

SGA sponsors Rites of Spring celebration



photo by Danielle C. Hollister



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Students party in the parking lot at the Dining Commons with the sounds of WPSH at Rites of Spring Kick-Off

SGA elects new members

By Kelley Thomas
Staff Reporter

The winners of the Student Government elections were announced at the April 9 SGA meeting and were told that they would be sworn in April 10.

The winners are as follows:

- President: Frank Neives,
- Vice President: Liane M. Bankos,
- Treasurer: Tarik Griggs
- Secretary: Julie G. Prouty,

- Committee Secretary: no one,
- Senior Senator of Behavioral Science and Education: April Leister,
- Senior Senator of Engineering: no one,
- Senior Senator of Humanities: no one,
- Senior Senator of Public Affairs: Crystal Woodley,
- Senior Senator of School of Business: Chola M. H. Williams
- Senior Senator at Large: no one.

All of the new officers will be sworn in at 8 a.m. except for Julie G. Prouty, who will be sworn in next Monday.

There are openings available for Senior Senator positions in which full and part time students can be.

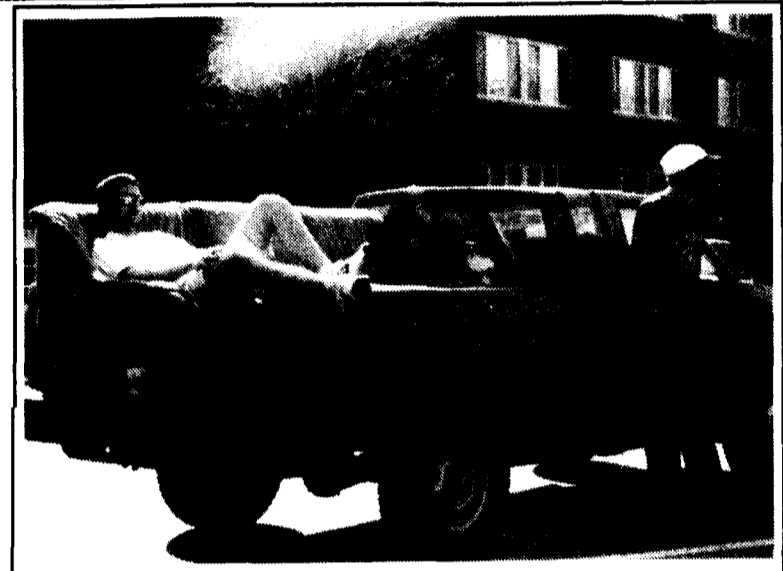
The James A. Jordan, Jr. Memorial Awards are in and a Jordan Screening Committee was elected to coordinate this event.

"The faculty takes this

event very seriously," Janet Widoff said.

An SGA member said that Dr. Margaret Rose Jaster won the most votes for the Humanities department. She turned out to be the winner.

The Jordan award is given in honor of a former PSH faculty member, who was a professor in the humanities division and taught philosophy in the early 1970s. He drowned while on a canoeing trip with his family in Canada.



Student relaxes in homemade living room at Rites of Spring kick-off, Thursday, April 18.

photo by Danielle C. Hollister

SGA members disagree on how money is spent

By Mary Angelo
Contributor

The XGI held an Easter Toy Drive for terminally ill children and the Student Government Association refused to participate.

SGA president Duane Brooks said he thought it would be a good idea, "to get our name out so people will know we're community minded."

However, many disagreed and vetoed committee secretary Julie Prouty's idea for each member of the SGA to donate \$3 to the XGI, specifically for toys.

Religious differences were the reasons cited for non-participation.

Ali Pirinciglu felt that since there are so many religions represented on the campus, it would be deemed unfair to donate only to one religion.

"It seems ironic to me that some members of the SGA have a problem taking a collection to buy gifts for terminally ill children," Farner said. "But they have no problem taking money from SGA funds to reward themselves."

There was a discussion of the SGA allocating money toward the awards committee for themselves. The banquet will be held on April 19 at 7 p.m. in the Dining Commons. Vice President Felicia Wallace said that the SGA needs a set amount to spend on the awards, which will most likely be a mid-sized

plaque.

"The whole purpose of rewarding SGA members for their faithful commitment to SGA seems really self-gratifying," said Troy Farner, junior education major. "These will be the same political members who vote for raises every year for themselves just for doing their job."

