

THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

THURSDAY
Oct. 10, 2002

WEATHER **Page 2**
TODAY: Cloudy

Vol. 103 No. 61 16 pages

PUBLISHED INDEPENDENTLY BY STUDENTS AT PENN STATE

30 cents off campus ©2002 Collegian Inc.

Report: Colleges less affordable

A national education center's affordability grades for public and private universities have dropped.

By Mike Walbert
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | mew202@psu.edu

Penn State students and parents alarmed by escalating tuition rates are not alone in their financial concerns, a recent study says.

A report released by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education last week found that colleges have become less affordable in most regions of the country since 2000, the last time the report was published.

Using a report card system to grade each state, the nonprofit center dropped the national affordability marks for public and private universities from a C- to a D.

As is the case with Penn State, many colleges and universities say they have been forced to raise tuition in response to a declining national economy.

"The overall numbers reflect the gains in the late 1990s, increases in tuition and the decline in family income," said Heather Jack, the center's director of state relations.

Pennsylvania's affordability grade dropped from a C in 2000 to a D+ in 2002.

The report said that although Pennsylvania is a top performer in giving financial aid to low-income students, the share of income that the state's poorest families must pay for tuition at the lowest-priced colleges remains near the bottom in the nation.

Penn State officials and students said the state's poor showing in affordability came as no surprise to them.

"That's what we've been saying for years," university spokesman Bill Mahon said. "The state has decided to pay less money to tuition."

Jenni Peterson (junior-advertising/public relations) is a Penn-

Pa's report card

- **Preparation** — 2000: C+ 2002: B-
- **Participation** — 2000: C 2002: B-
- **Affordability** — 2000: C 2002: D+
- **Completion (graduation)** — 2000: A 2002: A
- **Benefits** — 2000: B- 2002: B-

sylvania resident and pays for her schooling. The low affordability grade is fitting, she said.

"I think Pennsylvania could be doing a lot more to help its colleges, especially state schools," she said.

In compiling the affordability grades, Jack said the center looked at three major issues: a student or family's capacity to pay for college after financial aid, respective states' strategies for affordability (or appropriations) and the frequency of student of loans.

California scored the highest, receiving an A for affordability. Jack attributed the high mark to a quickly improving higher education system and a system that gives tuition breaks to low-income families.

Pennsylvania legislators might be able to learn something from this West Coast state, Mahon said.

"Here you have a state — even in these times of economic downturn — that put a lot more money into higher education than anyone else," he said.

Additionally, the center graded each state in four other categories: how effectively states prepare students for college, how many people attend col-

See **AFFORDABILITY**, Page 2.



Dave Slaughenhoup/Collegian

Pedestrians cross the intersection of White Course Drive and Route 322. This road was the site of two accidents on Tuesday.

Victims hospitalized

A biker and pedestrian were hit Tuesday while crossing the street.

By Adam Fabian
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | amf211@psu.edu

After a biker and a pedestrian were injured in separate accidents on Atherton Street on Tuesday, pedestrian safety is once again at the forefront of concern in State College.

George Trammel, the 19-year-old bicyclist who was hit near the Greyhound bus terminal, remains in serious condition at Geisinger Medical Center

in the pediatric intensive care unit.

Penn State student Trammel suffered severe head and leg injuries when he entered Atherton Street from the terminal's driveway and was struck by a minivan.

Trammel was initially taken to Centre Community Hospital, but was later life-flighted to Geisinger Medical Center, where he underwent surgery for his injuries.

The pedestrian accident victim, Penn State student Marla Stewart, 21, was injured when she attempted to cross the street mid-block on Atherton Street near the old intersection of Pollock Road, State College police said.

Stewart was taken to Centre Community Hospital for a leg injury. Police

said the injury is serious but not life-threatening.

State College Police Department Sgt. John Wilson said that anywhere a lot of people try to cross a street, there tend to be safety problems.

There have been problems in the past, Wilson said, but two pedestrian accidents in one day is unusual.

