

Fetus' death won't lead to charges

A precedent-setting case forced the commonwealth to withdraw two charges.

By Alex Weininger
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BELLEFONTE — The man accused of killing a 29-year-old woman and her unborn child will not be charged for the death of the unborn baby.

Alfred Cantolina, 21, will not face a homicide charge or a vehicular homicide charge for the death of the couple's unborn baby, who they had named Samuel.

The commonwealth withdrew both of the charges without contest, citing the precedent and almost identical Booth case. In that case, a Westmoreland County man was charged with hitting a woman who was in her eighth month of pregnancy and killing the unborn child. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court dismissed the charge.

Deputy Attorney General Janice Martino-Gottshall said because the Booth case was decided by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the charge would have ultimately been dismissed.

"The Booth case was a very controlling factor in regards to the homicide charges involving the baby," Martino-Gottshall said.

Britt Barndt was eight months pregnant when she was killed while driving with her husband, Gene Barndt. Barndt, the couple's

6-year-old daughter, and a family friend all sustained injuries as a result of the accident.

Although Cantolina does not face the charges that accuse him of killing the unborn child, he still faces an array of serious charges, including three felony counts.

Cantolina is still charged with vehicular homicide and homicide while DUI for the death of Britt Barndt, two counts of aggravated assault while DUI, a DUI charge and other vehicle violations. Cantolina's attorney, Brian Manchester, asked Judge Charles Brown yesterday in Centre County Court to dismiss the two counts of aggravated assault while DUI and the homicide while DUI. Manchester said the alcohol in this case was not enough to have caused the accident, a prerequisite for both of these charges.

See DEATH, Page 4.

Bush to China: 'I regret that a pilot is missing'

The president offered a conciliatory gesture but didn't offer an apology.

By Ron Fournier
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The United States and China intensified negotiations yesterday for the release of an American spy plane's crew, and U.S. officials said they were encouraged by the talks. President Bush, in a conciliatory gesture, expressed regret over the in-flight collision that triggered the tense standoff.

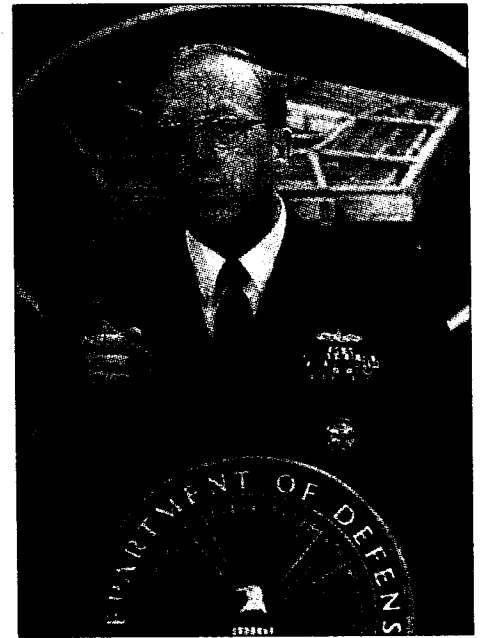
"The Chinese have got to act," Bush said. "I hope they do so quickly."

China called the 24-person crew lawbreakers and said the servicemen and women would remain in China for questioning.

Both countries held firm to their opposing positions in public — China demanding an apology, Bush refusing to offer one — but sent encouraging signals in a diplomatic flurry. The Bush administration's tone brightened as weary advisers embraced the first notes of progress.

Several high-ranking government officials said the situation improved practically overnight, though they still had no assurances the crew of 21 men and three women would be released.

While most Americans slept, Bush's team worked on China time yesterday morning to open new channels of communications with Beijing. The talks continued as dawn made



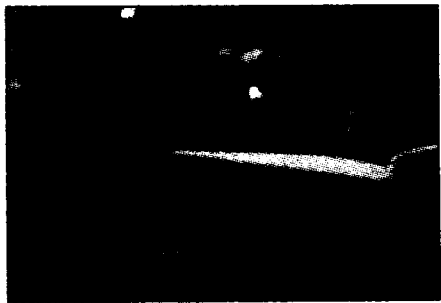
Heesoon Yin/Associated Press
Rear Adm. Craig Quipley meets reporters at the Pentagon to discuss the situation of the U.S. airplane in China.

its way around the globe: Chinese Ambassador Yang Jiechi met with Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage in Washington, D.C.; U.S. Ambassador Joseph Prueher met twice with Assistant Foreign Minister Zhou Wenzhong in China.

"We're having intensive discussions with the Chinese," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said.

