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Henderson, Soni take SGA election

By Sarah Weber
copy editor

Mike Taylor, SGA elections chair, announced yesterday that Alex Henderson and Deepti Soni won the SGA presidential and vice presidential election after polls closed at 5 p.m.

A record 813 students voted in the election. Henderson and Soni received 483 votes. The other candidates, Justin Curry and Cayla Javor received 330 votes. The third ticket of Zack Mentz and Seth Laird withdrew from the election late last week and were removed from the ballot.

About 500 more students voted in this year's election than in the 2004 election.

Henderson and Soni agreed that this year's impressive turnout can be attributed to the amount of campaigning by the original three parties.

"Both other candidates did an extraordinary job of advertising and getting people to vote," said Henderson.

Soni added the fact that there were three candidates who had very different platforms improved student interest and campaign support.

Henderson said that there were several items that would receive his immediate attention when he takes office at the end of the semester.

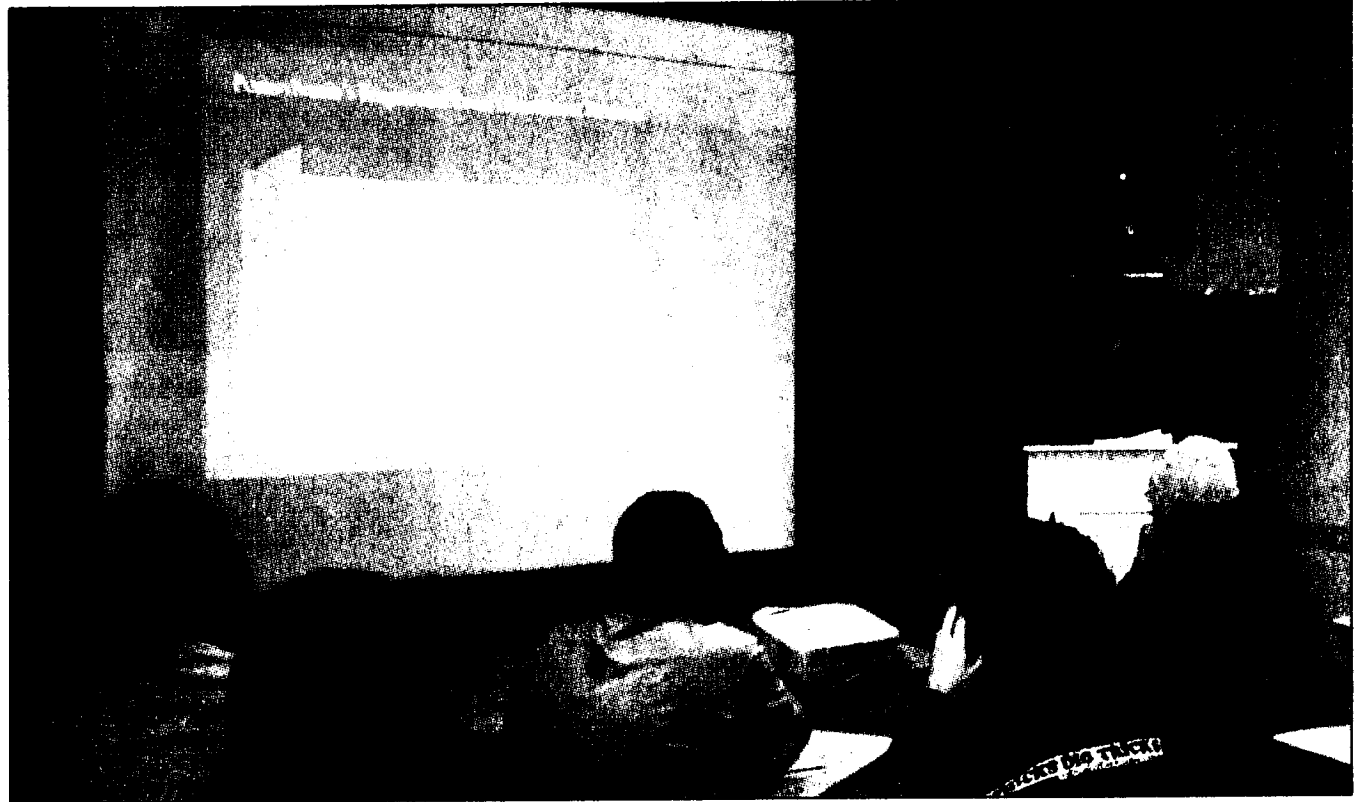
"We will continue the push to keep tuition down. We are also going to work hard to get book titles and ISBN numbers to keep book prices reasonable," said Henderson. He also said that, within, SGA he and Soni will work on restructuring the committees and reinstating the diversity committee.

