

CAMPUS NEWS

Students wish for fitness room, store

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students as well – 75 percent liked the idea of more lounge space and also a better coffee center; 70 percent are interested in a game room; and 68 percent would appreciate a DVD kiosk.

When it comes to the Junker Center, 22 percent of students said they were not satisfied with the fitness room. The comments widely expressed that they felt the room was too small.

68 percent of the students surveyed said the room was important enough to warrant renovations.

But the fitness room is not the only qualm some students have with Junker. 18 percent of students are not happy with the track.

Half of those surveyed felt the track was important enough to them to improve it.

Kennedy said at an open SGA forum Wednesday that other comments

gleaned from the results will be helpful. Many were about pool hours. Some about Bruno's, especially about the rising prices.

Enough students answered the survey to gather a reliable sample. Kennedy says that a 15 percent response rate of student surveys is typical. 29 percent responded to this one.

Additionally, respondents were evenly split between on-campus and off-campus residents. 48.2 percent said they live at Behrend; 43 percent say they live off-campus.

But with all of these statistics, SGA is not in a rush to spend all the money. The Student Facility Fee Committee will look at the five most important improvements to Reed and Junker, as determined by the survey. The committee co-chaired by both Kennedy and Ken Miller, the Director of Student Affairs.

SGA says that this survey does not guarantee which projects will be worked on first.

"It is important to understand that the most important may not come first," Kennedy says.

Because of the large amount of preparation needed for projects such as constructing a convenience store, some efforts may take a while.

One part of potential

delays are the required feasibility studies. It has been estimated that \$10,000 needs to be spent to have an architect survey for a project.

Students who did not fill out the survey can still have their voices heard, according to Kennedy. They can add their input at the beginning of SFF's meetings.



DANIEL SMITH/THE BEHREND BEACON

Many students complained about the small size of the fitness room.

Monday



High: 25°F
Low: 18°F

Cloudy with a slight chance of snow.

Tuesday



High: 34°F
Low: 24°F

Cloudy.

Wednesday



High: 37°F
Low: 25°F

Partly Cloudy.

Thursday



High: 38°F
Low: 26°F

Chance of rain/snow.



Interesting weather fact:

The largest recorded hailstone to fall in the U.S. was 7 inches in diameter; the size of a small cantaloupe. It fell in Aurora, Nebraska.

Weather forecast courtesy of student meteorologist Matt Alto.

World and National News In Brief

By Matthew Schwabenbauer, mjs5387@psu.edu

Boston's "Hummer tax" to put higher fees on gas-guzzling cars



BOSTON – Registration fees may be increased for gas-guzzling cars in Boston, as Governor Deval Patrick is considering a "Hummer tax." The fee would alternatively offer discounts for cars with better fuel mileage which are comparatively less-harmful to the environment.

The new fee is a product of a new transportation plan that Patrick is expected to unveil Friday, Feb 21. The governor also promised that if gas taxes were increased, that toll rates would be frozen.

The tax hopes that more energy-efficient cars will be purchased, which environmentalists hope will stave off global warming.

Experts in the automobile industry claim such a tax would be the first of its kind to originate on the state level.

Source: *The Boston Globe*

Iraq auditors claim missing sums in excess of \$50 billion

BAGHDAD – A criminal investigator for the United States Army is working with the Justice Department to investigate the misuse of a large portion of a \$125 billion sum sent to Iraq for reconstruction after the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

In charge of the operation is the US Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR), who claims the amount may exceed \$50 billion, which would qualify it to be the biggest fraud in the history of the United States.

Currently, the largest fraud in U.S. history is Bernard Madoff's Ponzi scheme, a scheme which stole money from investors.

One circumstance the investigation has uncovered was when US comptroller for south-central Iraq, Robert J. Stein Jr., had \$57.8 million shipped to have himself photographed with. He, among other army officials, have been convicted of fraud and money-laundering.

