

STUDENT LIFE

Political apathy prevalent on campus

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A quick look around campus reveals a vibrant and youthful community, a community with an extremely diverse student body, encompassing many different backgrounds and walks of life. From students playing Frisbee outside of their dorms, studying at the library or passing around fliers outside of Bruno's, Behrend has an extremely individualistic student body.

With any collection of diverse young people usually comes an equally diverse collection of political views, but political affiliations are not readily communicated around campus. At most universities, political signs are a common sight—especially so close to a presidential election. Unfortunately, Behrend is severely lacking in any form of political expression.

However, it is impossible to say that there is no political awareness on campus. There is the occasional button on someone's clothing, and tables supporting candidates and distributing pamphlets outside of Bruno's have garnered some attention, but most students are not actively supporting any of the presidential candidates.

An explanation for this political passiveness is difficult to locate. For some students, the current presidential candidates are to blame. "I don't support any of the candidates, and I really don't have an explanation why. I guess none of them stick out to me," said Gary Cooper, a freshman Plastics Engineering major. "I'm not too happy with the choices for this election."

Apathy may be an excuse for some, but during an election with such extreme supporters for each candidate it can't be the sole explanation for the lack of politics on campus. Some students are simply too unfamiliar with the current candidates to make a decision one way or the other. "I don't really know too much about any of the current candidates," said freshman Shane Appel, a Plastics Engineering major. "I don't think anyone should support a politician unless they are one hundred percent sure about them. Even if someone knows nothing about a certain politician, their vote counts as much as someone who knows politics inside and out."

A lack of an outlet to support a certain candidate

is causing detriment to some. "I would put up signs for a candidate, but I just don't know where to get them," said freshman James Svolos, a Psychology major.

With politics so scarce on campus, and many students clearly uninformed on the current election, it's surprising that student political organizations are not campaigning more aggressively. One way for politically uninformed students to get more involved with the current election is to subscribe to mailing lists for College Democrats or Republicans. Signup sheets for each organization can sometimes be found outside of Bruno's, but other than that there are few opportunities to get involved.

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~Shane Appel

At many universities, members of student political organizations are frequently informing students on the current election. Whether it be giving out buttons, or pamphlets of information, or having rallies in support of candidates, the word is being spread about the candidates. Recently, interest in certain candidates has drawn small groups of people to booths outside of Bruno's, but nothing on the level of a rally.

Student political organizations meet weekly, but many students are completely unaware of where or when these meetings take place. "I had no idea that College Democrats or College Republicans had meetings," said Matt Kirkpatrick, a freshman Plastics Engineering major. "I've never seen any information on how to get involved with these organizations. You'd think things like that would have a bigger presence on campus."

With any luck, the political apathy currently plaguing our campus should end as the election approaches. As more students become educated about the candidates, hopefully that will be reflected around Behrend. If enough people decide to start projecting their political views by putting up signs, distributing pamphlets or organizing rallies, then eventually Behrend may look like a typical college campus. More people supporting their candidates will inspire others to air their political views and take an active stance on the future of their country.

Upcoming events on campus

- Alternative rock band **Third Eye Blind** will be performing on Friday, April 4 at the Junker Center. Tickets are now on sale at the RUB desk and are \$15 for students and \$20 for the general public. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and the concert will begin at 8 p.m. Lead singer Stephan Jenkins

- There will be a **Magic: The Gathering sealed deck tournament** on Sunday, April 6 to celebrate the release of *Morningtide*. The tournament will begin in Reed 114 at noon. There is a \$25 entry fee that will get each contestant will get five booster packs. E-mail koz5000@psu.edu for more information.

- There will be a **cornhole tournament** on Friday, April 11 at 6 p.m. in Erie Hall. There will be free food and drink provided and prizes will be awarded to the winners. Students can pre-register for \$10 and at the rood for \$15. Pre-register by sending an e-mail to Patrick Walling at prw5006@psu.edu with a name for your two-person team. The event is a fundraiser for the mens volleyball club team.

- Environmental strategist and author **Andrew Winston** will be on campus as part of the Speaker Series on Monday, April 7. He will be speaking at 7:30 p.m. in McGarvey Commons and is free to both students and the general public.

- There will be a **Wii Tournament** Tuesday, April 22 starting at 5 p.m. in McGarvey Commons. Teams can sign up during Senior Salute days on Monday, April 7 and Tuesday, April 8 in the Reed Wintergarden. The event is being held to celebrate 25 days until graduation.

- The **Percussion Group Cincinnati** will perform as part of the Logan Music Series on Thursday, April 24 at 12 p.m. in the McGarvey Commons. Admission is free to students and the public.


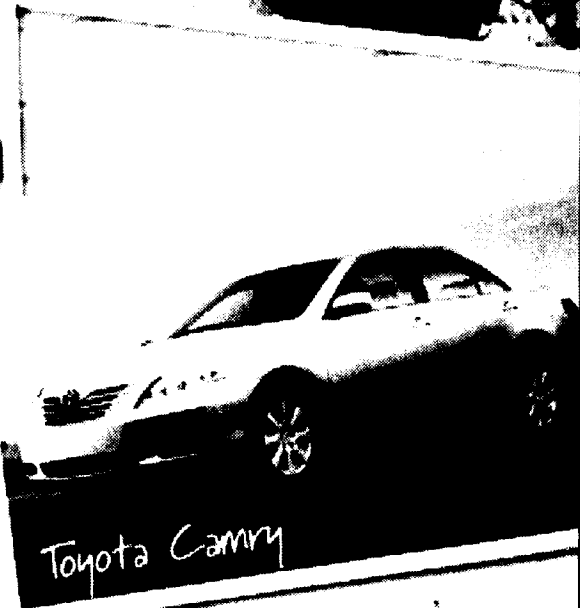

- The **students vs. faculty basketball game** will take place on Monday, April 14 at the Junker Center. The game will start at 6 p.m. Along with the game there will be t-shirt sales, a Chinese auction and a pie-throwing contest. The game is being held as a fundraiser for the Make A Wish Foundation. To sign up to participate in the game call (814) 504-0974.

- **William Witherup** will give an Organ Recital on Thursday, April 17 at 12:15 p.m. as part of the Smith Music Series. The event will be held at the Smith Chapel Worship Space. Contact Christa Morris at cdb12@psu.edu or (814) 898-6609 for more information.

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