

Clark-Sestak pushes for students' votes

By Katrina Wehr
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Though she said she prefers to spend her nights at home quietly reading a good book, Susan Clark-Sestak spent Wednesday night in the HUB talking with students about the importance of voting this November.

"It sounds trite," she said, "but every vote does matter."

Clark-Sestak began her talk with the news that her husband, Senate candidate Rep. Joe Sestak, D-Pa., is currently trailing his Republican opponent, former congressman Pat Toomey, in the polls.

She said that while Toomey is a good person and it's nice that voters have two good candidates to choose from, she can't imagine why citizens would want to give power back to the Republican party so soon.

It took eight years for the Bush administration to get the nation into the state it was in, Clark-Sestak said, adding that it will take a little longer than 18 months for the current administration to sort things out.

Clark-Sestak said the thing she found most troubling about

Toomey is his belief in cutting taxes for corporations in the hope they'll invest that money.

"We've already discovered the trickle-down theory doesn't work," she said. "Joe believes in trying to find solutions to problems."

One solution that students will be particularly interested in is her husband's focus on trying to make college more affordable, Clark-Sestak said. She emphasized the necessity of well-educated students to stay competitive in the global market when they become the nation's next leaders.

She added that students won't be able to afford college if Toomey is elected and his policies are put into action.

Clark-Sestak also talked about her husband's passion for pediatric cancer research. Their daughter was diagnosed with a form of brain cancer at four years old, she said, and was only given three to nine months to live. After three surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation treatment, she was able to overcome the disease, Clark-Sestak said.

Now her husband leads a committee that works to get more



Susan Clark-Sestak speaks to a crowd at the HUB-Robeson Center Wednesday night as part of her husband's senatorial campaign.

money toward pediatric cancer research, she said.

Clark-Sestak finished her speech by calling on the group to help make others aware of the importance of going to vote.

"This election can be a defining moment as for how the next few years will go in the House," she said. "We have to get every vote we can."

Hannah Kendig (sophomore-political science and economics), treasurer for the Penn State College Democrats, who sponsored Clark-Sestak's talk, said

she appreciated how Clark-Sestak stressed what her husband was trying to do for college students.

Gregory Reed, a regional intern for the Sestak For Senate campaign, also emphasized that getting the message out to students was key.

"It's clear to me that Sestak is the candidate for students," Reed (senior-international politics) said. "Mobilizing students is paramount to the campaign."

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AUSTIN SCOTT CASE

Defendant in lawsuit requests dismissal

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

In June, a judge denied former Penn State running back Austin Scott's request to put his civil suit on hold so he could accept an offer to play football in Germany, according to court documents.

But on Monday, the woman who said Scott raped her in 2007 asked to be dismissed as a defendant from Scott's suit, according to court documents. She said she stands by her original story, according to court documents.

Charges of rape, sexual assault and related counts were brought against Scott as a result of the woman's report, but they were dropped in 2008 after a judge said evidence the woman had made a previous and separate report of rape could be used in the trial.

The woman now asking to be removed as a defendant in Scott's current suit said she and the former Penn State athlete did not have consensual sexual relations, despite the outcome of the original case, according to court documents.

In 2009 — citing malicious prosecution, false imprisonment, civil conspiracy, false arrest, failure to intervene and unlawful seizure — Scott filed a civil suit against former Centre County District Attorney Michael Madeira and Assistant District Attorney Lance Marshall, Penn State University, Centre County, several Penn State Police officials and the woman who said he raped her, according to court documents.

At the time, Scott said the incident hurt his reputation and inhibited his ability to earn money as a professional athlete.

He was cut from the Penn State football team after he was charged in connection with the 2007 incident.

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Pathologist: Davis suffered multiple blows

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Dr. Harry Kamerow — the pathologist who conducted an autopsy on Maggie Davis following her death in March 2009 — told a jury Wednesday that physical evidence found on the former Penn State Altoona student's body shows that she



Allen

suffered multiple blows to her head in the moments leading up to her death.

Those injuries, he said, could have made it easier for someone to strangle her.

Kamerow was one of several specialists brought to the stand Wednesday who had examined Davis' body as the prosecution team wrapped up its case Wednesday against Sean L. Allen,

of Hollidaysburg, Pa., who is charged with criminal homicide in connection with Davis' death on March 3, 2009.

Her body was found in the trunk of her blue Pontiac Grand Am two days after she was reported missing and one day after her car was located in a parking lot about 100 yards from Allen's 102A Fairway Lower Brush apartment in Hollidaysburg.

For nearly three hours, Kamerow described the physical evidence he found on Davis, which included a laceration and other injuries at multiple sites of her head, a broken bone in her upper neck and other abrasions on her knee, hands, thighs and lower back.

The characteristics of the injuries on Davis' head show that the Maglite flashlight, which contained traces of Davis' blood and was found inside Allen's bedroom after her death, could have

caused the head trauma, he said.

But a fingerprint specialist who testified said he was not able to connect the traces found on the flashlight to Allen. And in some cases the prints were not clear enough to determine to whom they belonged, he said.

A stone was also found embedded in Davis' back, Kamerow said. This, he said, combined with the vertical pattern of the abrasions that also appeared there, point to the possibility she was dragged across the ground.

Kamerow also pointed to physical evidence that indicated Davis suffered abrasions as a result of a sexual event that occurred within a few minutes of or after the time of her death.

"If you put the evidence together then you can interpret this event differently," he said. "And it obviously raises the issue of assault mixed with sex."

All three specialists who testified Wednesday — Kamerow,

Blair County Coroner Patricia Ross and Centre County Chief Deputy Coroner Judy Pleskonko, who also serves a sexual assault nurse examiner — said they had never before seen anything to the degree of the physical damage found on Davis' body during their examinations.

Kamerow said he ran a toxicology test of Davis' body and there were no signs of marijuana or other drugs in her system.

Defense attorneys Steven P. Passarello and Thomas Hooper — who earlier in the week conceded to the jury that Allen is responsible for Davis' death but said their client should not be sentenced for charges of first-degree murder — will begin presenting the defense's case today.

The trial is scheduled to continue in Blair County through Friday.

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