"I really want to thank all of the students for getting active, my friends, the clubs and the administration," said Soni. "I'd also like to thank the other candidates."

SGA winners

President
Alex Henderson
Vice President
Deepti Soni
Secretary
Lori Lawhead -- 739 votes
Senators
Lindsay Edwards -- 589
Allison Polarmo -- 583
Steph Soergel -- 583
Meredith Straub -- 560
Mike Taylor -- 556
Laura Flocido -- 538
Danielle Stahlbaum -- 536
Cleon Smith -- 526
Erin Hills -- 514
Annie Jordan -- 513
Maunli Gandhi -- 510

Filippi on campus



CHRIS HVIZDAK/BEHREND BEACON

Erie Mayor Rick Filippi speaks to the POLSC 408 State and Local Government class about consolidation. Currently, Erie is seeking a consolidation with seven surrounding townships including Wesleyville, Lawrence Park, Millcreek and Fairview to increase the Erie tax base and spur the city's stagnant economy.

Mentz, Laird bow out gracefully

SGA presidential candidate resigns in face of disqualification

By Daniel J. Stasiewski
editor in chief

The SGA Presidential election was turned upside-down March 25 when presidential candidate Zack Mentz and his running mate, Seth Laird, resigned from the race.

Mentz currently serves as senator and was looking to upset current SGA Vice-President Justin Curry and Chair Pro-tempore Alexander Henderson. The Mentz/Laird campaign received much grassroots support that created what hopeful students considered to be a formidable challenger.

The resignation was shocking to students involved in the campaign, with aggressive, accusatory letters being sent to administrators. Signs saying "Let Zack Run" were also put up and subsequently torn down. Mentz said that though he is taking the resignation in stride, he does feel bad for the students who supported him.

"I would come in and someone would hand me a stack of buttons they made," said Mentz. "I felt bad for them because of all the work they put in."

The Mentz/Laird ticket turned in their resignation after an undisclosed policy violation would have forced their disqualification. The violation, which was discovered by Director of Student Affairs and SGA Adviser Ken Miller, was uncovered on the same day Mentz and Laird turned in their resignation.

SGA President Scott Soltis, SGA Election Committee Chair Mike Taylor, Mentz and Laird were involved in the meeting that resulted in the resignation of two candidates. Mentz described the meeting as "cordial."

Paperwork and petitions for potential candidates were due March 4, the Friday before Spring Break. Soltis said in an e-mail interview that the Election Committee does an initial review of the candidates, followed by Miller's full review. Because Miller was attending to family matters, the discrepancy was not uncovered until March 25.

Mentz, however, admits both he and Laird knew about the discrepancy before the paperwork was turned in. He said he didn't think it would be a problem.

The Making of a Candidate

Mentz came to Behrend from Penn State Mont Alto knowing he wanted to be involved with SGA. He read the SGA constitution over the summer and when he finally did get to campus, ran successfully for an open senate position.

During his campaign for senate, Mentz used some signs with which Soltis disagreed. The conversation that ensued showed Soltis exactly what kind of SGA member Mentz would be.

"He and I talked for probably an hour and it was then that I realized the passion that he had," said Soltis. "For every explanation I had for him, he had a counter question and we probably could have gone on all night, but all in all it was a good experience for both of us."

"I would come in and someone would hand me a stack of buttons they made. I felt bad for them because of all the work they put in." --Zack Mentz

Senator Mentz eventually went on to be a member of the SGA Budget, Constitutional Review and Public Relations Committees. He is also a member of close to a dozen campus clubs. As the campaign began, Mentz and Laird became "affiliated" with numerous other clubs and organizations.

