

## School bus accident kills student

By Lynne Funk

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | lalfunk@psu.edu

Shellie Smarowsky, a 21-year-old Penn State student, died yesterday after a pedestrian/school bus accident on the corner of East Beaver Avenue and South Garner Street.

The incident took place at about 9 a.m. Shortly after, Smarowsky was taken to Centre Community Hospital, where she was pronounced dead from a "blunt force trauma to the chest," said Scott A. Sayers, Centre County Coroner, in a press release.

Smarowsky was crossing the intersection on South Garner Street at the time the bus was turning right onto South Garner Street from East Beaver Avenue.

The State College Area School District Bus was operated by David Johnson, 27, of Boalsburg. Four Grace Lutheran School children were on the bus at the

time of the accident. None of the children were injured.

Smarowsky, from the Philadelphia suburb of West Chester, moved in with her boyfriend of more than two years at the beginning of the semester.

"She was my best friend," said Mike Weinstock, Smarowsky's roommate and boyfriend.

Weinstock had to break the traumatic news to Smarowsky's mother.

"She was hysterical. I was crying, she was crying," Weinstock said. "I'm all cried out."

Smarowsky's mother was unable to comment last night.

Weinstock, sitting in the room he shared with Smarowsky in Park Hill apartments, looked through personal belongings and pictures, with the support of his mother, Mary, and close friend of Smarowsky's, Nick Bartilomo. The three talked about their fond memories

of their times with Smarowsky.

The room, covered in framed photographs of the smiling couple and their friends, was blanketed by an aura of sadness.

Bartilomo nodded in quiet agreement to what Mike and Mary Weinstock said about Smarowsky. The three smiled through tear-filled eyes, recalling the fond memories of Smarowsky's personality.

"She was really passionate. She was the hardest worker — so incredibly smart," Mike Weinstock said. "She was ready to go out and get the world."

Mike Weinstock looked at his mother and friend, recalling the many times Smarowsky helped him through rough times he had.

"How many problems has she been there for me — she was the strongest girl," Weinstock said.

See ACCIDENT, Page 5.



Courtesy of Mike Weinstock

Shellie Smarowsky, 21, poses with her boyfriend Mike Weinstock.

## Residents troubled with lack of Internet

By Jennifer Brooks  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The bankruptcy of Excite@Home has left many Penn State students who live off-campus without Internet service since early Saturday morning.

"A significant number of Penn State's students have been affected by this," said Howie Weiss (junior-finance and accounting).

Weiss said that he has been very happy with his AT&T service up to this point. Though having no Internet service is an "inconvenience," the company should not be blamed, he added.

"The company has covered their bases," Weiss said. "They've provided excellent service up to this point."

Elizabeth Engelbret (junior-education) has also been without Internet access since Saturday, when she received an automated voice message from AT&T explaining the situation. AT&T said Internet access would be restored within seven days, she said.

Kim Pranton (senior-sociology) is another disappointed AT&T customer. Pranton said that she is displeased with the way that AT&T has handled the situation.

"I really did wish they gave us more warning about this so we could make arrangements and find a new service," Pranton said.

AT&T didn't give customers a chance to have their questions answered, she added. After this, Pranton said she plans to find a new Internet service provider.

Penn State staff members have also been affected by the lack of Internet service. Paul Kellermann, a lecturer in English, has been having difficulties staying in touch with his students from his computer at home, he said.

"I can't be without my e-mail," Kellermann added. "It's easier to contact me by e-mail than phone. I always answer my email; I don't

See INTERNET, Page 5.



Adel Hana/Associated Press

A Palestinian family crouches against a wall after fleeing their house near Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's headquarters in Gaza City. Israeli helicopter gunships retaliated for suicide bombings by Islamic militants that killed 26 people.

## Sharon declares war on terror

By Ibrahim Barzak  
and Mark Lavie

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared war on terror yesterday, and Israeli airstrikes destroyed two of the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's helicopters in Gaza and hit West Bank security installations.

Ten Palestinians were wounded in the missile attack by Israeli helicopter gunships near Arafat's seaside headquarters, which raised a plume of black smoke over Gaza City. Arafat was in the West Bank at the time of the attack.

Sharon convened an emergency Cabinet meeting to decide the scope of Israel's response to suicide bombings and shootings by Islamic militant groups that killed 26 people in Israel on Saturday and Sunday.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Saeb

Erekat said Sharon's speech, coupled with the airstrikes, signaled an Israeli attempt to "overthrow the Palestinian Authority." Palestinian officials said the harsh reprisals undermined a sincere Arafat effort to crack down on Islamic militants in the wake of the suicide bombings.

However, Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer told reporters that Israel has no intention of bringing down Arafat's administration.

Brig. Gen. Ron Kitzrey, the Israeli military spokesman, said helicopters used by Arafat to shuttle between the West Bank and Gaza were targeted because "they were symbols of his mobility and freedom."

Since Sunday night, Palestinian security forces have rounded up about 110 members of the Islamic Jihad and Hamas, the group that claimed responsibility for twin suicide bombings in a

Jerusalem pedestrian mall that killed 10 young Israelis Saturday and another suicide bombing that killed 15 on a bus in Haifa Sunday. A Hamas shooting in the Gaza Strip on Sunday killed one Israeli.

