

AP Photo

### Shark bath

Mike Bowers takes a scrub brush to the Mardi Gras funhouse. The shark got its cleaning Friday in Columbus, Ohio.

# Harleys thunder through town

By JASON FAGONE  
Collegian Staff Writer

Cheering crowds were drowned out by the collective roar of 810 motorcycles Saturday when Harley-Davidson enthusiasts paraded through State College as part of the 1997 Pennsylvania State Harley-Davidson Owners Group Rally festivities.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Mark Thatcher, a resident of Forest Hill, Maryland.

Thatcher, who watched the parade with his wife Annette at the corner of Allen Street and College Avenue, craned his neck to see the bikers.

"I think they're all normal people," he said. "Except the guys with the horns."

The Viking-helmeted men are the flashier motorcyclists of the bunch, said rally coordinator Harry Carey.

"They just like to attract a little more attention, that's all," he said.

Exactly 1870 people registered for rally activities, some of which were closed to the public.

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— Mark Thatcher  
Harley-Davidson parade watcher

Earlier in the day, bikers participated in water-balloon games, maintenance and safety seminars and a bike show.

After the parade, awards were given out and motorcyclists decorated their mounts with glowing lights and rode around the parking lot at the Penn State Convention Center and Hotel, Carey said.

Amy McGowan, a convention center employee, said she worked all week with the rally participants. "They have a really rough image," she said. "They're sort of intimidating. You look at them and say, 'Oh my.' But they're nice people."

Carol Campbell, who is also employed with the conference center, said the participants were pleasant to deal with.

"These people are great," she said. "They're just not the typical group. They're so relaxed and down-to-earth."

Motorcyclists have been struggling to improve their image, Carey said.

"I think two years ago, people were apprehensive," he said. "Because of movies and such, I think people had different pictures of us then. But everybody was well-behaved, and everybody paid their bills, and everyone acted like ladies and gentlemen and I think it's working. We were treated quite well every place we went."

For the most part, the Harley enthusiasts are family-oriented riders, Carey said.

"It's husband and wife, and couples of all ages, and quite often

parents and their offspring riding together," he said.

"They all go to rallies together and do various things. We have picnics when kids can come, get-togethers where you can bring the kids, like a big family reunion," he said.

All along Park Avenue, families lined the road to the convention center, welcoming and cheering the motorcyclists. State College resident Roy Walk and his family sat in lawnchairs as they watched the start of the parade.

"It's kind of adrenaline-pumping," Walk said. "I want to go out and buy a Harley now. They have a nice sound."

Keith McMonagle, from Julian, said he appreciates the aesthetic qualities of the motorcycles.

"It was a nice way to see a lot of bikes," he said. "They're nice to look at."

The motorcyclists spent hours each day washing and polishing their Harleys in the convention center parking lot, McGowan said.

"They love their bikes," she said.

# Freshmen face fear of crowded, crazy Fall Semester

By LYDIA R. POSTLEWAITE  
Collegian Staff Writer

The freshman class can kiss these quiet summer days goodbye in a few weeks.

The relaxing and calm days will abruptly transform into crowded walkways and streets, a full class load, football weekends, parties and hordes of new people.

Students who are here for Summer Session will have to make the adjustment from a small community to an expansive environment when almost 40,000 students return for Fall Semester.

"It is such a big campus and every part is filled," said Agni Mitra (graduate student-electrical engineering).

Adrienne Chan (senior-hotel restaurant institutional management) said she remembers the chaos when she arrived on move-in day her freshman year.

She compares the University to a trash compactor. "It packs everyone into one area," she said.

Freshmen who have yet to experience the full population of the University have used the reduced number of people in the summer to adjust to college life.

"I think the summer is a really good time to see what college classes are like, and meet people," said Adam Garfield (freshman-division of undergraduate studies).

"And I haven't paid for beer yet," he said.

Heidi Bertino (senior-special education and anthropology) works at the Pollock Commons desk where all freshmen reside during Summer Session.

"As a freshman coming during the summer you have a chance to make friends and that helps when you're overwhelmed by all the people in the fall," Bertino said.

"It cracks me up when they first come. They flood the desk with questions," she said. "In the summer, they stand out. But during the academic year it's all one student body."

Upperclassmen said they know what to expect in weeks to come.

However, summer freshmen said they had mixed feelings and fears about the upcoming semester.

