

Pete Rose

Rose sentenced to 5 months

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Pa. Centre Stage

Sleuth: A 'who done it' English mystery play ends theater season

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Weather

Partly sunny, hot and humid today, with scattered thunderstorms in the afternoon, high 89. Partly cloudy tonight, low 67. More clouds and cooler Saturday and Sunday with scattered showers, highs in the mid 80s.

- Mike Hopkins

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Joab Thomas: An 'academic Bear Bryant'

By MARK E. JONES
and STACY NIEDECKER
Collegian Staff Writers

When the University Board of Trustees votes Monday on presidential finalist Joab L. Thomas, it will vote on a man who accomplished much as the former head of the University of Alabama.

"He was like Bear Bryant, an academic Bear Bryant," said Carl Williams, Alabama's coordinator of admissions and graduate recruitment. "He was like a student and a president at the same time."

Colleagues credit Thomas, president of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa from 1981 to 1988, with improving that university's relations with legislators, the community and industry.

"I don't see how we could have asked for much more unless he developed an anti-gravity machine," said Robert Barfield, dean of Alabama's College of Engineering. "I mean, sure we'd like somebody to wave a magic wand and have an endowment to match Harvard's. But what he did, in the time he had to do it, it's miraculous."



Collegian File Photo

Joab L. Thomas

One of Thomas' notable achievements was the formation of a partnership between Alabama and Rochester Products Tuscaloosa Plant, a General Motors facility on the verge of closing.

Thomas: only nominee to board

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — Joab L. Thomas, announced Wednesday as the finalist for the University presidency, said yesterday his appointment is "a done deal."

"I am the only one the search committee is recommending to the board and I have been told privately that the board will vote unanimously for me," he said.

The University Board of Trustees will vote Monday on Thomas' appointment.

Thomas said the University took the initiative in approaching him and

that the process was a fast one.

"They first made contact in late fall and said I had been nominated," Thomas said. "They didn't say who nominated me and it came as a complete surprise. They asked for a resume and that was the last I heard of them until last month when I interviewed in State College."

"I interviewed a couple of times and then last Monday, the search committee contacted me and said I would be their unanimous recommendation to become the next president," he added.

When he suggested the partnership between the plant and the Colleges of Business and Engineering, workers were already tearing up the equipment, Williams said. The plant had already reduced costs and was unable to maintain a profit.

Thomas promised that if the plant didn't reduce its operating costs by

\$1.5 million, Alabama would pay General Motors that amount, but it was never necessary. Thomas' program saved 202 jobs and \$8 million in taxes.

"We're demonstrating in a very practical way that knowledge has enormous value," Thomas told the *Atlanta Constitution Journal* in 1984. "I wanted to show the general public that universities can

play a significant role in commerce and business and economic development." Today, the plant is one of the most productive in Alabama, Williams said.

"Dr. Thomas' programs were so successful, why would we change them? That's not what we did when Coach Bryant left," Williams said. "We didn't change the name of the team."

Thomas also raised funds from the legislature. That might present a challenge in Pennsylvania, which ranks 47th among the 50 states in funding for public universities, according to 1986 statistics.

"His personal relationship with the legislature was the best I've ever seen," said Billie Fulmer, Alabama's budget director.

Thomas was able to clarify for the legislature why and where funds were most needed, Fulmer said. Although the university's budget was open, that had little impact on state funding, he said. The legislators were most interested in Thomas' explanations of expenditures.

"(The legislature) seemed to understand how all of these things would fit together," he said.

When Thomas began his tenure, Ala-

bama's state appropriation was about \$40 million; now it is just over \$80 million, said Harry Knopke, Thomas' former assistant.

In 1981, Penn State's appropriation was \$133.76 million. Now it is \$252 million.

"We had very poor relations with our legislature, when he became president. When he left, it couldn't have been much better," Barfield said. "We had, frankly, an uncomfortable relationship with the city in which this university resides. But when he left it was very comfortable."

His talent for fund raising allowed Thomas to expand a number of student programs, Williams said.

For example, the number of students in Alabama's scholars program quadrupled during Thomas' time at the university's helm. Qualified students were never turned away because the program had run out of money, Williams said.

Some of that funding went into buildings, including a new fine arts facility dedicated to music and expansion of the university's libraries, now ranked among the top 100 research libraries.

Romanians demand president's resignation

TIMISOARA, Romania (AP) — More than 10,000 people yesterday demanded the resignation of President Ion Iliescu during a demonstration in this western city that gave birth to Romania's anti-Communist revolution.

The protesters, who equated Iliescu with communism, also called on his government to step down and urged the release of a jailed activist.

In a main square of Timisoara, the demonstrators accused Iliescu and his government of a new form of totalitarian rule. They cheered "Down with Communism!" and "Down with Iliescu!"

