on the ballot this November and every November to come. Next year, there will be no presidential election, but that doesn't mean you should stay home on Election Day. I encourage all citizens to go out and assert your right to vote, every election, regardless of the races on the ticket.

# Screw voting for the ‘lesser of two evils’

By **BEN STAVNEZER**

Layout Editor

stavnezer01@allegheny.edu

Too many of America's systems are broken or failing. The one in the most desperate need of change is the way we vote. Our political organizations are choked with polarization and campaign cycles hammer dividing lines between neighbors. Not to mention the fact that our elections result in candidates who don't win the popular vote — notably George W. Bush in the 2000 presidential election and Donald Trump in 2016. Our political system leaves voters feeling like our voices are not being heard. American politics are now dominated by the incredibly backward approach of hating the other side more than you like your own.

The problems that surround voting are our own creation. Years of nothing but Republican versus Democrat politics have left third-party candidates in the dust, no matter how strong their policy positions. Voters feel like voting for third-party candidates will waste their votes, even if those candidates would be supported by many voters.

Ranked-choice voting could improve the way we select our representatives, lead to

more third-party representation and work to heal some of the party divides our current voting system has scarred across America.

The U.S. government and the vast majority of states currently use the plurality system in voting, which means that the candidate with the highest number of votes wins. The biggest weakness of this system is that it doesn't matter if that candidate actually won the majority of the vote.

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**A much-needed benefit of ranked-choice voting is that it encourages candidates to abandon the nothing-but-negative campaign tactics that we have been subjected to nonstop.”**

—**BEN STAVNEZER**  
*Class of 2027*

In contrast, in an election using ranked-choice voting, the candidate with the majority of first-choice votes wins. In the case that no candidate gets a majority of first-choice votes, a new counting process starts where the candidate who performed the worst is removed from the race, and their voter's votes are moved to their second-choice pick.

In this system, even if you rank a losing candidate as your first choice, and the candi-

date is eliminated, then your vote still counts; it is just shifted to your second-choice candidate. That process continues until there is a candidate who has the majority of votes and thus win the election. This means that the winning candidate always ends up with the majority of votes — even if some voters picked them as their second or third choice. Picking only one candidate decreases the amount of control we have over the system

that should allow us to share our voice.

Ranked-choice voting saves time and money across the board, from the local to the federal level, by removing the need for runoff elections. Runoff elections are not only quite costly but also have less representation because they tend to have low and unbalanced turnout, resulting in the selection of candidates who may not reflect voter preferences.

# How Trump tarnishes our nation

By **WILLOW BOWEN**

Contributing Writer

bowen01@allegheny.edu

When the word “president” comes to mind, I think of a leader. I think of someone who fights for the rights of Americans. I think of a role model who treats people with respect. What I don't picture in a president is somebody who disregards the less fortunate, somebody who bluntly disrespects others, and above all, somebody who goes against what America represents: hope.

The race between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump to be the 47th president of the United States has divided our country. One of the most common reactions I've heard from voters this season is, “I don't know who to vote for, they're both bad.”

Are they both bad? Or — as is my opinion — is one candidate clearly the most unprofessional presidential candidate in history?

Trump is utterly unfit for the role of president.

The most obvious answer as to why he is unfit is that Trump is a convicted felon. In July, he was found guilty of 34 felonies for falsifying business records. This scandal involving Trump and his then-attorney Micheal Cohen orchestrated involved thousands of dollars of hush money that Trump concealed over months of false business

entries. In Trump's bank account, 11 phony checks were found, with his signature on nine of them, according to the Manhattan District Attorney's Office.

It's ironic how we have a convicted felon running against a former prosecutor, and people still question who the lesser evil is.

Additionally, treating others with respect isn't very hard to do. For Trump, it's a hard phenomenon he can't seem to master, especially when it comes to women. Some of his interests include peeking into pageant dressing rooms full of underage girls, according to BuzzFeed. Former Miss Vermont Teen USA, Mariah Billado, told the website, “I remember putting on my dress really quick because I was like, ‘Oh my god, there's a man in here.’” There is also the infamous video footage of Trump saying horrible lewd and sexual things about women in 2005 while preparing for a “Days of our Lives” appearance. At one point, the footage shows Trump saying, “And when you're a star they let you do it. You can do anything. Grab 'em by the pussy.” Still, in this day and age, women's bodies are disrespected — especially by Trump, who is trying to take away the right for women to have access to abortions.