A problem arose during elections because of questions of whether one of the people running for election was talking to a potential voter too near the voting box. According to the constitution, it would be illegal for a campaigner to try to sway voter's decisions within 20 feet of the voting box.

"If people have a problem with the SGA, it should be brought to the SGA," said Tarik Griggs, junior senator at large. "Any student can sit in on the meetings and bring up any point they want to."

Without addressing the issue, or further discussion on the students' concerns, Matthew Sigel, treasurer, motioned to adjourn. However, the motion was not seconded because Sen. Griggs felt there should be a discussion, as the SGA represents the students; thereby allowing their voices to be heard.

At the end of the meeting, President Brooks thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication to the SGA, as he will be graduating this semester.

SGA's actions raise questions

"You are very much in a fishbowl," said SGA Faculty Advisor.

By Jim Miller
Contributor

Questions of professionalism concerning Student Government Association members were raised at the February 27 senate meeting.

Senior Public Policy Senator Dan Zackus reported that "unprofessional material" was sent from the computer in the SGA office recently, and that two students have separately complained about a member who asked a professor for a higher grade based on belonging to the organization.

"This individual has done it in the past," Zackus added.

He informed the SGA that Donald Holtzman, student affairs director, had been made aware of the situation and was conducting an investigation. Zackus advised his fellow Senators to not abuse their power.

The SGA has been criticized by student groups in recent weeks for appropriating money for an organizational dinner and for developing plans to purchase personalized jackets.

SGA Advisor Janet Widoff told the senate that their actions, while not necessarily unethical, permitted their opponents an opportunity to criticize the organization.

"Over the years, sometimes there will be a discussion as to what you will allo-

cate money for," she said. "You are very much in a fishbowl."

Widoff reassured the senate that she did not believe that their actions were self-serving, but that it appeared on the outside as if they were.

During the meeting, the senate continued discussion on the purchase of custom-made jackets for SGA members. A survey of prices indicated that the cheapest available jackets would cost \$58.34 apiece, according to Junior Business Senator John Oliver, who had been responsible for pricing the jackets.

"With the short amount of time left in the semester, this investment is not worth the amount of outlay," said junior Humanities Senator John Porter. "My personal opinion is that you guys are looking for something to wear when you hang out over the summer."

"The SGA serves so many hours, it would be a nice gift to give them," said Senior Humanities Senator Ali Pirinciglu.

"Seniors deserve the jackets as a way to say 'thank you'" said Junior Public Affairs Senator Crystal Woodley.

Some members commented that they do not have the necessary money available to cover the cost

of purchasing a SGA jacket.

"I can't afford to pay half the cost of a jacket," said Junior Behavioral Science/Education Senator Sofie Smith. "Personally, I don't want it unless they pay for it."

"I think we can find a cheaper way," said SGA secretary Liane Bankos. The senate agreed that Oliver should look into the price of wind-breakers as an alternative to jackets.

The senate also learned that the volleyball club was \$79.94 in debt due to uniform expenses. Treasurer Matt Sigel advised the senate that the problem "will work itself out," but Senator Porter seemed hesitant to show them much slack.

"It sets a precedent for every other club" if the situation is not directly dealt with, he said, adding that the senate needed to pursue the matter. The senate agreed that Senator Pirinciglu would write a letter to the volleyball club seeking reimbursement for their debt.

In her vice president's report, Felicia Wallace expressed concern over the lack of turnout at meetings of the Organizational Activities Board, the group that oversees campus clubs and organizations. As chairperson of the group, she wondered how greater communication among club presidents could

be reached.

"It's their responsibility to show up," said Bankos.

"If they're not checking their mailboxes, they shouldn't be a club," responded Pirinciglu.

The Senate agreed that letters should be sent to club presidents stressing the importance of the meetings, which are designed so all organizations reach a common understanding on campus issues.

President Brooks reported on his participation in a teleconference with University President Dr. Graham Spanier. He urged all students to attend the Open Forum February 29, adding that it is crucial to find out how Dr. Spanier's plans for the Penn State system because "we are the customers."

In other business the SGA:

- Received a letter of commendation from Provost and Dean John G. Bruhn congratulating President Brooks for the student forums conducted by the SGA.
- Agreed to meet Thursday, February 29 from 7 p.m. to midnight to make posters for Rites of Spring and the SGA elections.
- Appointed Senator Woodley as chairperson for a committee to set up more student forums throughout the semester.