Iliescu, a former Communist official, won free elections in May, but opponents demanded he step down because of his hard-line past. He has repeatedly said he favors democracy and a free-market economy.

Timisoara is the Transylvania city where street protests touched off a revolution in December against Communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. He and his wife Elena were executed Dec. 25 under orders of a revolutionary tribunal.

In an open letter to the government, the demonstrators yesterday also urged the release of Marian Munteanu, the leader of a 53-day round-the-clock opposition rally broken up by police last month.

Munteanu was later badly beaten by rampaging miners answering an Iliescu call for help against anti-government rioters. She was arrested on suspicion of involvement in the riots.

Earlier yesterday, Iliescu promised university students he would contact the prosecutor general about Munteanu. But he told students seeking Munteanu's release that "it is the task of justice to take a decision" in the case, the state Rompres news agency said.

Munteanu's detention ignited a mass protest July 13, when 20,000 demonstrators marched in Bucharest to demand his release.

The world community harshly criticized Iliescu for the miners' rampage, and the United States and other Western nations cut off all non-humanitarian aid to Romania.

Big Ten students to meet

University hosts student association's session

By MARC HARKNESS
Collegian Staff Writer

Student leaders from Big Ten universities will meet in State College this weekend — their first official meeting with peers from the conference's newest member.

At the request of Penn State's Undergraduate Student Government, the Big Ten Student Association will hold a work session today, tomorrow and Sunday at the Atherton Hilton, 125 S. Atherton St.

"I pushed for it," USG President J.P. Muir said. "It's a good opportunity for us to show that we rightfully belong in it."

Among other things, the association will vote on a chairperson and a logo.

Muir said he hopes student representatives will emerge more united and with a better understanding of student governments at other universities.

University presidents from the Big Ten formally invited Penn State into the conference in June. The conference's main academic body, the Committee for Institutional Cooperation, extended its invitation to Penn State two weeks ago.

At the work session, USG Executive Assistant James Marino, who organized



Collegian File Photo

J.P. Muir

the work session at University Park, will represent Penn State, Muir said.

"James, from the outset, has worked very hard on this," Muir said. "He's the most knowledgeable on the association."

Muir represented Penn State when

"I pushed for it. It's a good opportunity for us to show that we rightfully belong in it."

— J.P. Muir
USG President

the association met in April at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

Students, the press and the public will be able to attend a reception at 3 p.m. today in the Hilton's Regency Room. The group will meet at the hotel's Vanderbilt Room and may vote to hold a news conference after business is completed Sunday, Muir said.

Marino said the association may also discuss publishing a magazine for students at Big Ten universities.

Although Marino will be the only voting representative for Penn State, Muir and USG Vice President Susan Williams will be present and will confer on the vote.

Michael LaFlam, co-director of the Lesbian and Gay Student Association, said he looks forward to discussing the

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AP LaserPhoto

Fireball

A huge fireball explodes over the BASF chemical plant in Cincinnati, Ohio. The explosions yesterday killed one person and injured at least 63 others while shattering windows in houses and businesses up to a quarter-mile away. There were reports of a second death but could not confirm it and at least one person is missing.

Churches criticize advertisement

By MARC HARKNESS
Collegian Staff Writer

Centre region churches that took out a full-page advertisement criticizing the University for promoting homosexuality have little understanding of issues facing gay men and lesbians at Penn State, said an LGSA co-director.

"Yes, you're doing this because you

care about people, but you're doing something that hurts people," said Michael LaFlam, political co-director of the Lesbian and Gay Student Alliance.

Eight ministers, representing six Bible and Baptist churches in State College and surrounding communities, bought a page of Sunday's *Centre Daily Times* to publish an open letter to the Board of Trustees.

The letter, signed by 777 people, protested a Penn State advertisement depicting LGSA members that ran in January. The January ad said gay men and lesbians should not have to pretend to be heterosexual.

"We protest this promotion of homosexuality as an acceptable lifestyle on several grounds," the ministers said in their response, citing

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University not affected by English fluency law; teaching assistant evaluations already required

By MARIBEL CRUZ
Collegian Staff Writer

A new state law requiring universities to guarantee instructors' English fluency will not have much impact at Penn State because the University has been evaluating fluency since 1981, said C. Gregory Knight, vice provost and dean of undergraduate affairs.

The law, signed by Gov. Robert P. Casey two weeks ago, imposes a \$10,000 fine for each course taught by a faculty

member or teaching assistant not certified in English fluency. Currently, the University does not require professors to take a fluency exam before they begin teaching, said Karen Johnson, assistant professor of speech communications and coordinator of the teaching assistant program.

But departments do evaluate the fluency of those applying for faculty positions at the University.

"Normally they have to give a seminar or an oral presentation when they are applying for a position," Knight said

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