

Collegian Briefs

Ribbons available to show diversity

University students can support cultural diversity by picking up a ribbon in the HUB basement today as a part of Unity Week's Rainbow Ribbon Day.

The Undergraduate Student Government's Forum for Underrepresented Groups and Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, are sponsoring this week's events. Alpha Phi Alpha first proposed the idea to the forum several months ago and most members of the forum agreed to have their groups sponsor events, said Liz Walker, USG administrative assistant.

Walker said one of the more important events of the week was the Open Forum Town Meeting held last night to create an open dialogue about current issues such as diversity, homophobia, racism and sexism.

Black Caucus Vice President Gerard Louison expressed some concerns about the week.

"The concept is good, but it needs a lot of work," Louison said. "Issues of unity and struggle are much more far reaching than most people think. You need to find out what motivates a person, what makes them tick. Then you can approach them."

Although Louison gave his support as a representative for Black Caucus to help sponsor events, including yesterday's seminar with the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Students Alliance, he said he does not believe placing two minority groups in a room creates unity.

He said it is necessary for groups to assert their own identities first and then unite with other minorities.

As Minority Unity events include: Alpha Phi Alpha's Comedy Night at 6 tonight in the Happy Valley Brewery, 452 E. College Ave.; Terrell Jones, special assistant to the vice provost for underrepresented groups, will speak at 7 tomorrow night on diversity in 112 Kern; and a unity party celebration will be held from 7 to 10 Friday night in the Pollock Rec Room.

Panel to discuss abortion, adoption

Penn State Students for Life will sponsor a panel discussion of students with experiences with abortion, adoption and parenthood at 7 tonight in 212 Eisenhower Chapel. The talk is part of Human Life Awareness Week.

Speech to address sexuality in film, MTV

E. Ann Kaplan, director of the Humanities Institute of the State University of New York in Stony Brook, will talk about "Images of Sexuality in Recent Films and MTV" at 8 tonight in 101 Kern.

The speech, part of Women's History Month, is sponsored by the Women's Studies Department, the School of Communications, the Institute for the Arts and Humanistic Studies and the Center for Women Students.

"Women and Spirituality" subject of talk

Kay Waslohn, staff assistant for the Center for Women Students, will talk about "Women and Spirituality: Implications of a Male Deity" at noon today in 120 Boucke. Waslohn's speech is part of the brown bag lunch series sponsored by the Center for Women Students.

Spread the word

If any group, organization or individual has information they would like printed about an upcoming event, please deliver it to The Daily Collegian at least one week prior to the event. Our address is listed below.

University considering option of voice mail in residence halls

By KAREN GUTH
Collegian Staff Writer

The University is studying the possibility of offering students voice mail, a computerized answer and message system, a telecommunications official said.

Voice mail is a system that allows people to leave messages and have their phone answered without talking directly to the other person, said Jeff Kuhns, director of voice and administrative services at the Office of Telecommunications.

Students calling someone with voice mail will hear a message asking the caller to press a certain number for a specific function — instead of waiting for a tone. If the caller leaves a message, it will be stored in a central computer bank where it can be retrieved later.

Late last semester the French department used a voice mail program funded by the Office of Telecommunications, said Mary Anne Lyman-

Hager, assistant professor of French.

With voice mail, teaching assistants leave messages including French oral assignments for the students to respond to immediately or to answer later in class.

Lyman-Hager said even though the French department is still studying how TAs use the system to communicate with their students, it definitely helps students improve their oral skills.

"The TAs are all really excited about it," she said.

The expanded system would be provided by a non-University company as a subscription with a monthly or semester billing method, Kuhns said. But he said the cost of the technology has not yet been determined.

"There are all kinds of variables," he said. "But at this point it could range from \$4 to \$10 a month."

Lyman-Hager also said the program could be expensive.

"If (the program) weren't funded by telecommunications it would usual-

ly cost \$8 per TA per month," she said.

The proposal has received a mixed reaction among members of the Association of Residence Hall Students.

North Halls President Marsha Pratt said she discussed the option with her council earlier and most thought the program was not necessary.

