

Saving the Skipper

Navy Seals kill three pirates and rescue U.S. captain | **INTERNATIONAL**, Page 4.

Days of Our College Lives

MTV is premiering a reality show about the lives of college students | **LOCAL**, Page 4.

Not Enough

Despite a 3-0 lead early in the game, the women's lacrosse team loses to No. 1 Northwestern | **SPORTS**, Page 8.

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Marriage cases offer new hope

Members of the Penn State LGBT community react with optimism over recent legislation.

By Jacquie Tyfka

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As a member of the LGBT community, Alex Yates has seen discrimination for too long — but after some controversial decisions made earlier this month, he has new faith that he will see it end.

On April 3, the Iowa Supreme Court unanimously ruled the state's constitution protects gay couples' right to marry, rejecting a state law that restricted marriage to a union between a man and woman.

A few days later, the Vermont legislature legalized same-sex marriages with a vote strong enough to override the governor's veto.

That same day, the Washington, D.C. City Council decided to recognize any such marriages performed outside the District.

"It gave hope to a lot of people," said Yates, co-president of Penn State SpeakOut, an lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community and its allies (LGBTQA) advocacy group.

Yates sees all three moves as victories, but he said he wasn't as surprised about the rulings in Vermont and D.C.

Those areas generally are more progressive, Iowa was the real shocker, he said.

"Iowa is such a middle-America state. Middle (sophomore-elementary education) said nothing Iowa has a reputation of being more conservative. "If Iowa could do it, then what's to say similar states can't do it too?"

These steps for the state's LGBT community come at a time when Pennsylvania legislators are working on House Bill 300, which would make it illegal for employers and others to discriminate based on a person's sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

"It is certainly a step towards equality," Sean Meloy, president of Penn State College Democrats, said. "I think the potential we get that before Pennsylvania legalizes marriage is great."

Penn State's LGBT organizations are ecstatic about the out-of-state and in-state developments.

"It is incredible," said Claire Gonyo, assistant director of Penn State's LGBTQA Student Resource Center.

"It really makes people feel hopeful that more states will start to recognize same-sex couples and give LGBT people more equal rights in comparison to heterosexuals," Gonyo added.

Gonyo agrees with Meloy, saying House Bill 300 is the main focus right now in Pennsylvania.

It's a big move for the state, and it has a pretty good chance of passing, Gonyo said.

Any progress is great in the fight for equal rights, Yates said — but not everyone is a supporter.

See **MARRIAGE**, Page 2

If you go

Today: Day of Service, Greek Sweep — Downtown

Wednesday: Greek Pageant — Paul Robeson Cultural Center's Heritage Hall — 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Friday:

Chariot Races — Fairmount Avenue — 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday:

AIDS Walk — State College Central Parklet — registration begins at noon, event begins at 1 p.m.

Week unites greeks

Penn State's four greek councils will participate in a number of events to celebrate their community.

By Caitlin Burnham
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This week, members of the Penn State greek community will be living the theme "No matter the letters, we're all greek together"

in celebration of Greek Week 2009.

Greek Week is a week "full of healthy competition, community service and programming events" meant to bring all four greek councils together and promote unity, said Kimberly Aubrey,

Greek Week overall chairwoman. The four greek councils are the Interfraternity Council (IFC), Multicultural Greek Council, National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Panhellenic Council.

"It's a week to celebrate being greek, as well as meeting more people of the greek community," Aubrey (senior secondary education) said.

See **GREEKS**, Page 2



Samantha M. Srul-Geberman

Divya Sinha (senior-pre-medicine), right, gives Ravi Heerwani (senior-supply chain and information systems) his first touch of color during Holi.

Indian festival colors campus

By Ricky Morales
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Smearing each other's faces and limbs in splashes of green, yellow, blue and red powder, about 60 people gathered on the HUB lawn Friday to celebrate Holi, a traditional Hindu holiday. Despite the rainy weather,

attendees chased and splashed one another with squirt guns and buckets of water. Dancing to music and eating food throughout the festival, participants re-created the Holi tradition with enthusiasm. The Indian Graduate Student Association (IGSA) and the Hindu Students Council sponsored the event.

