

# THE DAILY COLLEGIAN

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## Playing the night away



Kevin Clancey/Collegian

**Jon Rowe (senior-English), who goes by the stage name Troy Walsh,** plays with his band in his basement with bassist John Kurlock (senior-economics). Walsh, a rap artist striving for a record deal, will tour with the Bloodhound Gang this summer.

## Student freestyles to L.A.

By Jessica Horton  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

**I**N HIS TORN blue jeans and vintage T-shirt, Jon Rowe looks like your average Penn State student.

It's hard to believe that behind the Dolce & Gabbana sunglasses is a college student juggling the stresses of both school and a trying to live as a rap artist striving to land a record deal.

In fact, this spring break, Rowe (senior-English) decided to ditch the beach for the recording studio and headed to

Los Angeles where he is currently recording his second album, tentatively titled *White Noise*, which is the follow-up to his independent release, *Country Clubbin'*. He is working with Grammy winner Mike Elizondo, who has previously worked with Dr. Dre, 50 Cent, Gwen Stefani and Eve.

Known to his fans as Troy Walsh a.k.a. Mr. Unlikely, Jon Rowe is just that — unlikely. His production company, BurbLife, describes him as: "Your very own chic, country-clubbing musical messiah. Volvo-driving, gator-shirted,

upper-middle-class bohemian. Pure privilege. The palest thing on two feet."

With influences covering the whole musical spectrum, from Notorious B.I.G. to Nirvana, he is not your average rapper, to say the least.

Rowe grew up in Mechanicsburg, the son of an English teacher in a well-to-do suburban area. This fact was actually the inspiration for Rowe's first record.

"Jon has always had a vocabulary the size of a dictionary," said Dave Eberly, See **RAPPER**, Page 2.

## Judge makes no ruling in Schiavo case

The district judge who heard the case gave no indication as to when he might act on Schiavo's parents' request.

By Vickie Chachere  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**TAMPA, Fla.** — Armed with a new law rushed through Congress, the attorney for Terri Schiavo's parents pleaded with a judge yesterday to order the brain-damaged woman's feeding tube re-inserted. But the judge appeared cool to the argument.

U.S. District Judge James Whittemore did not immediately make a ruling after the two-hour hearing, and he gave no indication on when he might act on the request.

The hearing came three days after the feeding tube was removed. Doctors have said Schiavo, 41, could survive one to two weeks without the tube.

The courtroom showdown, the latest

in what has become a legal cliffhanger captivating the nation, followed an extraordinary political fight over the weekend that consumed both chambers of Congress and prompted the president to rush back to the White House.



Schiavo

Congress passed a law that allowed Schiavo's parents to argue their case before a federal court, bringing the intense legal battle to Whittemore's Tampa courtroom.

"We are rushed and we are somewhat desperate," the parents' attorney, David Gibbs III, told the judge. "Terri may die as I speak." The attorney said that forcing Schiavo to die by starvation and dehydration would be "a mortal sin" under her Roman Catholic beliefs.

"It is a complete violation to her See **SCHIAVO**, Page 2.

## Students: Legal precedent may be set with Floridian

By Josh Kowalkowski  
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While federal courts decide whether or not to reinsert the feeding tube of Terri Schiavo, a brain-damaged Florida woman who doctors say is in a persistent vegetative state, some campus groups say it could set a precedent for similar cases.

Yesterday, U.S. District Judge James Whittemore heard arguments on the case but did not make an immediate decision or give a time when he would proceed.

Both members of the College Republicans and College Democrats said the issue spans more than just the life of one woman.

"The most important thing in this case is that it's setting a precedent," said Megan Green, College Democrats president. "In a way, this is the first time that Congress is intervening in the life of a person."

Green said she doesn't believe it is the government's right to get involved in the issue.

Larry Frankel, legislative director for the Pennsylvania American Civil Liberties Union, also said the government has already done too much.

"Her case has been thoroughly considered many times by the courts," Frankel said. "And we don't feel it's appropriate to return the decision-making to Congress or the president, when the decision was already made by her husband."

Andy Banducci, chairman of the College Republicans, said the president and Congress have explored every option in the case.