There is even more video evidence of Trump being blatantly disrespectful to immigrants and people with disabilities. At a 2016 presidential rally, he mocked a disabled reporter, moving his hands and face

in a derogatory way, even changing the way he spoke. The footage is available on CNN's YouTube page under the title, “TRUMP MOCKS REPORTER.” In the most recent presidential debate between Trump and Harris, he made wildly racist and false claims against immigrants, saying, “In Springfield, they're eating the dogs. The people that came in, they're eating the cats. They're eating the pets of the people that live there.” Immigrants are humans and it is extremely harmful and dangerous to be projecting those types of false claims onto minorities.

Power is a very scary thing because when it's in the wrong hands, a lot can go wrong. Trump is a terrible influence on the American people. He spoon-feeds the MAGA cult lie after lie. It's at the point where his followers refuse to hold him accountable for anything. He almost literally led a MAGA mob to raid the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. on Jan. 6, 2021, following a rally he held in protest of the 2020 election results, which he claimed were rigged. The last words of his speech were, “We fight. We fight like hell and if you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore. So let's walk down Pennsylvania Avenue.” At the Capitol, MAGA followers had a literal noose waiting outside to hang former Vice President Mike Pence. Approximately 140 officers were injured that day, but in a recent interview with NBC News Trump referred to Jan. 6th as a

day of love,” calling the rioters “patriots.”

The uproar among MAGA followers is, in my opinion, psychotic. Trump has given his supporters an excuse to act upon their racist, prejudiced and misogynistic beliefs. If Trump wins, it will change our democracy as we know it. I could write on and on about more horrific and unacceptable things Trump has done, whether it's his secret phone calls with Vladimir Putin, allegedly-calling fallen soldiers “suckers and losers,” or the multiple connections to Hollywood sex rings of which he has been accused. Trump has and will continue to humiliate himself. With dozens of people coming out to speak against him after working under his presidency, MAGA supporters continue to make up excuses in his defense. I have a piece of advice for the MAGA cult: Just because you didn't win, doesn't mean an election is rigged. If you aren't MAGA, please vote, because we are not going back.

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**Trump has given his supporters an excuse to act upon their racist, prejudiced and misogynistic beliefs. If Trump wins, it will change our democracy as we know it.”**

—**WILLOW BOWEN**  
*Class of 2028*

# Bloeser on the election: "Democracy matters"

By WALKER CUNNINGHAM

Contributing Writer  
cunningham02@allegheny.edu

Associate Professor of Political Science, researcher and scholar Andrew Bloeser is an expert in his field. As the director for the Center for Political Participation, facilitator of the Law & Policy program and an independent researcher, Bloeser has a deep understanding of the significance of the upcoming election.

Contributing Writer Walker Cunningham, '25, sat down for an in-depth interview with Bloeser about some of the most pressing issues facing democracy and what it means for Americans to have free and fair elections.

*This interview has been edited for length and clarity.*

**Cunningham: Presidential candidates often frame their campaign as the campaign that's going to fix the country. How does that framing influence the average citizen's trust in our political system?**

**Bloeser:** There's no harm in campaigns arguing they are going to be the ones to fix problems or to have identified problems other politicians have ignored. We should not be bothered by debate and disagreement and people making claims that they understand the problems people are experiencing around the nation and can help solve those problems.

Where things can take a dark turn is depending on what's being promised to citizens. As a scholar of American politics, I would ring the alarm bell when you hear presidential candidates talking about retribution, promising revenge, and then targeting specific politicians or particular groups in society.

When you start to hear things like allegations that immigrant communities are eating people's pets when there's no evidence of this — we have seen that happen in Springfield, Ohio — those types of things from, in this case, the Trump campaign do concern me. Talking about the enemy from within and then naming a politician that you're opposed to and doing that in the same breath when you've talked about mobilizing the military to address domestic problems or deal with domestic threats, is something that raises a

concern. With Trump, we know there's a certain amount of hyperbole. Nonetheless, people hear that and they can internalize it. These are things that are out of step with traditional democratic campaigning over issues and are the kinds of things I worry can do damage to a democracy.