South Halls president Joe Milazzo said his council liked the concept, but thought it was too expensive.

If there is an interest in the technology, Kuhns said, it can be expanded in several ways, including the possibility of access for off-campus students, and a way to "broadcast" messages. Students could record one message to be transmitted to many different people, he said. Lyman-Hager said she uses this broadcasting technique to communicate with the TAs.

"In a large institution it's easy for students to fall through cracks — even with excellent support groups and advisers — because of schedules and size," Lyman-Hager said. "This offers a way to interact directly."

Naturalists help protect amphibians

AMHERST, Mass. (AP) — Spring doesn't officially arrive until later this week, but Amherst's salamanders are already on the move.

And in what has become a spring rite in this college town, about a dozen people gathered Monday night to ensure the spotted salamanders got safely through special salamander-scale tunnels under a road to their breeding grounds.

Before the town installed the tunnels in 1988, salamander supporters had stood guard, stopping traffic, to keep them from harm.

Thomas Tynning, a master naturalist with the Massachusetts Audubon Society, called it a good first night. About two dozen of the navy blue amphibians with yellow polka dots stepped out smartly — for salamanders — in the 44 degree temperatures.

It takes 10 to 15 minutes for a seven-inch long salamander to cross the road in warm rain, Tynning said. "If the temperature drops, they show to a crawl — that is, even more of a crawl."

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Collegian Notes

Students and Youths Against Racism will sponsor a speech titled "A Saga of Shame: The Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal" by Jeanne Henderson of the Quixote Center for Equal Justice at 7 tonight in 265 Willard.

The Alliance Christian Fellowship will host guest speaker Janna Greenfield, a missionary nurse from Zaire, Africa, at its meeting at 7 tonight in the Eisenhower Chapel Frizzell Room.

Kappa Alpha Psi will hold a fundraiser basketball game at 7 tonight in White.

The Penn State Conservative Club will meet at 8 tonight in 304 Willard.

The International Student Council will meet at 7:30 tonight in 225 HUB.

Colloquy will meet at 7 tonight in 227 HUB.

USG Legal Affairs will hold roundtable at 5:30 today in 203 HUB and will hold a staff meeting at 6 tonight in 323 HUB.

Penn State Pro-Choice and USG Department of Women's Concerns will hold a "meet the candidates night" at 8:30 tonight in 201 Rackley.

How To Contact Us

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10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday
These office hours are in effect while classes are in session during Fall Semester, Spring Semester, and Summer Session.

Corrections

A brief in yesterday's edition of The Daily Collegian incorrectly stated the date for a lecture. Helen Alvare, spokeswoman for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, will speak on "Social Policy for Women: The Life Issues in the Catholic Church" at 7:30, March 26 in 112 Kern.

A news article in yesterday's edition of The Daily Collegian misspelled the name of a citizen quoted in the article and misstated his address. Richard Gesell lives at 894 Grace St.

If you have a correction and cannot reach the responsible reporter, editor or department, please ask for Ted M. Sickler, editor.

Truck gasoline vapor restrictions approved

HARRISBURG (AP) — A state environmental board yesterday approved regulations that require tanker trucks to stop gasoline vapors from escaping into the air when they fill storage tanks.

Arthur Davis, Pennsylvania environmental resources secretary, said the rules will help the state meet federal air quality standards by reducing ozone pollutants.

The Environmental Quality Board said the rules impose vapor recovery controls on gasoline storage tanks across the state.

The new rules, likely to take effect in about two months, will expand what's already in effect for the Philadelphia,

Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and Allentown-Bethlehem-Easton areas.

The rules cover vapors released when gasoline is pumped from tanker trucks into storage tanks. Vapors must be collected back into the truck and later disposed of at a distribution terminal.

The change is expected to cost between \$500 and \$1,000 per tanker truck, said Mary Ellen Bolish, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Environmental Resources.

At its next meeting in April, the quality board will vote on requiring vapor control nozzles on gasoline pumps.

The 21-member board reviews and approves DER regulations.

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Meet The Author



Londa Schiebinger is Assistant Professor of History, Pennsylvania State University.

Londa Schiebinger

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