

USG names new seats after system glitch

By Lynne Funk
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Because of an error in the tallying system for the Undergraduate Student Government elections, the head of the Elections Commission announced a new list of town senators last night.

Some senatorial candidates complained to the commission about the previous results of town senate because the total amount of votes was less than they had anticipated after talking to voters.

"Some candidates came to me and said, 'Look, I know at least five people who voted for me through paper ballots,'" said Online Voting and Tallying Commissioner Buck Thompson.

Outside of the USG office, Head Elections Commissioner David Britz announced a new

list of town senators excluding some of the initial winners.

Seven town senate candidates were falsely announced as winners on election night last week. Nicholas Mahoney (junior-biology), Rob Kaplan (sophomore-labor and industrial relations), Kurt Unruh (junior-political science), Matthew Kutzler (sophomore-engineering), Beenu Puri (junior-international politics), Conor Moran (sophomore-political science) and Tom Murtaugh (sophomore-business administration) were found not to have won.

Thompson explained that a glitch in the University Testing Services software system for paper ballots used by the commission this year significantly decreased the number of votes tallied for the town senate positions.

The system this year included paper ballots and online voting. UTS scans all of the scanners, the paper ballots, creating a file on the

computer. It then combines that file with the online voting file. The error in software was in the combining of the two.

"The original intent of this system was to supplement the paper ballots," Thompson said.

"Everything has been fixed. If we decide to use this method next year, it's fixed," he added.

The ballots for the town senate section were the only ballots that had problems because they had the option to pick multiple candidates.

The presidential/vice presidential tickets were not affected.

"We were worried with the low number of votes for senate, now we're not worried," Thompson said.

After the commission investigated the sys- See USG, Page 4.

Town Senate

- Lauren Applegate (sophomore-communications)
- Mike Fazio (junior-political science)
- Stephanie Wood (junior-economics)
- Mary Marie Falcon (sophomore-education)
- Alicia Agnew (sophomore-business administration)
- Bridget Van Osten (sophomore-business administration)
- Claudia Lum (freshman-premedicine)
- Jennifer Radel (junior-administration of justice)
- Tara Maurer (junior-political science)
- Joe Petka (junior-political science)

- Matt Trupkovich (junior-management)
- Todd Ellis (senior-physics)
- Joshua Sullivan (sophomore-liberal arts)
- Michael Gallo (sophomore-political science)
- Bryan McKinney (senior-junior-non-degree)
- Andrew Pope (junior-telecommunications)
- Sean Clark (junior-political science)
- Brendan Holloway (junior-finance)
- Tie: T.J. Kokolis (junior-political science) and Drew Mallick (junior-political science)



Antonella D'Agostino/Collegian

DERAILED: Lincoln Harberger (sophomore-architectural engineering) jumps his skateboard while Matt Keller (junior-architectural engineering) skateboards behind him. Skateboarders sometimes have a hard time finding a place to skate. | LOCAL, Page 6

U.S. offers China regrets for crash

By Ron Fournier
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Bush administration offered Beijing a chorus of regrets but no apology for the collision between a U.S. spy plane and a Chinese jet fighter. China, still detaining 24 American crew members, said it was a step in the right direction amid signs that both sides wanted a face-saving resolution.

President Bush, who issued a stern warning to Beijing a day earlier, had his advisers extend the olive branch yesterday.

"We regret the loss of life of that Chinese pilot but now we need to move on," Secretary of State Colin Powell said. "We need to bring this to a resolution and we're using every avenue available to us to talk to the Chinese side to exchange explanations and move on."

White House press secretary Ari Fleischer echoed Powell's remarks, saying "we have expressed our concern and our regrets about that incident," but he declined China's demand for an apology. In China, a

similar regrets-but-no-apology formulation was offered to the nation's foreign minister by the U.S. ambassador.

"The United States doesn't understand the reason for an apology," Fleischer said. "Our airplanes are operating in international airspace, and the United States did nothing wrong."

An apology would imply wrongdoing by the U.S., officials said, something Bush has not been willing to concede.

Powell, in a little-noticed comment, had said Tuesday that the crash was "fatal for the pilot of the Chinese plane and I regret that."

But the remarks yesterday were the administration's most emphatic expressions of sympathy, designed to set the course for a middle ground that could lead to the crew's release and allow both sides to escape dangerous diplomatic territory, officials said.

Since the first day of the standoff, the president has steadily increased rhetorical pressure on the Chinese while leaving room See CRASH, Page 4.

Lawless' criticisms prompt bill proposal

Rep. Josephs introduced a bill making threatening citizens by officials illegal.

By Daryl Lang
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A fellow state lawmaker has taken aim at Rep. John Lawless, R-Montgomery, and his confrontational style.

Rep. Babette Josephs, D-Philadelphia, has introduced a bill that would make it a crime for elected state officials to threaten citizens.

Josephs drafted the bill in response to Lawless' highly publicized threat against a Penn State student earlier this year.

The student, Bob Pickrell (junior-secondary education) sent Lawless an angry e-mail in response to Lawless' critique of the Sex Faire and other such student events. Pickrell made fun of Lawless' facial deformity, the result of a brain tumor operation, a remark he later apologized for.

Upon reading the e-mail, Lawless phoned Pickrell in his dorm room and threatened to make sure that he never got a teaching job in Pennsylvania.

"It's not a threat, it's a promise," Lawless reiterated in an exchange with President Graham Spanier during Penn State's House Appropriations Committee hearing in February.

