Conference focuses on greener future

By Danielle Grote COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | deg142@psu.edu

Scientists, architects, designers, artists and many others came together last weekend to share projects and discuss plans for the future at the eighth annual Green Design Conference.

David Riley, assistant professor of architectural engineering, won \$2,000 for his project on sustainable housing and five \$500 awards were given to other participants. The weekend also included a keynote address by ecological artist and designer Michael Singer, a performance by the Pennsylvania Dance Theater, and a fair for middle and high school students.

Barbara Anderson, director of the Center for Sustainability, said people of different specialties have to work together in today's

levels.

"Green design is a way of thinking which is often called system thinking," she said. The goal of the projects presented during

the weekend is to obtain sustainability, or the harmonious integration of human life with the natural world, Anderson said.

To do this, participants in five different categories - architecture, engineering, ecological innovations, landscapes, and gardens and art --- worked to incorporate the guidelines for sustainable design outlined in The Hannover Principles into their projects.

"In every area, in every category, we're looking for projects that maintain these principles," Anderson said.

Gary Gyekis, a local residential designer and builder, won in the category of architec-

world, because there are no longer renais-sance people who have many skills on many residential and commercial clients are recently demanding more green design in their projects, he said.

"Resale value isn't the only thing driving the market anymore," Gyekis said.

The winner in the engineering category was Joshua Pearce (graduate-material science) for his design of porous sidewalks made from recycled tires. The loosely packed rubber would make it easier for the water to seep through. It would also create a better surface for runners like him, he said. "I wanted to be able to run on campus on

something soft," he said. In other categories, winners were Madhu Prakash for a dry toilet that decomposes waste efficiently, Jackie Bonomo for the design of a healing ground sanctuary and Suzanne Bruening for an artistic pillow made of used teabags.



Gordon Marshall/Collegiar

The Pennsylvania Dance Theater performs "Plan Away" at the Zoller Gallery. The dance was one of three premieres that ran in conjunction with the Green Conference.

Upgrades to Pattee, Paterno to provide better access for disabled

By Corianne lacovelli FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Improvements to Pattee and Paterno Library may soon be underway to make the buildings easier for disabled students to access.

Penn State senior Danny Freund (human development and family studies) has been on a mission to ensure that university buildings are easy for disabled students to navigate. Freund believes Pattee and Paterno Library are key areas of concern and that there are simple solutions to make them accessible to disabled students.

Ever since he lost his leg to cancer, Freund has worked strenuously to make sure the interests of disabled students are being rep- these spots were reserved for Penn State Pattee, a walk with outdoor tables and chairs Extended Hours Reading Room as an alterresented. He is currently focusing his efforts on two main issues with the library.

The unavailability of general handicapped parking in the immediate vicinity of West Pattee is one area Freund is concerned about. Second is the lack of an easy entrance into the library from the allotted handicapped spots.

'My interest here is parking in the closest possible spot to a quiet study area and the handicapped spots they put in Paterno are not easily accessible," Freund said.

There are three handicapped spaces that Freund feels need modification. They border Parking Lot Green E, which is located next to Ihlseng Cottage off of Fraser Road. Two of

employees with specific numbered permits.

The third spot is general, which means that anyone with a disability permit may use it. The general space is usually taken during daytime hours, Freund said, forcing him and other handicapped students to park elsewhere.

Freund appealed to Doug Holmes, Transportation Facilities Coordinator, to convert entrance and we're now going to change one of the two reserved spots to a general access space. His efforts paid off; the spot was converted last Wednesday, so that any disabled permit is now acceptable.

Currently, the closest entrance to the handicapped spots outside of West Pattee is at MacKinnon's Café on the ground floor of

navigate around. The doors at this entry are spots to the library. not equipped with handicapped opening buttons. Library authorities are aware that few steps from the handicapped spots, would these doors need modification and plans are solve Freund's problem. underway to make them accessible.

lobbying for two years to improve this them," said Sally Kalin, Associate Dean for University Park Libraries.

with Kalin carrying a heavy bag to simulate a student's dilemma.

that those with a physical disability must native route from the Fraser Road handicap

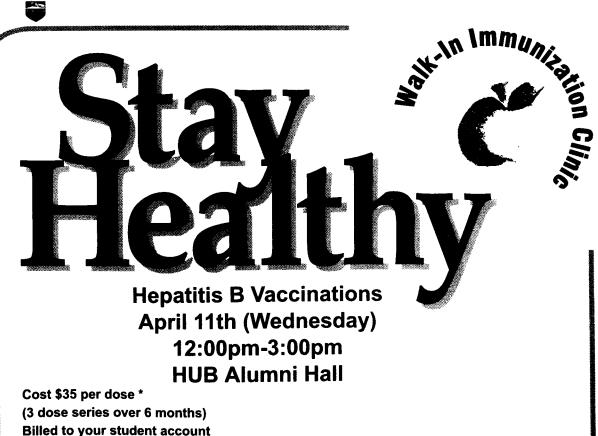
Installing a ramp at the fire door, only a

Before any changes are made, fire code 'These doors are too heavy. We've been and security issues must be resolved, Kalin said. The Extended Hours Reading Room, a gift from the Class of 1994, is designated as a quiet study area and officials hesitate to install an entrance there because of possible Freund and Kalin walked the route dis- noise. Freund says making the door excluabled students take to enter the building, sive to handicapped students would eliminate this problem.

"This is all wrapped up in codes and laws, Freund suggested the fire door in the but I will raise the question," Kalin said.







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