

News Briefs

Tougher sentences retained for crack possession

President Clinton signed a bill Monday retaining tougher sentences for possessing crack cocaine than the powdered form of cocaine. Minimum sentencing for crack, the less-expensive, smokable form of cocaine is five years. Cocaine in the powdered, more expensive form carries a minimum sentence of ten months for possession.

Clinton said the tougher sentences are necessary because crack is considered more addictive. Crack gives a quick, intense high and carries with it many devastating social ills. Clinton did, however, acknowledge the disparity in sentencing for crack and the powdered form of cocaine, asking Attorney General Janet Reno to find a way to punish the crimes equally.

"The sentencing structure should reflect the fact that all crack starts as powder," Clinton said. "When large-scale cocaine traffickers sell powder with the knowledge that it will be converted into crack, they should be punished as severely as those who distribute the crack itself."

The U.S. Sentencing Commission has been asked to once again review the disparity and report new recommendations.

Possible gene for homosexuality in men

Researchers have found new evidence that a gene inherited from the mothers may influence whether a man is gay. The study, using pairs of homosexual brothers, supports a similar study from 1993.

The study found that genes are involved in male sexual orientation, but do not determine sexual orientation. Other biological factors, like hormones, as well as unknown variables may also affect sexual orientation.

The study, like the one from 1993, did not identify any gene. However, both studies suggest that such a gene exists in a particular portion of the X chromosome. Men inherit the X chromosome from their mothers.

Researchers have no way to know the strength of the gene's influence in the development of homosexuality in men. No evidence was found of such an effect in women.

University of Colorado adopts dating policy

The University of Colorado has adopted a new sexual harassment policy that requires faculty members to inform their superiors if they plan to date students in their classes.

The policy comes complete with a glossary and flow charts and is aimed at discouraging such relationships altogether. According to University officials, these relationships have the "potential for harassment." The policy is also being applied to any staff member who enters a romantic relationship with a subordinate.

According to Nancy Kornblum, University attorney, professors will still be permitted to date students they do not teach, but the practice will be frowned upon.

Police and Safety Report

October 25: A student was found to be in possession of a stolen resident parking permit. Charges of receiving stolen property have been filed.

October 26: Police and Safety is investigating the theft of a VENDACARD from the library.

October 27: A student was issued a citation for careless driving as the result of an incident in S-lot.

October 28: A student reported that someone had damaged his vehicle which was parked in S-lot.

October 29: A student was issued citations for underage drinking and public drunkenness as the result of an incident which occurred near the apartment quad.

October 30: A vest was taken from a delivery van parked in the Reed lot.

October 31: Criminal charges are pending against a student as the result of an investigation of the smell of burning marijuana.

November 1: Charges of DUI are pending against a non-student after Police and Safety officers observed her driving in a careless manner in S-lot. A passenger in the vehicle was issued a citation for underage drinking.

Preparing for implementation of student activities fee

by Steve Landon
Collegian Staff

Beginning in the fall of 1996, each student at Penn State will be paying an activities fee for the first time in 40 years. The fee will cost full-time students \$25 per semester and part-time students will have a reduced rate based on number of credits.

How that money will be spent has still not been determined. The University has formed an implementation committee to research fees at other institutions and to determine guidelines for Penn State's fee.

At its meeting on October 21, the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) elected two representatives from outside the University Park Campus to the implementation committee. Those elected representatives were Lourdes Tirado from the Behrend College and Thane Fake from the York Campus.

Also at the CCSG meeting was William Asbury, Vice-

"It's students' money, students should decide [on the allocation of funds]."
-Lourdes Tirado

President of Student Affairs for the University. Asbury and Dr. Tom Eakin, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, answered questions posed by representatives from the 19 commonwealth campuses.

When asked why a committee needed to be formed, Asbury said, "Once guidelines have been established, I expect the money will be distributed directly to SGAs [Student Government Associations] just as the money the University allocates now is."

"I don't really see a need for a separate committee, however,

to do so as long as the students hold majority representation and those students are approved by the SGA at that campus," Asbury continued.

Before being elected, Tirado addressed the CCSG and explained that the fee should remain in the hands of students through elected student leaders.

"If a faculty or staff member feels they have a worthwhile project that should be funded, they should submit a proposal to SGA; the SGA should have the final word on allocations. It's students' money, students should decide," Tirado said.

Far political right and white supremacy to be explored

BEHREND-James Ridgeway, Washington correspondent for the "Village Voice," will present "Blood in the Face: White Power Politics" on Thursday, November 9 at 7 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall. The presentation will include a film and lecture.

Ridgeway is a journalist, author, and film maker. He covers domestic and international politics and economics for the "Voice" and has been author to more than a dozen books. Ridgeway's books have covered subjects ranging from the politics of universities to various aspects of the environment. Ridgeway is currently completing "Red Light," a major study of the sex industry, and "Ethnic Nightmare," an anthology of writers from the former Yugoslavia.

Ridgeway is the producer and director of the acclaimed documentary film, "Blood in the Face," a companion film to his book of the same title. This film of the far political right movement was produced and directed with Kevin Rafferty and Anne Boheln. Ridgeway also produced and directed "Feed," a documentary on the 1992 New Hampshire presidential primary, with Rafferty.

Ridgeway graduated from Princeton University in 1959. His books include "March to War," an anthology on the Persian Gulf War, and "Haiti Files," on the Haitian crisis (1994).

Ridgeway's appearance is made possible through the college's Creative Writers Series and is sponsored by the Division of

Humanities and Social Sciences, its Creative Writing Program and the Clarence A. and Eugenie Baumann Smith Endowment Fund.

For more details, contact the

Division of Humanities and Social Sciences at x6108. The lecture is free and open to the public.

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Every Thursday at 6:05 p.m.
Nittany Lion Hotline

This Saturday
Penn State v. Northwestern at Noon

NFL on Sunday
Miami v. San Diego at 7:45 p.m.

Monday Night Football
Talk to Julie, Nick & Brian on
"WPSE's Touchdown Talk" at 8:06 p.m.
Philadelphia v. Dallas at 8:45 p.m.

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