



High 60 Low 45
 Warmer with periods of rain.
 See page 2 for the extended forecast.
 — Campus Weather Service

the daily Collegian

30°

www.collegian.psu.edu

Vol. 99, No. 85 16 Pages ©1998 Collegian Inc.

Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1998

Published independently by students at Penn State

USG Senate president resigns position



Collegian File Photo

Jason Covener

resigned as USG Senate president

By TIM SWIFT and TRACY WILSON
 Collegian Staff Writers

Following his arrest Friday and facing possible expulsion from the Undergraduate Student Government, Jason Covener resigned from his position as USG Senate president and East Halls senator at an emergency senate meeting last night.

Charged Friday with three counts of unlawful use of a computer, three counts of interception of electronic or oral communications and one count of criminal conspiracy, Covener allegedly obtained USG members and other students' e-mail messages, then distributed the information, according to a Penn State Police Services press release.

Covener announced his resignation

"A lot of people in USG do not feel secure in using USG computers. By removing Jason Covener from office, people will feel more secure."

— John Wood
 USG town senator

before the senate, adding his innocence will come to light in court.

"I can't fight this battle in USG while fighting my battle in court and fulfill my duties as a USG senator," said Covener. "My resignation will be effective at the end of the meeting."

USG President Caroline Casagrande called the meeting in order to resolve the

matter as soon as possible in hopes that USG can return to its normal agenda.

Even after Covener announced his resignation, the senate took action.

The senate, with police reports in hand, banned Covener from entering the USG office and issued its official opinion disapproving of Covener's alleged actions.

"A lot of people in USG do not feel

secure in using USG computers. By removing Jason Covener from office, people will feel more secure," Town Senator John Wood said.

Covener objected to the ban. "I won't be in the office anyway. My concern is this is a trial in progress. These are not offenses, they are alleged. It is wrong to pass a censure without evidence of whether I'm guilty or not, that is for the court to decide," Covener said.

The 16-1-5 vote in favor of the ban reflected the majority of the senate's opinion about Covener's activities.

"(The resignation) was a responsible decision on (Covener's) part. The writing was on the wall," Fraternity Senator James Hornick said. "He made a good decision that will save him a lot of embarrassment and USG a lot of time."

Court papers name others in USG case

By TIM SWIFT
 Collegian Staff Writer

Former Undergraduate Student Government Senate President Jason Covener was not the only USG member named in court documents from the investigation regarding computer tampering in the USG office.

Covener allegedly obtained USG members and other students' e-mail messages and then distributed the information to USG members, including fraternity Senator James Hornick, town Senator Rick Sollman, former USG Communications Director Jeff Schlanger and USG Supreme Court Justice Bryan Weis, according to the documents.

The complaint states Covener asked Sollman to intercept electronic communications that had been captured by a keystroke monitoring program.

Interviewed on two separate occasions by police, Sollman first denied any involvement with Covener. Later, he said he retrieved information for Covener in March 1998 that was logged by the monitoring programs on USG office computers.

Yet Sollman said last night he was unaware of the exact information he provided Covener and assumed it included Covener's own documents from his former USG post as political and international affairs director. Only after obtaining the information for Covener did Sollman say he was made aware of the keystroke monitoring programs.

Sollman said he has cooperated with the police investigation and has been subpoenaed in the case.

Keystroke monitoring is a process by which a person can view or record the commands

entered and the computer's response, according to the National Institute of Standards and Technology. By recording characters as users type them, keystroke monitoring programs allow viewing of e-mail and other information.

The programs were found on three of the six functioning computers in the USG office, according to the documents.

Covener was charged with three counts of unlawful use of a computer, three counts of interception of electronic or oral communications and one count of criminal conspiracy, according to a Penn State Police Services press release.

The Penn State Network Security Office determined the retrieved information also was sent electronically from a USG office computer to Sollman's personal computer. Sollman said after he provided Covener with the files, he deleted them from his computer, adding Covener never told him that he used the information to read anyone's e-mail.

However, Schlanger said Covener had "bragged" to him about being able to obtain passwords and e-mail messages. Skeptical, Schlanger asked for proof. Covener then gave him a disk containing e-mail messages.

