



Mike Bailey (freshman-business) works with his tutor, Sui Chaing Lin (sophomore-computer science) in the East Area Locker Room.

## Cream of the crop

### PSU athletes yield stellar graduation rates

By Jeff Rice

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Tucked away in a little nook between The Bryce Jordan Center and the Nittany Apartment complex, where the majority of Penn State student-athletes live, is a small building called the East Area Locker Room. It's not well-known to most, but to student-athletes, it's a second home.

Upstairs, the hallway is silent, as is a well-lit room with bare gray walls and partitions on the tables. At 7:30 on a Tuesday evening, only a few students are in the room, poring over texts or scribbling math problems into a notebook. Soon, though, there will be more.

For Penn State student-athletes, evening study hall becomes as much a part of their daily routine as team prac-

tices. The university stresses that freshman student-athletes get off to a strong academic start, which is why all freshmen are required to put in at least seven and a half study-hall hours each week.

Many big-time NCAA programs excel on the field but are far less productive off of it, as their graduation rates range from subpar to dismal. This is not the case at Penn State, which expects its athletes to graduate. And when the numbers are examined, the expectations usually are met.

Of the last four student-athlete classes studied by the NCAA (of players who entered as freshmen in 1991, '92, '93 and '94 and who earned or failed to earn a degree within six years), Penn State graduated an average of 77 percent — second best in the Big Ten. The

school's averages in the three major sports — football and men's and women's basketball — also were among the conference's best, at 70 percent, 80 percent and 82 percent, respectively.

At Penn State, it's all about establishing a "culture," an environment where importance is placed on academics early and maintained throughout an athlete's stay at the university. While many athletic programs at big-time Division I schools struggle to meet NCAA graduation standards, this culture consistently helps put Penn State among the nation's best.

"Penn State has always had a great culture for academics and athletics being combined," Athletic Director Tim Curley said. "And I think the credit goes

See ATHLETES, Page 4.

## Police investigate bus accident

By Lynne Funk

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The State College Police Department is continuing the investigation of the school bus/pedestrian accident that resulted in the death of Penn State student Shellee Smarowsky.

Lt. Diane Conrad of the State College Police Department said, "the investigation is not complete but there are no charges pending against the driver."

David Johnson, 27, of Boalsburg, was operating the bus that turned right onto South Garner Street when the accident occurred. Johnson could not be reached for comment.

No new information about the investigation was available yesterday, Conrad said.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Smarowsky, who was walking east on East Beaver Avenue, stepped into

the side of the bus and then fell underneath it, according to a police press release. She sustained multiple internal injuries, which resulted in the 21-year-old's death, police said.

Penn State spokesman Tysen Kendig said the university has resources for students who are disturbed by Smarowsky's death.

"It's obviously a terrible tragedy and we are saddened by it," Kendig said. "We hope students who are upset by it take advantage of the services provided by contacting University Health Services or stopping by the HUB." Kendig said the university has a policy that allows students who have been through a tragedy to be excused

from classes. "We have counseling services around the clock," Kendig said.

Smarowsky (senior-public relations), who was from the Philadelphia suburb of West Chester, would have graduated within the coming year.

Kendig said in the past, Penn State has given students who passed on an honorary diploma. "I'm not sure of the criteria needed," Kendig said. "I'd imagine it would have to do with the number of credits completed but I believe that has been done in the past."

Mike Weinstock described his girlfriend and roommate as "incredibly smart" and an "extremely hard worker" who was going to "make something of herself." Weinstock had to inform Smarowsky's mother about the death of her only child Monday.

Witnesses to the accident are asked to call State College Police at 234-7150.



Smarowsky

## Troops search for bin Laden; battles persist

By Chris Tomlinson  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

JALALABAD, Afghanistan — Anti-Taliban troops hunting for Osama bin Laden said they clashed yesterday with al-Qaida fighters near their mountain hideouts in Afghanistan. Elsewhere, Taliban forces pushed tribal fighters back from the airport near the former ruling militia's last bastion, Kandahar.

In Germany, Afghan factions negotiating a post-Taliban government agreed to form a 29-member council to run the country and set to work on the difficult task of determining who will hold the major posts.

Hundreds of anti-Taliban fighters piled into trucks and set off yesterday for the White Mountains south of Jalalabad, where local officials believe bin Laden and hundreds of his al-Qaida fighters are hiding. Provincial security chief Hazrat Ali said he was assembling a force of about 3,000 fighters to join the hunt for bin Laden.

"This fight has just begun," Gen.

### More coverage

- U.N. envoy tries to ethnically balance the new Afghan government. | Page, 8
- World Trade Center victims may be "vaporized." | Page, 8

Richard Myers, chairman of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff, said in Washington, D.C.

Ali said a patrol of about a dozen men clashed briefly with a group of al-Qaida fighters, who abandoned a tank and scurried off to higher ground. There were no casualties.

