



Dateline

Serbs escape fires in Sarajevo suburb, defense forces accused of inadequacy

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Sports

Battle rages on

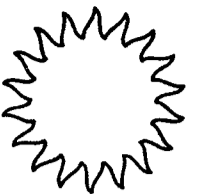
Grapplers achieve good, bad and ugly at Big Ten championships

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Weather

March came in like a penguin. Today, sunny and chilly after a very nippy start, high 33. Tonight, mostly clear, low 16. Tomorrow, partly cloudy, high 40.

— by Paul Markowski



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30°

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We are: Tournament bound



Collegian Photo/Hector Caro

Players from the men's basketball team together with staff and friends watched the announcement of their seeding positions last night on CBS at the Bryce Jordan Center Founder's Room. The Nittany Lions were not surprised with their No. 5 seed.

Lady Lions earn No.2 spot again

This year, Rene Portland hopes to take her team further than the hardwood of Happy Valley.

By GEOFF MOSHER
Collegian Sports Writer

Last year, the Lady Lion basketball team won the Big Ten title and earned a No. 2 seed in the Midwest regional, getting the chance to play their first two games at home.

Things are looking very similar in 1996.

After conquering the Big Ten tournament for the second consecutive year, the No. 9 Lady Lions (25-6) earned a No. 2 seed in the West region of the NCAA tournament.

The Lady Lions host Mid-Continent Conference champs Youngstown State, the No. 15 seed, at 8:30 p.m. on Friday in the Bryce Jordan Center. The first game will be between Texas A&M (20-11) and Kent (23-6) at 6:30 p.m. The winners of each game play in the second round game at 6:30 on Sunday.

Lady Lion coach Rene Portland hopes not everything in 1996 is similar. Penn State took an early exit in last year's tourney when N.C. State point guard Tammy Gibson drove the length of the court and scored a layup in transition with time running out.

"Our goal is to get out of State College," Portland said.

If the Lady Lions win their first two games, they will advance to the Sweet 16 on March 23 in Seattle. "You have to get the ice pick out of your heart one day," Portland said. "This is the time."

The West regional is certainly not the strongest. Stanford (25-2), the nation's 4th-ranked team, earned the region's top seed. Colorado (25-8) gets the third seed and Alabama (22-6) the fourth. "The toughest is where Vanderbilt is, ours is do-able" Portland said. Vanderbilt (20-7) is the No. 3 seed in the Midwest region, which boasts six top-25 teams, including No. 2 Connecticut (30-3), No. 8 Iowa (25-3), No. 13 Duke (25-6), No. 15 Florida (21-8) and No. 17 Wisconsin (20-7).

The No. 1 nationally ranked team, Louisiana Tech (28-1), gets the No. 1 seed in the Midwest and No. 4 Tennessee (26-4) gets the No. 1 seed in the East.

The upcoming tournament will be the last chance for Lady Lion seniors Tina Nicholson, Kim Calhoun and Katina Mack to bring home a national championship. Portland feels the play of seniors will dictate how the team fares.

"I never realized the importance of the seniors until they didn't do a good job in the Iowa game," Portland said, recalling the Lady Lions' 12-point loss to the Hawkeyes. "I do believe that they can take us to that special place."

That special place being Charlottesville, Va., the site of the College, Portland said. Please see WOMEN, Page 7.

Lions earn bid to Big Dance

By MICHAEL SIGNORA
Collegian Sports Writer

After a lengthy hiatus from college basketball's biggest party, Penn State is going dancing again.

The Lions (21-6) earned an at-large bid to the NCAA tournament yesterday and are seeded No. 5 in the East Region, squaring off with No. 12 Arkansas (18-12) on Thursday in Providence, R.I.

"I think it's a tremendous thing for us and our program," Athletic Director Tim Curley said.

"We set our goal to be competitive on a national basis year in and year out and hopefully this is the first step in making postseason activity the norm."