One can certainly find criticisms to make of the Harris campaign. Has Tim Walz misspoke about parts of his record? Has Kamala Harris been able to defend her positions on fracking? There are critiques one can make of both sides.

But there's also an asymmetry here. We should be attentive to where some of those promises or some of the problems that have been alleged aren't backed by evidence and might stir up forms of prejudice and hatred that don't make us a better country.

**Kamala Harris' opponents express concern that President Biden's last-minute withdrawal and subsequent endorsement of Harris was anti-democratic because most Democratic primaries were over, leaving voters with no clear avenue to elect a nominee themselves. From your perspective as a researcher and scholar, is it an accurate characterization to say the process was undemocratic? Is this a threat to democracy?**

I don't think Joe Biden stepping down as the Democratic Party's nominee and Kamala Harris then stepping in as the nominee is a threat to democracy. The political parties are private organizations and they have bylaws, procedures they follow for how they're going to select a nominee. The Democratic Party moved forward with rather an unorthodox approach to arriving at its nominee, but not one that appears to have violated any of the Democratic Party's bylaws to my understanding.

Where there is a word of caution is that you would ideally like the will of the voters in the Democratic primary to have chosen the candidate and for that candidate to persist all the way to Election Day. I think there are legitimate critiques to be made. There could have been conversations had in earnest much earlier to see if Biden would step down before the Democratic primary. In my view, that's always the better way to go about it because that to most people feels

like a better process. You can draw a direct line from who wins those primaries and caucuses to who is the nominee.

Moving forward, I hope the lesson learned from this is for leaders and political parties to think really carefully about the timing of when primaries happen and when you might need to make decisions so that there aren't questions that come up around these sorts of issues, because I do think there are people who are reasonably frustrated.

**Donald Trump's opponents often cast him as a threat to democracy. Meanwhile, his supporters critique this framing as politicized exaggeration. From your perspective as a researcher and scholar, is it an accurate characterization to say Donald Trump is a threat to democracy?** I think it has been true that Trump has contributed to some threats to democracy. Yes, Trump has in the past been a threat to democracy.

Even before people went to the polls on Election Day, (he) began saying things like, "The only way we can lose is if the other side cheats." He said some version of this in 2016, said it again in 2020. There was not evidence there was some orchestrated campaign for Trump's opponents to cheat or organize systemic voter fraud, but he alleged that both times. Sowing doubt about elections where there's not evidence to support that is dangerous. Systemic voter fraud is a really big deal, so if there's credible evidence to support that, we should take that seriously; likewise, we need to take seriously when people make allegations that are unsupported or actually contrary to evidence. This is what Trump did in the aftermath of the 2020 presidential election.

Then, of course, on Jan. 6, having that rally, saying people could process to the Capitol because there was an injustice that was done that day, not having mobilized the National Guard, not having publicly called for an intervention until well into the events that transpired was also, I think, very irresponsible.

So, as someone who studies this, I would say yes, there are some really appropriate concerns about Trump being a threat to democracy. As events unfold in 2024, we should not presume that anyone is going to do anything that is

bad and will jeopardize democracy. But if there is conduct from any politician that undermines confidence in democracy where there's not credible evidence to support those allegations, we should be concerned about those things, and we should judge those things appropriately.

**What is one thing you wish students understood about this election or voting more generally?**

Hopefully, the thing that students understand, that Americans generally understand, is that democracy matters. Democracy matters because it gives us the freedom to participate in decisions that affect our own lives, the lives of our friends and neighbors, the life of our community, the future of our nation. That's really important and we shouldn't take that for granted. At a time when it's easy to feel cynical or alienated, (it is) important to recognize we have this really important right that's recognized in a democracy — that you get to have some say in it. I hope all Americans thinking about voting appreciate that right because that right is not recognized in other kinds of political systems.

Beyond casting that vote, there are a variety of other ways citizens can get involved in their democracy. You can work for campaigns you believe in (and) advocacy groups. Now, you also have to recognize that some of your fellow citizens may very much disagree with you and do the same thing you're doing, but toward goals you disagree with. But appreciating that is part of what it means to appreciate democracy. We might want to find more constructive ways of having political debates in this country, but we don't want to confuse that with not valuing debate and disagreement and competition over ideas.

