



## Not Everyone Excited Enough to Vote

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*Story written as an election night deadline assignment for Comm460*

The few hundred Barack Obama supporters who canvassed campus walkways, buildings and even off-campus apartments yesterday made it hard for students they encountered to sleep last night without voting in the Pennsylvania primary.

“My fellow Americans! Have your voice heard! You have 10 minutes to vote!” one of them yelled in front of the HUB-Robeson Center as polls neared closing time. “This could be the most important election of your lifetime!”

With the race for the Democratic nomination between Sens. Obama (Ill.) and Hillary Clinton (N.Y.) still tight, yesterday’s Pennsylvania primary was considered an important race nationally, and voter turnout was expected to be high.

But there were at least a few registered voters who didn’t go to the polls.

Penn State student Vlad Los was doing tricks on his skateboard in front of the HUB, one of eight local polling stations, when he was approached by one of the Obama supporters asking him if he had voted yet.

Los hadn’t and though it was 7:30 p.m. -- a half hour before polls closed -- he wasn’t planning to vote because he left his identification at his off-campus residence. By the time he went there and back the polls could be closed.

“I wanted to vote but didn’t have time,” said Los, a junior computer engineering major from Lower Macungie Township.

Los said he went to bed late on Monday, had a job interview at 9 a.m. yesterday, and then class until 5:30 p.m. and when he went to the HUB to skate, only carried cash and no ID with him.

“Still, it’s a dumb excuse,” he said.

Other non-voters included some registered Republicans who didn’t feel the need to go to the polls because the GOP already has its presumptive nominee, Sen. John McCain (Ariz.).

Despite Texas Rep. Ron Paul still being on the Republican ballot, McCain led Paul by more than 1,300 delegates coming into the Pennsylvania primary.

Brandon Cook, a junior energy business and finance major from North East, Pa., didn't vote because he didn't apply for an absentee ballot.

"I didn't think it was necessary to vote since I'm a Republican," Cook said. "This primary is just between Obama and Clinton."

Cook said he would vote in the "more important" November presidential election.

Obama supporter Giles Driscoll of State College, who stood outside the HUB encouraging passers-by to vote about an hour before polls closed, said he had asked between 100-150 people if they had voted yet.

"About two-thirds said they had already," Driscoll said. "The rest are out-of-state or independent."

Jillian McAllister, another Obama supporter, said her group, Students for Barack, had been set up outside the HUB since before the sun rose.

McAllister, a sophomore international politics and Spanish major, said she hadn't encountered many registered voters who didn't plan to vote but admitted, "Some people just say, 'Yes' and walk away because they don't want to be bothered."