

Campus leaders looking to fight student apathy

By **Almsley Maloney**

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Leaders from 10 different student groups met in Boucke Building last night to discuss a problem they all face — how to overcome students' apathy toward community involvement on campus.

This was the second of a two-night session run by the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Social Awareness Committee, which started Tuesday and brought together a total of 24 groups.

"We're trying to change a [student] culture inside and outside the classroom," Ace Ekhtiarzadeh, head of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Social Awareness Committee, said.

"All groups have the interest in getting students to care about issues.

"None of us could do it individually, but now when we're all coming together we have a lot more power to create this kind of change," he added.

Ekhtiarzadeh said the USG committee is seeking to learn what groups can do together and individually, as well as

find specific policy changes they can present to the Board of Administration and the Board of Trustees.

Rosa Eberly, associate professor of communication arts and sciences and English, said the land grant mission of the university is to preserve democracy and civic engagement.

"Civic engagement ... is what you learn in class, you bring back to your community," she said.

"How can we work on energizing people who are not already energized?" Eberly added.

Explanations given for a lack of stu-

dent involvement were that groups weren't making themselves available enough, or that students think college is the time to party and not give back to their community.

"Everyone has a fourth-grade idea of civic engagement that it's mandatory, [but] it's also very fulfilling," Vicky Kilion, president of Rescue Childhood, said.

"How can we convey that to the rest of the community?"

Many of the student leaders posed suggestions, such as talking to people individually about their cause, having

mandatory volunteering or going to East Halls early in the semester to "recruit".

"It's the beginning of a dialogue," Beth Hardy, president of the Global AIDS Initiative, said. "Obviously this isn't going to change tomorrow, but it's the best thing to do."

Ekhtiarzadeh said after the meeting a survey will be sent out asking how the session can be improved and whether it should happen again.

Depending on feedback, the sessions could continue monthly, Ekhtiarzadeh added.

Standards of beauty considered by panel

By **Kristin Colella**

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The clothing a woman wears, the texture of her hair and the shape of her body often reflect societal ideals about femininity and perfection, four panelists said last night at a discussion regarding the definition of beauty.

Two professors, a campus minister and a plastic surgeon spoke to about 60 people in HUB Auditorium last night.

Behind them hung images of beautiful and scantily clothed women, creating a foreground to their discussion.

"'Body beautiful' standards are conveyed to us in many ways," said Stephanie Shields, professor of women's studies and psychology. "Achieving this 'body beautiful' has a lot of costs."

The panelist discussion marked the end of the HUB Gallery's provocative exhibit, *Calculations for the Perfect Woman*.

Throughout their discussion, the panelists spoke about today's en vogue look for women, and the importance of critically examining this ideal.

"We really need to think about what is beauty," Aaronette White, professor of African and African-American Studies and women's studies, said. "Ask



Kassia Pisklak/Collegian

All Ferguson (sophomore-English) writes her thoughts about women in advertising before attending a panel discussion on Standards of Beauty.

yourself: What is the particular type you are attracted to, and how did you develop that?"

White said a beautiful woman is often considered to be white or light-skinned, and thin with long hair.

She added that this ideal often pressures women of different ethnicities to look more like a white woman.

"In ads, you see colored women with light skin," she said. "Colored women are rather invisible unless they appear white or light."

White also spoke about the impact of the "male gaze."

"What men prefer dictates and shapes what we consider beautiful," she said. "Most of us accommodate these standards of beauty in some ways and resist them in some ways."

Rena Miraliakbari, plastic surgeon for the Hershey Medical Center, said

about one-quarter of his patients come for cosmetic reasons, many striving to achieve standards of beauty based on the look of white Anglo-Saxon women. However, he said women must go through an assessment process before he approves surgery. "It's never a five minute consultation," Miraliakbari said. "We try to assess the reason they want to be that way."

During a question-and-answer period, one audience member protested that she should not have to feel guilty for wearing makeup and eyeliner.

"It's because I like them," Rose Hernandez (graduate-materials sciences) said. "Every time I get ready in the morning I feel great."

White said women do not have to reject feminine ideals, but should consider why they may want to look a certain way.

Speaker tells troubles of U.S. welfare system

By **Halle Stockton**

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Star Parker told a crowd of about 50 people about her past life of criminal activity, sexual promiscuity and the failures of the welfare system.

She said she eventually turned to faith, broke out of the welfare system and attended college.

Parker, president of the Coalition on Urban Renewal and Education, spoke in an event sponsored by the Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) with community members yesterday about her experiences.

"It is very admirable," Jocelyn Brown (sophomore-earth sciences) said.

"She is willing to go back to this time of her life. It enhances her ability to explain her views," she added.

Parker said the welfare system has created an "environment for illegitimacy."

"It gives you a meager life, shotty schools for your children and prisons waiting for them," Parker said. "That's liberalism in work."

In her speech, Parker outlined five steps that need to be taken to get out of the welfare system.

"She pointed out clearly that there needs to be hard limitations [welfare] so people can transfer out of it easily," Kelly Keelan, YAF secretary, said.

Time limits and work requirements are needed to develop a work ethic, Parker said.

"The answer to poverty is freedom and personal responsibility," she added.

Parker said there is a need for school vouchers because they will place children in better schools with competition.

Shauna Moser, YAF chairman, said Parker had a great combination of ideas.

"Education is extremely important because, these days, it is the only way to get ahead," she said.

Parker also stressed that people need to be able to save and invest, which is something many people are not capable of under the current Social Security system.

She added that charity, which should always be private and personal, is also important in the process of escaping the welfare system.

"Most people often leave out charity and personal responsibility," Moser said.

Although many members of YAF and the College Republicans attended the speech, Moser said she did not see many new faces.

"They don't want to open their minds to all ideas," she said.

"I wish people would have come to ask difficult questions," Moser added.

Charles Gable, College Republicans staff adviser, also said the crowd was very conservative.

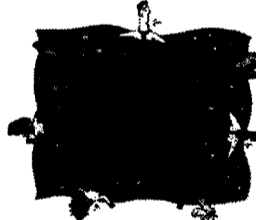
"It would have been better if there were more people on the left side of the aisle," he said.

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