

**What a Catch**  
Former WRs Williams and Butler make splash in third round  
**SPORTS, Page 8.**

**Changing the Scene**  
Local music promoters speak of State College music culture | **ETC, Page 12.**

**The Other Festival**  
Students who didn't make the SFO cut will showcase their films  
**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT, Page 5.**

THE DAILY

www.psu.collegian.com

# Collegian

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Published independently by students at Penn State

Vol. 109 No. 131

30¢ off campus

## PSU avoids swine virus

By Peter Panepinto

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | ppp5017@psu.edu

Although the rest of world is taking serious steps to prevent the spread of the virus responsible for about 150 deaths, a State College health official says residents in the area shouldn't be scared of swine flu just yet.

"At this point, there is no swine flu threat here," said Margaret Spear, director of University Health Services. "But it's evolving very rapidly and it's hard to predict what tomorrow is going to bring."

The recent outbreak of the swine flu infection in Mexico has health officials across the United States and the world working to prevent a nationwide epidemic. In the past

week, there have been 40 confirmed cases of the swine flu in the United States, located in California, Kansas, New York City, Ohio and Texas — but none have been deadly.

Spear advises State College area residents and Penn State students to follow the advice that comes with any flu season: keep hands sanitized, cover mouths when coughing and stay home when sick so others aren't infected, she said.

The swine flu is a combination of pig viruses mixed with some human and bird viruses. It is spread through human contact after a person has had contact with an infected animal.

The World Health Organization raised its influenza pandemic alert level from 3 to 4 Monday, but held

back from recommending nations close their borders or restrict international travel. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a Public Health Emergency Sunday night.

In Mexico, 2,000 infections and 149 deaths have been reported as of late April. The swine flu is treatable with medications such as Tamiflu or Relenza, but there is currently no vaccine to prevent the infection.

Samantha Scheller traveled to Mexico City with a group of classmates for spring break in March, and although she experienced flu-like symptoms during her vacation, she is confident she hasn't contracted the swine flu that so many now fear.

See **VIRUS**, Page 2.

## Growing Threat

There have been 48 confirmed cases of swine flu in five different states.



California: 7 cases    Kansas: 2 cases  
Texas: 2 cases        Ohio: 1 case  
New York City: 36 cases

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Nicole Harshbarger/Collegian

## State arrests four in bust

The attorney general's office charged 4 students with 29 counts of drug offenses, state officials say.

By Kevin Cirilli

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | knc5063@psu.edu

Four Penn State students face felony charges in connection with a drug operation police say aimed to distribute 400 pounds of marijuana, worth an estimated \$1.2 million, throughout State College, state officials said Monday.

Twenty-three-year-old Penn State student Paul R. Spara supplied marijuana to 21-year-old Sanjay A. Deendyal, 22-year-old Michael S. Montgomery and 22-year-old Evan P. Stiekman, all of whom are students, police said. They in turn would then sell the drugs to other students, according to a press release from Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett.

"The attorneys are working to hopefully get it resolved in a matter that is best for everyone," Deendyal said Monday. "Anything I could probably say would look bad in the case. It's overwhelming, but I'm focusing on schoolwork, so I'll just leave it at that."

The students face 29 total counts of various charges:

■ Spara, 161 Gressley Road, Ruffs Dale, was charged with 13 counts of possession with intent to deliver marijuana, two counts of corrupt organizations, one count of criminal conspiracy, one count of criminal use of a communications facility and one

See **ARRESTS**, Page 2.

## BELLY FLOP



Ryan Ullsh/Collegian

**Rob Hull (freshman-film)** jumps into an inflatable pool set up by a group of students in East Halls on Monday afternoon. Several students laid out to tan and do homework outside in the hot, summer weather Monday. Students were seen basking in the sun on nearly every major lawn on campus, appreciating the nice weather that carried over from Blue-White weekend. The temperatures reached the high-80s Monday and are expected to top out at 82 degrees today, though there is a chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. The storms and rains are expected to make appearances off and on throughout the week.

## Author tests worth of U.S.

By Somer Wiggins

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER  
ssw5070@psu.edu

A speaker often met with protest came to Penn State on Monday night, yet the event was calm and raised more questions from students than opposition.

Dinesh D'Souza, a former policy analyst for the Reagan administration and a best-selling author, spoke to a crowd of about 50 students and community members in the Osmond Building.

In the past, D'Souza's visits to Penn State have been met with much opposition from students, according to Collegian archives. However, Monday night's

speech was not met with any forms of protest.

D'Souza's speech reflected the topic of his book, *What's So Great About America?*

He discussed the paradox of America as "simultaneously the most loved, yet most hated" nation in the world.

D'Souza said the appeal of America to immigrants is the idea that they will make money when they come to the United States, and to young people the appeal is the ability of choice.

D'Souza said he immigrated to the United States from India when he was 17.

"My destiny would've been given to me," D'Souza said.

See **AUTHOR**, Page 2.



Michael Felletter/Collegian

A resident is seen at Centre House Emergency Shelter, 217 E. Nittany Ave.

## Homelessness among region's invisible ills

By Allison Jackovitz

COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER | amj5152@psu.edu

Homelessness may not be a visible issue in State College — but that doesn't mean it doesn't exist.

A representative of a local housing crisis agency said poverty is present in the area and is becoming more common as the economy falters.

Annette Ratliff, program manager for State College's Housing Transitions Inc., said although many people believe homelessness results from laziness or drug and alcohol addiction, some Centre Region residents struggle with poverty as a result of Penn State students bringing down wages and raising standards for rent in the area.

"The people that live here may only make minimum wage, and rent is high in

large part due to the university," Ratliff said. "You shouldn't be paying more than 30 percent of your income towards rent or ownership, but we find people making \$8 an hour at your normal Sheetz job, and they can't make ends meet here."

One service the organization offers is its shelter, the Centre House Emergency Shelter, 217 E. Nittany Ave. A brick building much like the others on the street, the facility isn't meant to be pretty — the staff's offices are crammed with mismatched furniture and extra beds for residents.

Although Centre House has not seen a drastic increase in occupancy since the economy's downward spiral, Ratliff said, the non-profit organization has been getting more calls about people being at risk of foreclosure. At the same time, they have

See **HOMELESS**, Page 2.

## Student candidates push primary vote

By Greg Galiffa  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Student candidates running for the State College Borough Council gathered in the HUB-Robeson Center Monday to encourage other students to vote in the May 19 primary election.

The candidates, along with members of University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) and the borough council

passed out absentee ballots, coffee and pretzels Monday afternoon in an effort to expand student involvement in local government.

"It's tough to get students to vote," said Bill Van Saun, one of two Penn State students running for the council. "Most people are going to be home during the election, so it's important we communicate with the students now."

See **PRIMARY**, Page 2.



Chloe Elmer/Collegian

**Colleen Smith (freshman-biology)**, second from left, and **Anthony De Boef**, right, a Centre County district attorney candidate, talk to students in the HUB-Robeson Center Monday about voting in the local primary election.



Steph Witt/Collegian

**Dinesh D'Souza** speaks about the United States' role in the world. The speech was based on his book *What's So Great About America?*

**Weather:** Today: High 82

Tonight: Low 50

Tomorrow: High 62

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

**Contents:** Briefs ..... 2  
Local ..... 3  
Sports ..... 8

Comics ..... 11  
Crossword ..... 11  
Horoscope ..... 10

**NEWS** 865-1828  
**BUSINESS** 865-2531

www.psu.collegian.com  
©2008 Collegian Inc.