My advice to anyone who sees troubling things in American democracy is to get involved and encourage others who feel the same way you do to get involved as well.

**Pollsters have said there is no way for us to accurately predict the election outcome. Many have also said it is unlikely we will know the outcome on Election Day, since the race is so tight. When will we know?**

I can't know definitively the results. I think pollsters are right to

caution that right now in a number of states (it) is literally too close to call. While you may see an average of polls saying, "Trump is a little bit ahead in this state," or, "Harris is a little bit ahead in this state," the reality is that polling is not perfectly accurate. Even if it's reasonably close, it can't call elections this close. As people are reading headlines, anytime you see that it's within the margin of error, realize that we just do not know yet and that the way we will know is by counting votes on and in the days after Nov. 5.

It could very easily take a couple of days after the election before all votes are counted. In some states, votes won't be counted until polls close. In other states, ballots that have been cast early can be counted going into that day. My advice to anyone who's following this is to be patient with the process and to wait until there is sufficient evidence during the vote-counting process to declare a winner.

If any candidate in the presidential election or anywhere down-ballot declares victory before we have a definitive vote count, I would urge everyone just to have a sense of caution and a sense of patience until we get all the way to the end and count every vote that's been legally cast. This is a moment where we have to let those processes play out and ensure those processes have integrity.

**Do you have any predictions about election outcomes?**

No, it's a very close election. It's going to matter which campaign executes strategy better in some of the most critical areas around the states that could be pivotal. I think it'd be irresponsible of me to say, "I think the outcome is going to be this way or that way."

Really, it's a matter of just watching things carefully on Election Day and then figuring out, regardless of who wins, what comes next and what is a constructive path forward for us all as Americans. Because no matter who wins, I think it could be a bumpy ride. There's a lot we need to do to repair the fabric of American democracy, and that's going to continue well after the 2024 election. Hopefully, we all take that obligation as citizens and as Americans seriously.

*Read the full interview online at alleghenycampus.com.*

## Comedy Corner: Joe Rogan, Cocaine and Marvel

By JOSEPH KLEPEIS

Staff Writer  
klepeis01@allegheny.edu

Business Insider reported on Oct. 20 that Donald Trump traveled to Feasterville-Trevoze, Pennsylvania, and briefly worked at a McDonald's branch, cooking fries and serving drive-through customers.

"This is fun work, I can't imagine why anyone would complain about working hard at McDonald's," Trump said. "Sure I'm not working a whole shift or getting yelled at for taking too long with a customer's order, but who cares?"

Speaker Mike Johnson (R-La.) and former Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) engaged in a tense text exchange last week, Axios reported on Oct. 20.

"You up?" Johnson wrote.

"What are you doing?"

Cheney did not take kindly to the messages.

"Mike, how did you get my new

number?" Cheney wrote. "It's three in the morning. Stop texting me."

King Charles III met Hephner the alpaca en route to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra, according to The Guardian on Oct. 20.

Hephner spat on the king and said "Down with the monarchy!"

Axios reported on Oct. 22 that Americans are split on the idea of putting immigrants in militarized "camps."

"I think rounding everybody up is a great idea," said a historian in support of the plan. "Throwing people in camps has always been a good thing."

Former MSNBC host Chris Matthews declared he's "never seen a more heroic figure" than Liz Cheney and urged Democrats to "repay" the Republicans if they win the presidential election, ac-

ording to Mediaite on Oct. 22 (real quotes).

If potential favors are being handed out for speaking against the rise of the far-right in this country I would like to apply for a favor of my own. I've been a critic of the far-right since before this election cycle.

Donald Trump appeared on Joe Rogan's podcast on Oct. 25.

"I think the American people deserved to hear me interview Trump," Rogan said. "People need to know his opinions on the UFC, moose meat and aliens potentially building the pyramids in Egypt."

The Guardian reported on Oct. 22 that German police raided a pizzeria in Düsseldorf.

Pizza No. 40 was long one of the best-selling dishes at the restaurant until police discovered the secret ingredient: a side of cocaine.

"It was pretty easy to catch on,"

said one of the officers. "Most pizzas were about 10-15 Euros. This specific pizza cost about 90 Euros."

NBC News reported on Oct. 22 that the 'Penguin Bandit' who robbed multiple Colorado banks has been sentenced to 13 years in prison.

