

# NEWS

## What SGA issue do you care about the most?



"I tend not to vote."

Amy Laird, 05  
Psychology



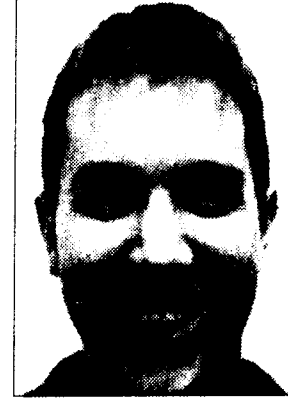
"I don't care."

Coty Brandon, 02  
Marketing



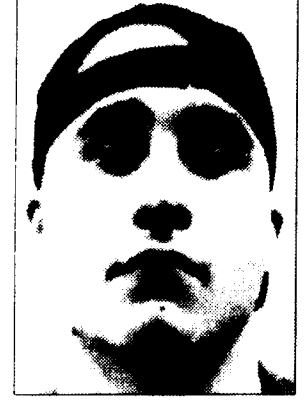
"Parking."

Jessica Christmann, 02  
Communications



"Funding for clubs."

Joshua Smolinski, 03  
Business



"Basically the welfare of our students and maybe to get better equipment in the gym."

Steve Falk, 06  
Accounting

Have a suggestion for question of the week? E-mail ideas to editorinchief@psu.edu.

DEBATES, continued from page 1

The SGA Presidential and Vice Presidential hopefuls went into the ring with their boxing gloves on Wednesday night. Current Vice President Deepti Soni and her running mate Zambanini stood their ground and fought for the position of planning rather than waiting. Specifically talking about the potential campus parking problem in the fall (due to the opening of the REDC), Zambanini stated, "I'd rather go in with a plan for parking...and know the problem ahead of time."

Senators Meredith Straub and Ken Middlemiss stood up for the student body and expressed that they truly wanted to hear from the students about what they want. Straub and Middlemiss addressed the potential parking issue as well. Straub said, "In the first month of next semester we want to have a forum to address the issue as soon as we know the exact issue that needs to be addressed."

"Communication" and "ownership" were the favored words of the evening. Vice Presidential candidate Middlemiss repeatedly claimed that students involved in SGA as well as other organizations on campus need to take ownership of the projects they work on and see them through from beginning to end. Zambanini stressed that communication inside and outside of SGA needed to be improved in order for things to be run efficiently next year.

All candidates seemed to agree on quite a few issues, especially internal and external communication of SGA. However, there were two other discrepancies between the campaigns besides the issue of the potential REDC parking dilemma.

One major difference between the tickets was the continuation of the Rally at the Rotunda. Both tickets are strongly in favor of continuing the program that helps to lower tuition costs, but they want to go about it in different ways. All four candidates have attended at least one Rally in the past. However, Straub and Middlemiss are proposing a new event next year involving five local legislators.

Straub suggested they hold a "...Rally at the Rotunda in Reed and try to get local legislators involved." "If our five legislators could see all of Behrend come out I think they will really push for [lowering tuition] in Harrisburg," Middlemiss added.

Soni countered Straub and Middlemiss' argument stating, "I've been very actively talking to local legislators and Graham Spanier about getting more state appropriations for Penn State."

Another issue the candidates differed on concerned raising the Student Activity Fee (SAF) in the future. Straub said she would be in favor of raising the SAF, however, she wants to see the clubs and organizations use the allocated fee more responsibly. Zambanini countered her argument saying, "No, let's prove we can use [the fee] well and use all of it, then let's talk about raising it."

Of course no political debate would be complete without a little bit of mudslinging. When the candidates had the opportunity to ask each other questions, Middlemiss was very curious about why Vice President Soni would choose to return for a full school year when she only needs 7.5 credits to graduate. He wanted to know why Penn State students should pay her stipend, which amounts to half of each semester's tuition, if she didn't need to stay at Behrend for a full year.

Soni responded saying she intends to pick up another major and minor. She claimed, "If the senate voted on it, I would decline my stipend."

The candidates experience with budget training was a very important topic that was also debated. Straub admitted, "I don't really have [experience] directly with an SGA budget." She also mentioned that she attempted to be a part of the SGA Budget Committee, but at the time there were no seats available.

Soni was able to counter saying, "I've helped with several clubs' budget training."

