

Fraternity returning to normal one year after student's fall

By Jen Winberry

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More than a year after an intoxicated 20-year-old Penn State student fell out of her eighth-floor apartment window, life for the fraternity that provided the alcohol, Tau Kappa Epsilon, has almost returned to normal.

"Things are going really well for us now," said Matt Kondracki, Tau Kappa Epsilon president. "We are fully recognized by both the Interfraternity Council and the national chapter. We've self-imposed many new policies to make sure nothing like this ever happens again."

He said this semester's pledge class of 24 male students is one of the biggest Tau Kappa Epsilon, 346 E. Prospect Ave., has seen in the last decade.

In October 2002, Kevin Mayeux, chief executive of the national chapter, placed

the fraternity under temporary suspension after he received the criminal complaint filed against the fraternity from the State College Police Department.

"I thought there was enough credible information," Mayeux said.

In February, Centre County Judge Thomas Kistler imposed a one-year probation on the fraternity, which pleaded no contest to a charge of selling or furnishing liquor or malt beverages to minors.

The fraternity had to pay a \$2,500 fine plus court costs and fees, and members had to perform 500 hours of community service.

The fraternity's probation will automatically end in February, barring any unforeseen difficulties.

"Once their probation is over in February, nothing else will happen to them as far as the court is concerned," said Jeremy Packer, probation officer to Tau

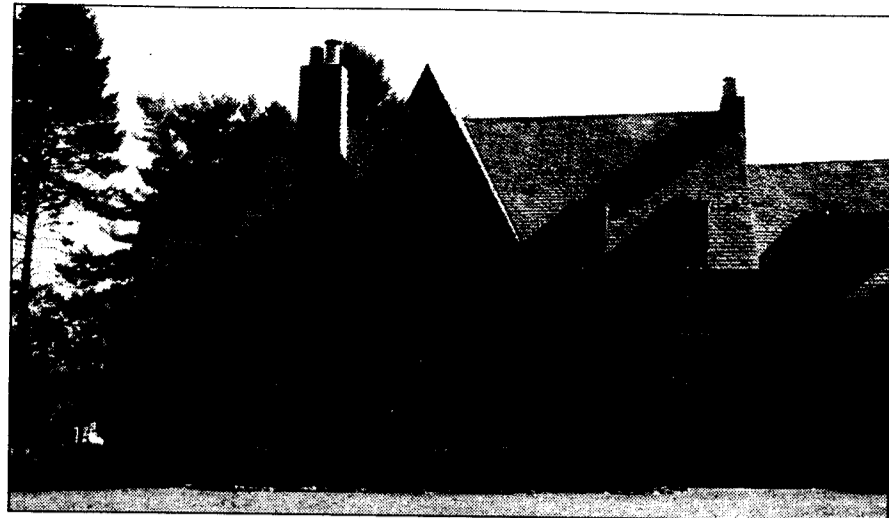
Kappa Epsilon. "We haven't had any problems with them so far."

Natalie Paglione, the woman who fell out her eighth-floor window at Beaver Terrace, 456 E. Beaver Ave., said she has recovered fully.

"I have no ill feelings towards the fraternity," Paglione said. "I didn't follow the story, so I don't really know what happened to them."

Paglione fell from the window during the early morning hours of Sept. 8, 2002. After investigating the circumstances surrounding the accident, police said they had found the accident to be alcohol-related.

Her blood alcohol content was 0.135, exceeding the legal limit for intoxication, police said. Brad Nelson, then-president of Tau Kappa Epsilon, admitted to purchasing seven kegs of beer for the party, which was held at a fraternity member's house, police said.



Matt Shirik/Collegian

Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity, 346 E. Prospect Ave., is fully recognized by the IFC.

The fraternity is current working on several policies to ensure that no similar alcohol-related incidents happen again.

"We are working with our alumni to help implement risk management procedures with alcohol," Kondracki said. "We no longer host the usual large parties like other frats."

