UPUA opposed to light removal

Borough officials are looking to turn off the lights on Garner Street to cut down on loitering.

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Student government plans to discuss a formalized stance against the proposed removal of the Garner Street lights at its general assembly meeting tonight.

Keirans

Citing loitering issues, borough officials moved in December to turn off the lights at the start of the spring semester. But after a public outcry, the council decided to table the issue until Feb. 19, and the lights have remained lit.

Now, the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) will discuss adopting a strong stance against the lights' removal.

Governmental Affairs Chairwoman Colleen Smith is hoping legislation outlining UPUA's stance will take effect in time for local officials to see the student government's position on the issue.

"We hope to send a strong message to the council that they should not continue with the proposed plan," Smith (sophomore-biology)

UPUA President Gavin Keirans (senior-business management) said the lights increase safety on what would be a "pitch-black" section of downtown heavily traveled by students walking to fraternities and other off-campus destinations late at night.

To him, the removal of the lights will only counteract these safety efforts.

"[The council] wanted to cut back on loitering," Keirans said. "But I think as you weigh the cons of the lights over the pros of drastically increased [illegible] major route of the [illegible] tion, you have to [illegible] tives of the safety [illegible]

UPUA will also [illegible] to the floor to insti[illegible] ry review process [illegible] conducted with U[illegible] from agreement[illegible] artists for its spring [illegible] soon-to-expire [illegible] Downtown Student [illegible]

Director of Internal [illegible] Sheroff (senior-[illegible] contracts would [illegible] two-part review pro[illegible] the committee inv[illegible] agreement, then by [illegible] his committee [illegible] Keirans for final appro[illegible]

During this process [illegible] would check the cont[illegible] a list of criteria th[illegible] legality in terms [illegible] Activity Fee, Per[illegible] UPUA policies.

Keirans and Sh[illegible] legislation in[illegible] oversight in light [illegible] number of contracts [illegible] unprecedented s[illegible] for the 2009-2010 year.

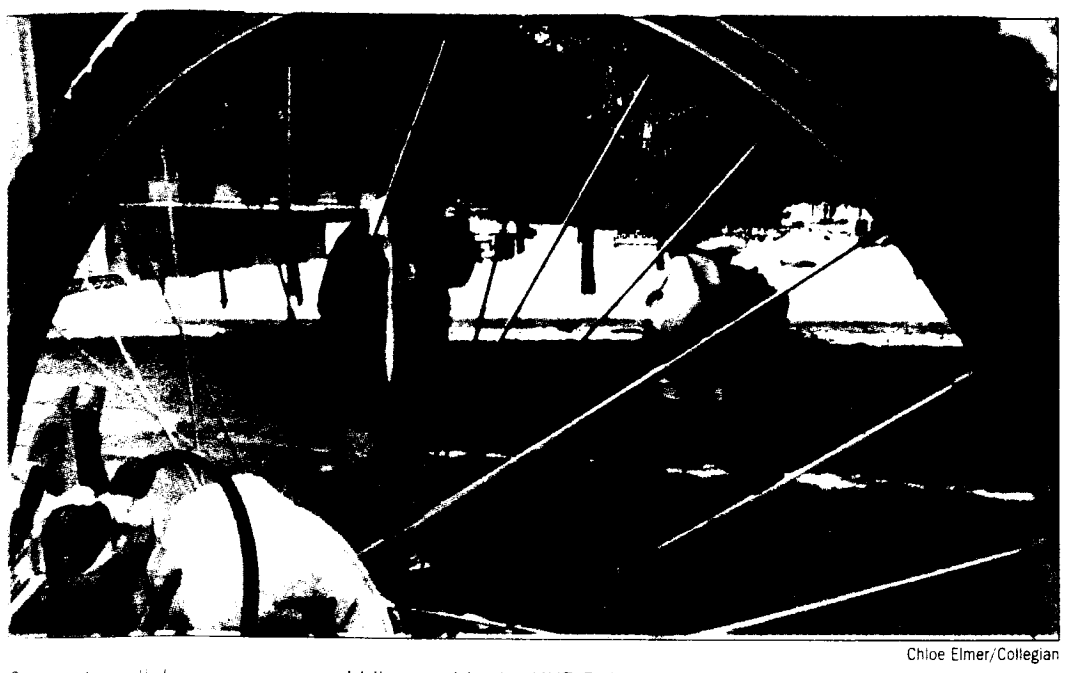
To e-mail reporter: [illegible]

If you go

What: UPUA General Assembly meeting
When: 8 tonight
Where: 302 HUB-Robeson Center
Details: UPUA will discuss its opposition to Garner Street lights removal

"We hope to send a strong message to the council that they should not continue..."