Wilson said that there are about 20 pedestrian and motor vehicle accidents per year, or about two such accidents per month in State College.

Out of those accidents, Wilson said there is about one death per year.

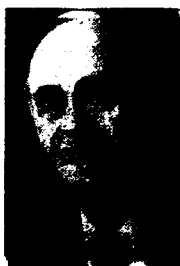
He said the numbers fluctuate from year to year, but they stay relatively close to the average.

See **ACCIDENT**, Page 2.

Former S. African leader to speak

By Mike Walbert
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | mew202@psu.edu

F.W. de Klerk, the former president of South Africa, will appear at 8 tonight in Eisenhower Auditorium as the second guest in Penn State's yearlong Distinguished Speakers Series.



de Klerk

Often referred to as "the peacemaker," de Klerk was a major driving force behind the elimination of apartheid in racially torn South Africa.

De Klerk also was credited with being one of the key players in the establishment of South Africa's current nonracial democratic system.

However, de Klerk is perhaps best known for his decision in 1990 to release imprisoned leader Nelson Mandela, to whom de Klerk eventually ceded power in 1994.

De Klerk will speak about a number of topics tonight.

He will speak on his views on current global events and conflicts, as well as giving perspective on his major achievements while he served as South African president from 1989 to 1994.

Brian Loretz, Distinguished Speakers Series committee chair, said de Klerk was an ideal choice to appear because the former world leader would bring a refreshing international scope to the series.

"He was a very attractive speaker for students ... and hopefully students will gain a world perspective [from him]," Loretz said.

"It makes the series a little more 'distinguished.'"

De Klerk graduated with a law degree from the Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education in 1958.

After serving in various political groups throughout the nation, such as the South African Parliament and Cabinet for several years, de Klerk was elected as his party's national leader in February 1989.

Seven months later, following the resignation of President P.W. Botha, de Klerk was unanimously elected into office as the new president of South Africa.

De Klerk retired from politics entirely in 1997.

During his tenure in the political landscape, de Klerk received several prestigious honors for the work that he had done.

In 1993, he and Mandela were selected as co-recipients of the Nobel Peace

P.W. de Klerk

- **Time:** 8 p.m.
- **Date:** Tonight
- **Place:** Eisenhower Auditorium
- **Details:** The speech is free and open to the public, but tickets are required.

Prize for their leading roles in the democratization of South Africa.

Also, alongside Yasser Arafat, Yitzhak Rabin and Mandela, de Klerk was co-named Time magazine's Man of the Year.

Loretz said the committee hopes de Klerk's appearance and speech will add to Penn State students' educational experience.

"Students can take the speaker and possibly correlate it with the higher education they're receiving, especially when he talks about social issues and other things they're studying," he said.

The session is free and open to the public, but tickets are required for admission.

Tickets are available on a first-come, first-served basis from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. today at the Eisenhower box office. Limited tickets might also be available tonight at the door.

Dealing with acts of hate focus of new USG group

The Tolerance and Equality Committee plans to assess the university's response to harassment.

By Nicholas Kershbaumer
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | npk106@psu.edu

Undergraduate Student Government (USG) Senate approved the formation of a temporary committee at its meeting Tuesday dedicated to keeping Penn State's administration accountable for hate crimes not effectively addressed by the university.

The Tolerance and Equality Committee (TEC) will assess the efficiency and effectiveness of Penn State's administration and student organizations if either are ever accused of committing acts of hate. The committee defines acts of hate as intimidation, harassment and physical aggression toward someone because of his or her race or sexual orientation.

Under the TEC, negligence in addressing or concealing any hate crime also will qualify as an act of hate.

Leaders of diversity-oriented organizations such as Lambda Student

Alliance urged senators to approve the TEC.

Sara Ryan, USG director of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community and its allies (LGBTQA) affairs, said 11 hate crimes were reported in the first month of this semester.

Ryan said the TEC must be a committee run by USG because it has the power to insist on university accountability, the necessary access to university officials and the responsibility of serving students.

"What more can we do for students other than work for their general well-being?" said Ryan, after displaying the LGBTQA flier that was defaced last Thursday on the door of the USG office.