Authorities dubbed Samuel Richard Ruthstrom the "Penguin Bandit" for his heavy build and a distinctive "waddle." (real quotes)

He had robbed four banks earlier this year and attempted to rob a fifth, when he was apprehended by authorities who noted that he "had sacks of money on his back and was sliding on his stomach away from the scene of the crime."

USA Today posed the question on Oct. 23 "Is it safe to eat at McDonald's?" after an E. coli outbreak occurred.

Probably not, but has it ever been safe to eat there?

The Times reported on Oct. 23 that Tim Burton said it would be horrible working on a Marvel project today.

"I couldn't imagine doing anything for Marvel today," Burton said. "I've got dinner plans, plus it takes a lot longer than a day to make a movie or TV show."

The Hill reported on Oct. 24 that Donald Trump won't rule out pardoning Hunter Biden if elected.

"I will definitely consider it," Trump said. "I'll pardon myself first of course."

Axios asked why the GOP is challenging overseas and military voting on Oct. 24.

"It's simple really," said a GOP election official. "We're pro-voter suppression."

Politico spotted some blunt advice for Kamala Harris in Philadelphia on Oct. 24.

Spotted across the street from the hotel where Kamala Harris stayed in Philadelphia last Wednesday: a sign with a bit of advice.

"White Owl White Grape or Game Honey."

UPMC Horizon is focused on reducing patient wait times at its hospitals, according to The Meadville Tribune on Oct. 25.

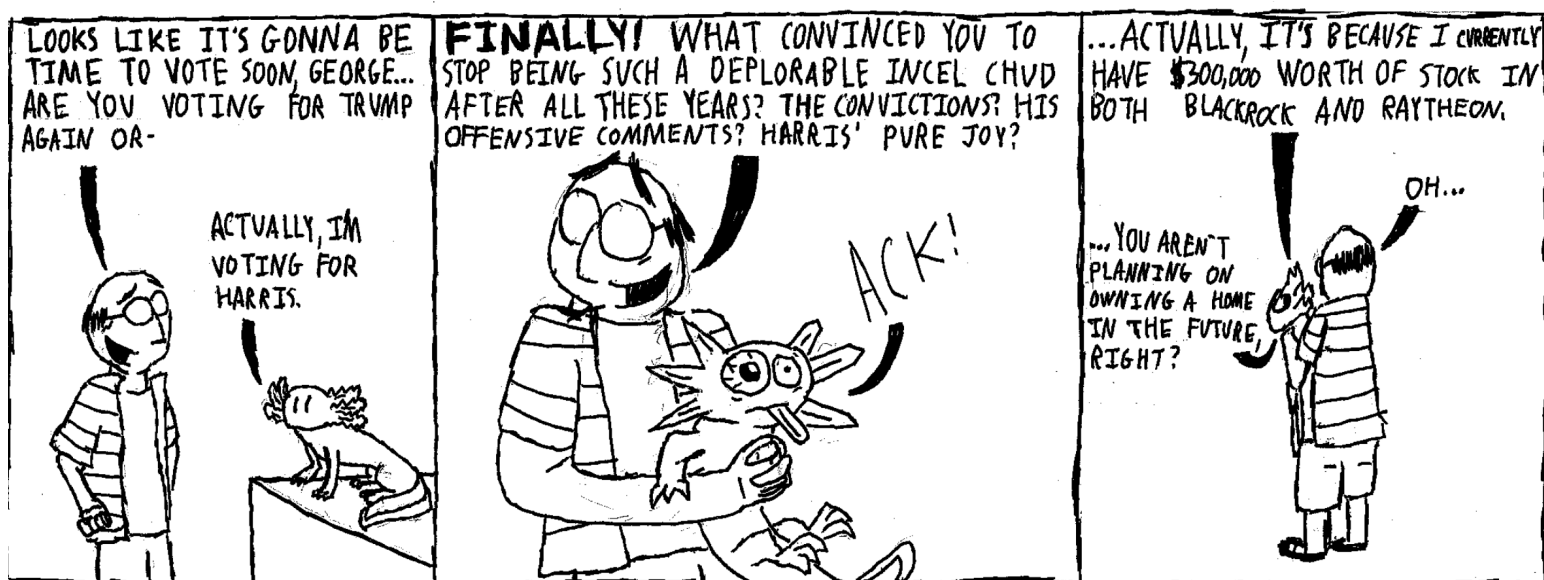
"Shortened wait times are on the horizon at Horizon," said a hospital administrator. "I can almost see it."

