

## Editorial

### Focus politics on rationale, not hysteria

If you're a college student with access to Comedy Central, you probably get your news from "The Daily Show" or "The Colbert Report." In fact, both saw double-digit increases in summer viewership by the college-age demographic, both are recipients of the Emmy and Peabody Awards, and together constitute a political force to be reckoned with.

We're not sure what to make of those calling their credibility into question. Colbert recently testified on behalf of the United Farm Workers' "Take Our Jobs" program in front of the House Judiciary Committee. Some dismissed it as shtick, including lawmakers, despite a somber final statement from Colbert, "It seems like the least powerful people in the United States are migrant workers who come here ... And at the same time, we invite them here and ask them to leave ... I don't want to take anyone's hardship away from them, [but] migrant workers suffer and have no rights."

The Daily Show's "Rally to Restore Sanity" — slated to take place from noon to 3 p.m. Oct. 30 along the National Mall in Washington, D.C. — has gained the attention of skeptics and supporters alike, including President Barack Obama. Stewart hasn't been pulling punches in his criticisms of the commander-in-chief's work performance, yet still enjoyed a high-level endorsement of his political rally at a political rally.

We're definitely fans of both shows, and what the "Rally to Restore Sanity" is trying to accomplish. It seems as though we'll never run out of things to say regarding the increasingly hyper-polar track politics has been on, something that's the fault of both politicians and the news media covering them. One of those things that needs to be addressed is currently being avoided by politicians.

A potential pitfall of comedians serving society as pseudo-prophets of the political realm is this: The important issues aren't funny. No matter how much we want to put clown shoes on them, they won't stop being deadly serious.

Something that America has accepted is that it takes money to solve problems. Something that we have trouble accepting is that this money comes from taxing our wages. No one wants to hear about raising taxes in these hard economic times.

We desperately need to raise taxes in order to keep entitlement programs alive, but you won't hear a peep about that until after the elections. It seems that both parties are content with blaming one another for our current fiscal struggles, or using sensitive subjects like immigration and LGBT rights to sway voters. We really wish social issues could take a back-burner to plans for solving more pressing concerns, but it seems as though theatrics will be the norm through November.

A call for civility and rationale is something we can all stand behind. No matter what your politics are, we find ourselves on a slippery slope of debt and unhealthy lifestyle. We should not be content with wearing the generation "me" label, nor should we allow apathy to replace action.

Satire might be humor, but it's not as though we're missing the point. Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart are good at what they do and are a welcome alternative to the punditry and hysteria of the big network news organizations.

Who knows, maybe the rally will serve as a catalyst for accomplishment. Maybe common sense will prevail. We can only hope.

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## Politics

# Restore the sanity



By Rick.Hanton@iowastatedaily.com



Activists gather at the Lincoln Memorial for the "One Nation Working Together" rally Oct. 2 in Washington, D.C. Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart are promoting a rally focused on bringing parties together in peaceful disagreement. Photo: J. Scott Applewhite/The Associated Press

### Comedians organize rally to bring parties together

Right now I know that a few ISU students will be traveling at the end of October to Washington, D.C. to participate in the rallies that Comedy Central personalities Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert plan to host there.

But why are these students planning to travel more than 1,000 miles for a rally or march, each orchestrated not by a politician, but by a comedian? Maybe they just want to show their support for Comedy Central's political satire and have some fun while doing it.

A friend of mine who is flying to D.C. noted that he is planning to stay at the house of a fellow redditor — a user of [reddit.com](http://reddit.com) — and is trusting that he won't have any issues staying with someone who he only vaguely knows online. But he is not the only one finding a cheap flight in and a couch to sleep on. There have been reports of groups across

the country planning to fly or drive in for the single-day event.

I won't argue that, as an avid user of Reddit and viewer of Stewart and Colbert, I would definitely have a fun time going myself. But besides going to D.C. to enjoy myself with others my age and celebrate the comedic relief Colbert and Stewart bring to our polarized political climate, will this rally truly "activate America's youth" to vote this November? I certainly hope so.

I feel like something must be amiss with the government when my three favorite political minds are all comedians — Al Franken, Stewart and Colbert, if you were wondering.

It seems like a good thing that they are trying to bring young people with new ideas to Washington D.C. to try and influence all the lifetime politicians on the hill who have been slow in recent years to bring any changes to the way our country operates.

We need new voices with new ideas who challenge the status quo of the professional politicians who make Washington,

D.C. their home. I feel that with the help of Comedy Central, Stewart and Colbert, the kings of political satire, have done a good job of taking on this task and challenging many of our politicians in recent years.

These comedians are not trying to make a mockery of the political process, but are trying to "Restore Sanity" to politics in America — Stewart more directly and Colbert as a satirical pundit. They don't want to rally for one or the other major political party; they want to bring people from both parties together in respectful disagreement.

I doubt that too many students today are super-conservative or super-liberal. These moderate citizens are just the sort of folks that Stewart wants to have in attendance.

It's not about having a shouting match; it's about having a well-reasoned argument between people of different thoughts and views.

