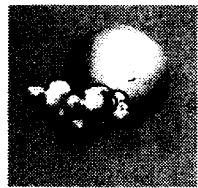

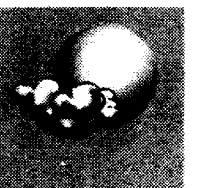


UNIVERSITY PARK FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DEC. 4, 2001

Above average temperatures will continue through the middle of the week until an area of low pressure slides into the region from the west. While little precipitation is expected, this storm will open the door for some colder air by the weekend.

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow
 Early sun, followed by clouds High 59	 Mainly cloudy, but dry Low 42	 A mix of sun and clouds High 62

The extended outlook

- Tomorrow night:** More clouds return. Low 46.
- Thursday:** Cloudy with a chance of a afternoon shower. High 60, low 49.
- Friday:** Chance of a morning shower; then sun returns. High 50, low 38.
- Saturday:** Partly sunny. High 44, low 30.

ALMANAC

Today
Normal high 40 deg.
Record high 64 deg. in 1998
Normal low 25 deg.
Record low 0 deg. in 1976

Monthly Climate Summary
(Data valid through 8 am yesterday)
Dec. precipitation 0.00 inches
Normal Dec. precip 2.67 inches
Dec. temp. departure + 14.41 deg.

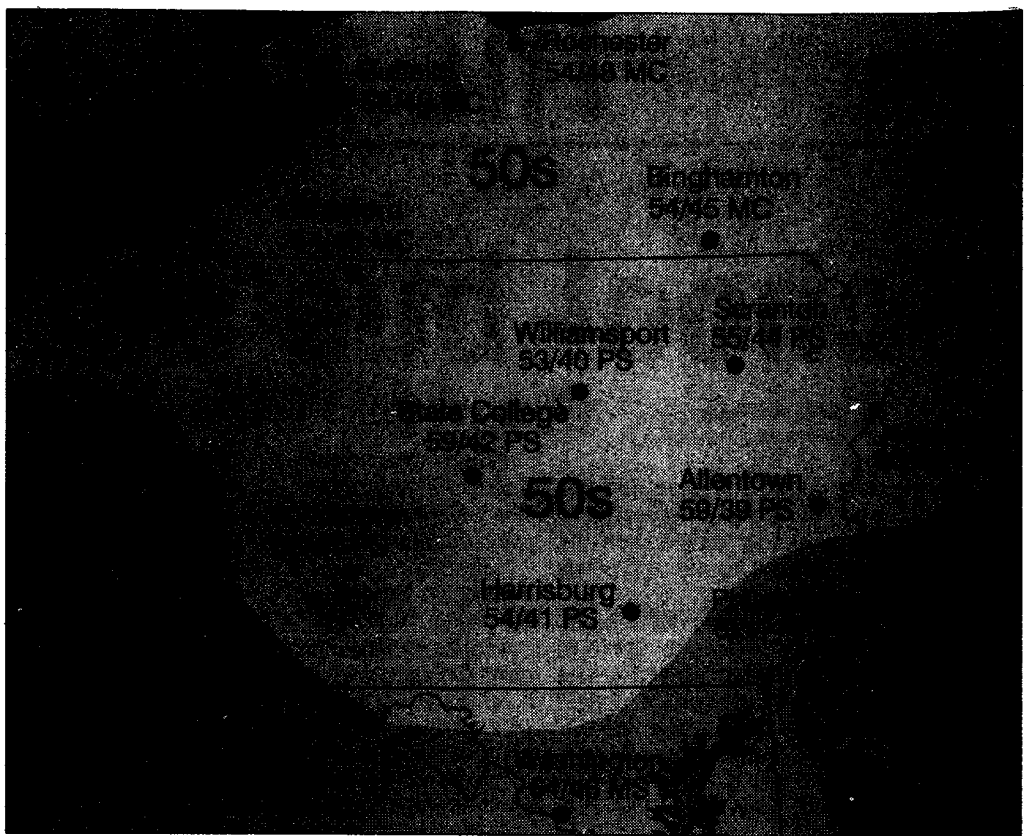
Sun Data
Sunset today 4:44 pm
Sunrise tomorrow 7:21 am

BIG TEN FORECAST

University	Hi/Lo	Conditions
Illinois	62/52	Mostly Cloudy
Indiana	63/50	Mostly Cloudy
Iowa	50/39	Mostly Cloudy
Michigan	57/49	Mostly Cloudy
Michigan St.	57/48	Mostly Cloudy
Minnesota	46/25	Partly Sunny
Northwestern	58/48	Mostly Cloudy
Ohio State	63/48	Mostly Cloudy
Purdue	63/51	Mostly Cloudy
Wisconsin	51/38	Mostly Cloudy