In the past, the Palestinians have quickly released some militants detained in sweeps — and the Bush administration yesterday cautioned against what White House spokesman Ari Fleischer called a "revolving door."

Concerning Israel's airstrikes, Fleischer said, "Israel has a right to defend itself."

Secretary of State Colin Powell cautioned that all sides must consider the repercussions of their actions on the peace process.

■ Arafat makes arrests and issues more warnings. | INTERNATIONAL, Page 9

## Bush puts America on third high alert

The president said to remain aware during the holiday season.

By Ron Fournier  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Bush put America on high alert yesterday for possible terrorist strikes during the holiday season after U.S. intelligence officials reported an increase in credible threats.

Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge, standing in for Bush in order

to announce the third government alert that has occurred since the Sept. 11 suicide hijackings in New York and Washington, D.C., said the information they have received does not point to a specific target or type of attack, either in the United States or abroad.

"The convergence of information suggests, ladies and gentlemen of America, you know, we're at war, be on alert," Ridge told reporters in the White House briefing room.

"Now is not the time to back off," Ridge said, echoing a warning he issued the nation's governors in a conference call yesterday.



Bush

### More coverage

- U.S. warplanes pound Kandahar. | Page 6
- Three captured Taliban members claim to be Americans. | Page 6
- Northern Alliance releases list of leaders for future government. | Page 6

## Inside

### Students fight fires for free

The scene would be typical of any house full of college students at 2 p.m. on a Thursday. Another is preparing for his daily workout, while one eats lunch, watching an ESPN replay of last weekend's Penn State-Michigan State football game. | LOCAL, Page 4

### Scientists discover lizard

As objects in society become smaller, the creatures that are discovered are becoming smaller as well, exemplified by two scientists who have discovered the world's smallest lizard located in the Caribbean. | SCIENCE AND HEALTH, Page 13

### Fencers dominate first meet

The Penn State fencing team started its dual meet season with a bang, beginning their quest for another national championship.

Over the weekend, the Nittany and Lady Lions traveled to New Brunswick, N.J., to compete in their first dual meet of the season. with Rutgers and Princeton universities. | SPORTS, Page 10



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## Cahir weathers way up to retirement

By Jeremy R. Cooke

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When Vice Provost John J. Cahir first warmed up to weather forecasting, not too many people actually took the predictions seriously.

"On some of the television programs, they almost literally had clowns doing it," said Cahir, dean of undergraduate education and professor of meteorology. "It was considered a diversion, something to lighten up on the news. I don't think anybody made any major decisions on the basis of what they said."

Cahir, who announced last week that he will step down from his administration post next year, used to think forecasting the weather was the greatest job he could hope to have.

Nearly four decades since Cahir first joined the Penn State meteorology faculty, his chosen field has gained a lot more credibility, he says, thanks in part to advances made by a few Penn State-educated weathermen.

During his early days at the university, Cahir hosted Weather World on WPSX-TV, a program that ran on weeknights.

"You'd sometimes get letters from people who'd say, 'On Friday night, could you make a forecast for Monday because we're not going to see you again until Monday night?'" Cahir said. "Of course, the truth of the matter was, we were grasping at straws for Sunday, never mind Monday."

Some of the first computer models forecasters used to peer into the future of the atmosphere relied on an imaginary wall at the Equator, Cahir said. It seemed simpler and took less time to focus on just the Northern Hemisphere.

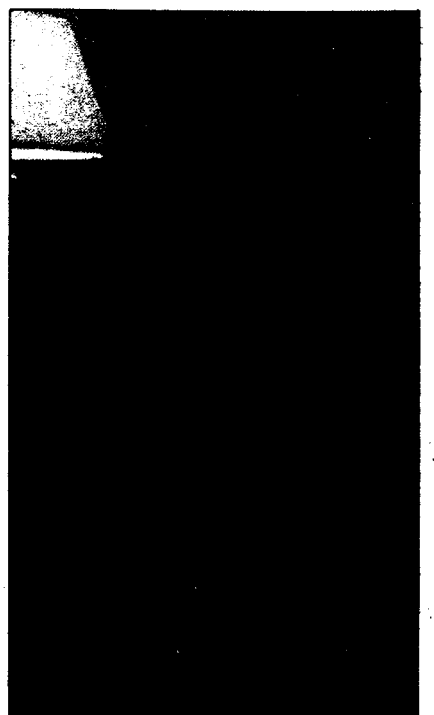
"Until about 1980, we believed that that was a sound assumption," he added.

But most forecasts still lacked accuracy, until the day a few meteorologists suggested taking the invisible wall down and going global with models.

The improving computer technology was there to complement the broader view, and forecasts started hitting the bull's eye more often.

"It was just about that time you began to see people carrying umbrellas — not because it had rained — but because there was a forecast for rain. Before

See CAHIR, Page 5.



C. Davis Herten/Collegian

John Cahir will be retiring next September as vice-provost.