

Camping

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 returned to the line later that same night.
 "We figured it out that we would spend just over 100 hours in line for this game," said T.J. Lamphere (freshman-math).
 The patient students fill their hours with games of Risk, listening to music, talking about sports, trying to sleep and even occasionally trying to do their homework.
 The students do admit that at times it is difficult to complete their work. And trying to study for tests while they are waiting is occasionally impossible due to the weather.
 "It was so windy on Sunday that I wouldn't even get out of my sleeping bag," Flinn said.
 Even parents are questioning their children's actions. Lamphere's mother called him and wanted to know if waiting in line is why he has a C+ in English.
 But these fans are dedicated and classes are not a deterrent in any way from trying to remain in the front row for the basketball games.
 "I do this for a couple reasons.

College basketball is my life. I love it. And I'm not all there upstairs," Plummer said.
 He's not alone in his dedication. There is even competition between the groups to try to outwit each other and get to the very front of the line. Lamphere said that it is nearly an addiction.
 "There is nothing like sitting in the front row of a Penn State game," he said. "Once you get there once, you can never go back."
 As the regular season comes to a close, it does not mean the end of waiting for many students.
 They are already making plans for the upcoming NCAA tournament.
 "We've already been on the computer figuring out mileage and times for driving," Lamphere said.
 Plummer was quick to add, "We're not driving, we're flying."
 If for some reason these students should have flight delays or should be continually stuck in traffic while trying to get to the tournament, their hours in front of the center will have them prepared.
 These fans are ready.

Testimony

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 \$4.5 million by cutting spending on corrections and welfare.
 Spanier will testify before the state House Appropriations Committee during spring break. The legislature will then discuss the issue and have a budget ready by the June 30 deadline.
 Yesterday was Spanier's first time testifying before the committee and unlike former presidents, he was the only one who spoke. Past presidents had several top administrators sit with them to answer questions for the committee in their areas of expertise.
 Several senior administrators made the trip to Harrisburg with Spanier, but sat in the audience while he testified. They included Executive Vice President and Provost John Brighton, Senior Vice President for Finance Gary Schultz and Executive Director of University Relations Stephen MacCarthy.
 Spanier said the main reason for having one person testify was the limited time the University has to plead its case for more funding and answer questions.

"I didn't feel it was necessary to have an entourage," he said.
 Another difference this year was that no University students came to the hearings.
 Last year, former Undergraduate Student Government President Mike King and three other USG members went to Harrisburg. After the hearings, they met with the state secretary of education and several state senators to tell the representatives how they would be personally affected by limited state funding.
 USG President Kara Annechini was unavailable for comment about why no one went to Harrisburg this year.
 Council of Commonwealth Student Government members had planned to go this year, but their plans fell through. Jason Getz, CCSG director of government affairs, said the members had trouble getting a car and had midterm exams yesterday. Getz went to Harrisburg last year during the hearings.
 "I was disappointed that we didn't end up going," he said.

University alters graduation dates

Ceremonies set for after finals

By LISA HAARLANDER
Collegian Staff Writer
 Students and their families will no longer have to drive back to State College after final exams in January and August for commencement ceremonies.
 Beginning Fall Semester 1996, all fall and summer commencement ceremonies will be held immediately after final exams. Spring Semester commencement will not change and will take place one week after finals.

The change will also affect Penn State Erie and Penn State Harrisburg because they are two Commonwealth Campuses that regularly hold fall and summer commencement, said Christy Rambeau, University news bureau manager.
 Because grades from exams will not be complete at the time of commencement, the University will mail the actual diplomas to students a few weeks later, said John Romano, vice provost for enrollment, management and administration. He said he did not expect to have a problem with students attending the ceremony and then not actually graduating.

Summer Session commencements are changed because the University is starting Summer Session one week later so that high school seniors can attend their own graduation ceremonies, Romano said. Commencement ceremonies were held immediately after finals during the last Summer Session, and the change is now permanent.
 Because summer session is starting a week later, commencement will be held at the end of finals week, Romano said.

