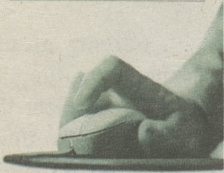


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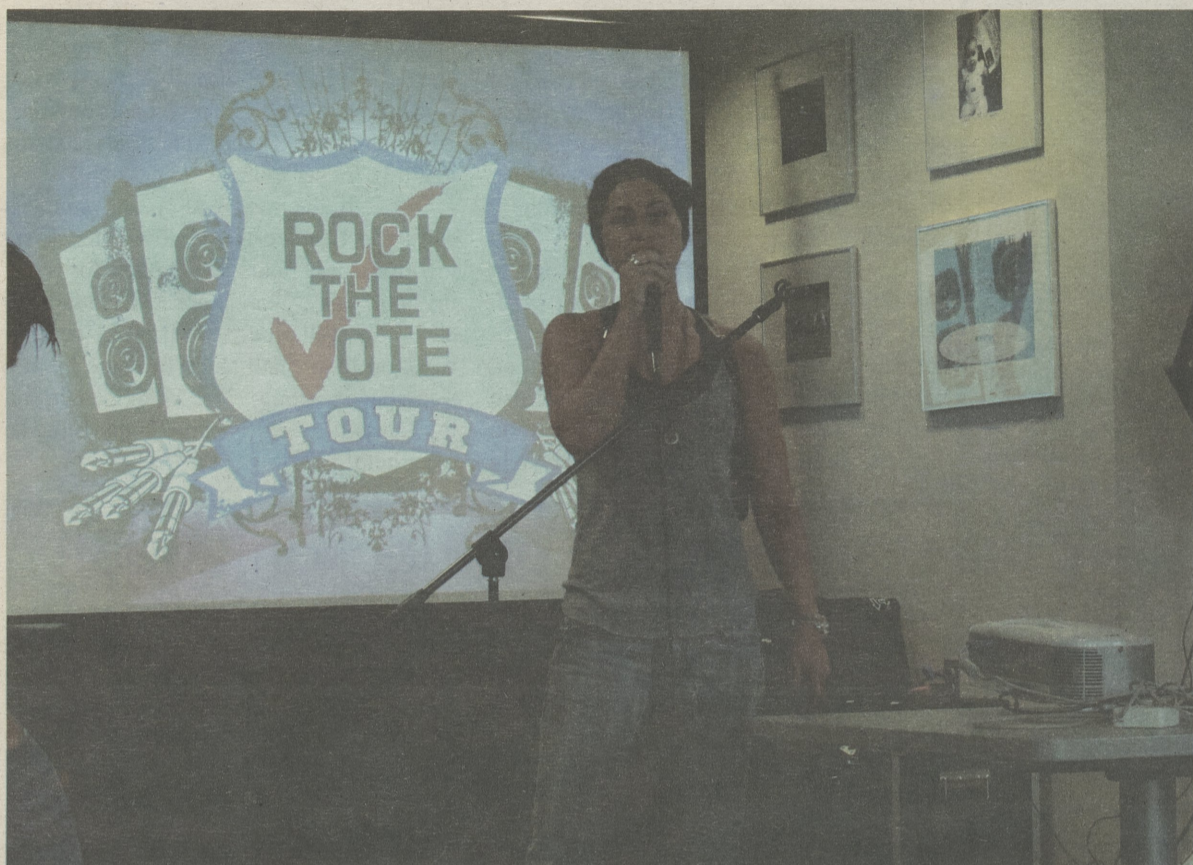
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The Lion's Eye

Penn State University - Brandywine

October 8, 2008

PSU Brandywine Rocks The Vote



"This is a very important election. Our generation is going to decide this election, I believe it," said Rachel Robinson, MTV Real World Cast member. Robinson visited the PSU Brandywine Campus to encourage students to vote in the upcoming election. (Photo courtesy of Paul DiPetro)

By Jill Marabella
Lion's Eye Staff Writer
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MTV visits Brandywine to let the student body know why their participation in upcoming election is crucial.