Source: *The Independent*

Negative backlash from change in Facebook terms of use forces organization to revert to previous license



After changing their terms of use earlier this week, the popular social-networking website, Facebook, were forced to revert to an older contract after negative backlash from their users.

The clause that raised the most concerns from the new terms of use dealt with account cancellation: "You may remove your User Content from the Site at any time. If you choose to remove your User Content, the license granted above will automatically expire, however you acknowledge that the Company may retain archived copies of your User Content," which means Facebook reserved the right to store and use your uploaded content even if you delete your account.

The new terms of use were

put into use on Feb 15 and the old terms were reinstated by Feb 18. The original terms of use, which are currently in use, claims Facebook can use any uploaded content they have.

According to Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, the change to the old terms was due to the company's care of their users concerns. "In reality, we wouldn't share your information in a way you wouldn't want," he said.

Source: *Consumerist.com*

Former Guantanamo Bay prison guard claims U.S. Army condoned torture, sexual abuse

CUBA - After an audit revealed thousands of U.S. army weapons have gone missing, officials fear they may have ended up in the hands of Taliban fighters.

The missing weapons were part of a shipment of 242,000 weapons, which contained rifles, machine guns, pistols, rockets, grenade launchers and mortars. Despite Defense Department policies, no inventory was maintained on the weapons and as much as 1/3 of the shipment could be missing.

The information about the

lost weapons was uncovered when the Associated Press obtained a report that was issued after Kabul was attacked on Wednesday by "heavily armed militants." According to Afghani officials, the attackers were armed with Kalashnikov rifles, grenades, and vests strapped with explosives. A total of 28 people were killed during the attack, including the militants.

Source: *BBC News*

Banker gives \$60 million of his own money to employees



MIAMI – Leonard Abess Jr., a bank owner, gave \$60 million to current and former employees after selling a majority stake in one of his banks. The sold shares were in Miami-based City National Bancshares and were given to tellers, bookkeepers and everyone else on Abess's payroll.

The amount of the bonus

that employees received was based on years of service. Some recipients were given sums in excess of \$100,000.

Abess claimed the large gesture of gratitude toward his employees stemmed from a long time of speculation on ways to reward his employees. Instead of stock option plans, he decided to sell his bank.

"Those people who joined me and stayed with me at the bank with no promise of equity," Abess said. "I sure as heck don't need [the money]."

Source: *Huffington post*

Jury gives man \$2.3 million after hit by train while drunk

NEW YORK - After stumbling into the path of a subway train while in a drunken stupor, a Manhattan man has been awarded \$2.3 million due to losing a leg during the incident.

25-year-old Dustin Dibble had spent the night watching a hockey game at a bar, when he wandered into a subway station and then unknowingly into the path of a moving train.

Source: *CNN*

All photos contributed.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Magician Frank Deville in Bruno's at 9:00 p.m.

LEB Weekly Movie Twilight in Reed 117 at 10:00 p.m.

Drug Education in Junker Center Classroom at 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science Region 10 competition Events throughout campus Begins at 7:30 a.m.

The Influence - Band in Bruno's at 8:00 p.m.

LEB Weekly Movie Twilight in Reed 117 at 10:00 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Ace the Interview: Winning Ways to handle the Tough Questions in REDC 236 at 4:45 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Behrend Idol in Bruno's at 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Cadillac Records in Reed 117 at 9:00 p.m.

Board Games - Night in Junker Center Classroom at 7:30 p.m.

Speech and Debate Club in Lilley Library at 4:30 p.m.

Rhythms of Life Series West African Dance and Drum

in Bruno's at 12:00 p.m.

LEB Weekly Movie Cadillac Records in Reed 117 at 9:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Speaker Series: Dava Sobel in Samuel P. Black III Conference Center in REDC at 7:30 p.m.

Hebrew Children Gospel Concert in Smith Chapel at 6:30 p.m.

LEB Weekly Movie Cadillac Records in Reed 117 at 9:00 p.m.

Astronomy Open House in Mehalso Observatory at 8:30 p.m.