"They weren't getting out of high school in time to enroll in the University," he said.
 But the University changed the date of Fall Semester commencements for a different reason, Romano said.
 "The weather patterns in January are less favorable than the weather patterns in December," he said. "Students had to make an extra trip back to the University to participate in commencement in January, and obviously for lots of reasons, any number didn't do that."
 Fall Semester 1996 commencement will take place Dec. 15, the Sunday after finals, in the Bryce Jordan Center. The ceremony was originally scheduled for Jan. 11. Summer Session 1996 commencement will take place Aug. 10 in the

Congratulations

The University has moved Fall Semester and Summer Session commencement so they will take place immediately after finals. Here are the dates and times:
Spring Semester 1996 (no change)
 May 11 and 12
Ceremonies are organized by college and take place at different locations.
Summer Session 1996
 Aug. 10
 10:30 a.m. for undergraduates
Bryce Jordan Center
Fall Semester 1996
 Dec. 15
Bryce Jordan Center
Caps and gowns
Penn State Bookstore
 March 11-16
 Tables in the lobby
 cost \$18.95 last year
Student Book Store
 always available
 costs \$17.95
Source: University Relations and individual stores
 Collegian Graphic/Jaime Alcaro

center. Commencement this spring is still scheduled for May 10 and 11.
 Final exam scheduling will not be affected by the change, Romano said.
 Heather Kingdom (junior-film and video) worried that having commencement and finals in the same week would be hectic. But she said knowing about the change now, she and her family have time to adjust their travel plans.
 "I guess it would be beneficial if, after you take your exams, you graduate," she said.
 David Sabol (junior-recreation parks management) was also worried about having to deal with exams and graduation in the same week.
 "I think it would be nice after finals, but then you have to worry about everything at once," he said. "It would be nice if there were a week. It gives you time to prepare."
 But Jeremy Clemens (freshman-chemistry) said having commencement immediately after finals eliminates having students and their families search for a place to stay after apartment leases and dorm contracts end.
 "You have to pay money to stay at the Nittany Lion Inn or something," he said. "It's not really fair to make them come back and not have a place to stay."

Press

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 problems," Williams said.
 Thomas agreed and said journalists are trying to find out what is happening because the public has a right to know. Information is often controlled and difficult to obtain, she added.
 "You can keep (presidents) in a cage and you can keep them away from the press, but you deny the American people," she said.

Thomas also discussed the definition and role of a journalist.
 "To be a journalist, you have the role of getting information and transmitting it to the public as fairly as possible and as objective as possible within human limits," Thomas said. "I think it can be done."
 Some students who attended the discussion said it was interesting and worthwhile.

"It was very interesting to hear the different perspectives," said Ben Sweet (junior-public relations). "I was surprised to hear that every panelist thought the relationship between the press and the president had gone downhill in the past 20 years."
 Powell said the relationship between the media and politicians seems to have soured.
 "I don't suppose there's ever

been a press secretary who thought the press did well by the president," he said. "But as bad as I thought things were then, it seems worse (now)."
 Shannon Gosnell said she has a speech communications class in which she heard some of the stories the panelists told last night.
 "I thought it was excellent," said Gosnell (senior-speech communications).

Teen who helped kill Polec gets 5 to 20

By JEFFREY BRODEUR
Associated Press Writer
 PHILADELPHIA — After listening stone-faced to Eddie Polec's family say they could never forgive him, the Abington teen-ager who struck the first blow with a baseball bat in Polec's beating death was sentenced yesterday to five to 20 years in prison.
 Kevin Convey, who pleaded guilty to third-degree murder in exchange for his testimony against six other defendants in the Nov. 11, 1994, beating, had nothing to say and showed no emotion as Common Pleas Court Judge Patricia Cutler Greenspan sentenced him to the terms laid out in the bargain.
 The 19-year-old's family and friends sat just behind the defense table, his mother often wiping away tears, but Convey did not look at them when he entered or left the courtroom.

When Eddie Polec's father, John, walked to the middle of the courtroom and told Greenspan he would like to address Convey, the teen turned and looked directly at the man as he stood just feet away.
 Reporters and observers leaned forward in their seats and the courtroom grew quiet as the soft-spoken Polec addressed Convey for the first time.
 "Since Nov. 11, 1994, I have tried to figure out why my son was murdered. I've realized I'm never going to get an answer," Polec said. "I believe your actions that night led to my son's death. . . . We can never forgive you for that. But unlike the other six people, you testified, and we will never forget that either."
 Teen-agers from a rival high school in suburban Abington jumped Eddie Polec to avenge insults and get even for a rumored assault on an Abington girl. She

later acknowledged she was never assaulted.
 Convey testified he was the first to jump out of a car and set upon Polec. He said he swung a baseball bat, causing Polec to trip and fall then stood over him and struck him in the legs and arms as a mob joined in.
 According to witnesses, three other teen-agers wielded bats and left Polec bleeding from seven skull fractures on the steps of St. Cecilia's Roman Catholic Church in Philadelphia, where he had served as an altar boy.
 The three, Nick Pinero, 18, Anthony Rienzi, 18, and Thomas Crook, 19, were convicted of third-degree murder on Feb. 5.
 The jury convicted Dawan Alexander, 18, of voluntary manslaughter. Witnesses said he kicked Polec.
 Bou Khathavong, 18, and Carlo Johnson, 20 — two defendants who

no witnesses said beat Polec — were cleared of all homicide charges.
 All six were convicted of conspiracy and are scheduled to be sentenced on March 19.
 Kathy Polec, Eddie's mother, told Convey she'd like to think he "did the honorable thing" by testifying and was sorry for his actions.
 "But I think human nature being what it is, you needed to survive. And you saw that this was first-degree murder and you saw the chance to survive with this plea," she said.
 Polec's 15-year-old brother, Billy, and sister, Kristie, 20, also spoke before the sentencing.
 Convey's attorney, Joseph Kelly, said his client was moved by the statements and extremely remorseful for his role in the slaying, but told him he could not make a statement to the family in open court.