Mohammed Zaman, defense chief here in Nangarhar province, estimates up to 1,200 al-Qaida fighters are hiding in the White Mountains of eastern Afghanistan, which include the Tora Bora cave complex.

Ali said days of intensive bombing have driven al-Qaida fighters from the See TROOPS, Page 6.

## Israel unleashes bombs, missiles

Two Palestinians were killed by airstrikes that hit close to Arafat's compound and the Gaza Strip.

By Ibrahim Hazboun  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Israel used bombs and missiles yesterday to pressure Yasser Arafat to move against Palestinian militants, striking just yards from the Palestinian leader's West Bank offices and in the Gaza Strip. Two Palestinians were killed and about 150 were injured in the attacks.

The campaign stirred opposition from moderate Labor Party members of Israel's ruling coalition, who boycotted a Cabinet vote on tougher action against the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government said it was sending a stern warning to the Palestinian leader that there would be even harsher reprisals if he did not crack down on militants who have been attacking Israelis.

"The purpose was to send a clear military message .... 'Friends, we've had enough, take the responsibility that you have and stop the terrorism,'" said the Israeli army spokesman, Brig. Gen. Ron Kitzry.

The air attacks came in response to weekend bombings and shooting attacks on Israelis by Islamic militants that killed 26 people and wounded nearly 200. Kitzry said yesterday's raids targeted Palestinian Authority installations because the Islamic militants' headquarters "are secret and cannot be hit in this type of attack."

Arafat, speaking to CNN after the airstrike on his Ramallah compound,



Adel Hana/Associated Press

A Palestinian school girl screams and cries in shock during an Israeli army missile attack in Gaza City.

accused Sharon of trying to undermine his efforts to combat terrorism. The Palestinian Authority has rounded up some 130 members of the militant Islamic Jihad and Hamas groups since the weekend, and Palestinian officials said the sweep would continue despite the Israeli raids.

See ISRAELIS, Page 6.

■ Arafat is taken underground after the bombings | INTERNATIONAL, Page 9

## Inside

### Bush: Arafat display peace

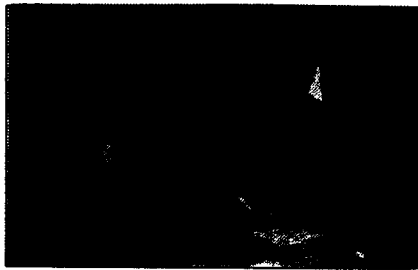
President George W. Bush said yesterday it is time for Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to crack down on Islamic militants and demonstrate whether he supports peace with Israel. | NATIONAL, Page 12

### Calendar debates continues

Two university committees met yesterday to discuss the calendar, with still no consensus being reached among the faculty, staff and students involved. "They could not decide what the best change would be," said Faculty Senate Chair John Nichols. "Therefore, no formal proposal was made, nothing got resolved." | LOCAL, Page 7

### Welsh receives accolades

Penn State women's soccer player Christie Welsh added some more hardware to her trophy case yesterday. Welsh, who led the Nittany Lions in scoring for the third straight year, was awarded the prestigious Hermann Trophy, which is given to the nation's best soccer player. | SPORTS, Page 13



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## Tips lead officials to Philadelphia

Officers are conducting follow-up interviews in connection with Cindy Song.

By Lynne Funk

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After investigators on the case of missing Penn State student Cindy Song received several phone tips, which are being looked into, members of the Ferguson Township Police Department and an FBI agent traveled to the Philadelphia area Monday in order to conduct follow up interviews, according to a press release.

The police continue to investigate the disappearance of the 21-year-old woman who has been missing since the early morning hours of Nov. 1. Investigators were unavailable for comment yesterday.

Penn State Spokesman Bill Mahon said the university has been involved in the investigation since she was reported missing.

Mahon said the university has been working with police through Penn State Police Services as well as with the family of the missing student.

"We've met with her family and developed a poster for the family," Mahon said. "We put the same information on our public information Web site linked to the Penn State Web site."

The university has been polling its resources to help with the investigation.

"A number of different university offices have been working together to help with whatever we can," Mahon said.

For example, Mahon said, the university set up a Penn State e-mail account for Song's brother Kihoo Song while he is staying in State College.

As well as Internet media, Mahon said the university has been involved in setting up the reward that has been put on the posters for the return of Cindy Song.

Mahon said the university will do whatever it can to help find Cindy Song, but now, they are looking to the police to do what they can.

"It's awfully limited to what more we can do," Mahon said. "She just vanished into thin air. Realistically, a lot of this is going to depend on the police."

Mahon is as astonished about the disappearance as the many other people involved with the search.

"This kind of crime is so strange and so incredibly rare, I think everybody's just so shocked and baffled by it."

Students now continue to work together with the university and police to support the family and help with the search.

An e-mail list has been set up for the students and community members who attended a meeting Thursday organized by Black Caucus.

An e-mail that was signed, "Sincerely, Family and friends of Cindy Song," was sent to the e-mail list and thanked the See TIPS, Page 6.



Song