



Amanda August/Collegian

Eco-Action and Greenpeace march between the HUB and Old Main on Monday afternoon. The group signed a petition and delivered to Penn State President Graham Spanier's office in Old Main.

Events promote sustainability

By Paul McMullen
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Blue and white were mixed with green across campus the past few days, as the community came together behind one cause: environmental sustainability.

Students and faculty participated in a variety of events, all of which revolved around recycling, renewable energy and combating greenhouse gas emissions.

One of those events, organized by Eco-Action, gathered students on Monday during an on-campus Renewable Energy March to promote the utilization of clean energy.

Stefan Nagy (junior-economics business and finance), vice president of Eco-Action, said that in order to advance environ-

mentalism at Penn State, efforts on an administrative level need to become more transparent and student-involved.

Aside from promoting renewable energy use, Nagy said he hopes the march will show the administration a side of the student body that will become increasingly present.

"We are hoping that administration will see how passionate students are about environmentalism," he said. "We have a lot of student support and are glad that people are seeing this as more than just a campus issue."

The march began outside of the coal plant, which has been a major cause of environmental concern. From there, participants marched through campus to Old Main, where they hand-

delivered a written proposal to the office of Penn State President Graham Spanier.

The proposal urged administration to work with students to transition Penn State University Park into an entirely carbon neutral campus, according to Eco-Action's Greenpeace student representative Braden Crooks. The letter also furthered the message of student involvement in the cause, he said.

"We don't think it is ethical for Penn State to provide energy for students that is damaging to our planet," Crooks (senior-landscape architecture) said. "We think the march was a huge success and we hope to continue the movement at the university."

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Error leads to early admission

By Mike Hricik
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Less than two months into his senior year of high school, North Hills Senior High School student Nick Treser was ecstatic Sunday morning.

The Pittsburgh resident awoke to a notification on his MyPennState web page saying he had been accepted to Penn State University Park.

But then Treser checked the website Monday only to see the acceptance message removed. "My day was demolished," Treser said.

Because of a computer error, the Penn State Undergraduate Admissions Office website notified more than 700 prospective students that they had been accepted to the university.

The Penn State Undergraduate Admissions Office removed the messages from MyPennState after applicants questioned the results, Penn State spokeswoman Annemarie Mountz said.

But messaged applicants should not take the removals from the website as bad news: Mountz said the acceptances would be honored despite the mistake.

Applications to Penn State University Park as a first choice and those requesting admission at a Commonwealth Campus as a

first choice will be honored for students who received notices, and would have been accepted regardless, Mountz said.

Acceptance notifications for students who selected University Park as a first choice but were referred to a Commonwealth Campus will not be honored. Instead, these applicants may or may not be accepted to University Park in the coming months. If they are not, admission will be given to a Commonwealth Campus, Mountz said.

She stressed that computers do not decide admissions results — applications must be organized according to admissions criteria to streamline the process.

"Believe it or not, people go through all these applications individually," Mountz said.

The acceptance notifications were sent when the admissions office computer systems began a process that should not start until Nov. 1. The computers organize applicant data according to major, standardized test scores and other criteria, Mountz said.

The admissions office will get in contact with applicants who received the message as soon as possible, Mountz said.

Since his acceptance has been confirmed, Treser said he can breathe a sigh of relief.

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Council hears presentation on bed bugs, Highlands safety

By Anita Modi
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

From bed bugs to police programs, Monday night's State College Borough Council work session featured a number of presentations that addressed the community's safety.

Edwin Rajotte, an entomology professor at Penn State, started the series of presentations by speaking to the council on behalf of the Centre Region Bed Bug Coalition.

The coalition was established

last spring to raise awareness about the growing number of bed bug infestations nationwide over the past ten years.

What puts State College at particular risk for the spread of bed bugs, however, is its status as a college town, Rajotte said.

"In a college town, bed bugs have a very good highway to move around," he told the council. "They're hitchhikers and ride on backpacks, clothing, everything. As students walk around campus or go to parties downtown, they're taking the bugs with them."

Rajotte said while State College already educates people about — and treats — bed bug infestations adequately, the community could use a central system intended to monitor future bed bug infestations.

Currently, pest control companies individually calculate how many infestations they treat, but a comprehensive database collecting information from every company in the Centre County region would allow the coalition to pinpoint and target specific problem sites in the community, he said.

A few hours after Rajotte spoke about bed bugs, State College Police Chief Tom King updated the council about a new project designed to target crime in the Highlands neighborhood.

The Neighborhood Enforcement and Alcohol Team established last August assigned two police officers and two Penn State student auxiliary officers to patrol the Highlands neighborhood on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

By having the same officers stationed around the area every

weekend, a level of consistency and ownership to the neighborhood is maintained, he said.

One aspect of the project, "pre-party contacts," involves officers offering partygoers flyers about responsibility before they begin to consume alcohol, he said.

King said decreases in thefts and fights have been observed in the area since the start of the project and said he plans to expand NEAT to the Holmes-Foster neighborhood.

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Amnesty group rallies against capital punishment

By Mike Hricik
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Candles lined the Allen Street Gates in remembrance of Americans lost to the death penalty as members of Amnesty International at Penn State held a vigil against capital punishment Monday night.

Amnesty International at Penn State, part of a global activist organization, works to protect human rights in accordance with

international standards set by documents like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Co-President Brian Flowers said.

Flowers said executions in the U.S. tend to discriminate against minorities and the poor.

"Taking someone's life is the ultimate denial of human rights," Flowers (junior-computer science) said.

He said the U.S. government has executed hundreds of American prisoners who are

found innocent after the fact.

Public Relations Officer Sara's Kiessling said the U.S. remains one of the few industrialized countries to still use the death penalty as an option for criminals.

"We're becoming very alone in our country and there's good reason for that," Kiessling (senior-public relation) said.

Flowers said the vigil protested the treatment of Georgia death row prisoner Troy Davis in particular. Davis was incarcerated in

1991 after being found guilty of first degree murder with evidence of only testimonial from nine witnesses — seven of which have since recanted their statements.

Amnesty International member Holly Jones said everyone has the right to live regardless of crime.

"The right to your life is a human right in its most basic form," Jones (senior-anthropology) said.

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Kelsey Morris/Collegian

A student lights a candle at a vigil against capital punishment.

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