We need to tell Congress and the nation that this type of reasoned argument based on facts is what politics should be all about.

## Voting

# State, congressional elections impact college students, too



By Curtis.Powers@iowastatedaily.com

Vote. Yes, you should vote.

On Nov. 4, you will have the opportunity to perform your civic duty of voting.

And you should do it. Many of you won't and won't care. I get it. I understand. Especially if you're an out-of-state student.

Why should you care about local, state and congressional elections? How do they affect you?

Let someone else learn about the issues and decide. After all, you're very busy with school, work, etc.

Plus, you only have one vote, so what does it matter if you don't exercise your right to vote?

You're probably not even registered — and don't know how to — so it'd be a lot of effort for little in return.

But you're wrong. It does matter, even if it's only one vote. And it's really not that hard.

And yes, if you're a full-time student from another state, you can register to vote here as long as you're not registered in your home state.

Go to [www.storycounty.com](http://www.storycounty.com). They provide all the information you need to know on how to get registered as well as answer other questions that you may have.

After you get registered, you can actually vote right now. You can request an absentee ballot

that will be mailed to you and you mail it back. Or you can visit the Story County Auditor's office, which is in Nevada — about 10 miles east on Highway 30 — and vote during regular business hours.

You also vote because state and local elections have a much greater effect on your life than national elections.

After all, don't you care about tuition rates?

A lot of Iowa State's funding comes from the state of Iowa. Therefore, it is important to know what candidates vying to represent your district have to say about funding education.

Plus, your inter-

ests on funding education may be different than the people who will probably vote in this year's election. From polling I saw, it looks like tea party supporters are the ones poised to turn out in big numbers.

So it's important for you to vote and show politicians that college students care and should be taken seriously. If college students don't vote, why should politicians take

our interests seriously since we don't have a meaningful impact on election results?

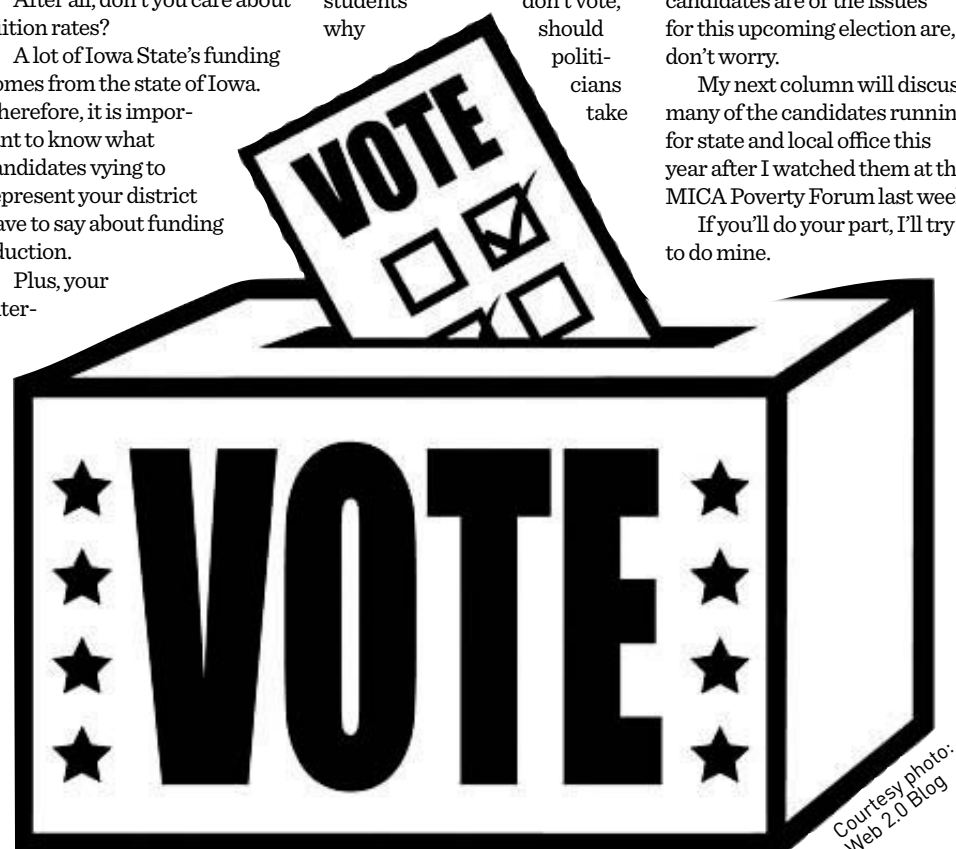
After all, their goal is get elected and represent their constituents. Generally speaking, they listen more to constituents who vote and they hear from.

So please, get registered to vote, and then vote.

If you don't know who the candidates are or the issues for this upcoming election are, don't worry.

My next column will discuss many of the candidates running for state and local office this year after I watched them at the MICA Poverty Forum last week.

If you'll do your part, I'll try to do mine.



Courtesy photo: Web 2.0 Blog