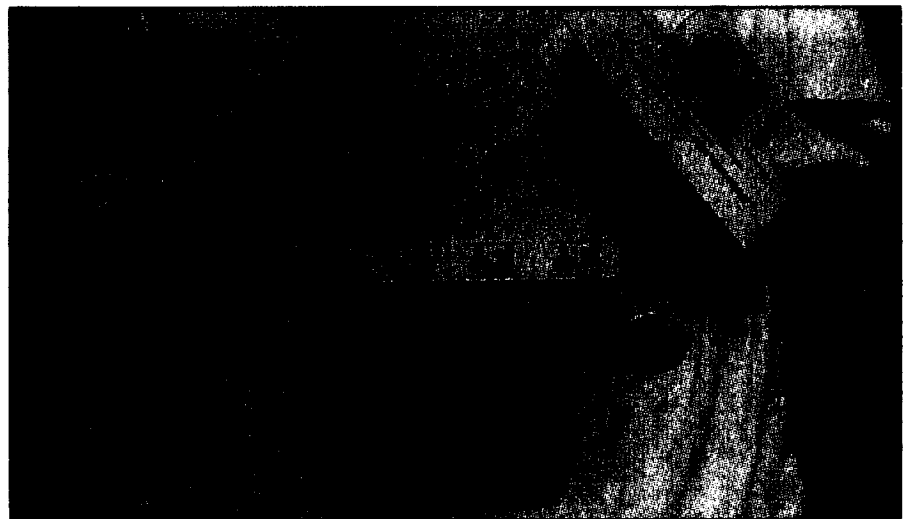
"If you want people to vote for you, you have to go out and support them," Mentz said. "Luckily, we're just involved kids, Seth (Laird) and I."

The enterprising candidates had more ideas from there. Mentz contacted the Pizza Hut and Dominos restaurants on Buffalo Road and asked them to put Mentz/Laird election flyers on every box delivered to Behrend. The restaurants agreed, but not everyone was as helpful.

"We wanted to have three standing signs on wood frames going along the road to the Reed Building and the Science Building," said Mentz. The signs would have been made with bed sheets, but Operations would not allow the candidates to put up the large signs.

Mentz and Laird made mouse pads for the Reed computers, purchased a large advertisement in the Behrend Beacon, folded more than 100 table tents with volunteers and had "Zack and Seth" T-shirts made. Mentz was even prepared to e-mail every on-campus student reminding them to vote on Election Day. The campaign, however, came to an end before the e-mails could even be sent.

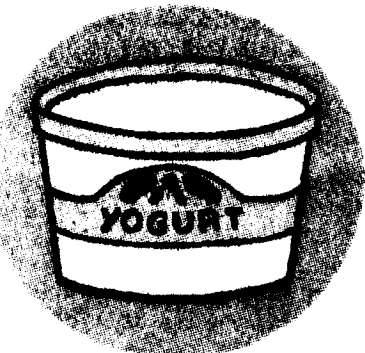
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DANIELLE FAULKNER/BEHREND BEACON

The Mentz/Laird campaign prepared shirts, mouse pads, buttons, table tents and Mentz created a program to personalize e-mails to the student body.

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By Naomi Herr
and Lauren Beauseigneur
staff writers

The Association of Black Collegians (ABC) will soon be hosting their annual Fashion Show in McGarvey Commons on April 7, at 7 p.m. This is the longest running program on campus.

Planning this event takes a lot of time and work. This is Pam Sumah's, president of the ABC, second year putting on the show. Sumah stated that they usually start planning around the fall semester.

"You have to secure a date for this

event, write out the proposal for funding, secure the models [which usually comes toward the end], get them walking correctly and get in contact with stores well in advance in case their contract states they can't take part in it," said Sumah.

The funding for the fashion show is provided by the SGA or the SAF. Companies that provide the clothes include Buckle, Wilson's Leather, David's Bridal, Value City and TJ Maxx. Three to four outfits will be borrowed from Wilson's Leather, along with \$2,000 worth of merchandise from David's Bridal and \$900 from Buckle.

All models have to sign contracts stating that they are liable for any damage to the clothes. Some models even

bring their own outfits.

The theme this year is "What's Hot on TV."

"We'll take clips that happen in movies and in TV to open up each scene," said Sumah. There are eight scenes this year consisting of swimsuit, business, international, club, street, bedroom, formal and leather.

Each scene has clothing relating to the scene. The scenes will have not only models strutting their stuff on the runway, but different skits relating to the scenes.

The skits are sure to be a hit considering the past years success with them. Former skits include a female version of "The Godfather," "Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead," "Miss

Congeniality," music videos and dance intermissions.

"The Fashion Show is an annual event that demonstrates creativity and encompasses style," said George Morgan III, ABC member helping Sumah.

The models are students here at Penn State.

Admittance is free of charge and refreshments will be served.

"Everyone who comes to see the Fashion Show loves it and everyone who participates wants to do it again. It is just a good way to bring an end to the year," said Sumah. Being a senior, this is her final year in charge of the fashion show and believes that this is a good way to leave.

ABC annual fashion show approaches