[illegible]


Chloe Elmer/Collegian

Students walk by a snow-covered bike outside the HUB-Robeson Center on Tuesday. OPP is urging students and staff to be aware of falling ice with the inclement weather, according to Penn State Live.

Rep. comes to State College

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

[illegible]ssman Glenn [illegible] named excessive [illegible] the federal budget [illegible] issues facing the [illegible] his visit to State College [illegible] of a two-day campaign [illegible]

[illegible] Thompson, R-5th District, [illegible] Tuesday morning at the [illegible]nada Inn, 1450 S. Atherton St., [illegible] of his whirlwind tour [illegible] county district.

[illegible] end of Wednesday, [illegible] will have driven more [illegible]nes, making 22 stops [illegible]

[illegible] problem facing the [illegible] said, is the government's [illegible] habit of borrowing [illegible] money than it can [illegible] said the deficit has [illegible] the past year, due in [illegible] to a stimulus bill [illegible] thinks hasn't helped [illegible] enough.

[illegible] will be a year's [illegible] of the stimulus bill, [illegible] unemployment is still at 10 [illegible] he said.

While Thompson did not talk about issues directly affecting students, Penn State student Maggie Quinn (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said she was glad to hear Thompson speak on job creation.

Thompson said he supports small businesses, which are "the true economic base for the country." He recently co-sponsored a bill establishing tax-preferred savings accounts for small businesses, which he said would stimulate economic activity.

The representative also answered questions about health care, immigration laws and tolling I-80. However, Thompson said he is most proud of his leadership in Congress over the past year.

He has served on the House Committees on Agriculture, Education and Labor and Small Business.

"Service is very important, but it's about providing leadership," he said.

The visit drew a crowd of about 20 people, including some Penn State students who showed their support for Thompson with handmade signs.

"He clearly has the people's interests at heart," Ali Cook (freshman-business) said. "He's a great voice for the students at Penn State."

The three students who attended — all of who are members of Penn State College Republicans — said they plan to get involved with the campaign in the future.

Samuel Settle (sophomore-political science and history) said the College Republicans are hoping to have an event with Thompson before the end of the semester. The group will also be encouraging voter registration, he said.

Thompson spoke with a political science class on Monday night and will return to Penn State on Friday to recognize the woman's volleyball team for its national championship season. He hopes to return to Penn State yet again to campaign for re-election.

To e-mail reporter: **mer5200@psu.edu**

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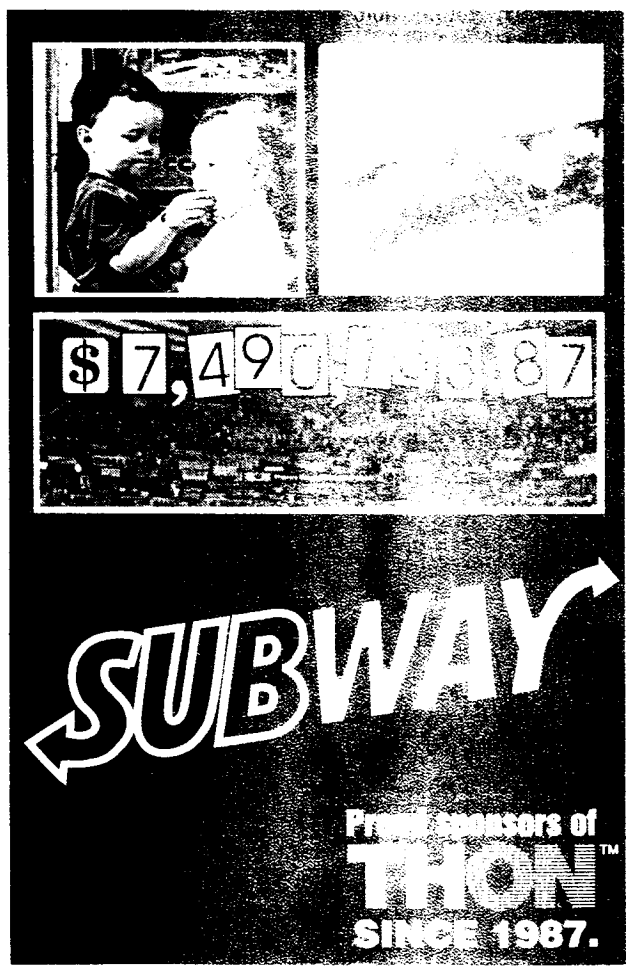

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