Some senators, while agreeing that the university must address acts of

See **TOLERANCE**, Page 2.

■ USG Senate will also consider changes to its bylaws. | **LOCAL**, Page 2.

Inside The Daily Collegian

Search for sniper continues

A tarot card with the taunting words "Dear policeman, I am God" and a shell casing emerged yesterday as potential clues in the hunt for the sniper terrorizing Washington, D.C.'s suburbs. | **NATIONAL**, Page 4.

Big Bird comes to the BJC

You really can be there with Elmo, Big Bird, Ernie and the rest of the gang this weekend when *Sesame Street Live* brings its furry fun to the Bryce Jordan Center. Elmo and his pals will be performing "1-2-3... Imagine!" a show that transports viewers to exotic locales just by using their imaginations. | **VENUES**, Page 8.

Humble in leadership, victory

Midfielder Heather Conroy's 13 goals lead the Penn State field hockey team, the Big Ten and is tied for second in the country. But Conroy refuses to take any of the credit for her team's success. | **SPORTS**, Page 9.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Calendar	3	National	4
Classifieds	13	Opinions	6
Comics	15	Scoreboard	11
Crossword	15	Sports	9
Horoscope	13	TV Listings	14
International	5	Weather	2

CONTACT US

Newsroom: (814) 865-1828
Ads/Business: (814) 865-2531

ON THE WEB

www.collegian.psu.edu

Bill to increase punishment for Ecstasy dealers in Pa.

By Anne Strong
and Torie Bosch
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITERS | aes219@psu.edu

Sen. Jake Corman and state Attorney General Mike Fisher are one step closer to cracking down on Ecstasy crime in Pennsylvania.

Bill 1431, which increases penalties for those convicted of dealing Ecstasy, was passed unanimously in the state Senate last week and will be addressed in the House of Representatives next.

Fisher, who is the Republican gubernatorial candidate, approached Corman to develop the legislation after two Ecstasy-related incidents in State College last school year.

In November 2001, Penn State alumna Stephanie Yau died of an Ecstasy overdose, and in March 2002, four people were arrested as suspects for selling Ecstasy in State College.

Corman said he had been concerned with drug use in Pennsylvania in the past, and Fisher brought his attention to Ecstasy.

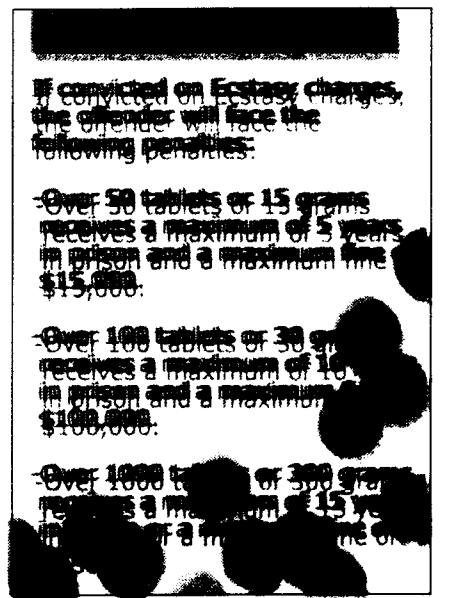
"The two incidents really resonated the whole issue of Ecstasy with me," Corman said.

Both of these incidents occurred in Centre County, but Corman does not think Penn State is the only place where Ecstasy use is a problem.

"I think college campuses are a large target for any kind of drug," he said. "I don't think University Park is on its own."

The new bill separates penalties for the conviction of Ecstasy dealing into three levels.

Those who sell more than 50 tablets or 15 grams will receive a maximum of five years in prison and a maximum fine of \$15,000. Dealing more than 100 tablets or 30 grams will result in a max-



Morgan Lucks/Collegian

imum of 10 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$100,000. Dealing more than 1000 tablets or 300 grams will result in a maximum of 15 years in prison and a maximum fine of \$250,000. See **ECSTASY**, Page 2.