The exchange was fodder in the debate between Lawless and Spanier. Lawless read Pickrell's angry e-mail to the committee. Spanier responded with an e-mail Pickrell had sent him about being afraid after Lawless' angry phone call.

Josephs also sits on the appropriations committee.

"If anyone is guilty of bad behavior, it is the lawmaker in using his power as an elected official to wreak revenge," Josephs said in a press release.

See BILL, Page 4.

Results of drunk driving case in question

By Alex Weininger
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The charges facing a Howard man accused of killing a woman and her unborn child may be dismissed today, depending on the court's interpretation of a Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling.

Alfred Cantolina, 21, faces charges that include two counts of homicide by motor vehicle while driving under the influence, four counts of aggravated assault by motor vehicle while driving under the influence and other related charges. Cantolina is charged with killing 29-year-old Britt Barndt and her unborn child Nov. 18. Police said Cantolina's pickup turned left into Barndt's oncoming car, also injuring husband Gene Barndt, the couple's six-year-old daughter

and a family friend. Barndt was eight months pregnant with a son she and her husband had already named Samuel.

A preliminary hearing for the case was heard Dec. 6 and Cantolina was bound over on all charges except for two counts of aggravated assault.

However, the results of the hearing and the charges that Cantolina faces are now in question, mainly because of a February court decision that dismissed the same charge in a similar accident involving the death of a woman's unborn baby.

In 1997, a Westmoreland County man was accused of driving drunk and hitting a woman in the county who was 8 months pregnant.

At the time, the Superior Court ruled the unborn child was technically "alive" and that

under the state crimes code, a charge could be filed. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court, however reversed the decision in February, dismissing the vehicular homicide while DUI charge and making the only charge Booth faced a DUI.

Cantolina's attorney, Brian Manchester, filed two motions that questioned the sufficiency of evidence presented at the preliminary hearing and questioned the charges involving the homicide by motor vehicle while DUI and the two counts left on aggravated assault by motor vehicle while DUI.

Manchester said because of the Supreme Court's ruling on the Booth case, he expects the homicide charge to be dismissed despite the term of Barndt's pregnancy.

"According to the result of the Booth case, See CASE, Page 4.

Inside

Global warming divides EU, Bush

European Union leaders yesterday said President Bush was "completely wrong" to pull out of a global warming agreement and promised to fight for the pact. | INTERNATIONAL, Page 11

Alternative band gives wild show

The well-polished Juliana Theory came to Crowbar, 420 E. College Ave., with its rock-star hair cuts, tight tee-shirts and a professional style that made the crowd understand just how big these guys are getting in the music scene. | ARTS IN REVIEW, Page 20

Men gymnasts defend title today

Today at 1 p.m. at St. Johns Arena in Columbus, Ohio, the Penn State men's gymnastics team defends their NCAA title. They will be joined in the first session by No. 1 Oklahoma, No. 4 Illinois, No. 5 California, No. 10 Massachusetts and No. 11 Temple. | SPORTS, Page 12



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Plans to plant seeds of tradition underway with Old Main willows

By Lindsay Bosslett
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Since it was claimed by a lightning storm in 1923, there hasn't been much wind going through Old Willow. However, the Undergraduate Student Government plans to change that.

Sometime in the late 1800s, Penn State's first president, Evan Pugh, returned from England bearing a clipping of a willow tree supposedly from the home of poet Alexander Pope.

He planted it on the Willard Mall between his home and Old Main. It grew there until a storm killed it more than 75 years ago.

Since then there have been several unsuccessful attempts to plant saplings of Old Willow, but USG plans to try again.

"Old Willow is part of our Penn State tradition," USG Town Sen. Andrew Pope said. "People say that our generation has fallen

out of old traditions, but this will show we still have pride in our school. It's a piece of history."

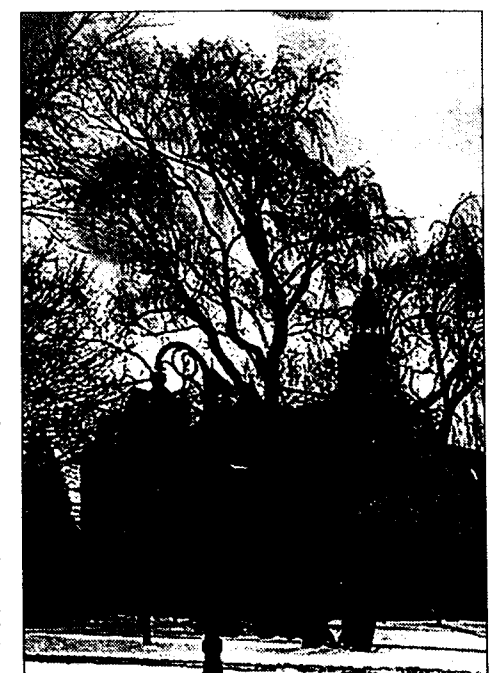
And Old Willow is more than a tree. It's two stories in one.

"There are two stories surrounding Old Willow," USG West Halls Sen. Justin Wade Blankenbicker said. "One is public and one is not-so-public."

The public story is simply the story of Pugh bringing the tree over to Penn State, known as the Farmer's High School at the time and planting it as a "Tree of Knowledge."

The not-so-public story is surrounded by mystery. When the tree still grew in the Willard Mall, students could be seen bowing to it when they went past. The only way to find out why a student bowed was to ask him or her in private.

No third party could overhear the explanation. See WILLOWS, Page 4.



Courtesy of Penn State

A Penn State willow stands on Willard Mall. The original was claimed in a storm in 1923.