Cathy Scott (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said she feels comfortable in the small community atmosphere of Pollock Halls.

She might feel overwhelmed by the increase in numbers of students, she said.

"I did expect that coming to Penn State it would be a big school. This summer will make it easier (to adjust)," she said.

Other freshmen have concerns about access to facilities.

"I'm nervous because the computer labs are already full and people are only taking a couple of classes," said Jennifer Loos (freshman-secondary education). "It's going to be rough."

However, more people brings more options.

"In fall and spring there's more activity and more choices to make on how to spend your time," said Marilyn Scott (senior-architectural engineering).

"Frat parties every night are not so happening when you have 17 credits," she said.

However, Sean McCullough (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) said he dreads his walk to class from East Halls — where many freshmen reside during the year, to those classes and activities.

"It's a hike," he said.

# Data from Mars trip interesting, but focus is on future journeys

By JASON FAGONE  
Collegian Staff Writer

Mars Pathfinder, the first spacecraft to land on Mars in two decades, has gathered some useful data that may help prove the existence of ancient floods on Mars' surface, said some University professors.

But Pathfinder is most significant for its technological accomplishments, astronomy professor Louis Winkler said.

"The Mars scientists say they are excited about the findings but I think they're probably more excited that they achieved this great technological feat," Winkler said. "The scientific findings are not that spectacular."

On July 4, after hitting the surface of Mars and bouncing 50 feet into the air, Pathfinder came to rest and released its roving robotic craft, Sojourner.

The remote-controlled robot looks at Mars from the perspective of a cat, analyzing the geology of the Martian surface and the chemistry of its rocks and soils.

Sojourner also studies Mars' atmospheric gases and the planet's rotational dynamics.

The mission has been a hit with the public.

Since July 4, NASA's Pathfinder World Wide Web site, which offers images and weather data gathered by Sojourner, has logged tens of millions of hits per day.

"I believe there are a lot of citizens who are fundamentally interested in knowing new stuff," astronomy professor Daniel Weedman said.

"Mars has always been an interesting planet; it's the most similar to Earth. It's been a subject of human curiosity for a long, long time, but I've really been surprised at how many people have been interested," he said.

Coming on the heels of a spate of Hollywood sci-fi movies and the

"One thing that the Pathfinder proved is that we are going back to Mars."

— Daniel Weedman  
professor of astronomy

50th anniversary of alleged alien contact in Roswell, N.M., the Pathfinder mission has added to the hubbub surrounding the search for alien life, geosciences professor James Kasting said.

"I think the main public interest in Mars is the question of 'Is there life out there?'," Kasting said. "I think there's a pretty decent chance that Mars had life early in its history."

Liquid water is necessary for life, and the Sojourner robot is looking for geological evidence of the presence of ancient water.

"From our orbiting vehicles and from Viking landers, we had some idea of water existence in the past," Winkler said. "But these extensive tests that are being run by the Pathfinder are elaborating on our understanding."

The Pathfinder landing site was chosen because it is in the middle of the largest ancient flood plain on the planet, Kasting said.

Sojourner is checking nearby rocks to see if they have ever been exposed to large amounts of water, he said.

"I'm still not personally convinced that they've found proof of floods in that valley," said Weedman, who used to be the director of NASA's astrophysics division. "But I think once Sojourner analyzes enough rocks, they'll be able to say for sure if there was water at one time."

The scientists acknowledged although the data are useful in substantiating existing theories, the

mission has not yet produced any new or surprising findings.

The lack of Earth-shattering news led University students to question Pathfinder's value.

"I don't know if it's worth all our money to be exploring things when there's a lot of other things we could be spending our money on at this time," Scott Dell (senior-business marketing) said.

Liz Ehrstein, a State College resident, agreed the nation's money could be better spent on domestic problems.

"I don't think it's a waste, but there are other priorities," she said.

Winkler disagreed, advocating continued exploration of space.

"I don't know how to equate research findings and dollar values to humans," he said. "It's an investment. You are investing in the future of other people." NASA plans to send missions to Mars every two years, Weedman said.

Each mission will likely include a landing craft and an orbiting craft, he said.

"One thing that Pathfinder proved is that we are going back to Mars," he said. "We are going systematically."

