

Dateline

Clinton asks Congress to amend abortion law

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Sports

Lisicky for three...

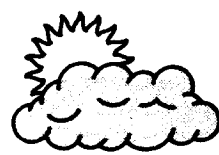
Pete Lisicky's three-point marksmanship shoots down hapless Northwestern

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Weather

March comes in like a lion. Today, partly cloudy and not as windy, high 27. Tonight, clear and cold, low 10. Tomorrow, sunny start with afternoon clouds, high 23.

— by Paul Markowski



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Penn State wrestler safely escapes Cuban crisis

By JONATHAN BOMBULIE
Collegian Sports Writer

When Kerry McCoy traveled to Cuba for an international wrestling tournament last weekend, he said the members of the U.S. contingent joked about getting stuck on the island nation.

By Saturday night, the wrestlers' inside joke almost became a horrifying reality.

On Saturday, Cuban Migs shot down two Cessna aircraft belonging to a Miami-based organization that transports Cuban refugees to the United States.

On Sunday, McCoy, a heavyweight who is taking the semester off from Penn State's wrestling team to train for the Olympics, competed in the tournament as

scheduled, finishing third out of a group of competitors from eight nations.

On Monday, the group of wrestlers caught the last flight out of Cuba before the ban on commercial flights took effect.

"I'm just glad to be back," McCoy said with a laugh.

When word of the incident first made its way to the wrestlers, they were asleep in their hotel room in a town about two-and-a-half hours outside Havana. McCoy was rooming with 105-pounder Eric Albarracin and gold-medal winning super-heavyweight Bruce Baumgartner. The call came from Albarracin's sister at 2:30 in the morning.

"(Albarracin) told us that two American planes were shot down and we thought he

Clinton agrees to new Cuban sanctions

— page 5

was making it up," McCoy said. "Then Bruce called home and we started finding out a little bit more."

While the details began to trickle in, McCoy said the wrestlers did not fully understand the gravity of the situation. During the tournament on Sunday, McCoy said the event's organizers and the surrounding residents were nothing less than hospitable.

"We weren't worried when we were

there," McCoy said. "If we had known how serious it was, we probably would have been more worried."

One person who was worried, however, was McCoy's mother, Gretchen Cisco. When she awoke Sunday morning at her home in Middle Island, N.Y., she heard the news on CNN, but did not know at which hotel her son was staying.

"I just prayed and waited," Cisco said. "I had maybe 10 or 12 calls from people trying to find out if they were safe. It seemed like half the community was calling."

After the tournament, the wrestlers made the trip back to Havana in preparation for their flight out the next day. McCoy said the proclamation to end

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Courtesy of Penn State

Kerry McCoy

left Cuba on the last flight out



AP Photo

Hands across Cuba

Students at the Jose Marti Military Technical Academy, where Fidel Castro studied as a youth, clasp hands yesterday while singing during a rally at the academy in Havana, Cuba. The rally focused on Cuba's downing the aircraft that entered Cuban airspace Saturday.

Shuster petitions' validity confirmed

By JIM KINNEY
and MELISSA STUTZMAN
Collegian Staff Writers

In an unexpected turn of events, state Sen. John Peterson, R-Pleasantville, dropped his court challenge of Bob Shuster's candidacy yesterday.

Despite the fact that Peterson said he could produce a signed affidavit from the Shuster campaign admitting forgery, the Commonwealth Court would not let him amend his case.

Peterson said he did not have enough time to fully review the petitions before he filed the original complaint. His office did not get a copy of the petitions until Thursday evening, he said, and the complaint had to be filed by Tuesday.

"We only really got a day to study it," he said.

Peterson is running against Shuster for the seat in the 5th Congressional District that will be vacated by U.S. Rep. Bill Clinger, R-Warren. The other two Republican candidates are Patrick Conway and Daniel Gordeuk.

Peterson filed the petition on Feb. 20, challenging the validity of 292 of the more than 1,200 signatures Shuster received. On Feb. 23, Peterson submitted an amendment to the original challenge that questioned the validity of another 610 signatures.

"Unfortunately, our attorney felt we had a right to amend our petition, but the Court did not allow it," he said. "With the new evidence not being a part of the Court case we felt it was not worth the time and money."

Peterson said the new evidence is very convincing.

"If we would have been allowed to proceed with this," he said, "he definitely would not have had 1,000."

That evidence includes an affidavit from a Shuster campaign worker admitting that at least four of their nominating petitions were notarized with forged signatures, Peterson said. The affidavit came to him from Shuster's attorney, he said.

But Shuster said the affidavit was signed by Donald Bloose of Jefferson County and that it did not admit to any forged signatures.

Bloose circulated petitions for Shuster in Jefferson County with the aid of his son, Shuster said. After making a trip to State College and talking things over with the notary who notarized the petition, Bloose asked his son to sign the petition because he was being called away for work-related reasons, Shuster said.

"It was through a power-of-attorney, and that's perfectly legitimate," Shuster said.

But even if every one of the petitions that Bloose circulated were thrown out, Shuster said he would still possess enough signatures to be on the ballot.

In a news release, Peterson said he felt Shuster won on a technicality.

But Shuster said that such an allegation is illegitimate, much like the original charge.

