



Chloe Elmer/Collegian

Congressman Joe Sestak, D-Pa., gives June Nevin, of Lock Haven, Pa., a kiss on the cheek during a parade at the Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair on Thursday afternoon.

## Sestak campaigns at Grange Fair

By Brendan McNally  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

If Congressman Joe Sestak didn't shake the hand of every single spectator Thursday at the Centre County Grange Encampment and Fair in Centre Hall, he was certainly trying to.

Sestak, D-Pa., literally ran from person to person shaking hands, trying to keep up with the rest of the parade while ringing off greetings like "Hello I'm Joe Sestak, a former Navy sailor running for U.S. Senate" or, when he shook the hands of children, "Hi, I'm just a boring congressman."

But there wasn't much time for talk. As the County Fair's parade moved through the fairgrounds, so did Sestak.

At one point, the former Navy admiral leapt over a small chain-link gate to keep up with the pace while still getting in as many handshakes as possible.

"I've lost 11 lbs. in the last year," Sestak, 58, told one supporter. "I'm in the best shape of my life."

While caught up in the rush of the parade, Sestak didn't talk much poli-

tics, but he touched on his campaign's main points with little snippets of conversation here and there with the parade's spectators.

He told one man the federal government has to reduce its budget deficit by finding ways to pay for every new program it enacts — a strategy he called "pay as you go."

He said in an interview after the parade that his Republican opponent, former Congressman Pat Toomey, voted against the "pay as you go" program.

Still, many in the crowd expressed concerns over the Democrats' spending.

"He's got a lot of good ideas," said spectator Pacific Scitti, of Arronsburg, Pa. "But the biggest problem I have is that we spend, spend, spend — hell — we're broke!"

After the parade, Sestak highlighted what he said was his commitment to higher education.

Sestak said he voted to expand Pell Grants for college students by \$63 billion, but said Toomey had voted against expansions in education spending.

But for the most part, Sestak stayed away from politics. Some peo-

ple — whether it was because they disagreed with Sestak's politics or were just mad he was holding the parade up — refused to shake the congressman's hand.

But Sestak didn't seem to mind. He would just move on shaking hands until he found a supporter — many times in the form of fellow veterans like Wesley Braun of Bellefonte.

Braun told Sestak about his time in U.S.-occupied Japan after World War Two — but he said he wasn't completely sold on Sestak because he said he hadn't been following politics lately.

"With all I've seen in this world," Braun said. "It just seems that love is missing and greed has taken over."

Braun said that whoever is elected, he'd like to see them take the greed out of politics.

Others echoed that sentiment. When one man told Sestak that the federal government and Democrats were taking the country in the wrong direction, Sestak had a simple answer. "Yes, but we can fix it," Sestak said. "We're Americans."

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## Police expect rise in crime

By Zach Geiger  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Since the start of the semester two weeks ago, State College Police said they have seen a noticeable increase in criminal activity in the borough, despite no major events.

But don't expect them to be unprepared for the first home football game.

During the weekend of August 20 there were 14 minor violations, eight DUIs, five incidents of public drunkenness and one non-DUI felony aggravated assault with five defendants, police said.

And last weekend — the first weekend since classes began — police report there was an even larger increase in this type of activity.

"The activity level was similar to a football weekend," State College Police Department Lt. Chris Fishel said.

With dozens of individuals arrested last weekend and multiple DUI cases, Fishel said the numbers stand out because the weekend did not include a special event like a football game.

"The first weekend, unfortunately, was replete with alcohol-related incidents among our students," Vice President for Student Affairs Damon Sims said.

Any student cited on or off-campus will have to appear before Penn State Judicial Affairs and face local legal proceedings, Sims said.

Additionally, students will be placed in the recently adopted Brief Alcohol Screening and Intervention for College Students (BASICS) program at a cost of \$200 to the student, and face any judicial sanctions like warnings or probation, he said.

"We want to do all we can in concert with students, student leaders, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and community members to encourage students and others toward healthy and safe relationships with alcohol," Sims said.

Police said they typically see an increase in activity downtown in September and they don't expect this year to be an exception.

But with Labor Day falling this weekend, there is a possibility that students will be out of town and visiting with family, Fishel said.

Still, there will be a strong police presence downtown to ensure everyone is safe, Sims wrote.

"This is a community issue and all the resources of the community are working in concert to address it," Sims said.

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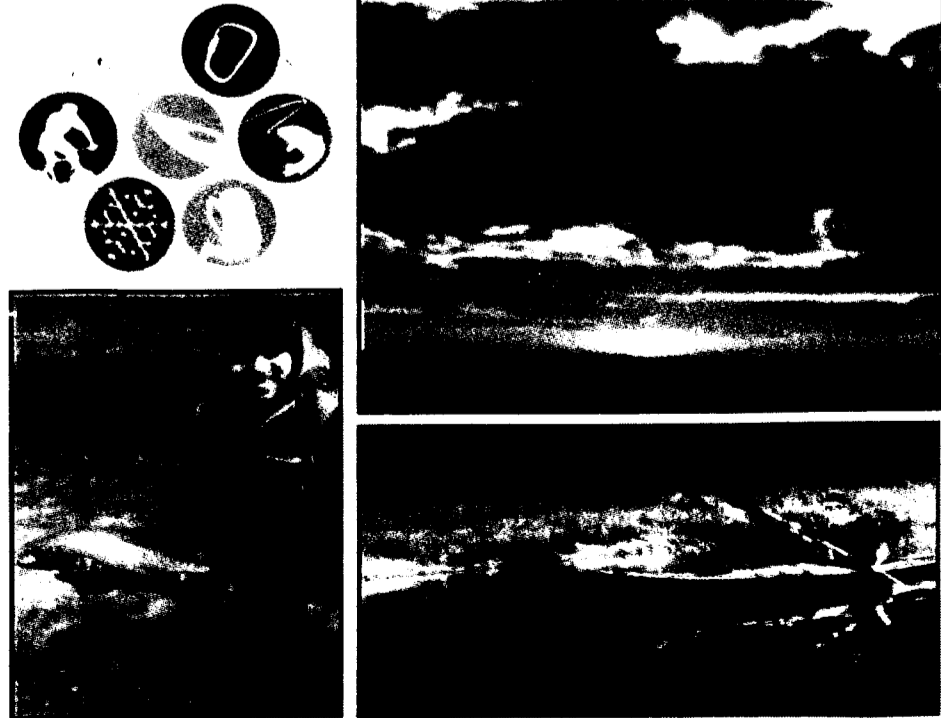
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