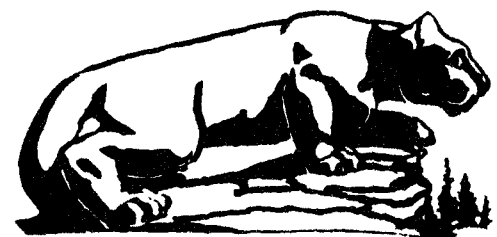




GET INVOLVED!



A message from Vice-President Kathy Ryan

Kevin and Steve are both freshmen in a small college. Kevin doesn't like school. He never leaves his room, he is constantly bored, and he has few friends. Steve loves the college scene. He knows most people on campus, including faculty and administrators. He's always busy, and he has many good friends. What's the difference between these two students? During the first semester, Steve became involved with the clubs and activities available on campus, while Kevin limited himself to studying and staying in his room.

There are many benefits to getting involved in campus activities. Being active in student life makes meeting people and making friends much easier, especially during the first few weeks of school when everyone is a stranger. Another advantage to being involved is simply that it's fun. An involved student is more aware of the activities available for them, and can initiate a new program if what they want is not offered.

Besides the social gains of being involved, there are also many long term profits students receive. Those who are active in student government and other organizations learn new skills like public speaking, dealing with many different types of people, organization skills, and decision making. All of these leadership skills are necessary in life after college. Employers look for job applicants who have some special qualities to offer their businesses. An employer

would quickly hire a "B" student, who had leadership experience, over an "A" student with no other credentials.

With all of the advantages that come along with participation in campus life, why aren't more students involved? Some people just don't want to be bothered. Their lives revolve solely around their classes and their friends. Others say they don't get along with the "clique" that seem to rule the school. Then they complain about what the leaders are doing. If that is the attitude, then get involved, and end the "clique." The only way things will change is if the students get involved. If a particular group, or type, of students are in charge of getting things done, then student representation is limited, and the programs offered are only geared towards certain people.

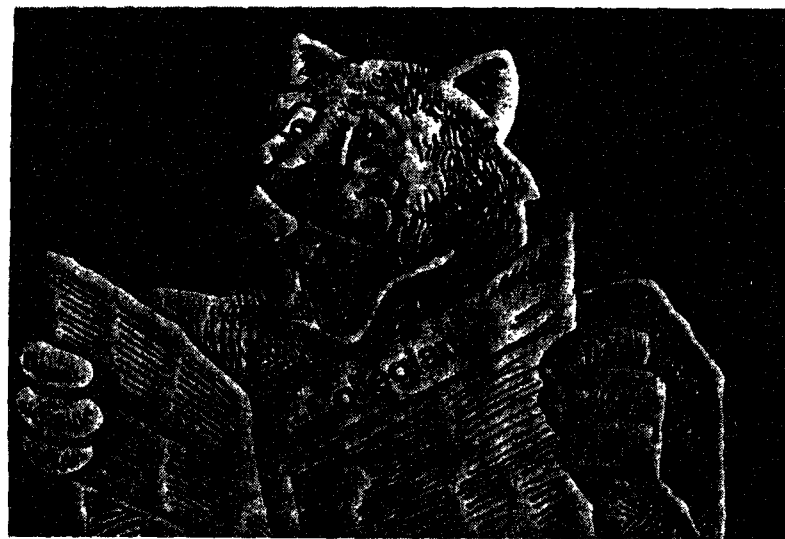
Another reason students give for not joining clubs or activities is that they're not interested in what's being offered. There are so many different events scheduled on campus that this does not seem like a valid excuse. Everything from intramural basketball to cultural events to dances and concerts are offered. If a student doesn't find any of the activities interesting, then that student should at least suggest some new ideas to those who have a hand in getting things done.

Everyone should get involved in their campus, even if only in a small way. The activities and programs offered

are here to enhance student life. In turn, the students are here to better the campus. The more student involvement, the better the campus will be for everyone. College isn't just learning through books, it's learning through experience and interaction with others.

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