# Community members work to combat racial hate groups

#### By MELISSA STUTZMAN Collegian Staff Writer

While students unite to rally against acts of racial and cultural intolerance today at Schwab Auditorium, members of the surrounding community are trying to combat the displays of prejudice in their own ways.

Both State College Borough Mayor Bill Welch and local resident Anne Ward will speak out against the hate crimes during the rally today. Ward is a member of the Unity Coalition of Centre Coun-

Welch and Ward will be taking their anti-hate messages on campus, but this does not mean hate crimes and hate group activity have been isolated to the University.

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission has documented activities of Neo-Nazis handing out literature at the Nittany Mall. Ruth Blume, a local resident, said she has heard about hate groups recruiting out of State College Area High School. These incidents and recent hate crimes involving swastikas have left residents of the area feeling scared and disturbed.

Blume said hearing about the recent hate incidents is worrisome, food for thought."

and it leaves her feeling concerned about the community.

"I think what is going on is an issue that is commonly overlooked," Blume said. "It's all too easy to turn a blind eye.'

State High, however, is not turning a blind eye, as teachers and administrators are trying to educate students about the ills of racial and cultural dogmatism.

Joyce Sipple, assistant principal of the North Building, said even though she is unaware of hate groups recruiting at the high school, it does not mean it does not occur.

She said residents often think hate crimes and hate groups do not exist in a small university town such as State College.

To combat this attitude, the school's social studies department sponsored an assembly Wednesday morning to discuss how teens can get sucked in to racial hate groups. Sipple said the assembly was in response to the recent events occurring in the area.

"We just thought it was a real good time to take a proactive step," Sipple said. "I think it really opened up the eyes of our students and some of the faculty, too. Hopefully, we gave the kids some good

State College Borough Council

members food for thought. Council President Jean McManis said because the recent hate crimes occurred on campus and in Ferguson Township, the incidents are out of the borough's jurisdiction.

However, McManis made it clear types of incidents is ongoing -

jurisdiction of the borough to take round," McManis said. "We will action, officials have not let the incidents go unnoticed. McManis anywhere in the world, whether it ticed." be in Calder Way or across the country, it affects everyone.

"Our campaign against these recent hate crimes were the result

The incidents have also given that even though it is not in the every moment of the day, all year maintain our vigilance against these crimes occurring and we will

> McManis said she was disturbed that anyone might suggest the of a prank.

"Hatred is never funny, never acceptable, and always horrifying." Maggie Kutzler, president of the Association of Residence Hall Students, said the hate crimes are a valid concern for student leaders

regardless of where they occur. Butt Kutzler said they cannot possibly address all of the issues

# CES concerned about racial incidents, have no plans for rally

By MARY CATHERINE OPFERMAN Collegian Staff Writer

As University Park students prepare to rally against intolerance at noon today at Schwab Additorium, students at the Commonwealth Campuses will not participate in coinciding activities - but those students are not without concerns or incidents.

Wednesday night, at the Beaver Campus, a scuffle occurred at a dance. Although the cause is undetermined, racial tension is a possibility and is being investigated, said Amy Krebs, director of university relations at the Beaver Campus.

Krebs said a series of meetings between faculty and students is scheduled for today to investigate the fight.

"The meetings will deal with prevention and where to go from here," she said.

Krebs said she knew about the rally but said the general student body did not. Any plans for racial incidents last year, improvements have mitted to promoting minorities and equality."

dependent on the findings of the meetings.

Matt Plocki, Council of Commonwealth Student Governments coordinator, said he hopes panic Student Association founded by Hispanic the Commonwealth Campuses know about the rally and the recent acts of intolerance. He left E-mail messages with campus administrators informing them of the situation. Those officials will be at University Park tonight for their usual council meetings and will discuss the presence of racial tension then, Plocki said.

Plocki and members of the CCSG central staff at University Park will participate in the rally to represent the Commonwealth Educational System.

tion President Thane Fake heard about the rally only through an article that ran in The Daily Collegian. He said he does not think many students know about it.

a possible student activity like the rally are been made to encourage cultural diversity, Fake said.

alone.

The York Campus established its first Hisstudents who wanted to bring their culture to the campus. The York Campus also has two African-American groups organized to showcase culture and encourage campus involvement. An Asian-American organization may be started as well, Fake said.

"It's been a major focus of CES to bring about understanding of minority groups. I would like to see as many organizations here as cultures. We have room for everybody," Fake said.

At Penn State Harrisburg, no event is planned York Campus Student Government Associa- in conjunction with the University Park rally, and Student Government Association President Duane Brooks said no incidents have recently occurred on campus.

"I'm surprised to hear about the crimes and Although the York Campus experienced the rally. I thought Penn State was really com-



said any time a hate crime occurs refuse to let these things go unno-

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