See BUSH, Page 4.

Inside



The Distraction Attraction

Procrastination is definitely an art that Penn State students are extremely skilled in. Whether its watching a movie or playing on a computer, students are finding any way to put off reading that chapter or writing that paper. | ARTS, Page 21

Dunn hopes to end rumors soon

With rumors surfacing about the coaching vacancies at Rutgers and South Carolina and with Jerry Dunn's contract still up in the air with the Lions, the head coach is confident something will be resolved shortly. | SPORTS, Page 11

Vigil rallies against hate crimes

Exactly one month ago, Michael Auker was beaten and left for dead at his trailer in Middleburg. Police said they found him bleeding and unconscious with every facial bone broken. | LOCAL, Page 2

Conference endorses solidarity

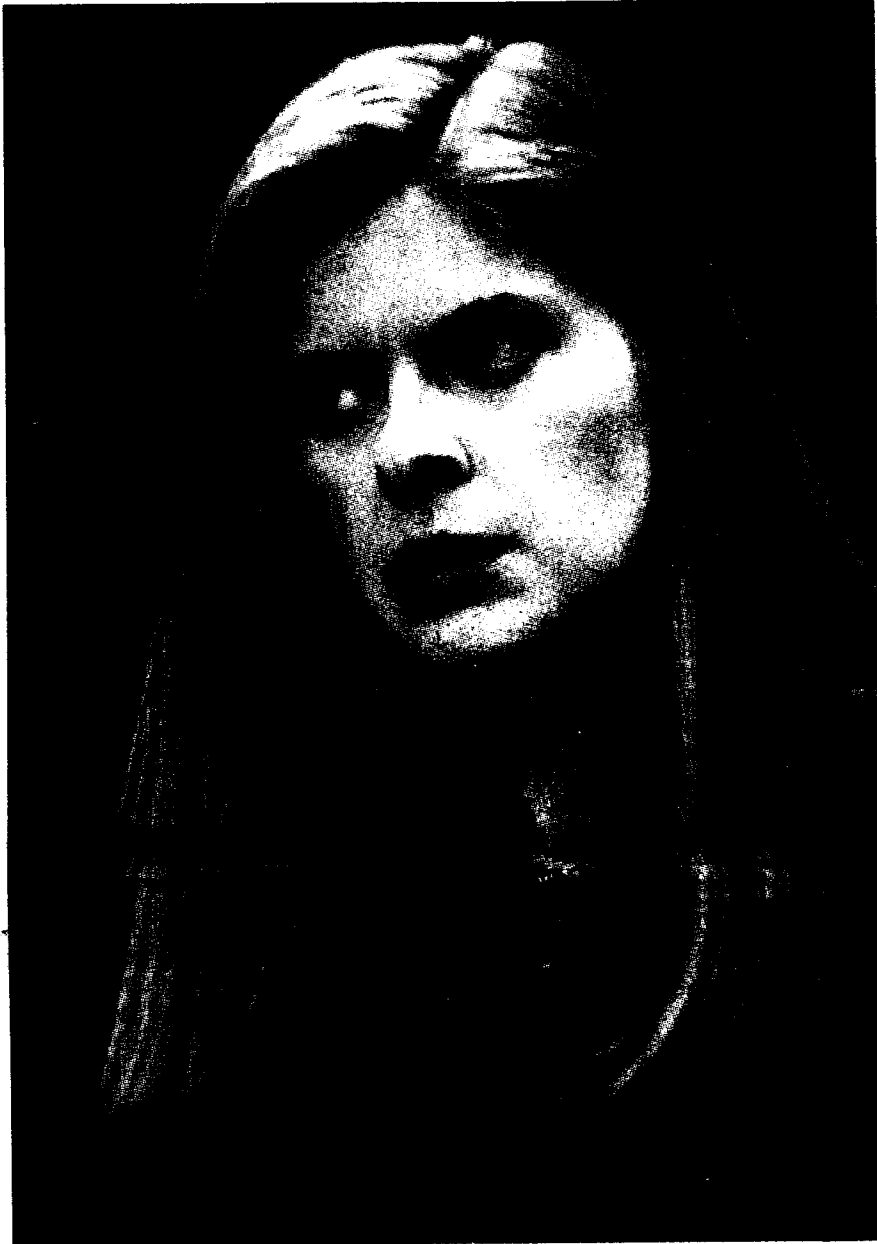
Social activists from across the country will begin gathering today on campus for the second annual Solidarity Conference. The event will build on last year's conference. | LOCAL, Page 2

Inmate runs against cancer

Local runners gearing up for the Coaches vs. Cancer 5K Run/Walk are not fighting cancer alone. Jim Deupree, a Florida inmate, will "proxy run" the race from inside prison. | LOCAL, Page 6

Bush's budget dealt a blow

The president's proposed 10-year, \$1.6 trillion tax cut suffered a double blow as the Senate tentatively sliced it by \$450 billion and a crucial Republican senator threatened to oppose it. | NATIONAL, Page 7



Nichole Zechman/Collegian
Dora McQuaid, coordinator of the 'Evening of Courage,' speaks to a crowd in Webster's Bookstore Café, 128 S. Allen St., about sexual assault.

