

STATE IN BRIEF

Execs sentenced for misusing money

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Two former top executives at a state-funded economic development agency were sentenced to 34 months in prison for misusing millions of dollars in state and federal money to fund trips, spa retreats and other perks.

Lawrence McGeehan, the former president of the now-defunct Ben Franklin Technology Center, and Kathleen Haluska, the center's former vice president, were sentenced to prison yesterday plus three years of supervised release. Together, they must pay more than \$1.6 million in restitution to the center, now operating under a different name, and the U.S. Navy.

McGeehan, 53, of Brownsville, and Haluska, 53, of Brownsville, could have faced up to more than five years in prison, but U.S. District Judge David Cercone called the guidelines too harsh.

Haluska's attorney, Thomas Livingston, asked Cercone to sentence his client to home detention with a work-release privilege so she could begin to pay restitution and care for her family, but the judge refused.

Livingston refused to comment after the hearing. Haluska and McGeehan's attorney, Stephen Begler, indicated they would appeal the sentences.

Wife to stand trial in rat poison case

WARREN (AP) — A woman was ordered to stand trial yesterday on charges she allegedly tried to kill her husband by slipping rat poison into his food. Cheryl M. Rayback, 46, of Glade Township, Warren County, was charged with attempted first-degree murder, aggravated assault and reckless endangerment for allegedly trying to kill Andrew Rayback, 43.

Andrew Rayback contacted police after he found an unusual substance in the lunch his wife prepared for him, police said. Police conducted tests and determined the substance was rat poison and that the man had ingested the same poison in the days before.

Police charged Cheryl Rayback on Feb. 15. Prosecutors argued Cheryl Rayback poisoned her husband because she hated him and suffered 17 years of emotional abuse, but defense attorney John Parrocini said there's more to the story.

Cheryl Rayback was confined to a state hospital last month and will likely stay there for another two months, Parrocini said.

Jury selection for her trial is scheduled to begin June 27.

Sexual harassment lawsuit opens

Former state police dispatcher Nancy Drew Suders said she put up with harassment for five months.

By Mark Sciforo
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HARRISBURG — A former state police dispatcher choked back tears as she testified yesterday about sexual harassment she said she endured during five months of employment at the McConnellsburg barracks.

Nancy Drew Suders' civil rights lawsuit against the state police reached the U.S. Supreme Court last year before being sent back to Harrisburg federal court. Yesterday, Suders, 61, described statements and actions by the male troopers who supervised her in 1998. She told the jury that Cpl. William D. Baker repeatedly re-enacted a move from professional wrestling in which he grabbed his crotch and yelled "suck it" about four feet from her. A sergeant once warned her he would shoot to death anyone who harmed another female dispatcher "and bury their body where nobody would find it," she said.

Sgt. Eric Easton also would "leer" at her and on about a half-dozen occasions brought up what seemed to her to be a



Carolyn Kaster/Associated Press

Nancy Drew Suders, left, and her lawyer Don Bailey enter Federal court in Harrisburg yesterday. A jury yesterday began to hear Suders' sexual-harassment lawsuit against the Pennsylvania State Police that reached the U.S. Supreme Court last year before being sent back to Harrisburg federal court for trial.

"fetish" for bestiality, she said, her voice occasionally quaking.

"He would say, 'You know, people have sex with animals. They have sex with sheep and cows and things like that,'" Suders

testified. Easton has since retired from the department.

U.S. District Judge Sylvia H. Rambo called a brief recess after Suders became upset while recounting a conversation in

which Easton allegedly endorsed having fathers teach their daughters oral-sex techniques. "I got such a pain in my chest. It was devastating to me to hear people in law enforcement talking about abuse of children," Suders said. "It just upset me so horribly to think anyone would condone the abuse of their own child — that's what this man was doing," she said, sobbing into a tissue.

The state police have disputed whether the incidents that Suders described actually occurred, or if they did, they say she mischaracterized them.

Suders said in an interview last year that she felt compelled to resign from her \$13-an-hour dispatcher job because of a stream of lewd and offensive language and behavior. "I mean, I had no peace," she said. "They wouldn't let me do my job."

She has since returned to the Fulton County Sheriff's Office, where she worked before her connections within the Republican Party helped her land the better-paying state job.

Employers can be liable for sexual harassment at their business or workplace if it results in tangible punishment to someone, but last year the Supreme Court ruled that quitting under such circumstances did not entitle Suders to the same legal protections as someone who is fired.