Venkatash Moktali, president



Holi photo gallery:
psu.collegian.com

of IGSA, celebrated the holiday in India when he was younger. He said the event allows Indian students who were born in America to experience the festival's dynamics.

"The whole purpose is to let people know the excitement, the vigor of Holi," Moktali (graduate bioinformatics and genomics) said.

He also hoped to give other people a sense of the culture, he said, adding the event has many "mythological roots."

"This is just a fraction of what

See **FESTIVAL**, Page 2

'Band geeks' given center stage in film



Ashley Drew, Collegian

Cole Cullen talks about the process of producing and editing the film *Making the Blue Band* Friday.

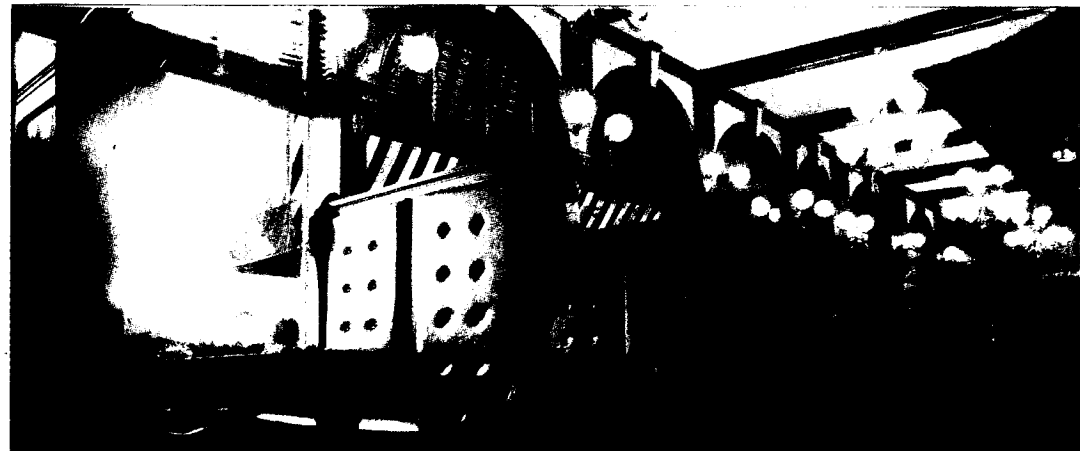
By Beth Kaiserman
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While the football team provides most of the action in Beaver Stadium, the Blue Band is the sound and spirit of the game — an essence Cole Cullen and Jeff Hughes tried to capture with their documentary *Making the Blue Band*.

Cullen spoke to a small audience in the Penn State All-Sports Museum's Clemens Family Theater Friday afternoon about *Making the Blue Band*, which he co-produced and directed. The filmmakers recently won the Bronze Telly Award for outstanding video editing in the film. The award — 12,000 entries per year are received for the award — honors local and regional productions that aren't on broadcast network stations, according to its Web site.

The film will play on repeat all day for free in the theater throughout April, said Aimee Brown, the museum's programming and education coordinator.

See **FILM**, Page 2.



Andrew Dunheimer, Collegian

Alumni have been eating at Corner Room, 100 W. College Ave., since it was a relatively new facility.

Eatery still a cornerstone

Editor's note: This is the final installment in a three-part series detailing prominent downtown businesses.

By Zack Feldman
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The Corner Room's motto, "Meet Me at the Corner," has been known among Penn State

students for more than 70 years — and one of the secrets of its longevity is keeping things simple and unchanged, managers say. The Corner Room, 100 W. College Ave., has been at its present location since 1926. Though

the venue is known across generations of Penn State alumni, the property has changed hands only three times.

"It started out as Jack's Roadhouse," State College Mayor Bill Welch said. "It was back when Old Main was the only building in town. Jack's dates from 1867."

See **EATERY**, Page 2.

Weather:

Today: High 56
Tonight: Low 36



Tomorrow: High 51



Extended forecast | **WEATHER**, Page 2.
Courtesy of Campus Weather Service
cws.met.psu.edu

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