

# Life and Art

ENTERTAINMENT • LIFESTYLES • TRENDS

## Out with apathy, in with activism

### Upswing in service leaves student governments empty

By **EMILY CULBERTSON**  
*The Daily Pennsylvanian, U. of Pennsylvania*

While U. of Pennsylvania student leaders were complaining about growing apathy toward student government last spring, some of their classmates were preparing to help build houses for the homeless during spring break.

Student life administrators across the country report fewer students are running for positions in student governments or on activities boards, but volunteer organizations are experiencing growth.

In recent elections for the Student Activities Council at Penn, only nine students vied for the five positions.

Yet Rena Sardo, U. of Texas, San Antonio's assistant director for university center programs, said interest in community service and environmental issues has grown.

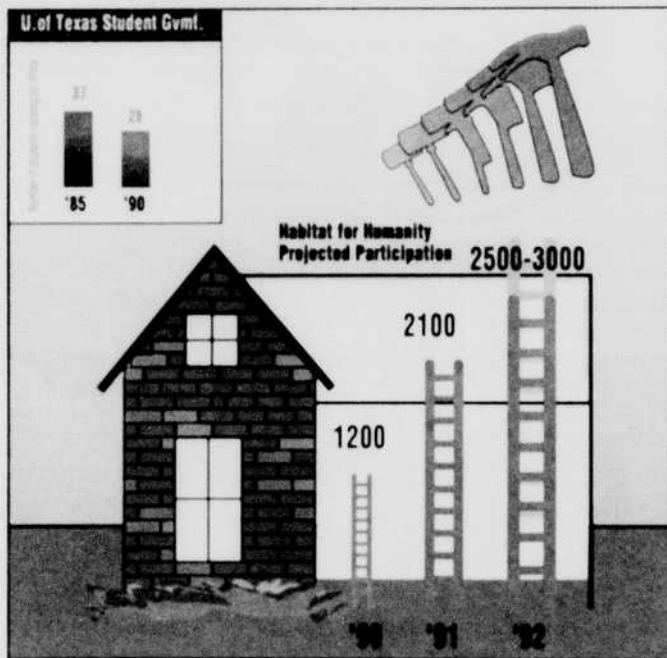
Penn students who helped build houses during spring break wrote on interest surveys that they wished to help others in Philadelphia.

"Philadelphia is afflicted by poverty, decay and hunger," wrote junior Carl Bergamini. "I feel a sense of duty to bring change, to use what I have been given — my education, for instance — and to help others."

Students' sense of obligation has translated into skyrocketing numbers of volunteers for Habitat for Humanity, said Andy Lusk, the group's campus chapter associate.

Habitat, a grass roots organization that renovates and builds houses, playgrounds, and community centers, organizes an "alternate spring break" in which students from schools across the nation spend a week building houses and getting to know an impoverished community.

When the alternate spring break program started two years ago,



SHERIE SCHMIDTKE, THE DAILY IOWAN, U. OF IOWA

Lusk said, Habitat planned for 300 students and was pleasantly surprised when nearly 1,200 signed up for the program.

Lusk said he thinks more students are getting involved in community service because there is a more visible need for it than in the past.

"Now it's just coming into the forefront," he said. "You can't turn a blind eye because it's just down the street."

*Drew Zoller and Scott Calvert, The Daily Pennsylvanian, U. of Pennsylvania, contributed to this story.*

## I want your sex: Classes arouse a new interest

By **CHRIS HOPFENSBERGER**  
*The Daily Nebraskan, U. of Nebraska*

Sabrina Prince reached the climax of her education last year in a psychology class.

"One day we all had to have an orgasm for the class," said Prince, a junior at Creighton U. Prince was one of thousands of students enrolled in human sexuality classes across the country.

"Almost all universities have some type of course," said Jim Shortridge, director of library services at the Sex Information and Education Council of the United States.

"We cover the totality of sex as we know it, from the underlying physiology to contraception," said Richard Dienstbier, professor of psychology at the U. of Nebraska. "There is nothing in the sexual area that we don't touch upon."

Teaching lecture classes of 150 students, the size of the UN class, inhibits debates or projects where the students pretend to be parents, Dienstbier said.

Dienstbier said he enriches the class with a variety of speakers instead of out-of-class projects.

"I do invite a man who spent the first 20 years of life as a female to speak."

Dienstbier, who teaches from a textbook, said taking the course is an enlightening experience.

"I think students, after they take the class, are far more open about accepting other people's sexuality which may be different than their own," he said.

## Halloween parties haunt town officials



PHOTO COURTESY OF LA CUMBRE, U. OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

Thousands of costumed students flock to the U. of California, Santa Barbara Halloween bash.

By **MIKE GREBB**  
*The Post, Ohio U.*

The most exciting thing about Halloween for most college students may be dropping beer bombs off their roofs onto unsuspecting trick-or-treaters. But for some, this witching holiday has turned mild-mannered campuses and towns into bonafide meccas for partygoers.

Thousands of people spill out into the streets. Alcoholic odors mix with sweat, laughter and rambunctious howls, creating an atmosphere best described as bizarre. Where else can someone see oversized genitals mingling with The Church Lady?

If such costumes can be considered creative art, then local police might be the gallery's worst critics. Dealing with thousands of drunk and disguised strangers is not one of their favorite pastimes. Visitors come uninvited and leave signatures of vandalism, litter and piles of police reports.

Sgt. Sam Gross of the Isla Vista Foot Patrol at the U. of California, Santa Barbara, said each Halloween brings with it a sometimes week-long street party featuring "people walking around in various states of intoxication."

"I'd love to tell them to stay home," he

said of the estimated 12,000-30,000 revelers. "No one minds people having a good time, but there comes with it a certain responsibility."

To taper the turnout, the city of Santa Barbara has waged an ad campaign in area newspapers warning prospective party pilgrims that getting too rowdy may land them in a jail cell.

At East Carolina U., however, local police have taken the hard line with a more aggressive approach aimed at clearing the streets. After local police called 1987's crowd estimate of 40,000 "low," they got serious.

In 1988, the crime rate skyrocketed, said Doug Morris, an ECU junior and managing editor of the school newspaper. Despite rainy conditions and lower crowds, he said police made record arrests.

"A lot of high school gangs showed up," Morris said. "There were a lot of fights downtown."

In 1989, police tried closing the entire 10-block area where the party had always taken place. Students merely moved the celebration to mostly student-rented apartments, which offered even less space. Police showed up in riot gear and arrested

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BRYAN MCALLISTER, THE MANEATER, U. OF MISSOURI, COLUMBIA