



Voter Drive: UConn Hosts Election Event

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STAMFORD — Anyone walking by the Stamford campus of the University of Connecticut on Wednesday knew something was going on.

Whether passersby were tipped off by the blaring dance music, the colorful balloons, the 4-foot posters, the campaign buttons, the "Rock the Vote" T-shirts or some combination of Political Action Day's attention-grabbing display, the organizers couldn't have cared less.

"It's hard because it's a commuter campus. . . . People only come when they have class," said Stephanie Rosado, vice president of Zero Tolerance, an anti-violence group that helped sponsor the event. "By holding it in the main area, they were forced to hear and, hopefully, say, 'Let's go find out.' "

The noise attracted Joseph Alexis, a freshman majoring in business, and he became one of the 100 people to register to vote by 5 p.m.

Sponsoring student groups - Zero Tolerance, the Political Union and the Psychology Club - said they had to collaborate to attract what they predicted would be almost 300 people by the end of the day.

Volunteers staffing the information booths said interest was steady. In the first hour, about a dozen people stopped by the information table for the League of Women Voters, Stamford chapter member Cindy Dill said.

It is "great for students to listen and get a feel for the issues," said Barbara Quincy, a part-time student and member of the Wilton chapter of the league. "Often people will go to the polls unfamiliar with the local candidates."

Dashiell Winterson, a freshman majoring in computer science, paused at the Amnesty International table to sign the mailing list.

"I am undecided in terms of party, and I wanted to find out about the local candidates," Winterson said.

Other organizations, such as the conservation group Huskies Go Green, took advantage of the downtown crowd to outline the presidential candidates' eco-friendly endeavors. Co-president Craig Kell, a senior majoring in political science, said

Huskies Go Green wants students to keep the environment in mind at the polls.

Whatever cause, candidate or song attracted the participants, most echoed the sentiments of Rhoda Pearlman, a resident.

"The music was a little loud, but the event was wonderfully informative," Pearlman said.