

Access party prevails in SGA elections

MINDY TOWNSEND
Collegio Reporter

Jeremy Johnson and Larry Fleury are the new president and vice president of the Student Government Association. The team of Johnson and Fleury defeated APPLE Party candidates Jimmy Nelson and Stephanie Sebring 440 votes to 197. Tom Bryant, university president, announced the results Friday afternoon. After the announcement, Johnson said the Access Party also won all but one of the at-large Senate seats.

Everyone who ran for the four colleges won seats in the Senate, and the amendments to the SGA constitution were passed as well. Nelson did not wish to comment on the election results, but Sebring says she is happy for the Access Party and wants to stay involved in student government next year.

"We had a good time. It was a good fight," she said. "It's going to be a fun year next year."

For Johnson and Fleury, just knowing the result of the election was a relief. Johnson says the campaign was overwhelmingly stressful and he was just glad it was over.

"I'm excited, but just relieved that we don't have to campaign anymore," he said.

Not only did the Access Party ticket dominate, but Johnson is also making history. Johnson is the son of Mark Johnson, professor of technology management. The elder Johnson is the faculty representative in SGA and is also a voting member. But he was also SGA president during the 1982-'83 school year. This is the first time a father and son have both held that post. He says he told Jeremy to focus on students.

"As a student leader, you serve the students," said Mark Johnson. "You should be

looking for new ways to serve them."

But he admits that his current position in SGA might cause some problems, either at home or in the Senate. Mark Johnson says he has served as the faculty representative for several years, but the person in that position is chosen every year. He says he might consider stepping down for the year Jeremy is president.

"That may be something I should consider, having someone step in," he said.

Everyone who ran for the four colleges won seats in the Senate. In addition, see **ACCESS** page 6

Fraternity to hold AIDS benefit concert

MINDY TOWNSEND
Collegio Reporter

Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity will hold a benefit concert for YouthAIDS, an organization committed to fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS. Steven Barker, junior in political science, says YouthAIDS is the fraternity's national philanthropy, but this is the first time in several years that the Pittsburg State University chapter has organized an event for it. He adds that the fraternity hopes to make it a yearly event.

The concert will feature Cleveland-based rapper DJ Scrilla and hip-hop artist Taven Johnson from Kansas City. The show will start at 7 p.m. in Gorilla Village on Friday, April 27. Tickets can be purchased in the Oval or on location and are \$5 with a valid student I.D. and \$10 without an I.D. All of the proceeds will be donated to YouthAIDS.

Barker says both performers are playing for free and that they each donated \$500 to the cause. The only thing the fraternity paid for was a plane ticket for DJ Scrilla.

Everyone is invited to attend, but Barker says he hopes to see a good turnout among the Greek population. He said after the competition of Greek Week, it would be nice to come together for a good cause.

"We'd like to have a large turnout of the Greeks," he said. "We're hoping everyone will have a good time."

Sigma Phi Epsilon has raised about \$1,500 for YouthAIDS to date, and hopes to be able to donate more than \$3,000 after the concert.

Forrest Saucier, junior in political science; Austin Rice, junior in history; and Luke Papp, sophomore in construction management, sold tickets and promoted the event in the Oval on Tuesday.

Saucier says that if RSVPs on Facebook are any indication, the concert could draw as many as 500 people. He says that it should be a good show.

"Hell of a show for a hell of a cause," Saucier said.

STANDING TOGETHER



Raymond Hillegas/Collegio

With candles lit, Pittsburg State University students and members of the Pittsburg community wait to begin their silent walk to the University Lake on Monday evening where they honored the victims of the Virginia Tech shooting during a candlelight vigil.



Brett Armbruster/Collegio

Overcome with emotions during the vigil, Terra Higgins, a graduate student in psychology, couldn't hold back the tears.

Vigil pays respects to VT victims

DOUG GRAHAM
Managing Editor

Hundreds of students walked in ghostly silence, their faces faintly lit by candles, to honor the fallen.

"Although these horrible events were a half continent away, we felt Virginia Tech's sorrow on an almost personal level," said PSU President Tom Bryant after the students made their way quietly from the Oval to University Lake, where Bryant and others spoke in remembrance of the victims of Cho Seung-Hui, who claimed 32 lives in a shooting spree last Monday at the Virginia Tech campus.

