

#OccupyPennState

Alex Eliasof

State College—Sophomore Nick Scarpello was walking through the HUB earlier this week, unaware of the presence of Occupy Penn State until he saw the campsite that had emerged overnight.

Scarpello asked the same questions as thousands of other Americans who don't entirely understand the Occupy Movement.

“Who are they?” Scarpello asked. “I don't even know that much about why...people are even there. It seems like it's very vague.”

For many Americans, the point of the Occupy Movement—be it in State College or on Wall Street—is extremely vague.

One explanation for the confusion is that there is not one singular thing that is being protested.

“It's not just one club [occupying], it's a coalition of lots of student organizations,” said freshman Occupier Laurel Petrulionis. “The Occupy movements are not about one specific issue. It's about saying ‘Yes there's a problem in the country, with the university and let's start an open discussion recognizing the problem.’”

While the movement has many different focuses, it has one main overarching goal: awareness.

“I just want to come here and raise awareness,” said State College resident and Occupier Brandon Wagner. “[I just

want to] get more students involved with what's happening globally.”

Surrounding the occupied area are large sheets of paper in which students can write why they are personally occupying Penn State. Some frequently-mentioned topics are tuition prices at Penn State, the economic injustice between the “1%” and “the 99%” and healthcare.

The students occupying the HUB are doing everything in their power to make each point heard. The area being occupied is marked off with caution tape and decorated with signs displaying messages such as “Do we have your Attention yet?!?!” Occupiers playing guitars and bongos can be heard from much of the first floor of the HUB.

The occupation has no shifts or organized system, but relies on its sheer number of supporters to keep it going strong.

“There is no formal system or set shifts [at the occupation],” said senior Occupier Luke Lolla. “But there are people at the HUB at all hours of the day because we have enough people to sustain ourselves.”