Lottery winner builds drug fortune

LANCASTER (AP) — Jesus Medina Tirado won as much as \$200,000 in the lottery. But he didn't retire, he went into business instead — the cocaine business.
 With the sentencing Monday of the last of three of Tirado's suppliers, police revealed the tale of a lucky winner who went on to set up an enterprise that pumped \$2.25 million worth of cocaine into Lancaster County.
 Police said the first thing the 51-year-old Tirado did after hitting the jackpot in 1985 was to quit his job at a sheet metal fac-

tory. After that, he paid off his house, bought a van, several motorcycles and a mobile home in rural Conroy Township on two acres of land.
 The mobile home became the headquarters for his new business, dividing up the cocaine he bought from 1991 to 1994 from three New York City men for delivery in western Lancaster County, police said.
 In total, police estimate that the amount of cocaine Tirado purchased and sold before he was arrested in April 1994 was at the very least 33 pounds — worth

\$2.25 million on the streets.
 "For Lancaster he was a big drug dealer," Assistant U.S. Attorney Kim Douglas Daniel said yesterday. "And he was in business a long time."
 It wasn't immediately clear what lottery Tirado hit.
 Pennsylvania Lottery Director Charles Kline said there was no record of a large win by Tirado in 1985. He speculated that the date Tirado gave authorities was off, or that he won in another state.
 Either way, the case is unusual, Kline said.

Boy, 11, goes on shooting spree with rifle

By MATTHEW FORDAHL
Associated Press Writer
 SAN DIEGO — An 11-year-old boy dressed in a friar's robe fired a rifle at cable workers, joggers and beauty shop patrons yesterday before shooting a guard who held the sixth-grader for police, authorities said.
 The security guard was shot in the hand, but no one else was injured in the crime spree in San Diego's usually quiet Clairemont district, said police spokesman Bill Robinson.
 The 4-foot, 50-pound boy was taken to Juvenile Hall where police will hold him for investigation of at least three counts of attempted

"At first we thought it was a BB gun or something. When he started firing, we realized it was a .22."
 — Juan Castellanos
 cable worker

murder and armed robbery. His identity was not released because of his age.
 "We don't have an exact motive for this spree," said Robinson, adding the boy seemed as if he may have been under medication.

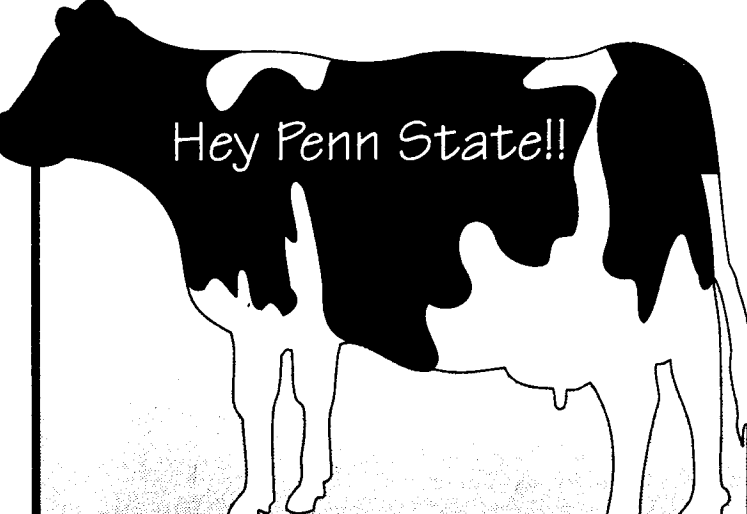
The boy showed up to school yesterday morning, although he told school nurses he felt sick. His mother left work to pick him up but then left him at home after it appeared he was not too ill, Robinson said.
 Within an hour, the boy shaved his head, put on the robe and gray ski mask, and found his father's .22 caliber rifle, police said. It was not clear why he shaved his head or wore the robe.
 The boy initially approached a group of cable workers, who thought the gun-toting boy was pulling a prank — until he fired two shots at them, Robinson said. One of the shots was deflected by a shovel.

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