

RALLYING THE TROOPS



Head coach Joe Paterno leads the Penn State football team to a cheering crowd at Rec Hall on Friday night for Rally in the Valley.

Venkatiah Krishnan, Collegian

Students, candidates prepare for Tuesday's midterm election

By Katrina Wehr  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

In 2008, young voters turned out in historic numbers to elect the president of the United States.

On Tuesday, they will have a chance to let their voices be heard once again in the midterm elections.

In the 2008 presidential election, about 51 percent of eligible voters in the 18-29 age bracket went to the polls, compared to the about 25 percent who turned out in the 2006 midterm elections, said Zachary Baumann, a political science lecturer at Penn State.

"It's going to be a question of, 'Do young voters turn out?'" Baumann said. "And they're more likely to do that in more competitive contests like we're witnessing in Pennsylvania."

But Baumann said he doesn't anticipate any huge increase in youth voter participation for Tuesday's election. He estimates the number will be about 20 percent, similar to past midterm election participation.

Maegan Carberry, a spokeswoman for Rock the Vote, which aims to build political awareness among youth, said the number of young voters participating in elections increases on a fairly consistent basis.

Following that trend, if young voter turnout increases by 2 percent this year, as many as two million young voters will have participated in the midterm election, Carberry said.

"That is a fairly significant impact on the election," Carberry said. "Especially during midterm elections when so many people don't vote."

Democratic candidate Michael Pipe, who is running for the fifth district representative seat in the U.S. Congress, spent time campaigning for President Barack Obama in 2008. At a recent town hall event, Pipe told voters that in the two years since the Obama campaign, he has felt "different vibrations."

"It's a feeling of frustration now, where back then it was optimism," Pipe said. In 2008, voters talked about what Obama could do, Pipe said, while today people focus on what he hasn't done.

Carberry said casting a vote on Tuesday isn't so much an assessment of whether a person agrees with the Obama administration and its initiatives, but whether the momentum will continue.

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Police: Criminal activities during weekend 'average'

By Zach Geiger  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Even though nearly 40 people were hospitalized for alcohol-related incidents this weekend, State College Police said criminal activity in the borough was average.

Multiple incidents of disorderly conduct and fights were reported during the combined Halloween and home football game weekend, police said, but alcohol still played a heavy factor in calls to the police.

Thirteen individuals were taken to Mount Nittany Medical Center for alcohol-related incidents between 10 p.m. Friday and 4:45 a.m. Sunday, the State College Police Department said.

One individual had to be sedated by police at 3:12 a.m. Saturday outside Calder Commons Apartments, 520 E. Calder Way, police said.

One woman was found at 2:51 a.m. passed out in a public restroom at the Days Inn, 240 S. Pugh St. police said.

Both were among the 13 taken to the hospital, police said.

And on campus, 26 individuals were taken to the hospital, Penn State Police said, in addition to 58 reports of minor's law violations. Overall, the number of patients treated during the weekend was higher than average, said Jackie Showalter, Mount Nittany Medical Center clinical coordinator.

One Penn State student — dressed in blue and yellow — was taken to Mount Nittany Medical Center after he was assaulted by four unidentified Penn State fans who mistook him for a Michigan fan at 9:25 p.m. Saturday outside of Beaver Stadium, the State College Police Department said.

The student was treated for a possible nose fracture and later released, police said.

The case is open for investigation and police have no suspects.

In a separate incident, a Penn State student involved in a fight with staff at Mezzanine, 420 E. College Ave., was subdued by police with pepper spray at 2:24 a.m. Sunday, the State College Police Department said.

The man, identified by police as Tamir Kheiri, was charged with public drunkenness, disorderly conduct and harassment after an altercation with bar staff, police said. Another man claimed he was held against his will at Mezzanine at 11:25 p.m. Saturday, police said. Bar employees claimed the man owed \$415 in unpaid bar charges, police said. Alcohol was also a factor in three separate incidents where individuals were found passed out, police said.

A man was found unconscious at 10:23 p.m. Saturday on the floor at Indigo, 112 W. College Ave., the State College Police Department said.

A second man was later found passed out in the night club at 11:58 p.m., police said.

During the Penn State football game, a 24-year-old Penn State alumnus was found passed out in Beaver Stadium, police said. The man had a BAC of .219, police said.

Each of the men face charges for public drunkenness, police said.

Police also received a report of a stolen 9mm handgun removed from the center console of a vehicle at 415 S. Atherton St. that occurred sometime Saturday night, the State College Police Department said.

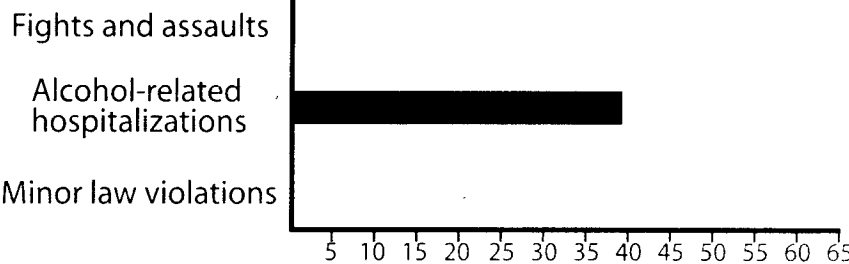
There was no sign of forced entry into the vehicle, police said.

The incident was reported at 12:43 p.m. Sunday and there are currently no suspects but the case remains open for investigation, police said.

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Michigan and Halloween weekend

The State College Police Department said a large portion of the weekend's reported incidents were alcohol-related.



Source: State College Police Department/Penn State Police

Kimberly Barther/Collegian

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