*Disclaimer: All quotes are fictitious unless otherwise noted. Any lack of joy as a result of this article is unintentional and we claim no responsibility.*

### COGNITIVE DISSONANCE

By HENRY GREFENSETTE

Editorial Cartoonist  
grefensette01@allegheny.edu



# From the archives: 149 years of Allegheny politics

## Students Speak Out On Issues

By SHANNON HARBAUGH  
Assistant News Editor

Traditionally college student voters are not the most active participants come election time. This may be attributed to the hectic student schedules, lack of interaction with the 'outside/real world' and therefore knowledge about campaigns, or there is no other excuse rather than just plain apathy.

On Allegheny's own campus, a number of student voters were found to have strong feelings during this presidential election year. Among the most popular issues that student voters are interested in, include abortion, education and environmental issues.

Michelle Popovec, junior psychology major, believes in pro-life and looks for a candidate who shares this view. Brooke Bourdeau, also a junior psychology major, is more interested in "school funding and education. I also look for a candidate who will promote pro-life and environmental issues."

Breonna Frisk, a sophomore political science major, agrees that issues important to her are pro-life and taxing, pointing out that while taxing is not a major concern of her's now, it will be in the near future and the candidates who are

chosen now will affect her later. On the other hand, Gretchen Watson, a sophomore theater major, has "a problem with the abortion issue," and feels that "candidates use this issue to further their campaign, but I think that white middle-aged men have no right to say what women should do with their bodies. I also do not feel that this moral issue should be a concern of the government's."

Why do college students vote? Bryan Pitorak, senior environmental science major, believes it is his "privilege and responsibility as a U. S. citizen to vote. It also is a chance to express my views."

In the same way, Aaron Fox, senior and double major in environmental studies and religions studies, feels that it is "our civic responsibility (to vote) and, although some may not believe it, each vote will make a difference."

The image a candidate portrays, proved to be at the bottom of the list of qualities students look for. First-year Blair Anundson, who is pursuing a double major in political science and environmental science, said, "the decision should never have to do with the candidate's image. Issues that should be central are campaign finance reform and

—see ISSUES, page 8—

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the issue of restricting corporate power."

More important than a candidate's image, Pitorak points out that the qualities he is concerned with as being, "intelligence, honesty, and if they exemplify high environmental marks of action. Everything that George W. Bush is not."

Isaac Kerns, junior environmental studies major, agreed saying, "image is not very important, instead the candidate must stand up for the people over corporate interests."

Many student voters are looking for candidates that will represent their own beliefs and will fight for issues that directly affect their generation. Justin Vernon, a junior environmental science major, said that his decision "has to do with my own beliefs and morals. I also take into consideration the candidate's and their party's theology." The issue most important to Vernon is equality.

Fox also feels that a candidate should represent his beliefs and moral views. "Issues of morality such as prayer in school and abortion are also significant to my candidate's campaign."

Environmental awareness and a candidate's stance on this issue seems to be becoming a hot issue in this year's election. Many student voters are sensitive to this and have strong feelings about the subject. Kerns said that a candidate, "should have serious plans to attack the root causes of environmental problems and human rights violations. The candidate needs to end spending on wasteful armaments, such as the military and corporate welfare, and look more at social justice issues."

While Fox too is concerned with environmental issues, he feels that, "there are more important issues at stake, for instance electing four Supreme Court judges." Chris Hallam, a senior psychology major, also feels that, "Supreme Court decisions and civil rights issues are important because they affect the most people."

Essi Abassa, a senior psychology major, is concerned with equality and feels that "education is the key, and I'm also interested in gun control."

While many student voters are searching for candidates who take a stance on the issues most important to them, some are not finding what they are looking for. Ken Achenbach, senior psychology major, said, "personally, I have found no candidate who speaks to any issues that I am concerned with."

By DAPHNE WOMACK  
Contributing Historian  
womack01@allegheny.edu

Left:  
This article is from Volume 124, Issue 8, published on Nov. 2, 2000.

