

Students register to vote in Centre County elections

By DAVID EDELSON
Collegian Staff Writer

The first day of classes officially marked the beginning of a new semester, and what could be a new attitude that is developing on campus.

Political issues such as student housing in the State College Borough rallied the student body to speak its mind last year.

Also, student voter turnout in last November's general elections was more than 10 times that of the previous year, according to figures reported by polling places at the HUB.

Yet, within the University, some continued to speculate that the campus was filled with apathetic students after a low voter turnout in the Undergraduate Student Government elections last Spring Semester.

But this year, before any controversies such as borough housing have jump-started student activism, 259 students have registered to vote in general elections, according to USG President Jaime Desmond.

Sydell Payne (sophomore-liberal arts), who just turned 18 years old, said she felt it was her civic duty to get involved with local issues.

"If you don't take responsibility

"If you don't go out and vote then you have no say on the issue."

— Sydell Payne
sophomore-liberal arts

for choices, then you can't complain when things don't happen the way you want them to," Payne said. "If you don't go out and vote then you have no say on the issue."

The USG-sponsored voter registration drive lasted from Saturday until Tuesday. USG will continue to sponsor drives through October 6.

Although the drive was declared a success by the organizers, some realize it is only one step in the process of increasing student voting participation.

Being involved with governmental issues is a personal choice, and the decision to vote ultimately rests with the individual, USG Town Senator Will O'Keefe said.

"You can't force someone to learn and care about an issue," O'Keefe said. "It is a choice that each individual makes alone."



Collegian Photo/Alex de Jesus

Daniel Mayer (freshman-architecture) ponders while filling out his voter registration card. Two hundred fifty-nine students registered to vote

Saturday through Tuesday in the HUB in a voter registration drive sponsored by the Undergraduate Student Government.

However, Kristen Stokes (freshman-finance) said registering to vote is necessary for democracy.

"It is an important step in the governmental process," Stokes

said. "Democracy is a good thing. The type of government should reflect the values of the people; when people can vote freely, their values will be reflected everywhere."

Students should be able to unite and have an impact on the issues that concern them, said Jay Bell (sophomore-biology). "I signed a year-long lease, and will be here for at least the next 12

months," Bell said. "I want to be a part of everything, including voting here. (Students) could be a majority of the population here. They should be involved — it is where they live their lives."

Magazine ranks University fourth most efficient in country

The University has been ranked as the fourth most efficient university and the 45th best national university in the country by U.S. News & World Report

By STACEY CONFER
Collegian Staff Writer

While the Penn State football team is ranked No. 1, the University as a whole has captured some rankings of its own.

U.S. News & World Report ranked the University as the fourth most efficient uni-

versity in the country in its 1998 America's Best Colleges issue, released Monday.

Rankings published by an organization such as U.S. News & World Report often positively affect the application and admission process, said Administrative Representative Mike Phillips, because people see the University as having an "academic reputation."

In addition, rankings by other organizations help to reinforce the University's own publicity, Phillips said. Even so, he said, these types of rankings do not produce significant changes in the number of applications received.

Last year, the University was ranked ninth in the same category, according to a University news release.

"Although the tuition, room and board are over \$16,000 for out-of-state students, they still know they're getting a quality education."

— Mike Phillips
administrative representative

According to the college ranking guide, operating efficiency is determined with "an equation that relates a school's quality ranking to its cost — covering tuition, room and board, fees and personal expenses — once financial aid is taken into account . . . the higher the quality and the

lower the cost, the better the value."

Even without consulting a college guide such as this, one student said the University has a good reputation as an academic institution.

"The Penn State reputation is pretty well-known," said Tom Ojala (freshman-

division of undergraduate studies).

For out-of-state students, Phillips said a national efficiency ranking may help to justify the cost of out-of-state tuition.

"Although the tuition, room and board are over \$16,000 for out-of-state students," he said, "they still know they're getting a quality education."

In addition to ranking the University near the top of its operating efficiency list, the publication also ranked Penn State 45th in its Best National Universities category.

To determine this overall ranking, academic reputation, graduation rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving were considered, according to the guide.

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