

Judicial candidates enjoy informal setting at Grange Fair dinner

By B. C. RAY
Collegian Staff Writer

Gone were the judicial robes, the suits and ties and wing-tips worn by the professional personalities running for The Pennsylvania Superior Court. In their stead were sport shirts and slacks.

Candidates used the opportunity provided by the Grange Fair in Centre Hall to meet their potential constituents and enjoy the surroundings.

Superior Court candidate Kevin Flaherty said he was impressed with the unique character of the fair.

"These lots and tents are passed down year after year and people see the same faces year after year — it's a real family atmosphere," Flaherty said.

State and local candidates met with the public and enjoyed a traditional Democratic potluck dinner.

The Centre County Democratic Committee was surrounded by orangeade and ice cream stands, not to mention a stand run by Republicans.

Four other candidates were on hand for the yearly event held by the Democratic committee, which boasted a better than average attendance of candidates.

Tim Taylor, of Mt. Eagle, who has been coming to the fair for more than 27 years, said the fair had a good showing of Democratic candidates but it could have been better this year.

"There is a better showing when the governor comes," he said, "like when (Gov. Robert P.) Casey came seven years ago."

Judge John Musmanno, of Allegheny County, affirmed the need for candidates to meet the public.

"It's a big state and it's a good opportunity to meet the people of Pennsylvania. As a judge it's difficult to meet people in a comfortable surrounding," he said. "It's easier out of the robes."

Goals of the candidates included

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— Amos Goodall

Centre County judicial candidate

a design to inform the public and encourage them to vote.

Allegheny County Judge Gene Strassburger said he wanted to pass out literature and meet the public so voters could make informed decisions.

"I'm ready to move-up and meet new challenges," Strassburger said.

He added that his only regret was he did not have enough time to spend talking with fair-goers.

Candidate for Centre County Judge, Amos Goodall, of State College, gave his time to the event.

"The Grange Fair is a chance to meet the people of Centre County, listen to them and learn from them," he said.

The candidates said they had strong feelings about themselves filling the robes of Superior Court judge because they believe they are the right people for the job.

"I always wanted to be a judge, and I started my law career as an attorney at the age of 36," Flaherty said.

Flaherty said he took an unusual route to becoming a candidate for Superior Court judge because he was once a steelworker and a teacher.

Some community members and volunteers said they enjoyed and learned from the events of the day.

"I think it's a good turnout, with many people lending a hand to help out," said Berniece Lilyquist of Bellefonte.



Collegian Photo/Aimee C. Toberman

Packing it all in

Jennifer Kase (senior-media studies) carries her bagged belongings and other University students moved into both on- and off-campus residences during the weekend.

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