ADDITIONAL WEATHER

Visit the Campus Weather Service at:
<http://cws.met.psu.edu>
Comments concerning the content of this page can be e-mailed to:
cws@cws.met.psu.edu
Forecasters: Jeff Porter, Joel Gratz, Jeff Mock



REGIONAL FORECAST MAP

How to interpret this map: Shades of gray indicate the expected high temperatures for today. Today's forecasted high and tomorrow morning's low are also shown for selected cities.
Legend: SU(Sunny), MS(Mostly Sunny), PS(Partly Sunny), MC(Mostly Cloudy), CY(Cloudy), RN(Rain), RS(Rain/Snow), SH(Showers), SN(Snow), SF(Snow Flurries), MX (Mix), TS(Thunderstorms), WY(Windy), FZ (Freezing Rain/Sleet).

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

'Pearl Harbor' to hit video stores today

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Critics trashed *Pearl Harbor*, but the movie has become more relevant since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, said producer Jerry Bruckheimer. Recounting the Japanese sneak attack that hurled the United States into World War II, *Pearl Harbor* likely will resonate differently with audiences when it debuts on home video today, Bruckheimer said. "Absolutely and unfortunately," Bruckheimer said in a telephone interview last week. "There are echoes of a country unaware and unprepared for what's to come. Also, the patriotism of that era. We're seeing a lot of that again. The military is looked at much differently" since Sept. 11.



Bruckheimer

happen in life that make it very difficult at times to be happy or to overcome certain problems. Scientology has helped me be able to figure out tools to understand exactly what a problem is, and how to overcome those problems." As for his divorce from Nicole Kidman this year after nearly a decade of marriage, the 39-year-old actor has less to say. "She knows why and I know why. She's the mother of my children, and I wish her well," he said. "I don't care if it piques people's interest. Honestly, people should mind their own damn business. And get a life of their own. ... My personal life isn't here to sell newspapers."



Cruise

Baby born to Braxton and hubby in Georgia

ATLANTA (AP) — Toni Braxton has given birth to 5-pound, 12-ounce boy at an Atlanta-area hospital. The baby, born Sunday, was named Denim Cole Braxton Lewis and is the first child for Braxton and her husband, Keri Lewis, of the Minneapolis-based band Mint Condition. "Mom and baby are doing fine," said her spokesman, David Brokaw. The 33-year-old R&B singer, who won her sixth Grammy Award this year, met her husband, a 28-year-old keyboard player, four years ago. Mint Condition accompanied her when she opened for contemporary jazz saxophonist Kenny G on a nationwide tour.

'N Sync watches sold to raise funds for kids

LAS VEGAS (AP) — 'N Sync has teamed up with a Swiss watchmaker to raise money for children who were orphaned by the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Audemars Piguet has created 200 of the limited-edition watches that also will benefit needy children through "Challenge for the Children," 'N Sync's foundation. The 50 men's watches and 150 women's watches have been engraved with the signatures of the pop group's five members and will be priced at \$8,500 and \$5,900, respectively.



Bass



'ON MY HONOR, I WILL TRY ...': Connie Williams, D-Montgomery County, left, holds up her hand as her husband Sankey, daughters, Jenny, right, and Betsy, far right, hold the Bible during Williams' swearing in ceremony at the Capitol in Harrisburg, Pa. Williams was elected to the Pennsylvania senate in a special election.

