



Michael Pipe, D-Pa., speaks to students at his open house held in the HUB-Robeson Center on Sunday afternoon.

# Candidate visits PSU students

By Katrina Wehr  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Congressional democratic candidate and Penn State alumnus Michael Pipe talked campaign strategy with students over a pizza lunch Sunday afternoon during the Penn State for Pipe open house.

Students who stopped by to meet Pipe heard firsthand the candidate's position on many of the issues that matter most to students. Pipe, Class of 2009, said the main goal of the meet and greet was to get students excited about voting.

Formed about two weeks ago by the Pipe for Congress campaign team, Penn State for Pipe is the organization for Penn State students looking to get involved with the campaign.

Though it is a new group, Bob Witmer, youth vote director of Pipe for Congress, said the members are already working hard.

"They're busy with other groups they're involved in, but they're finding the time to work hard for us," Witmer said.

One of Pipe's goals, win or lose, is for the group to stay intact even after the elections are over, he said.

"I'd like to find things to do for

them, like offer them internships," Pipe said.

He said he believes interest in volunteering will increase drastically after Vice President Joe Biden's visit to campus on Tuesday, where Pipe will also speak.

Andrea DeVinney, a student volunteer for Pipe for Congress, said it's important for candidates to reach out to students, especially in the fifth congressional district, which is home to Penn State.

"Student organization is a big part of any campaign," DeVinney (junior-political science and African and African American studies) said. "And when it comes to the fifth district, Penn State is a big deal."

DeVinney said she noticed that a lot of students were impressed with Pipe throughout the course of her volunteer work.

She said his young age and status as a recent Penn State graduate will likely resonate with other students.

"He represents a student voice that's definitely been lacking around here," DeVinney said. "Politicians need to keep in mind that students are here and that their policies affect us, too."

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# THON group welcomes members

By Katrina Wehr  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Though Friday marks the official start of THON fundraising season, Springfield THON isn't wasting any time introducing its new members to their organization.

Springfield THON, the second-largest special interest organization involved in the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon (THON), held its first field day event Sunday afternoon on the Old Main lawn.

"We had a lot of freshmen join Springfield this year and we wanted to find a way for them to get to know everyone," said Brittney Kern, special events chairwoman of Springfield THON.

About 100 members came out to participate, Kern (senior-English) said. They were divided into 14 different teams, each dressed in costumes representing a different theme like crayon colors, ninjas and superheroes.

Michael Schrenk, a new member of Springfield THON, said he enjoyed spending time with other Springfield THON members. His superhero costume consisted of a cape, T-shirt, shorts and a pair of white briefs — worn outside of his pants.

"We wanted to go crazy with our costumes," Schrenk (fresh-



Springfield THON members play "carrot squat," a team-building exercise held during field day to welcome new members Sunday afternoon.

man-chemical engineering) said.

Though this was the first time Springfield THON held a field day, Kern said they would like to make it an annual event to welcome all new members to the organization.

Teams competed against each other in events like balloon popping, three-legged races, tug of war and bubble gum chewing.

One popular event the teams participated in was the carrot squat, where competitors tied a belt around their waist that had a carrot attached to it. They then raced to a cup and had to bend their knees to try and get the dangling carrot into the cup.

The carrot squat game was actually passed on to them by

Springfield THON's Four Diamonds family, the Negleys, said Christine Crain, a member of Springfield THON.

She said the event was successful in achieving its goal of promoting group bonding.

"Everyone is so excited," Crain (junior-education and public policy) said. "We're all feeling a lot closer." Eric Tarosky agreed that the field day event was the perfect way to welcome Springfield THON's new members.

"Springfield is a really great group," Tarosky (freshman-English) said. "They really try their hardest to make us feel like part of the family."

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# East Halls decorates with diversity

By Christina Gallagher  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

East Halls residents can express what diversity looks like to them through a mural painting being created today and Tuesday.

Residence life coordinators Pamela Mirabelli and Jordan West organized the event to set a tone for diversity tolerance. The mural will hang in the East Halls Cultural Lounge from 4-7 p.m.

"We're putting together a program called 'What Diversity Looks Like' so students can come together at their own pace in an informal way," West said.

Two 36-by-48-inch canvases will be ready to paint with art supplies, including finger-paints. Students do not need to have any artistic ability or experience to participate — just a desire to leave their own mark on East Halls, Mirabelli said.

West said she hopes the activity will push people who are not comfortable with diversity elements to think about people who are different from them.

That's the case for international student Xinren Yu, who was born in China.

"It is very rare that I would talk to another international student because we would have different interests and personalities," Yu (freshman-chemical engineering) said.

Yu said it's difficult to perfect his English at Penn State because most of his friends speak Chinese to each other. He said he uses mostly English in his classes when asking questions.

West said she wants everyone who passes by the Cultural Lounge to be interested in putting their hands on the mural.

A mural handpainted by students already exists in the Pollock

Cultural Lounge, which acted as inspiration for the project in East Halls, Mirabelli said.

"Diversity is a word that we use all the time and sometimes we don't ever commit a definition to it," West said.

She said most freshmen have written formal essays — like personal statements and college application essays — about diversity, but few have ever experienced a creative, hands-on approach to the subject.

The mural painting will also serve as one of the first major events to take place in the lounge.

In October, students will be able to attend "The Laramie Project," talks held by the LGBTA and to view the documentary "Training Rules," West said.

Xinyi "Ann" Wang said attending diversity meetings is a great way to learn about other people's ideas.

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