

Question of the week: Should there be prayer at commencement?

"I see nothing wrong with having a moment of silence, but I also think there should be a separate religious ceremony for those who want to participate."
-John Carey, Alumni

"No, but there should be a moment of silence."
-Mary Kay Bleil, 03 D.U.S.

"Yes, I believe there should be a general prayer that doesn't offend anyone's beliefs, given by a student of a faculty member."
-Angela Hudak, 02 Management

"Yes, definitely."
-Marieme Doukore, 04 Industrial Engineering

"Doesn't matter to me."
-Jen Shaffer, 02 Biology

"Yes, I believe, though, that there shouldn't be prayer directed toward one specific creed."
-Erica Jackson, 02 Psychology

"If they do have a prayer, then I see no problem with that, but if they don't, there's nothing wrong with that either."
-Melissa Snyder, 02 Psychology

"I do not believe that there is a problem with prayer or commencement. How can it hurt?"
-Ian Moon, 02 D.U.S.

Answers compiled by Doreen Foutz

UP Career Day April 11

UNIVERSITY PARK-The sixth annual Pennsylvania Career Day will be held Thursday, April 11, 1996, at Penn State's University Park campus. The theme of the career day is "Careers in the Commonwealth." The Pennsylvania Career Day will be located at the Bryce Jordan Center. The event will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Admission is free to employers, students, and alumni.

The 1996 Pennsylvania Career Day is expected to attract more than 2,000 students and alumni from Pennsylvania colleges and universities. All academic disciplines and career fields will be represented. Employers will be able to promote themselves to a large population of potential employees by having the chance to discuss current and projected job openings, summer jobs, and internship opportunities.

More than 100 employers are expected to participate in this event. These employers include

large and small businesses, human service agencies, government agencies, health care institutions, and not-for-profit agencies.

Cosponsoring this event with Penn State will be Governor Tom Ridge, The Pennsylvania Chamber of Business and Industry, The Pennsylvania Hospital Association, and The Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association.

Anyone interested on obtaining additional information regarding participation in the Pennsylvania Career Day should contact Michele Dragon at Penn State's Career Development and Placement Services: (814) 865-2377.

Or write to:
Michele Dragon
Career Development and Placement Services
406A Boucke Building
University Park, PA 16802

Forum explores date rape

BEHREND-Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, will host an Open Forum discussion on Date Rape on Wednesday, April 10 at 8 p.m. in the Reed Lecture Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

This open dialogue will cover a number of interrelated issues, including the media's portrayal of date rape, the role alcohol may play, the lack of reported cases, and prevention strategies. A brief presentation will be made, followed by an audience-wide discussion.

This event is the concluding topic of the Open Fora Series, which offers the Penn State-Behrend and Erie communities opportunities to discuss current social and human relations issues. The Open Fora Series is sponsored by the Human Relations Programming Council. For more information, contact the Penn State-Behrend Office of Student Affairs at 898-6111.

Veto power

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three weeks when Mallon said that he may veto the motion to allot each Commonwealth Education System campus \$4,080 for stipends.

The money would be apportioned to Executive Board Officers as stipends for their work in student government.

Mallon decided not to veto the stipend proposal. He commented, "[The stipend proposal] got killed in committees. It's over."

EOPC awards \$10,000 grant to Behrend

BEHREND-The Equal Opportunity Planning Committee (EOPC) has awarded Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, with \$10,000 in grants for the 1996-97 academic year.

Among the Penn State-Behrend programs which will benefit from the grant are: the Office of Student Affairs to conduct a diversity program; the Health and Wellness Center for its Women's Health Care Series; the Office of Admissions to enhance the Buddy program; the Office of Student Affairs to improve access information for those with disabilities; the Office of Student Affairs to make the College's Speaker Series more accessible for the hearing impaired; and the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences to conduct another Feminist Scholars Lecture Series.

Disease blamed on campus bar

Rare form of meningitis can claim healthy victims within 24 hours

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. -Students who fell victim to a rare disease four years ago all patronized a campus bar where smoking, drinking and dense crowds may have spread the illness, researchers said.

The nation's largest modern outbreak of the relatively rare serogroup C meningococcal meningitis killed three University of Illinois students and prompted the most comprehensive civilian immunization against the disease in which 16,000 students were vaccinated.

A similar strain caused an outbreak in Eastern Canada in the same time period in late 1991 and early 1992.

The study by researchers at the

University of Illinois and the National Center for Infectious Diseases in Atlanta, published in the American Journal of Epidemiology, turned up the common denominator in Illinois: Employees of the campus bar and students who frequented it were 20 to 40 times more likely to be either carriers of the bacteria or victims of the disease than other people.

It said more research was needed to confirm the unexpected discovery and to explore how the effects of alcohol and cigarette smoke may promote colonization of the mucus tissues or deeper invasion of the body by the disease, which can kill previously healthy victims within 24 hours.

Earlier studies found that millions carry the bacteria in their noses and throats and they were particularly common among students who drank alcohol and patronized campus bars.

Although some cases of the illness are found in people with defects in their immune system, which may be exacerbated by the effects of smoking and drinking, little else is known about why the usually harmless bacteria can be so destructive.

"Public health officials in other areas where future outbreaks occur may wish to consider recent bar exposures and alcohol-consumption patterns of patients with meningococcal disease, particularly young adults," said Peter Imrey, who led the study.

The Collegian is looking for a few good people...

...to run the newspaper that is.
All positions are open to all full-time students in good academic standing.

Editor in Chief applications are due in the Office of Student Activities by 5:00 pm April 5.

The application should include a resume and a critique of the paper.
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