



The Fourth Wall

Omnes vocem habent

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Guns on Campus?

Danielle Ramsay

After evaluating this campus's crime rate and meeting with students, the Campus Policy and Planning Advisory Committee has suggested that the Mont Alto campus police officers be armed. Upon approval from Tom Harmon, Penn State's Director of Police Services, three of the seven current members of the Mont Alto police services department will be carrying a handgun.

Under the present system, the campus police are authorized to make arrests and are required to attend annual firearms training, but cannot carry a firearm and must rely on the state police for armed support. It can take up to thirty minutes for the state police to respond to a call from the Mont Alto campus. Some feel this is

too long to ensure the safety of students.

Attitudes about the move are mixed. Some feel the change is necessary to avert potentially life-threatening situations. Others argue that the push to arm campus police promotes a culture of fear and that arming campus police might actually increase the potential danger to students.

Mont Alto Police Chief James Sourbier claims that when students need help, they don't expect "a marked police car, an officer in uniform who's carrying his nightstick, and his pepper spray, and his handcuffs... and no gun." One student was surprised to find that campus police officers were not already armed: "Police better be

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Tuition for Some Rises Nearly 45% in Four Years while Enrollments Decline

Mont Alto freshmen paid \$3,170 per semester for in-state tuition in 2000. This year, that figure has risen to \$4,590. This is about a 45% increase, and this does not take into account the tuition differential upper-classmen pay. Despite this increase, first year students at Mont Alto pay \$614 less per semester than students who attend main campus.

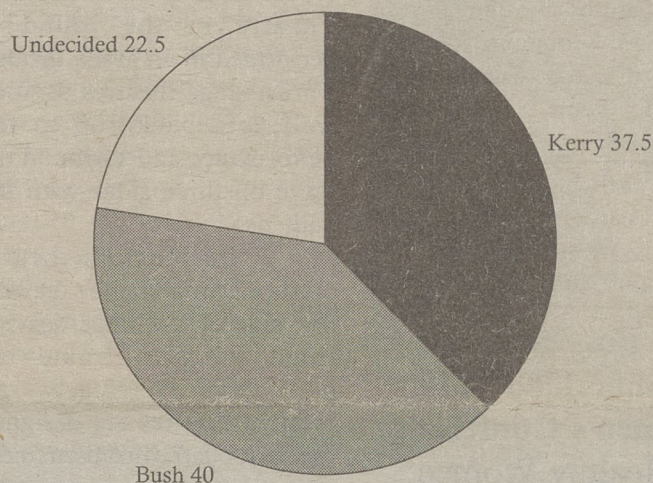
How does tuition at Penn State compare to other state

universities in Pennsylvania? Millersville is charging \$6,081 per year; Shippensburg costs \$5,986 per year. Penn State has the highest tuition rates of all the state universities in the Big Ten, with UP charging \$10,408 per year. The University of Iowa has the lowest tuition rates at only \$5,396 per year. For some students, one semester's tuition at Penn State is only slightly

see *Tuition* page 7

Presidential race neck and neck

Survey of 40 students yielded these results
(poll conducted by Tamara Clark)



See Politics on page 3 for more

Make Your Opinion Count



Vanessa Lugo

The deadline for voter registration is October 4 to participate in the November Presidential Election.

You can download registration forms online at www.declareyourself.com, or www.rockthevote.com. Simply print out the completed forms, sign at the bottom, and mail them to the address given. You can also find voter registration forms at post offices, the DMV, the local Board of Elections and other state offices, or, you can call your local county election

official and have him or her mail a form to you.

Within three weeks, you should receive a response telling you where you can vote and what time the polls open in your area.

If you are not going to be in the area on Election Day, absentee ballots can be downloaded and printed from either of the previously mentioned websites. You can also contact your local city or county election official or registrar and have one sent to you. This phone number can be found in the blue government pages of the phone book.

If you are away at school, you must obtain an absentee ballot see *Opinion* page 3

Students speak out

Debate over spending of SAF

Andrea Christopher, Mont Alto's Director of Student Affairs, sent out an email this summer informing students that UP had released \$6000 in student activity fee (SAF) money to Mont Alto and asked for ideas about what to spend it on before the deadline. Christopher's email stirred a heated debate between two highly-visible Mont Alto students: Zack Mentz and Jim Vomero.

Mentz argues that "with 1,100 students enrolled last semester, there should have been \$42,900 to be allocated back to the students [in SAF]. Out of that money, according to Andrea, only about 85% was spent on the students ... why did we not get this money sooner?"

Vomero explains that "the budget officer for the university estimates the amount of money we will have for SAF. This is the number Mont Alto's committee works with all year. Unfortunately, this leaves room for error. In Mont Alto's history, there has always been money left over."

"So where is all the money from the previous years?" Mentz wants to know.

Vomero claims that "every cent since the creation of the fee has been tracked and is public knowledge. The money is kept for the next year. Every cent travels on." He points out that see *Students* page 5