Collegian invites applications for the Board of Directors

The 12-member Board of Directors of Collegian Inc. is seeking one Penn State undergraduate student and one Penn State faculty member to serve for a two-year term on the Board. Newspaper experience is not required.

The following are not eligible for these seats: Graduate students, Collegian staff members, Collegian alumni (for five years after leaving staff).

Others are not eligible under our conflict-of-interest policies (for example, people involved with local commercial media, elected officials).

Collegian Inc. is a Pennsylvania non-profit corporation, which is legally and financially responsible for The Daily Collegian, The Weekly Collegian, Collegian Magazine and The Digital Collegian.

Collegian Inc. is responsible for:

- Overseeing the operation of The Daily Collegian and related publications. However, as a matter of policy, the Board does not become involved in day-to-day operations.

- Selecting the top management of Collegian Inc. and monitoring the performance of the Management Team.

- Setting broad policy and long-range goals.

- Ensuring the financial independence and editorial freedom of The Daily Collegian and related publications.

Collegian Inc. is self-supporting with an annual budget of more than \$1.8 million. The dual mission of Collegian Inc. is to provide a quality college newspaper for Penn State and a rewarding educational experience for its student staff members.

Interested people are invited to submit a letter of application and a resume to:

Mr. Gerry Lynn Hamilton
Collegian Inc., James Building
123 S. Burrowes St.
University Park, Pa. 16801-3882

Letters should include your:

1. Reasons for seeking a directorship.
2. Local address, telephone number and e-mail address.
3. Permanent home address and telephone number.
4. For students, major and expected graduation date.

The deadline for letters of application is 4 p.m. Thursday, March 31. A limited number of applicants will be interviewed by a committee of the Board.

The Board of Directors includes four Penn State students, two Penn State faculty members and three directors-at-large.

The editor in chief and the business manager, who are students, also serve on the Board. The general manager, who is employed by the corporation, is a non-voting member.

Current Board members are:

- Donald Cistaro (president and at-large director), manager of electronic publishing, Supelco Inc.

- Gene Foreman (vice president and faculty director), Foster professor of communications, College of Communications, Penn State; former managing editor of The Philadelphia Inquirer.

- John Curley (treasurer and at-large director), professor and distinguished professional-in-residence, College of Communications; former chairman, president and CEO of the Gannett Co.; first editor of USA Today.

- Gerry Lynn Hamilton (secretary), general manager; former city editor of The Daily Collegian, 1968-69.

- Wayne Hilinski (faculty director), senior lecturer, College of Communications, Penn State; former business manager of The Daily Collegian, 1960-61.

- Leslie Rudderow (student director), majoring in finance and international business, economics minor, Penn State.

- Devendra Tolani of Ajmer, India (graduate student director) doctoral candidate in mechanical engineering, Penn State.

- Gary Gray (at-large director), visiting professor of finances, College of Business, Penn State.

- Katherine C. Hazelrigg (student director) majoring in English, Penn State (seated March 15, 2005, current term ends 2007)

- Kathryn R. Diamond (student director) majoring in Journalism/English, Penn State (seated March 15, 2005, current term ends 2007)

- James S. Young, editor in chief.


- Julie Columbus, business manager.

Collegian Inc.

News Division — Business Division — Systems Division — General Services Division

TanFastigue
The Ultimate Tanning Studio
Keep that great tan! **FREE TAN** (Free Tan For New Clients Only) All New Bulbs!
11 Sessions Only \$34.99
30 Days Unlimited Only \$44.99
Guaranteed Intensity 13 Beds Open Sat. & Sun.

CULTS ON CAMPUS



THE REV. DR. RICHARD L. DOWHOWER
LUTHERAN PASTOR AND CULT EXPERT

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2005

THE PASQUERILLA SPIRITUAL CENTER
GARDEN ROOM

1:00 PM & 8:00 PM

SPONSORED BY THE CENTER FOR ETHICS AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS
865-6548
WWW.SA.PSU.EDU/CERA

ALL ARE WELCOME

The Environmental Inquiry Miner at Penn State Presents

Peter Kareiva, Ph.D.
Lead Scientist
Pacific Western Conservation Region
The Nature Conservancy

Land Trusts and Conservation Easements: How Effective is this "Private Ownership" Tool?

Please Join Us
Friday, March 18, at 2:00 p.m.
Refreshments Served at 1:30 p.m.
The Nittany Lion Inn,
Assembly Room

For more information, contact Patricia
[phone number]

PENN STATE