Survivors of sexual abuse use 'courage' in speeches

A group of 50 listened at a function sponsored by Women of Courage.

By Charles Bartlett
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The crowd of about 50 people sat hushed. Most of them were female, a few were young and a few were old. But they all sat with their eyes fixed on who was speaking, and they listened as if there was going to be a test afterwards.

They gathered for the "Evening of Courage," sponsored by Women of Courage, of Centre County, in Webster's Bookstore Café, 128 S. Allen St. The program was a collection of speeches by survivors of sexual assault and abuse and by professionals who help vic-

tims cope with their experiences.

One woman made a T-shirt adorned with the words, "I am a woman of courage. It was not my fault." The shirt was a large, blue T-shirt with a small, green shirt sewn to it. The green shirt had a picture of the survivor as a child. She then went on to tell how her stepfather sexually abused her, and how she reached the point where she had the courage to speak about it.

"They are only words. They are nowhere near the hell you have survived," she said.

Dora McQuaid and Mary Ohashi, the organizers of the event, read a poem, interspersing the verses with statistics about sexual abuse. Ohashi said 1.5 million women are sexually assaulted each year by their spouses. McQuaid followed Ohashi with this line from her poem "My Pretty." "He would ask just before the

See SURVIVORS, Page 4.



Who the riots hurt.

A five-part series starting Monday in The Daily Collegian.

Last month, students and police clashed again on Beaver Avenue for the third time in four years. As the community looks for answers, the Collegian examines how the riots have hurt the police, businesses, the university, local residents and the students involved.

Injuries teach Illinois gymnast, Taliaferro how fragile life is

By Chris Korman
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Adam Taliaferro and Jonathan Ham do not know each other, but they are forever linked.

They are, in some respects, as different as can be. Taliaferro is a Penn State football player; Ham is a gymnast for the University of Illinois. Taliaferro hails from New Jersey. Ham calls the other side of the country — California — home.

But they share something few people can even come close to understanding. They are athletes who have had their lives changed forever, all for the love of the game. They know what it is like to hear a doctor say, "He may never walk again."

It was Nov. 16, 1995, and Ham was going through his regular practice session at a

gym outside of Los Angeles. He was on the high bar, one of his better events. He had just turned 16 and had received his driver's license.

Then, on one release, he missed the bar and fell to the mat headfirst.

Witnesses said he tried to get up, tried to keep going. Ham doesn't remember.

"I heard a loud crunch," he said. "I knew I was in trouble."

Ham still had limited movement, but his extremities were numb. His parents, Dwight and Kathy, arrived as ambulance workers were restraining his head and neck by padding them in place on the stretcher.



Ham

They didn't know what to think or what to say.

All Ham said was, "Mom, I've got this big test tomorrow, so make sure to bring my books to the hospital."

He spent six hours strapped to the board while doctors examined him. Different parts of his body would tingle, start going numb. Due to the nature of the human body, Ham was still in the danger zone. Any wrong movement, by him or the doctors, would have resulted in permanent damage.

Ham had broken a vertebrae in his neck and dislocated several others. There was, incredibly, no damage to his spine.

"The doctor said I had dodged a bullet," Ham said. "Actually, he said to call it a miracle was an understatement."

Ham spent the next two weeks in traction, 30 pounds pulling on his head. Doctors hoped

the pressure would naturally straighten out his neck.

While in the hospital, Ham received visitors, sometimes up to 40 at a time. His brother, Matthew, who was in college and working at Pizza Hut, would deliver pizzas and sit with him. On Thanksgiving, members of Ham's gym brought him a turkey feast.

"Friends, family, schoolmates — they got me through it," Ham said.

And even then, just days after gymnastics almost paralyzed or even killed him, Ham was thinking about getting back up on the bar.

"I was reading sports psychology books," he said. "Really, I was a head case for a while. I had nightmares about the accident. But I knew deep down what I wanted to do."

The traction didn't work, and Ham under-

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