It expects to have a new alcohol poli-

cy drafted by the end of the semester.

Associate director of greek life Scott Phelan said that since the incident, there is greater alumni involvement with the fraternity.

"I think they received sanctions that were justified for what happened," he said. "I think they've learned from the experience and will emerge a stronger fraternity."



Kevin Clancey/Collegian

The Student Bookstore, 330 E. College Ave., is having a contest on Nov. 1 to bring more customers to the store. Local business say the football team's struggles hurt sales.

Downtown sales affected by football losses

By Carissa Pleiss

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The Nittany Lions' 2-5 record has not only affected their overall standing, but has also let down area businesses that partly rely on a good home-game turnout.

Some vendors have noticed a decrease in their sales and number of customers because of the Lions' losing streak. Employees at various stores that specialize in Penn State goods said they have seen patterns this season compared to others.

Karen Gossman, assistant manager at Lions Pride, 112 E. College Ave., said that on Saturdays she has seen a decrease in expensive items, like jackets and jewelry.

"I have noticed people coming downtown earlier and not staying for the whole game," Gossman said. "But the hardcore alumni still come out."

Bryan Demko, general manager for The Family Clothesline, 352 E. College Ave., said although he has seen fewer people this season than in the past, it has not severely affected his business.

"We're doing the same advertising and not changing anything," he said. Some businesses, however, are doing more to attract customers, especially for major games.

Norm Brown, general manager at The Student Bookstore (SBS), 330 E. College Ave., is organizing a competition where the winner will receive either \$1,000 or \$25,000.

For the Penn State football game versus Ohio State University on Nov. 1, SBS will display a cardboard mascot of Brutus Buckeye, the Ohio State mascot. The mascot will lie in a coffin covered in buckeyes, and the contestant who comes closest to the actual number of buckeyes will win \$1,000. If Penn State returns the first kickoff for a touchdown,

the winnings will increase to \$25,000, Brown said.

"We wanted to do something for the biggest game of the season," Brown said. "Hopefully it will generate traffic into the store."

The display should be set up the entire week before the game, beginning Oct. 27.

Area hotels, including the Ramada Inn, 1450 S. Atherton St., have not experienced major drops in room bookings. Management from Rodeway Inn, 1040 N. Atherton St., said popular games are usually booked.

"There was a lack of interest for the Temple and Kent State games," general manager Bob Patel said. "But we did receive a positive response for Ohio State."

Bud Meredith, director of ticket operations, said despite the team's record, ticket sales have not suffered. He did say, however, there is no way to track

ticket holders that do not show up in the general admission sections.

"We can track the students fairly easily," Meredith said. "There is a ticket exchange, and we know how many students initially bought tickets."

Herb Schmidt, associate athletic director, said he estimates 25,000 vehicles have been at each home game, which is average.

"Sales have not suffered, but the number of fans that we're seeing in the stadium has been slightly less than in past years," Schmidt said. "The stands never fill up, or have the appearance of being filled."

Mike Desmond, co-owner of Hotel State College, said area businesses have noticed an economic slump since 2000, but Penn State winning games can boost sales.

"Penn State fans are loyal," Desmond said. "Those fans that are true to Penn State football always come out."

Details on file sharing could come next month

By Daniel Bal

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As early as next fall, Penn State might be involved in a pilot program that would allow students to legally listen to free music online.

During Monday's Undergraduate Student Government Academic Assembly meeting, Penn State President Graham Spanier said he hopes to announce next month details about the service that will allow students free access to music from online companies.

Russell Vaught, associate vice provost for information technology, said although there are unforeseen forces that could halt the program from being implemented, he does not have any reason to believe otherwise.

"It's highly likely this will happen," he said. "I don't see any snags."

Vaught said the program will not be free for the university, but it will be provided to the students at no additional cost.