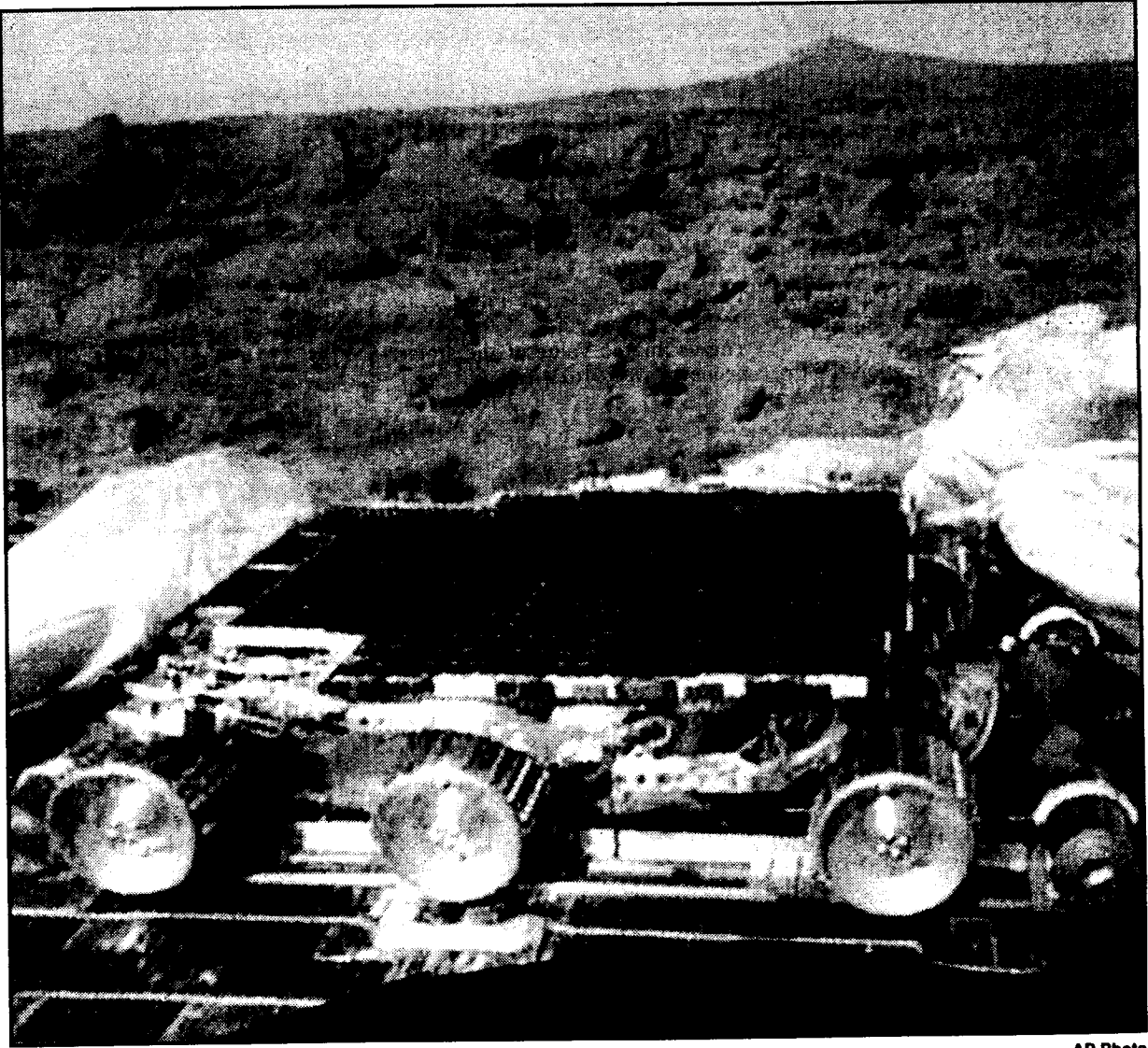
Scientists are also enthusiastic about exploring the moons of some of the outer planets, like Saturn's moon Titan and Jupiter's moon Europa, Weedman said.

Titan is interesting to scientists primarily because it is the only known moon with its own atmosphere.

The Cassini mission will launch this fall and reach Titan in 2004, releasing a probe to measure atmospheric gases.

Europa is particularly intriguing because it is the only object in the solar system besides the earth for which there is evidence of liquid water, Weedman said.

There will likely be a mission to Europa within the next 10 years, he said.



AP Photo

The Sojourner rover sets out on the rocky terrain of Mars' surface. The rover, which traveled aboard the Mars Pathfinder, landed on the planet July 4. The photo was taken July 6.