The most controversial topic surrounding the election did not go overlooked during the debate. Zambanini once again had to recount, as did all the candidates, what positions he has held in SGA. The candidates also discussed the possibility of changing or removing the one-year requirement listed in the constitution. Straub said, "No I wouldn't be willing to remove it, but it does need to be looked at because [a candidate does] need to have experience with SGA and the campus to know how things run..."

Soni agreed that a candidate should be qualified to hold any position in SGA. She said the constitution is unclear about the year timeline and needs to be amended for clarity.

Soni backed up her choice for a running mate saying, "Picking [Zambanini] was a very good choice of mine, I knew he had leadership skills." Straub said the best quality found in any leader is trustworthiness. Straub continued, "If you can't be trusted to care, then you're not going to get anywhere."

The debates were held a week before voting will take place. All students will be able to vote for President, Vice President, Senators and Secretary of SGA online at <https://secure.bd.psu.edu/sgavoting/> on March 29 and 30.

\*See page 4 for Presidential, Senatorial and Secretarial platforms

## Police and Safety

3-16-06

Resident reported that his vehicle was vandalized while parked in the Ohio Hall lot sometime between the weekend before spring break and March 15.

Officers were dispatched to the Reed Union Building after the complainant reported chest pains and difficulty breathing. Brookside Volunteer Fire Department personnel responded and transported the complainant to St. Vincent Hospital.

3-17-06

Complainant reported that students in Ohio Hall had been threatened by a male with a knife.

The duty RA reported seeing a male throwing a bottle at a window in the apartment quad. The student was identified and issued a citation for underage drinking and criminal mischief.

3-20-06

Complainant reported that books were stolen from his room

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## Editor in Chief position available

Become the next the Behrend Beacon's next EIC  
Help lead the Behrend Beacon through the 2006 - 2007 academic year

Turn in resume and cover letter to Ken Miller in the Office of Student Affairs no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, March 31



The Behrend  
**BEACON**

## Vandalism decreases drastically

By Greg Lanich  
staff writer  
gd118@psu.edu

On-campus vandalism is at all time low, according to Behrend Police and Safety Services Manager Jim Amann. While it seems that vandalism is a quickly growing problem

on Behrend campus this year, Police and Safety have had only twelve unresolved cases of "criminal mischief" so far this year. In 2002, 2003, and 2004, there were 28, 26, and 27 counts respectively. Amann stated that there was "Seventeen cases of vandalism, but five of those were resolved by and with the students," he added, "those five were confronted, admitted responsibility, and paid for the damages themselves." The majority of these counts take place in the residence halls, including both personal property and campus property. The comparison to previous years is astoundingly low, a welcome change by Police and Safety, including the arrest and citation of only two students for criminal mischief this year.

According to Amann, "A large percentage of these vandalism cases are vehicle related." Whether it is a ripped off side view mirror, shattered head or tail lights, broken windows, or keyed paint, vehicular vandalism is very expensive and difficult to fix. Luckily, only three of the criminal mischief counts this year were vehicular. Those including snapped mirrors, a

busted tail light, and a broken head light. No citations or arrests were made for these crimes.

When damages to property rise to the thousands, Behrend Police and Safety will take firm action on the vandal, up to and including heavy fines, citations, and arrests. Behrend Police and Safety will file a complaint with the Erie District Judge's office, at which point a vandal could face misdemeanor, or even felony charges. Fortunately, Behrend's Police usually deal with issues before they get to that level.

Scratched railings in the apartment complexes, a broken bench down campus, and the chipping of stone structures are all credited to the on campus skateboarding community.

Scratched railings in the apartment complexes, a broken campus bench, and the chipping of stone structures are all credited to the on-campus skateboarding community. According to an interview with one of these skateboarders who wished to remain anonymous, it is the drinking population to blame for campus vandalism. In contrast, St. Patrick's Day, a day that many students spend under the influence, brought only one count of criminal mischief. Amann reported this incident as "a beer bottle thrown through a residential window, whereas the student was cited." This report occurred at a student's apartment in Scorpion Hall.

Information regarding Behrend's campus Police and Safety is easily available, including contact numbers, campus regulations, parking restrictions, and even crime statistics. The website for Behrend's Police and Safety is <http://pserie.psu.edu/student/police/index.htm>. In addition, the Police and Safety Department is downstairs in Erie Hall, and on campus contact number x6101.