Schlanger turned over the disk to the Network Security Office during Spring Semester 1998, which later notified Penn State police. The information on the disk included e-mail messages from USG President Caroline Casagrande to former USG President and current town Senator Jaime Desmond, Schlanger said.

Desmond, former USG Vice President John Polk, former USG Treasurer Travis Freehauf, former

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Collegian Photo/Andrea E. Kohler

Perfecting the picture

Steven Boothe (junior-arts and architecture) works on a homework project for a class yesterday in the Visual Arts Building. Boothe is taking ART 250 (beginning oil painting).



Collegian Photo/Dan Saellinger

A broken window is boarded up at Phi Kappa Theta fraternity, 338 E. Fairmount Ave., after an occurrence of vandalism there last weekend.

Fraternity victim of crime

Phi Kappa Theta fraternity recently reported a theft and vandalism at their house, marking a rise in fraternity crime.

By CARRIE DZWIL
 Collegian Staff Writer

Fraternity pranks have taken on a more serious nature lately as at least one fraternity house has found itself the victim of costly burglary and vandalism in recent weeks.

Members of Phi Kappa Theta fraternity, 338 E. Fairmount Ave., reported a case of theft and vandalism at their house Oct. 25.

Fraternity member Jeff Tranel (junior-elementary education) said the incident occurred between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. when most members were on a retreat at Stone Valley Recreation Center. Only about six people were in the house at the time of the theft, he said.

Thousands of dollars worth of stereo and video game equipment and cash were stolen, Tranel said. Someone smashed a living room window with a cinder block, he said, and vandalized the kitchen area.

About \$1,700 worth of small electronic appliances were stolen from fraternity member Jonathan Schreiter's room during the incident. Schreiter was not in the house at the time of the theft, he said.

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ACLU holds rally to increase group awareness

By STEVE DANA
 Collegian Staff Writer

The Penn State chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union carried satirical signs during a rally Friday afternoon on the corner of College Avenue and Shortlidge Road. The ACLU sponsored the rally in an effort to raise awareness among students and police of its presence on campus.

The main issue the rally addressed was the ticketing of students driving on campus without registering their cars with the university.

"The rally is in response to driving tickets. We feel they are against civil rights," ACLU member Heather Keegan (graduate-industrial relations and human resources) said.

Only students registered at Penn State are required to pay the registration fee in order to drive on campus, ACLU members said.

But Penn State Police Services said this is untrue.

"(The ACLU is) not reading the regulation right. They misinterpreted the rule," Penn State police supervisor Clifford Lutz said. "We don't give tickets for driving on campus."

Lutz added Penn State police give tickets to people parking in parking decks and who have not registered their vehicles with the university.

"The ACLU could be confused. Parking enforcement stopped people using decks to show affiliation with the university. If they are students and their vehicle is unregistered, they are ticketed," Lutz said.

Despite the denial from the University Police, ACLU members still consider it a problem.

"Anybody else can drive on campus as long as they're not registered at PSU," ACLU member Brian Ecker (senior-electrical engineering) said.

The driving tickets are a breach of the 14th Amendment which guarantees equal protection under the law, Ecker said.

"I think it's ridiculous that you pay so

much money to come here and you can't even drive without registering (your car)," Aaron Swerling (senior-agriculture business management) said.

Another issue the ACLU focused on was restrictions on sending undercover officers or students into parties.

"It's very suspicious what they're doing," Ecker said. "In some cases it's not illegal, but it's definitely improper."

Many students and residents showed their support for the rally by honking in response to the "Honk while it's still legal" sign the members of the rally held.

"We definitely feel like we're being supported by students and even residents," Keegan said. "The honking never stops."

Instead of beeping, Swerling showed his support by joining the rally and holding a sign.

"It's a good organization," Swerling said. "It looks after the rights of Americans and the quality of life. Though it tends to slant to the liberal side, it doesn't exclusively defend liberal points of view."



Collegian Photo/J.M. Boyer

Chantal Almonord (senior-biochemistry and molecular biology) and Joya Dortch (junior-broadcast journalism) stop by the 2nd Annual Student Rights Rally Friday afternoon. Julian Catchen (junior-computer science) participated in the event.