ASG ELECTION POLL RESULTS	
George W. Bush -	37%
Al Gore -	43%
Ralph Nader -	14%
Other -	1%
Not Voting -	5%

## The CAMPUS Asks: "Who would you like to see as President of the U.S. and why?"

by Kris Holloway  
Staff Writer

I don't like either candidate. I'm from Germany, so I can't vote. Both parties have many points I don't agree with. The Democrats have a bad foreign policy and the Republicans cut too many social programs. **Rainer "Wilt" Sorensen, '92**

I'd like to see Dukakis take it. I'd like to see a change. I think a lot of our economic growth is getting stagnant. Many of our social programs must get better. There's a lot of potential that's not being fulfilled. - **Mike Green, '89**

Certainly not Quayle! Not Bush... not Dukakis. Maybe Lyndon LaRouche. We need the leadership that only he can provide. - **Jeff Wuchenich, '89**

I'm not comfortable with saying that either candidate is

qualified for the position. I think it's more of a question of which one has more experience. Personally, I like Bush- he's more familiar with presidential responsibilities. - **Jamie Hollenbeck, '89**

Anybody but Bush! I don't think we need anymore years of Reaganomics. He's messed up the economy and he's messed up the environment. - **Chris Harrington, '89**

I think that George Bush should be president because he's had more experience in the White House. - **Heather Ginchereau, '90**

If it would be anybody, I'd have to say Bush. In the last debate Bush's responses on the presented issues seemed to be more precise and clear than those of Dukakis. - **Greg Kozub, '89**

I don't like either candidate.

But I'd choose Bush because I don't like Dukakis' stands on letting criminals go, and I disagree with his stand on the Pledge of Allegiance. - **Judy Lazzaretti, '91**

Peter Jennings because he sounded better at the debates than either one of the presidential candidates. He focuses on important issues rather than who has a better tie. - **Julie Stewart, '90**

I'd probably pick a 3rd party because I don't like either of the candidates. They are too one-sided. Dukakis is capable of running our country, but in foreign affairs he has no experience. Bush has the experience in foreign affairs but personally I don't like him. - **Dan Edwards, '92**

Personally, I'm pretty conservative, so I would be more likely to go for a Republican. I don't trust Democrats. I'm not

real gung-ho on George Bush- but I don't see much in Dukakis. Under Reagan our foreign policy has never been better and Bush will hopefully continue this. - **Erinn Casale, '92**

It's more of a choice of the lesser of 2 evils, but I'd have to say Dukakis/Bentsen simply because there aren't many issues I feel strongly about, but abortion and the environment. My personal beliefs agree with their platform more than the Republicans. - **Candy Peterson, '89**

I would say Dukakis because I think he exemplifies leadership abilities and has the qualities required to be a good president. Also, I don't think Quayle would make a good president if Bush went out. - **Paul Svetz, '90**

George Bush because being from New England I know how bad Dukakis is. I don't think

he'd do a good job as president. It's not that I like George Bush, it's just that I dislike Dukakis. - **Brendan Penney, '91**

I think Bush because he already has connections with world leaders and he held himself in the debates much better. Also because he has the experience of being vice-president, he's more qualified to be president. - **Jeff Ignozzi, '92**

Bush because he's better qualified for the job. Looking at the background of each candidate, Dukakis really messed up Massachusetts. - **Julie Holden, '91**

I would definitely go for Bush because Dukakis' foreign policy is weak. Dukakis does want to make things better for our country, but I'd vote for Bush. - **Glenn Diamond, '92**

Above:  
This article is from Volume 112, Issue 7, published on Oct. 20, 1988.

Below:  
This article is from Volume 51, Issue 5, published on Nov. 26, 1932.

## POLITICAL INTEREST IS MANIFEST BY STUDENTS

By RICHARD SMITH,  
Campus Political Writer.

The four entrants in Allegheny's political race are just about to round the turn which marks the first lap in a presidential derby that will end in the great rally and straw vote of November 7. From the press box, it appears that the massive, lumbering G. O. P. elephant with the brilliant Sturges Cary as jockey is out in front and on the inside. Bill Boetker, on whom the Socialists have placed their money, is plugging doggedly on the leader's heels and worying him occasionally with the flaming torch, the symbol of the Thomas advocates. "Long Ears," the pride of the Democrats and Tammany's pet, ridden by Sanford Corcoran, finds the track not to his liking and is lagging behind a bit. Bringing up the rear, but apparently possessing great stamina, is the "dark horse" runner, Harry Thomson, Communist. This latter is a picturesque figure with his red ribbons, and threats to gather speed by the use of rockets.