"There's some possibility that there's life on Europa," Kasting said.

Although we will continue to explore our own solar system, scientists are anxious to seek out Earth-like planets orbiting around other stars, Weedman said.

To find these planets, NASA will construct large infrared space-based observatories that will probably be operational within the next two decades, he said.

Pathfinder's success has spurred some scientists to propose a manned mission to Mars.

"We may have to go there if we overpopulate or overpollute our own planet," Winkler said. "There are so many ways of creating irreversible chemical reactions with the water and the air and the soil that it's a good investment if you want to preserve the human species."

Weedman disagreed, citing the high cost associated with a manned flight.

"We could do it, but it would cost just far, far more money than anyone is talking about in the NASA budget," he said. "Human space

flight is just so incredibly expensive." The risk factors involved also make a manned mission unlikely, Weedman said.

"I don't see any willingness to take a real risk," he said.

"You just can't put humans at risk like that. My feeling is that to do the sort of missions that we can afford, there would be too many risks and untested gadgets," said Weedman.

He added, "Humans will never go to Mars, but we're going to learn a huge amount from the robots that do go to Mars."

# Animal

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a lot of the stuff they use on the animals." Some other visitors such as Molly Gazda, of State College, and her son Jake said they came to the open house to see the two Bengal tigers visiting from T&D's Mountain Road Menagerie, Penns Creek.

Although Taz, who is three years old, and Tony, who is one year old, were fairly large, six-year-old Jake said he was not scared of them.

"I think they're neat," he said. T&D's in Snyder County is a refuge for Bengal tigers, African lions, cougars and other species of exotic cats, said Terry Mattive, owner.

Unwanted, abused, malnourished and exploited cats are brought to the refuge through government agencies and private individuals, he said. "If we don't take the cats they get put to sleep," Mattive said.

Mattive said he brought Taz and Tony to the open house because Metzger treated Taz and probably saved his life last year when he became ill from eating poisoned meat.

"This is just a tribute and a thank you for what Fred did," he said. "Most vets don't know a lot about deal-

"I think they're neat."

— Jake Gazda  
about the Bengal tigers

ing with big cats." Aside from the huge crowds gathered around the tiger cages, many visitors browsed the information booths.

Robyn Graboski of Centre Wildlife Care in Lemont was on hand to "let people know we're available," she said.

The center cares for injured, orphaned, sick and displaced wildlife and prepares the animals to be released back into their environment, she said.

Graboski displayed caged bats, a bird and a turtle, all of which she is caring for at the wildlife center.

"Most everyone has been interested in these bats," she said. "People need to see bats up close so they know they are not as mean and vicious as everyone thinks they are."

# Usage — Conserve

Continued from Page 1.

Ruskin said. Some of the water used daily at the University goes to the showers.

Because University dorm bathrooms are designed for showers rather than baths, conservation is built in, Ruskin said.

The University is also replacing the current shower heads with water-restrictive shower heads, he said. With the old shower heads, 10 gallons of water are used on average. The new shower heads cut this number in half.

But some students don't think new shower heads will solve the problem.

"People can take multiple showers because there are no restrictions . . ." said Steve Thomas, who graduated in May 1997 with a degree in sports medicine.

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much more than the occasional thundershowers we were receiving," he said.

Because the recent rainfall fell at a moderate rate, it allowed the ground to absorb it and alleviate the problem of run-off, Kosek said.

Run-off occurs with hard, short rainfalls that quickly saturate the top layer of the ground, preventing the rest of the rain from being absorbed.

"That type of heavy rainfall just causes erosion and doesn't help as much as a lighter, steady rainfall," he said.

The normal rainfall in State College for this time of year is 2.34 inches and until last week the area had received less than a half an inch, said Paul Yeager, senior forecaster for AccuWeather.

But after last week's rain the amount of rainfall has greatly increased. On Tuesday, the University received 1.02 inches, Kosek said.

Although this rain has helped, he said, residents should still use their water in moderation because temperatures are expected to rise again and more dry weather could be on the way.

Nevel agreed with Kosek and asked that customers of the State College Borough Water Authority continue to voluntarily conserve water at least until the state decides a draught warning is no longer necessary.

Residents can do their part by repairing leaks, bathing for shorter amounts of time and not running water unnecessarily, according to a news release.