The invitation to the Big Dance marks Penn State's first trip to the tournament since 1991 when the Lions upset UCLA before succumbing to Eastern Michigan in the second round.

Coach Jerry Dunn, an assistant to Bruce Parkhill the last time Penn State made the field of 64, was especially excited for the senior class.

"These guys have given an awful lot of them-

selves and in particular Matt Gaudio, who's suffered through back surgery and come back to perhaps live out a dream," Dunn said.

"Donovan Williams and Glenn Sekunda have really contributed a great deal, as well as Chris Rogers. He was a walk-on and its got to be something special for him to be a part of this."

For Dunn, gaining a bid to the NCAA tournament in his first year as a head coach could be the exclamation point in an outstanding season for Penn State basketball.

After going undefeated in the brand new Please see MEN, Page 7.

Students request grant extentions

By LISA HAARLANDER
Collegian Staff Writer

For many students, affording college is difficult. But for some, it is a fight to the death between a limited checking account and college expenses.

Keith Magasich (junior-computer science) would not be able to attend the University if it was not for a combination of federal and state grants, loans and a job.

"It was a life-long dream to come to this school," said Magasich, who spent eight years in the Air Force. "But I go to school only because of the grants and loans I receive."

But Magasich is facing a problem because it will take him more than four years to get his degree, and his grant from the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency will stop before he graduates.

To make ends meet, Magasich said he is considering joining the National Guard to become eligible for additional aid.

To help students such as Maga-

sich, a few students went to Harrisburg during spring break to try to make PHEAA funding available for five years, instead of four.

State Rep. Lynn Herman, R-Centre, is currently sponsoring a bill that would extend PHEAA grants to financially eligible fifth-year students.

Some students who testified on March 4 before the state Education Committee's Sub-Committee on Higher Education were Pat Scanlan, former Penn State University Veterans Organization president, and Bill Rothwell, Undergraduate Student Government Senate president.

At state-owned and state-related universities, the number of students graduating within four years now is less than it was in the 1980s. Many of the students are not finishing school in four years because of transferring, changing majors or working while going to school.

At Penn State in 1992, 34.7 percent of students graduated in four years. But at other state-related universities, such as Temple Uni-

versity, only 23 percent graduated in four years, according to Herman's office.

Because more students are staying longer, Scanlan is hopeful the bill will become law.

But Scanlan said getting support and money from Gov. Tom Ridge may be difficult because education is not a priority and the state budget is tight due to floods.

Extending the grants to students for five years would cost an additional \$10 million, Rothwell said.

While some students can keep attending the University without PHEAA grants, it may mean going further into debt.

Stephen Carli, PSUVO president, said he plans to stay an extra semester to get a minor in gerontology to make himself more attractive to employers.

"I really think it would be a struggle to stay in school without (the grant)," said Carli (senior-exercise and sport science). "It enables me to be here in school and keep my debt down."

Carli receives the maximum

grant, which is more than \$1,200 a semester.

Scanlan said the reason PSUVO is concerned about extending aid is that the group represents many adult students who, because of family responsibilities, need more than four years to get a degree.

More than 10,000 nontraditional students attend the University and more than 2,700 of them served in the armed forces, Carli said.

When the legislation to extend the grant was first introduced in 1987, it was PSUVO that originally initiated the legislation.

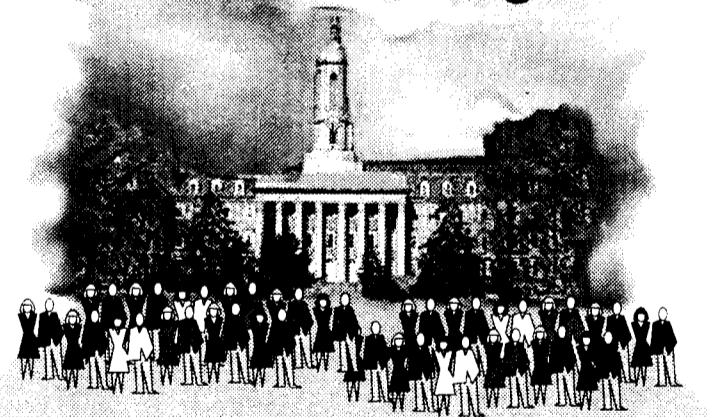
Herman also introduced the bill at that time.

