

Apathetic Leadership -- Is It Possible or Merely a Contradiction of Terms?

By Kimberly M. Anastas, editor-in-chief

Apathy; Lack of concern or interest.

As Joe Kupec states in his editorial, apathy is not constant. No, it is not. But, he also states examples which include having fun. Is apathy more apparent when work needs to be done? Is apathy evident when one has to give more than he may receive?

The annual Student Leadership Conference which was held Aug. 26 and 27 is a prime example of extreme participation. Some of the students who participated were full of energy, enthusiasm and willingness to learn. And, some were resentful to be there.

Those who were enthusiastic and had open minds seemed to have fun. Those who would have rather been somewhere else made it obvious. Is this how student leaders should act?

Apathy also exists among club members on campus. Student organizations cannot be held together by one or a few members. Cooperation is a necessary factor for the success of any club or team.

Team, by definition, means "a number of persons associated together in work or activity." *

No one can win a game, produce a product or have an event by himself if a group effort is expected.

Of course, this is an obvious statement. Why, then, do only a few devoted persons act upon it?

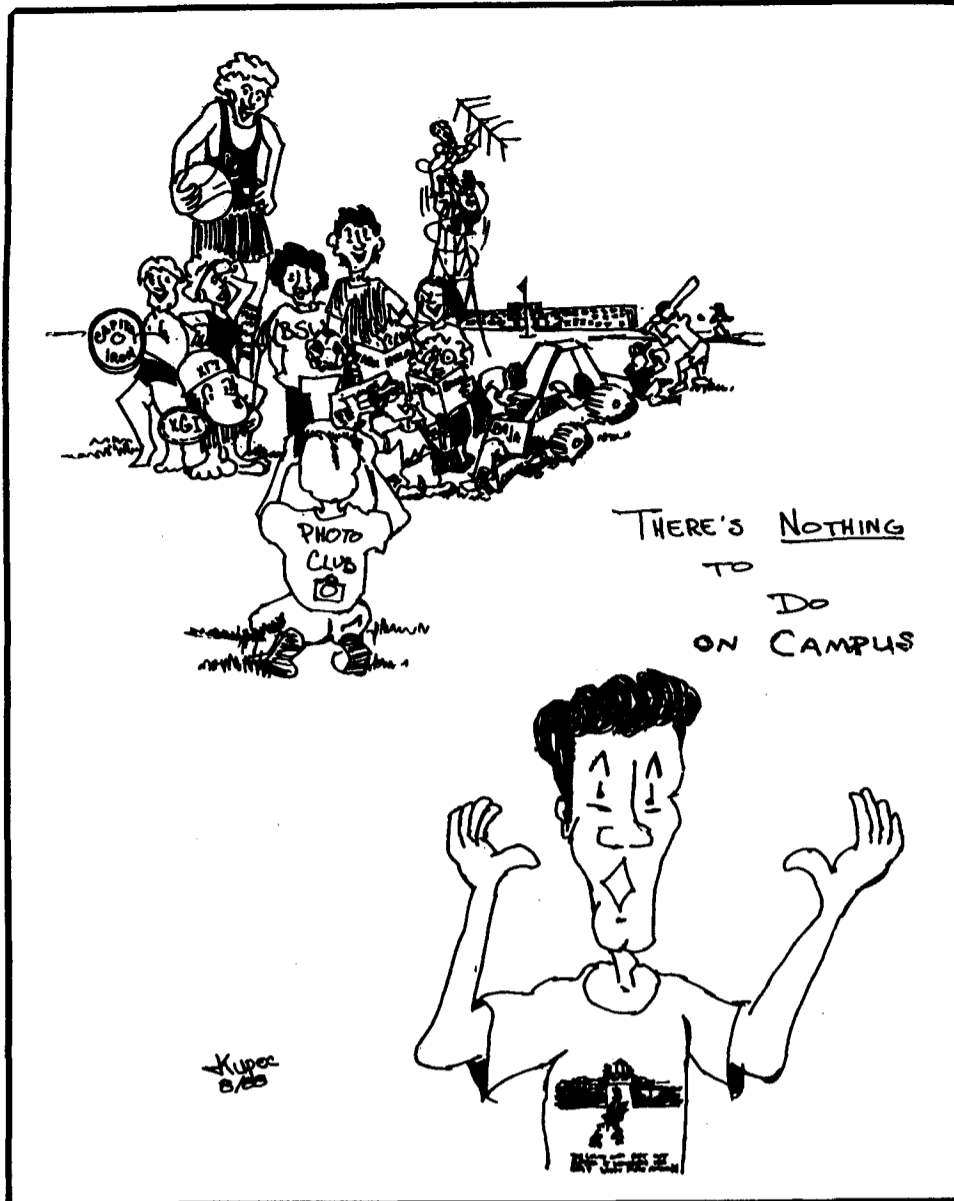
The answer lies within the conscience of the apathetic person. I assure you that those who work for success, respect, and satisfaction, ultimately receive it.

Those student leaders who got the most out of the Leadership Conference are sharing what they learned with their clubs. No doubt, those clubs are surviving.

Those "leaders" who resented their obligations to attend the Conference probably convey their attitudes to their club members.

Nothing can be said about those who did not attend at all.

Those who gave 100 plus percent of their enthusiasm, knowledge and time, the Coordinators of the conference and the staff members who facilitated, should know that their efforts are greatly appreciated by those who learned and enjoyed.



Student Apathy: Not a Constant

By Joe Kupec

Student participation at the fall semester orientation social programs proved that student apathy is not a constant on campus.

The upcoming Autumn Buzz, October 21-23, is another great opportunity to generate enthusiasm and break down apathy. But it needs student participation to happen.

From the 300 students at the orientation picnic Sun., Aug. 21 to the three bus loads of students that braved the rain and went to Hershey Park Tues., Aug. 23, the level of student interest in the orientation social programs was higher than past semesters.

Part of the credit for this success goes to the Student Activities Office staff.

Before the new students began arriving Sun., Aug., 21, student leaders had been recruited to serve as information sources and promoters of the orientation activities.

Resident Assistants from the Resident Living Program were included in the campaign to sell the orientation social programs to the incoming juniors.

Orientation's success was not a fluke. Proper planning and coordination, when applied to campus and club projects, can produce the same results.

The Autumn Buzz weekend promises to be busy. The Alumni Homecoming and the Harrisburg Air Show will be going on at the same time.

This is another golden opportunity for the campus to enjoy quality social programs that will enhance student life.

It is also a chance to include both the Alumni and Harrisburg area residents in a campus activity that can promote club interests and the University.

Right now, the Student Government Association needs ideas, cooperation and commitment from all of the clubs and student organizations on campus.

Autumn Buzz, like orientation, is a celebration of student life on campus. It can only succeed if the student body makes it happen.

Remember, student apathy is not a constant.

Letters to the editor are always welcome and encouraged. Address all mail to the editor, 216 Olmsted.

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