The Lion's Den was filled with students eager to hear from MTV's Rock the Vote spokesperson Rachel Robinson on Monday, Sept. 22 during common hour. Robinson, well known as an MTV Real World cast member and veteran contender in the Real World/Road Rules challenges, visited PSU Brandywine to offer a non-partisan multi-media presentation and open discussion highlighting the importance of voting, in accordance with GP Entertainment.

With the 2008 Presidential Election just 27 days away and the voter registration deadline on October 6th, the gravity of the situation could be seen and heard throughout the den. "Are you registered to Vote?" was the question posed to all students entering and exiting the common building by voter registration drive workers.

Staying true to its web site, Rock the Vote did engage and incite young people on campus to register and vote in every election. Many students could be seen stopping and filling out PA voter registration forms.

Robinson began her slide show presentation, which according to Rock the Vote's web site is supposed to give young people the tools to identify, learn about, and take action on the issues that affect their lives, and leverage their power in the political process, with information on the differences between the Republican and Democratic parties. She then went on to introduce the presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain, including their running mates Joe Biden and Sara Palin. Discussion topics that followed include abortion rights, gay rights, health care, immigration, the war in Iraq, gun control, and social security.

Students were asked by Robinson to voice their opinions on issues addressed during the presentation. Opposing views were expressed on much of the subject matter. On the topic of abortion rights, students vocalized both sides of the argument. Many said that nobody should be able dictate what a woman does with her own body and others argued that abortion is wrong

on any level.

"Abortion is an issue that will never be solved," said Christina Felizzi, a junior, English major.

The topic of gay rights and same sex marriage also brought about discussion throughout the audience.

"They are controlling what people do in their own homes," said Student Government President and Political Science major Ashley Wood, a sophomore.

The audience clapped in agreement when Robinson informed them that Obama wants to pay for his universal health care plan by eliminating Bush's tax cuts for the wealthy.

The issue of immigration sparked discussion in the audience. Robinson informed students that both Obama and McCain voted in favor of building a 700 mile fence along the border between the US and Mexico.

"That fence is the most ridiculous thing I ever heard," said Wood.

The war in Iraq was also a hot topic of debate. Ashley Dinardo spoke supportively about the Iraq war and discussed her brother's service in the military. Others were in agreement saying a pullout of US troops would cause a collapse of the entire country. Some shared the opposing view that US taxpayer dollars should be spent on American citizens and that charity should start at home.

The audience was in consensus and pronounced "Yes," when asked by Robinson, "Do you think gun control is a problem in Philadelphia?"

Robinson concluded the presentation by telling students that it is not only crucial that they register to vote, but that they actually follow through with the process on November 4th.

"This is a very important election. Our generation is going to decide this election, I believe it," said Robinson. "Nobody really cares what you have to say, unless you vote."

Campus Poet Earns Award

By Christina Felizzi
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Penn State Brandywine student Charles Harrison was the third prize winner of last year's Edith Garlow Memorial Poetry Contest. Harrison was awarded \$400 for his poem.

Harrison was competing with all state colleges, from Swarthmore College to Immaculata University. Harrison is a senior this year and a Letters, Arts and Sciences major.

"I have never won money for any creative work," Harrison explains, "recognition yes, but not money! It's quite the honor."

As a result of his modesty and lack of exposure, Harrison's achievement was not properly recognized until recently. Harrison is a senior this year and a Letters, Arts and Sciences major. Our congratulations go out to Harrison from his family, friends, faculty, and The Lion's Eye.

The contest awards \$2,500 for the first place, and \$1,000 for the second place, \$500 for the third place.



PSU Brandywine student and poet Charles Harrison
(photo courtesy of Charles Harrison)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars

• **Voices of Innovation – "Dress for Success Philadelphia" – Oct 13, 12:30pm, Large Conference Room**

• **Faculty Forum – "Social Movement and Election Campaigns as Reflected in 2008 Campaign" Oct 14, 11:30 am, Lower Level Library**

• **College of Agriculture Information Session – 11:30 am – 305 Main**

THON Halloween Dance – Friday, Oct 17

Komen 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk-Cheering Station- Oct 19 12-2pm

• **GSA Invites you to join them for the AIDS walk – Oct 19**

• **Career/Internship Fair – Oct 22**

• **Red Cross Blood Drive – Oct 28 & 29**