



Dateline

No budging in D.C. battles over federal budget while shutdown deadline looms

— Page 6

Sports

All Duked out

The Lady Lion soccer and field hockey teams fall to James Madison in the NCAA tournament

— Page 10

Weather

Approaching snowman-building weather. Today, mostly cloudy with periods of light snow, high 33. Tonight, cloudy with steadier snow developing toward dawn, low 29. Tomorrow, snow likely, high 34.

— by Paul Markowski



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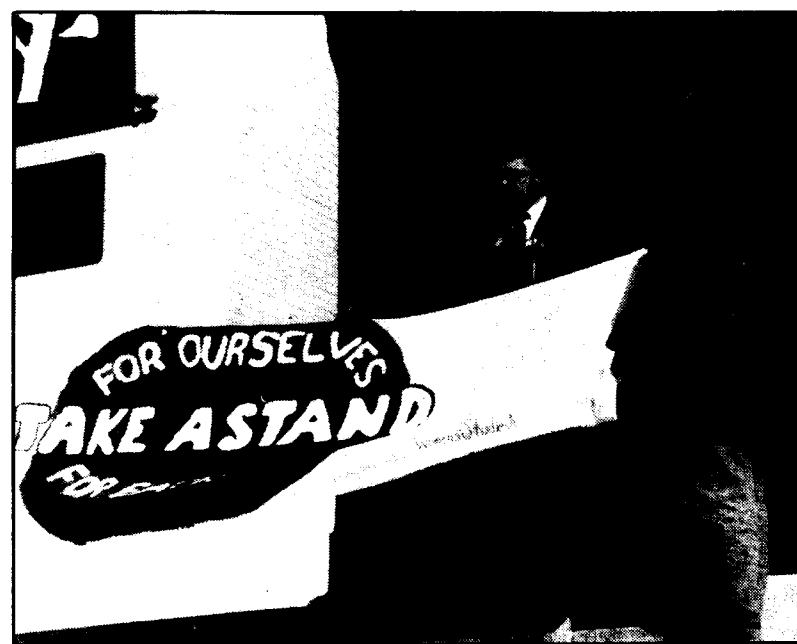


Collegian Photo/Sheri Whitko

These young community members sing a song at the Take A Stand Rally on Friday in front of Schwab Auditorium. They are home-schooled children whose mothers wanted them to celebrate diversity.

Fed up with ongoing acts of intolerance, 2,000 students rallied at Schwab Auditorium. Their message:

TAKING A STAND



Collegian Photo/Sheri Whitko

University President Graham Spanier speaks out against intolerance at the rally on Friday. He was one of more than a dozen speakers who addressed the crowd of students, faculty, staff and community members.

Crowd of 2,000 rallies against intolerance

By RASHIDA ABDUL-QUDDUS and MELISSA STUTZMAN
Collegian Staff Writer

On a cold, but sunny Friday afternoon, 20 different student organizations managed to build what some are billing as one of the largest student rallies in the history of the University.

About 2,000 students gathered at Schwab Auditorium to "Take A Stand" against intolerance. Some came with doubts about what the rally would bring, but many left with a greater pride in the University, particularly in its diverse community.

Two students stood in front of the speaker's podium on the steps of Schwab holding a banner declaring the names of the participating student organizations and the theme for the rally, "Take A Stand, For Ourselves, For Each Other."

The chilling wind did not stop students and faculty from crowding the Mall and overflowing onto Pollock Road.

Tuvia Abramson, director of the Penn State Hillel Foundation, opened the rally by sharing inspiring words with the crowd and urging everyone to fight hate groups.

"We must stand up and say, 'Never, never again should this kind of thing take place here or any other place,'" Abramson said.

He also stressed acceptance of diversity at the University.

"We represent a rainbow of people, different creeds and races. We must stand together as humanity," he said. "Together we must celebrate our differences, protect our individualism and reject hatred."

Students agreed the University



Collegian Photo/Sheri Whitko

A large crowd of students, faculty, staff and community members gathered in front of Schwab Auditorium on Friday during the Take A

needs to identify its differences.

"There is definitely separation at Penn State. I think people should feel more comfortable with each other," said Tom Slattery (sophomore-premedicine).

Following Abramson was Sandra

Choute, a University student who, about a month ago, found a swastika drawn on the message-board attached to her door.

"They didn't hurt me physically," Choute said, "but what they did to me broke me down emotionally to a

state where I questioned my future at this institution."

While Choute opened up to the crowd, sharing her experiences and emotions, others spoke about hate group statistics and the importance of fighting hate crime.

Some students admired Choute's willingness to speak out.