### Women for Hoover.

Backed by the steam-roller machine at Hulings Hall, and especially powerful in Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Phi Delta Theta, Boss Cary's Hoover campaigners are confident of victory. Estimating his strength at about 200, the Republican head has planned a giant mass demonstration in the gymnasium at seven o'clock tonight. Speakers will include the notable sophomore campaigners and citizens, Norman Olson and Elliott "Buck" Jones—both men of forensic ability.

### POLITICAL INTEREST.

It has been extremely gratifying to observe the interest and enthusiasm which the members of the student body are showing towards the approaching national election. It was with no little degree of hesitancy that several students in the Department of Political Science took up the task of arousing this interest, but that their efforts have been rewarded with success is evidenced by the appearance of numerous political posters and campaign buttons and more particularly by groups of students about the campus obviously in the midst of heated political discussions. For the most part the discussions have been as sincere as they have been heated, and we are happy to notice that the campus "clowns" are distinctly in the minority.

The truly disinterested observer, if one can be found, will notice that the campaign on the campus is narrowing down to a choice between the Republican candidate, President Hoover, and the Socialist candidate, Norman Thomas, with the Democrat, Franklin D. Roosevelt, attracting but few ardent followers. The perennial conflict between the practical and the theoretical which characterizes so many student activities was never more in evidence. There seems to be no middle ground. The average student seems to be either intensely conservative or tends towards the idealistic. We cannot but look upon this as a healthy state of affairs.

The campaign locally will become greatly intensified from now until the day of election. Tonight the student body will have the first opportunity to demonstrate its interest when the Republicans will hold the first of a series of partisan rallies. These rallies are open to the adherents of all parties, and it is to be hoped that the students will attend them all, and thus be able to arrive at a fair decision on the night preceding the election, when *The Campus* will sponsor a straw vote within the student body.

## Peace - give it a try

To the Editor:  
To contend that Allegheny is an apathetic campus would be mere repetition. To say that it is a prime example of the isolated small-town campus might be more accurate.

Let us look at the case in hand. What is the biggest "issue" on campus right now? The revival of an omnipresent problem, the speeding cars on North Main. Wow! Earth-shattering national relevance! Will all college campuses attempt to control major highways running through their grants?

Readers, take this test with the person sitting next to you: 1. Do you know that President Nixon has promised "all military measures necessary" short of nuclear warheads and further ground forces to end the Vietcong invasion? (Rogers, May 1, 1972); 2. Do you know that the National Guard entered the University of Maryland campus after four days of rioting just two weeks ago?; 3. Do you know that students occupied a building at Columbia University and were driven out by club-wielding NYC police last week?

What were your results?  
Let us continue. In what other ways has the student body turned aside from national issues since the "big strike" two years ago, when reportedly two-thirds of the students massed on Brooks lawn after the K.S.U. affair? Look at ASG, visibly the most politically active minority on campus. Their

recent activities have included locally important items such as faculty tenure, pet policies, Honor Code mix-ups and so on, but in all cases, the actions have applied solely to the college and its interior workings. Little or no concern has been publicly shown for anything that happens outside of our sterile little acreage in Meadville, Pa. We hear little from Woman's Equality (save Abortion Week) and next to nothing from ABC and the attempts to institute a Black Studies program here. And these, I regret to add, are perhaps our only chances to be in touch with items of national importance and relevance.

Let me just say then that two years ago this Thursday, May 4, four students were fatally wounded on the battlefield at Kent State. At that time they were protesting the Cambodian invasion. Now the bombing of North Vietnam has been resumed and the conditions of the Vietnam War are only barely different. Is there any chance that May 4 can become a noticeably different day at Allegheny, when cars and garbage cans can be forgotten and a suitable memorial Moratorium be set up in the memory of those K.S.U. students and in protest of President Nixon's present policy? Can we possibly think bigger than Meadville? Give it a try. Think of something new, like peace in America.

Bill Cissna

Above:  
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