"The university bulk buys newspapers and then provides them to students, at no additional charge," he said. "It's the same as the movies in the HUB; they are being paid for, but not by students."

The program will allow students to access streaming music files, which can be transferred to an MP3 player, but cannot be burned onto a CD.

Students could listen to a song continuously, but upon disconnection from the Penn State network, they would no longer have access to the song.

The program will not allow anonymous downloads such as those on Kazaa.

It also differs from LionShare, which is an authentic peer-to-peer program. LionShare will not primarily be based on sharing music. A recent \$1.1 million grant will allow for the development of technology for LionShare.

Spanier said the university wants to put a legal file-sharing system in place before any students get in trouble with the law.

Last year, in front of a congressional panel, Spanier said several congressmen labeled college students as criminals who should be "locked up."

So far, no student has been sued at Penn State due to illegally downloading music, and the university said they would deny access before the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) takes action.

"We like our approach to be educational in nature, not criminal," Spanier said.

In September, the RIAA filed 261 lawsuits against individual Internet users, 52 of which have been settled since.

The RIAA has said they plan to file more lawsuits this month.

University spokesman Bill Mahon said, "[The university] has to look at what companies are out there that provide music legally and a pricing structure [the university] can afford."

Mahon said illegally downloading music is a big issue and is causing traditional music stores to close their doors, but it also has an effect on students here at Penn State.

The university wants the work of students who write plays and produce television shows to be protected, he said.

"[The students] have a lot at stake with copyright," Mahon said.

Penn State has taken a leadership role nationally to restrict illegal file sharing and has attempted to come up with a reasonable solution, he said.

Recruiters give insights on what employers are looking out for

By Kim Sinclair

and Sarah Goldfarb

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Bright yellow suits and an orange tie may make job recruiters turn their heads, but it won't necessarily get you a career.

With job hunting season in full swing, recruiters said it is important that students know how to interview properly.

Interviewers said they've seen everything — from students showing up in flashy colored dress to wearing plaid pajama pants.

But, it takes more than just proper attire to land a job.

"Job searches take quite a bit of time, usually around seven to nine months," said Bob Orndorff, assistant director of MBNA Career Services. "We encourage seniors to get started in the fall because it is a tedious, long process."

Recruiters said many students do not understand the importance of preparation for an interview.

"The biggest mistake is not researching the company before going to the interview," Orndorff said. "It implies they are not committed to the interview, but just want a job."

Recruiters said that being clueless

will get an interviewee nowhere.

"Don't ask, 'So what does your company do?'" said Jeff Monahan, Wegmans' employer representative.

Robert Jeter, a recruiter for Rohm and Haas, a chemical company, said there is no excuse for not knowing about the company because information is available on the company's Web site.

Orndorff said research-based questions are extremely impressive, only if they are organized.

Lindsay Konell (senior-math) said her mock interview with Career Services helped her realize she needs to focus on what the company is looking for.

Monahan said personal tangents are not necessary.

"We don't want to hear how you just broke up with your boyfriend," he said.

If an interview is over dinner, it may be out of the interviewee's control. Orndorff recommended remembering manners, ordering easily managed food and offering to pay.

He warns job hunters against becoming too comfortable during an interview over a meal.

"Don't think they are not evaluating you," Orndorff said.

Interview don'ts

- Come unprepared
- Dress too flamboyantly
- Forget your manners
- Talk too much
- Stumble over follow-up questions
- Use your cell phone during the interview

Source: Career Services

However, some companies pay less attention to an interviewee's dinner manners.

"We aren't going to not hire someone because of how they eat," said Brad Swanson, Target's campus recruiter.

Orndorff said being too open can work against the interviewee, especially when he or she puts a negative light on past work experiences. Recruiters agree.

"Never talk negatively about a previous employer," Monahan said. "You can spin anything to make it sound good."

Orndorff said when discussing weaknesses at an interview, students should remember they are trying to present themselves in a positive light.