"It's easy to believe that the entire University is against you when you see hate crimes, but coming out to the rally makes you see that it is only a small minority of

Stand rally. The event was in response to several recent acts of intolerance on campus and in the surrounding community.

"We must make Penn State a place where all of us are proud to say 'We Are Penn State.'"

— Terrell Jones
vice provost for educational equity

campus that is like that," said Nadette Frank (senior-biology).

Anne Ward, a member of the Unity Coalition of Centre County and a part of the University's staff, alarmed the crowd with hate crime statistics in the state.

"As you may know, Pennsylvania has the largest number of white supremacist groups in the nation," Ward said. "There are 64 hate groups in 33 counties. There have been recruiters on this campus and in the high schools, and us coming together is showing them that we're not going to stand for it."

She also commended the student body and its leaders for organizing and participating in the rally.

"As a member of this community we see (the students) as leaders," she said. "I'm very proud you have given our community a wake-up call."

Some students said the rally disrupted the belief that all University students are apathetic.

"The rally showed that Penn State isn't as apathetic as people think," said Alain Lafontant, co-president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council. "It is good to see that people of all walks of life got

Please see RALLY, Page 9.

Students celebrate annual Muslim fair

By MOLLY K. FELLIN
Collegian Staff Writer

Colorful decorations, exotic foods and beautiful crafts filled the HUB Ballroom and Fishbowl yesterday as the Muslim Students' Association hosted their sixth annual Muslim World Fair to begin Islam Awareness Week.

"Muslims today are an integral part of North American society, and Islam is a major player in world affairs," said Sajeda Bhallo, vice president of the Muslim Students' Association. "Islam Awareness Week helps to promote understanding and appreciation of Islam and Muslims in North American colleges and universities."

Irfan Galaria, president of MSA, said the fair is a representation of the diversity of Islam. It is held to clear misconceptions about Muslims and give facts through displays and discussions about the culture.

"This is the second largest religion in the world, and by the turn of the century, it will be the second largest in North America," Galaria said. "Yet, if you go around, people are ignorant about this religion."

The theme of the fair this year was "The Empowerment of Women in Islam." A booth in the center of the event offered pamphlets and booklets for more information on the role of women in the Islam religion.

"What people don't realize is that Islam gives women more rights than many other religions," Galaria said.

Bhallo also stressed the importance of women in the Muslim culture.

Please see FAIR, Page 9.



Collegian Photo/Chad Wehrauch

Ali Jamal Abdul-Quddus is approached by a young listener as he describes the difference between the Islamic faith and the beliefs of the Nation of Islam. He was talking before an audience in the HUB Fishbowl yesterday as part of an event sponsored by the Muslim Students' Association.

Small group honors veterans

By MELISSA STUTZMAN
Collegian Staff Writer

On the eleventh day of the eleventh month — commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II — a small group of people gathered on the steps of Old Main to honor the men and women who fought for the United States.

With a brisk wind whipping in the air and the American flag flying above, U.S. Rep. Bill Clinger, R-Warren, spoke on the importance of remembering the veterans who made personal sacrifices for the freedoms the American people enjoy today.

"When our freedom and individualism was in peril,

they came through for us," Clinger said. "We must remember all those who fought and fell for our freedom."

Clinger also advocated educating future generations about the sacrifices made in the name of the country.

"Let us think about what it has cost our generation to preserve freedom, and hope that future generations will make the most of the freedom we have today," Clinger said, adding that every American plays a role in preserving freedom.

"We must teach Americans who are too young or too quick to forget why we are all here today," he said.

Please see VETERANS, Page 9.

Motion to remove two CCSG leaders fails

By MEGAN DONLEY and JENNIFER STRAWSER
Collegian Staff Writers

A failed motion was made for the removal of Coordinator Matthew Plocki and Vice Coordinator J. Benjamin Faulds this past weekend at the second Council of Commonwealth Student Governments meeting of the year.

CCSG University Board of Trustees Representative Greg Eastwood asked for the removal of

Plocki and Faulds Friday, but was denied because he is not a voting member of council. New Kensington Campus Student Government Association President Lee Ann Berk later made the same motion, citing neglect of duties and conflict of interest on the part of Plocki and Faulds.

"It is in my opinion that they are neglecting their duties, and I have heard other council members state the same thing," she said. "I just have not had any direct interaction with either."

Although she did not specify what duties were neglected by Faulds and Plocki, Berk said it was a violation of CCSG's constitution. An additional motion by Berk was also denied as it was not in writing and did not have Commonwealth Association approval.

"I am not a member of the council, but I have heard other council members state the same thing," she said. "I just have not had any direct interaction with either."