"The technicality is that these people are registered voters who can and did sign my petitions," Shuster said. "The technicality is that the facts are in my favor, the law is in my favor, and that's a big

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Red Lobster conditionally approved

By JENNIFER FABRY
and JEN SOVA
Collegian Staff Writers

At its meeting last night, the Patton Township Board of Supervisors granted conditional approval for Red Lobster to build a new restaurant on North Atherton Street opposite Vairo Boulevard.

Waters and Associates, the law firm representing Red Lobster, was given permission to construct the restaurant if Red Lobster redesigns its plans for storm water drainage, builds a two-lane driveway to the restaurant according to township standards and pays for an update to an existing traffic light.

"We are pleased that the conditions can be complied with," said Steve Hurvitz, attorney for Waters and Associates.

He said that his client is willing to meet the

requirements outlined by the township.

Thomas Kurtz, Patton Township manager, outlined his philosophy for development of the site.

"We expect developers to build the road piece by piece," Kurtz said. "It doesn't mean that the taxpayers have to pay for a road that will benefit three properties."

One of the major sticking points with the property is how the storm water will be treated. Options include building a pipe under U.S. Route 322, constructing underground storage tanks or creating water retention ponds, all of which are costly alternatives. Red Lobster has yet to finalize a plan on how to deal with this situation.

Red Lobster is still waiting to hear from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation about whether or not they would be required to build a right turning lane onto their property. If

PennDot requires the lane, Red Lobster would not build on the property, Hurvitz said.

"If PennDot were to indicate that we would be required to put in a right lane, then we're not going to see a Red Lobster," Hurvitz said.

Patton Township officials expressed concern about traffic congestion and storm drainage if other properties were to be developed around the planned Red Lobster site.

Township Supervisor Elliot Abrams stressed that the commission must try to balance the present costs on developers as well as the future costs on new developers and taxpayers.

One student seemed excited about the prospect of a Red Lobster coming to the area.

"I like seafood," said Jennifer O'Brien (junior-communication disorders). "You can't get good seafood around here unless you cook it yourself."

Student panel meets to discuss diversity issues

By AMY BROSEY
Collegian Staff Writer

A diverse group of students got together last night to discuss racism, sexism, homophobia and the role of whites in multiculturalism.

The program, titled "Whites and Multiculturalism: What is the Connection?" included a panel discussion and question-and-answer session. The discussion was organized by Elisha Nixon, an adviser and counselor in the multicultural resource center, and Jon Hurst, director of Pollock Halls Residence Life.

The panel consisted of seven students from organizations such as the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Student Alliance, Undergraduate Student Government and Project Growth, and was made up of men and women of different races.

Nixon, who also acted as moderator, said the program was created to discuss ways in which whites can connect with multiculturalism and to challenge the assumption that multiculturalism excludes whites.

One panelist, Aaron Matusick, a member of USG, said what multiculturalism means to him is different cultures getting to know each other, but that it also means having a sense of activism and getting involved.

Brent Lapp, a member of Project Growth as well as a panelist, stressed the importance of multiculturalism in education, saying that an educated person should be able to see issues from many different viewpoints.

"Operating in a multicultural environment makes a person more intelligent," he said.

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Collegian Photo/Ian Sherman

Karen Bower, left, member of several disability groups as well as LGBSA, answers a question at the multiculturalism panel discussion held last night in the Pollock Piano Lounge. Members of various student organizations came together to discuss the role of whites in multiculturalism.

By ANNE SAVANICK
Collegian Staff Writer

Four men were bound over by District Justice Carmine Prestia yesterday on various charges. Each will have a criminal pre-trial conference May 28.

Amin Robinson, 21, of 836 Bellaire Ave. was bound over on numerous charges of possession and possession with intent to deliver controlled substances, including marijuana, cocaine and heroine, according to court documents.

Robinson rented a hotel room in which Rhonda Aughey, 23, of 333 Logan Ave. was found dead last week. The results of the toxicology tests conducted on Aughey revealed that her body tested positive for cocaine, marijuana, morphine and Benzodiazepine, according to a press release from Centre County Coroner Kerry Benninghoff.

According to the release, the toxicology tests did not reveal the exact cause of death.

William Bruce Gish, Jr., 27, of Hatfield was bound over on the following charges: Four counts of delivery of a controlled substance; three counts each of endangering

the welfare of minors, corruption of minors, furnishing or selling liquor or malt-brewed beverages to minors and obscene and other sexual materials; two counts of recklessly endangering the welfare of others; and one count of possession with intent to deliver Valium, according to court documents.

The charges stem from Nov. 24 and 25, 1995 and Nov. 25 and 26, 1995 incidents in Lemont.

Nicholas A. Torrens, 18, of Holland was bound over on two counts each of aggravated indecent assault and indecent assault, and one count each of criminal trespass and harassment, according to court documents.

The charges are the result of Feb. 2 incidents in 518 Heister Hall.

Also before Prestia, Brian P. Womelsdorf, 21, of 415 W. College Ave. was bound over on charges of aggravated assault, simple assault, recklessly endangering the welfare of others, resisting arrest, disorderly conduct, public drunkenness, four counts of criminal mischief and three counts of harassment.

The charges are the result of a Feb. 24 incident at MinitMart, 106 N. Atherton St.