"(Herman) has been a die-hard worker for this goal for nearly 10 years now," Scanlan said. "We're hopeful this year we can finally do it."

This is not the first time the veterans organization has fought for more money.

In 1982, the group supported legislation that restored \$140 million from the previously trimmed Pell Grant program.

Graduation Percentages



The following graphic displays the percentage of students that graduate in four years from the following places:

	1987	1992
University of Pittsburgh	41%	37%
Penn State	44%	34.7%
Temple University	30%	23%
State System of Higher Education	39%	23.4%

Source: Rep. Lynn Herman's office

Collegian Graphic/Ryan O'Rourke

Teen arrested for assaulting woman

By SHAWNA CASWELL
and JENNIFER FABRY
Collegian Staff Writers

A 17-year-old male was arrested Saturday in connection with the Feb. 23 attempted murder of a Ferguson Township woman and could be tried as an adult for the crime.

The suspect is two months shy of his 18th birthday, said Ray Gricar, Centre County district attorney.

"Because of his age and the

seriousness of the crime and other factors that I am not at liberty to discuss, I think it's an appropriate case for him to be tried as an adult," Gricar said.

Under Pennsylvania law, a person under 18 is not capable of committing a serious crime, said John Sullivan, assistant professor of administration of justice.

The assault occurred late February in the Schneider home at 22 Nittany View Circle. Laura

Please see ASSAULT, Page 7.

Group pushes penis in phallic fight for presidency

By BRIDGETTE BLAIR
and JULIE M. RANDALL
Collegian Staff Writers

If the Madagascar Revolutionary Council has its way, the next Undergraduate Student Government president will be a penis.

Actually, it would be a 24-inch rubber penis, which was seen leading the MRC in the Halloween "March with a Bunch of Morons" through campus last semester.

In what they called a move to "stir fear in the shallow hearts of the establishment," the MRC recently announced their ticket for the upcoming USG elections — a penis for president and a plastic fish as its vice president.

"We think that USG is the sham of shams and we want to discredit the whole organization," said Kevin Houlihan (senior-history), the generalissimo and head librarian of the MRC. "We don't want to be part of the organization. We just want to make fun of it."

Along with discrediting USG, Houlihan said

the main issue the MRC wants to address in elections this year is the University budget. He said the MRC wants to make the budget open to students.

"I want to know where the money's going," Houlihan said. "That's all."

Houlihan added that the MRC is a nonviolent group dedicated to voicing their objections about the University.

USG Senate President Bill Rothwell said elections rules and regulations will be applied to the MRC candidates if they are on the ballot. If the MRC runs a write-in campaign, however, it will be harder to enforce the code.

Because the MRC declared their candidacy before March 11, they could be fined between \$25 and \$50 under the elections code for early campaigning, but Rothwell said enforcing that particular violation would be difficult.

"How's a penis going to pay a fine?" Rothwell said.

Head Elections Commissioner Darren Patz

said the joke campaign sparking student interest in the USG elections may be a positive thing.

"However, I would hope that the students would do what was best for the University and not elect a joke campaign," Patz said.

Patz added that if the MRC ticket won the election, they would not be able to take office because the presidential and vice presidential candidates must be full-time undergraduate students.

One student said having a penis as the USG president would have no effect on him.

"I don't know what the president does for me now, so I really don't care if it's a penis," said Mike Galo (junior-environmental engineering).

Rothwell said campaigns, like the one the MRC is planning, take away from the legitimacy of the elections.

"They make the elections seem like more of a joke than people already perceive them as," he said.