Mob boss to serve 14 years

PHILADELPHIA — Philadelphia's already decimated Mafia family took another blow yesterday when former boss Joseph "Skinny Joey" Merlino received a 14-year prison sentence for racketeering. Going back more than two decades, every single Philadelphia mob boss since Angelo Bruno has either been murdered or sent to prison, prosecutors noted after Merlino was led away in handcuffs. "Other people have assumed leadership positions," Assistant U.S. Attorney David E. Fritchey said outside court. "But with each one of these prosecutions, they suffer blows of attrition. We're down to the fourth string." Merlino reacted with typical stoicism as U.S. District Judge Herbert Hutton delivered the sentence. Turning to face family members sitting in the gallery, Merlino shrugged his shoulders and said: "Ain't bad. Nine's better than the death penalty." Merlino has already spent more than two years behind bars, and with time off for good behavior he could be released in about nine years. Hutton also sentenced Merlino, 39, to three years of supervised release, restitution of almost \$338,000 and \$25,000 in fines. The sentence was more lenient than what prosecutors had been asking for, but fell within federal sentencing guidelines. While a jury acquitted Merlino of murder, attempted murder and drug trafficking last July, he and six other defendants were convicted of a series of racketeering offenses including extortion, illegal gambling and unlawful collection of debts. Merlino's co-defendants will be sentenced by Hutton over the next several days. Federal prosecutors had asked Hutton to go beyond the guidelines and send Merlino to prison for up to 24 years. The guidelines called for a sentence of 11 to 14 years, according to the U.S. Probation Department. Merlino's trial lawyer, Edwin Jacobs Jr., contested both versions as being too high. He argued the applicable sentencing guidelines were much lower, perhaps in the four- to five-year range. "We're OK with the sentence," said Jacobs, who still planned an appeal that he said could knock off another 1½ years. "Compared to where we were one year ago — facing life in prison or the death penalty — this is not so bad." Merlino and his co-defendants were convicted after a four-month racketeering trial that featured testimony from several top mob informants, including admitted mob boss and one-time Merlino ally Ralph Natale. Natale was the only American Mafia boss to ever turn government informant. In 14 days on the witness stand, he testified he set loose Merlino and other defendants to commit murder and mayhem in Philadelphia and New Jersey. But his story didn't always jibe with the accounts by three other confessed mobsters, and the jury acquitted Merlino of three murders, two attempted murders and murder conspiracy. Prosecutors said Merlino succeeded Natale as boss of the Philadelphia-South Jersey mob after Natale was jailed in 1998. During a two-hour sentencing hearing, Jacobs assailed the "desperation of the government trying to salvage a winning sentence from a losing case." But Fritchey mocked the short, slender Merlino as a physical weakling who needed the Mafia to transform him into a respected underworld figure. "Merlino is not a particularly imposing physical specimen. He might be in the 35th percentile of healthy American males living in the city of Philadelphia," Fritchey said. "But he is a feared figure because he is a mob leader." Fritchey predicted a "100 percent" chance that Merlino will re-enter mob life once he's released from prison. But at that point, Merlino will be "at the bottom of the totem pole" because other imprisoned mobsters will have already been released, Fritchey said. The trial was the government's third major assault on the Philadelphia mob in 13 years. A 1988 case led to the downfall of Nicodemo "Little Nicky" Scarfo and 15 associates, while a 1994 indictment put mob boss John Stanfa away for five consecutive life sentences.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Water main break closes intersection

There was a water main break that forced the closure of Bigler Road between Curtin Road and Park Avenue yesterday afternoon between 3:28 and 4:15. The break sent water flooding out completely covering six inches of the street. However, no buildings or vehicles were damaged by the water, said University Police Services supervisor, Dwight Smith. The break affected faculty and staff who parked their vehicles in Lot Orange A and Lot 80. Those who wanted to exit the parking lots will need to use west exits to Shortidge Road.

Westerly Parkway, the State College Police Department said. The value of the items totaled \$1,800, police said. ■ **Theft:** A Penn State staff member reported Friday that sometime overnight unknown persons had taken items from a locked locker at the Mateer Building, Penn State Police Services said. The estimated value of the items is \$1,000, police said. ■ **Theft:** A Penn State student reported his wallet and contents were stolen from the Intramural Building on Sunday, sometime between 11:15 p.m. and 12 a.m., Penn State police said. The estimated value of the wallet and its contents is about \$860, police said. ■ **Theft:** Two speakers, a carpeted speaker box, two amplifiers and a cross-over device were taken from an unlocked vehicle on the 600 block of Belair Avenue, State College police said. The total value of the items is \$550, police said.

POLICE LOG

■ **Theft:** Compact discs, running shoes and \$50 in cash were taken from a Penn State student's car Sunday at an unknown time on the 600 block of

Academic Assembly supports calendar

By Erica Zarra
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | emz112@psu.edu

The Undergraduate Student Government Academic Assembly reaffirmed their resolution last night to oppose any calendar decision eliminating fall break, as they believe that it goes against the wishes of the student majority. "I feel that this is a strong resolution," said Academic Assembly Vice President Robyn Ricketts said. "When we voted, we voted on behalf of the students." The Joint Committee To Review The University Calendar's recent recommendation combines fall break with Thanksgiving recess, leaving four days for final exams. It also proposes 72 instructional days for each semester. The assembly said that in addition to keeping fall break where it is, they would also like the Monday and Tuesday before finals week to be designated for study and review, not for lecture. "We discussed some of the weaknesses of our resolution so if asked to back it up, we will be prepared," said Academic Assembly President Paul Ricciardi. The assembly has three of its members on the Undergraduate Education Committee and one on the University Planning Committee. These two groups will meet separately today to discuss both the Joint Committee's recommendation and assembly's resolution. They will then meet together and have a final discussion on the two proposals before bringing their findings before the University Faculty Senate at its meeting this afternoon. However, the calendar is not set to be voted on until the group's January meeting. Ricketts said that although she is not sure how assembly's opinion will influence the final decision, she is confident that even if fall break is moved her group will still have a strong voice on campus and not be discouraged. Senator for the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences and member of the Undergraduate Education Committee, Terry Shirley said that his group will take assembly's resolution seriously. "I know that they will listen to all of the key points," Shirley said.