"It's such a sad situation," Banducci said. "I don't think it should be a political issue, but with the intervention of Congress and the outcome of the case, there will be debates on it."

Banducci and Green both said the Schiavo topic has not been discussed at their respective group's meetings since it became a national issue.

"It's such a hot national issue now that any decision [to speak out on the issue] will be criticized," Green said.

Christine Shott, spokeswoman for Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa, said the senator fears an innocent life could be taken.

"The focus of the senator's concern is that Schiavo is ensured her rights," Shott said. "And that it's good that the federal courts are getting to look at the case."

### USG ELECTIONS

## Few outside campaigns attracted to first debate

By Devon Lash

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About 130 students listened as 12 Undergraduate Student Government (USG) presidential candidates explained their goals for USG next year in Forum Building last night.

However, only about ten students in the audience said they were unrelated to a campaign when USG presidential candidate Mark Taticchi asked audience members to raise their hands if they were not already affiliated with a candidate.

This revelation emphasized the two themes that were highlighted by many of the candidates last night in the first election debate: communica-

tion and student awareness of USG.

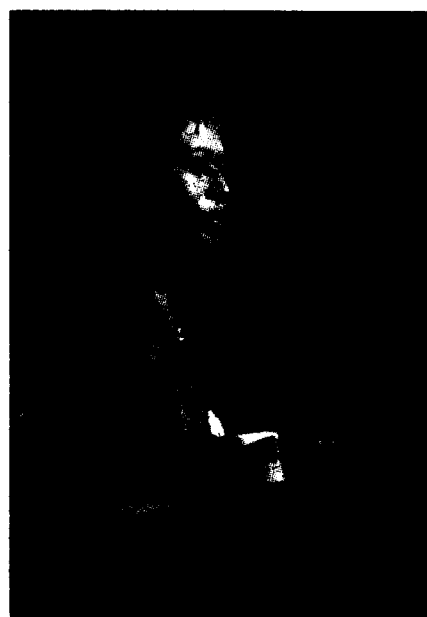
"Only a dozen or so people were not affiliated with a campaign," Taticchi said. "This speaks to student apathy."

Candidate Scott Sherbine said only communication between the USG branches will get things done for the students.

"The respect needs to be there," Sherbine said. "If Senate, Academic Assembly and the executive branch would communicate, we wouldn't be See **DEBATE**, Page 2.

A ticket faces a possible penalty for a flir placement. | **LOCAL**, Page 4.

USG president Galen Foulke is attempting to be re-elected. | **LOCAL**, Page 4.



Patrick Sopko/Collegian

**Alice Walker** speaks at Eisenhower Auditorium as part of the Distinguished Speakers Series. Walker spoke last night about her books and poetry.

## Walker reminds all of blessings in life

By Kate Faxon-St. Georges

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | kkf5000@psu.edu

A charged crowd filled Eisenhower Auditorium last night, anticipating the lecture by Alice Walker, whose soft-spoken voice hushed the audience from the moment she began speaking.

Walker, author of *The Color Purple*, spoke to Penn State students, professors and book lovers as a part of the Distinguished Speaker Series.

She spoke of her past and her inspirations for writing, especially poetry.

"When I lived in Mississippi, we learned that part of being afraid is part of living, and we wrote poetry to deal with that fear," Walker said.

Walker shared six of her poems with

the audience, including a poem that she hoped would become a children's book, "Why War is Never a Good Idea."

"These are pieces of light to remind us that we have life itself, and life is so grand," Walker said. "Most people want to live decent and good lives, be with their families and do things they enjoy."

By placing her hands together in a praying position, Walker blessed the audience and other people who need blessings in the world.

"Life is too precious and too beautiful," Walker said. "You can live life from the beginning to the end, but it involves making some preliminary decisions."

Touching on the topic of healing, Walker said that all of humankind is See **WALKER**, Page 2.



## Thrower excels as she deals with diabetes

Despite dealing with hypoglycemia, throwing captain Kate Johnson has set records at Penn State. | **SPORTS**, Page 10.



## U.S. version of BBC's 'The Office' makes debut

Daily Show alumnus Steve Carell stars in a TV show about the humor found in the monotony of office life. | **ARTS**, Page 7.

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