

Rodentia Surrealius Giganticus

New rat species discovered

Meade Heights dig prompts closure, site cordoned off by Feds

By Cathie McCormick Capital Times Editor In Chief

Information became available last week that shines a different light on the need for new dorms and the closing of the PSH Meade Heights residence area.

In a phone call to *The Capital Times* office March 27, an unnamed University Park employee reported seeing a letter from Bruce Babbitt, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior, to PSU President Graham Spanier. According to the source, the letter informed Spanier that UGI employees uncovered fossil remains while repairing a gas leak in the Meade Heights residence area of Penn State Harrisburg early in 1999.

A team of archeologists were discreetly dispatched to the Middletown area and, while disguised as utility workers, gathered sufficient evidence to identify the fossil record.

In the letter, Babbitt reportedly notified Spanier that leading archeologists at the Smithsonian Institution in D.C. determined that the remains represented a new species of the order *Rodentia*.

In keeping with federal regulations designed to protect archeological sites, Babbitt reportedly provided Spanier notice that the federal government was invoking the law of eminent domain and a 1/4-mile area surrounding the discovery must be evacuated and all existing structures destroyed.

Reports concerning a payment by the federal government to the Pennsylvania Department of General Services to replace the residence area are still unconfirmed.

> A scientific study attached to Continued on Page 3

> > Speak-out

Question

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Unlucky 13 skipped Issue rife with faux pas irregardless

By Cathie McCormick Capital Times Editor In Chief

The March 19 issue of *The Capital Times* should have been Volume 41, Number 13. In a superstitious attempt to avoid tempting the gods, the editors

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The rare Hawaiian Rodentia Muridae Tacobellius commonly called by its native name, Chihuahua (Ka hoo a' hoo a).

Rare Hawaiian rat at large in Middletown

Last seen near Eisenhower and Rt. 283

> **By Joanne Catherson** Capital Times Staff Writer

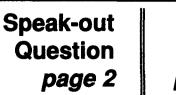
Despite numerous trapping attempts in the past week, an unusual rat continues to terrorize residents in the Meade

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It wasn't even that much-LAYOUT EDITOR ABSCONDS WITH FUNDS Mitchell Bentlev Callegedly spent an undisclosed amount on Davidson Bentley, assistant layout editor of The Capital Sexpensive camera equipment following a frustrating experi-Times, has been charged with embezzlement of unithe ence with the exist-the ing Capital Times versity funds after allegedly making S camera. Bentley was unauthorized purchas • assigned to take phoes with restricted tographs of the play RENTLEY campus newspaper "In Search of Wild Oh, come on give me a break money, university Trilliums." In a police said. statement to campus





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