For Terra Higgins, a graduate student in psychology who had a friend in the same building in which Cho shot 30 people, the vigil provided some much-needed closure.

"From the experience I had with the situation, you always feel some sort of deep sympathy when something

like this happens," Higgins said. "I wasn't deeply involved with the situation and I wasn't there, but with all the emotions I went through (at the vigil), I have a whole new understanding of what they were going through."

Higgins, along with about 400 other students, faculty and community members, gathered at 9 p.m. Monday, April 23, in the Oval, where they received candles to light and copies of the speech made by poet Nikki Giovanni after the shootings. They then marched through campus, past the library and the football stadium, onto the gazebo near the lake.

"This turnout really shows what we are as a campus community at Pitt State," said Anthony Moreno, senior in communication, who helped organize the event. "It means a lot."

Student Government Association, the Student Activities Council, and the Residence Hall Assembly sponsored the vigil as a joint venture, saying in a bulk e-mail that their purpose was

to "honor the lives lost and affected at Virginia Tech."

Representatives from various groups spoke at the vigil, starting with SGA President Ginger Niemann.

"It is under unfortunate circumstances that we gather tonight, yet it is important to remember not only students, but faculty members who lost their lives in this tragedy," Niemann said. She went on to explain how the victims at Virginia Tech were not unlike people at PSU.

Niemann also announced discussion groups to be held by University Counseling Services at 9 p.m. Monday in the Inaugural Room, 9 p.m. Tuesday in the Varsity Room, 9 p.m. Wednesday in the Varsity Room, and 9 p.m. Thursday in the Collegiate Room, all in the Overman Student Center.

Jason Wright, RHA president, spoke after Niemann, telling the personal stories of a few of the victims, including Ryan Clark, a Virginia Tech student. see **VIGIL** page 6

therundown

**Sigma Phi Epsilon
Youth/ AIDS benefit**

When: Friday, April 27, 7 p.m.

Where: Gorilla Village

Cost: \$5 for students w/ID,
\$10 for general public,
students without ID

Rollin' on the river



Teresa Gawrych/Collegio

Tia Taylor, senior in justice studies, lip-synchs "Proud Mary" while portraying Tina Turner during Sigma Sigma's Greek Goddess performance at Air Band in the Weede on Friday. Air Band is an annual lip-synching and dance competition. Taylor was crowned Greek Goddess.

Green groups promote Earth issues

MELANIE MCGEE
Collegio Reporter

This week, students have been participating in events as part of Green Community Week at Pittsburg State University. The events, which focus on environmental issues, will conclude with a presentation on wind energy by Todd Kennener at 6 p.m. tonight in Grubbs Hall room 309. Kennener's presentation, which is sponsored by the Global Gorillas, is open to the public.

The Earth-friendly week began last Friday, April 20, with an Art Walk. The Global Gorillas, a student organization focused on recycling issues, displayed recycled sculptures and recycled jewelry that were entered in a contest over the past several weeks.

"Community members voted for the winners, and we displayed everything downtown," Kristen Livingston, Global Gorilla member, said.

On Monday, multiple campus organizations hosted booths in the Oval to observe Green Community Day, sponsored by the Green Gorillas.

The Global Gorillas hosted trivia challenges, a green marble guessing contest and a water bottle toss at its booth.

"We handed out green Jell-O to promote Green Community Day and remind everyone to think of the environment," Livingston said. "We were encouraging people to start habits like recycling and conservation all day long."

- Kristen Livingston,
Global Gorillas

Monday afternoon and Tuesday evening, the group sponsored a slide show presentation by David Gordon. Gordon's presentation focused on Al Gore's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth." They also

spoke to preschool students about recyclable materials and displayed several pieces of recycled art on Tuesday.

The Global Gorillas also sponsored a presentation by John Robb, telling "Recycling for Dummies," on Wednesday evening.



Greg Grisolan/Collegio

Jenny Harter, junior in elementary education, tosses a plastic bottle into a recycling bin as part of Green Community Day on Monday.