

Players' coach

State College Spikes' manager, Gary Robinson, has developed a good rapport with his players
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Last day in office

Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin stepped down Sunday
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Museum studies

Art galleries are struggling during these tough economic times
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Car show keeps on truckin'

By Jesse Hein

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As the sun started to set on the 23rd Annual Last Cruise, some owners were still polishing their fenders and wiping off rain drops at the Best of the Best Competition.

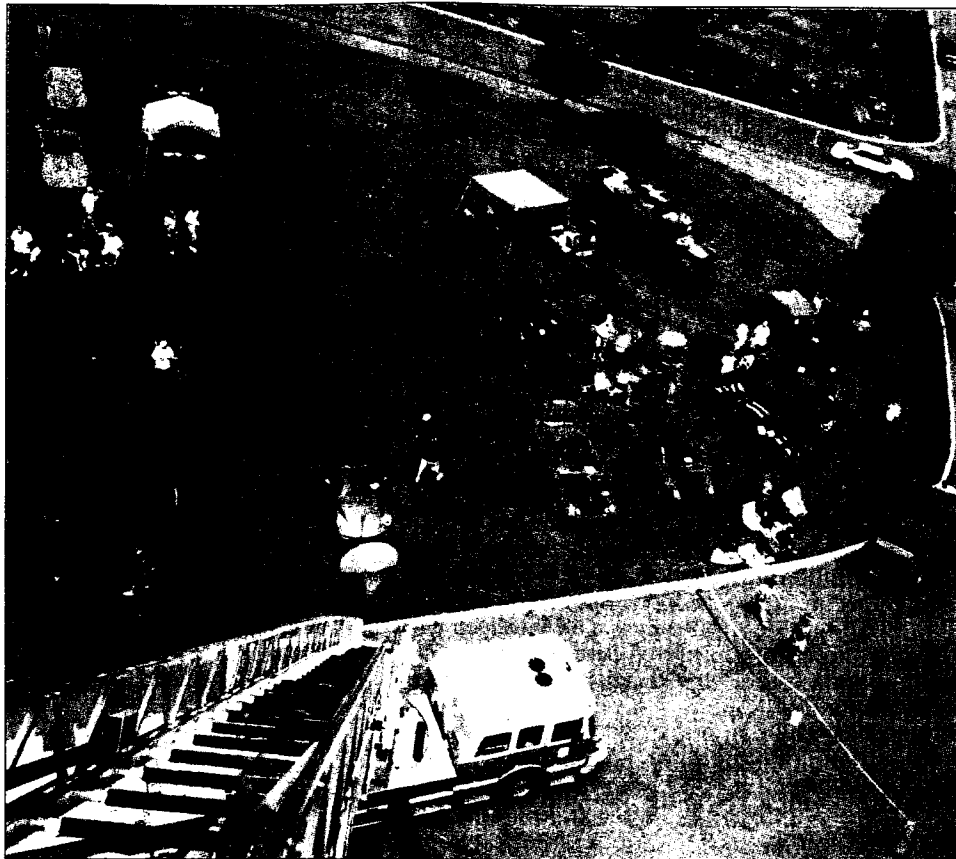
The Last Cruise events ran all day Saturday, starting with a 5K, and featured car shows throughout the day. The top cars were selected to participate in the Best of the Best Competition.

The competition prizes included up to \$1,000 for the owner of the winning car.

While some people complained about the low attendance numbers, others saw the turnout this year as more than it could have been.

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For more coverage of the car show:
psucollegian.com



Michael Felletter/Collegian

An aerial view, provided by an Alpha Fire Co. ladder truck, shows the Last Cruise Car Show at Mount Nittany Middle School, Saturday.

Smeal cleared of rape

By Kevin Cirilli

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A jury found a State College man not guilty Friday of raping a former Penn State Altoona student last November during a Monday Night Football party.

The jury, consisting of ten women and two men, also found Christopher J. Smeal, 28, not guilty of sexual assault and indecent assault.

During the nearly 15-hour trial in Centre County court, the prosecution and defense sparred about whether the woman was fully conscious Nov. 11 during the estimated 30 minutes of sexual interaction between her and Smeal.

The woman consumed alcohol during the party, became intoxicated and was carried by Smeal's friends to the bedroom, where she was placed on the bed and threw up on her sleeve, according to court documents.

One of Smeal's friends, Jordan Thompson, photographed the woman while she lay on the bed, her eyes closed and a wet vomit stain visible on her sleeve, according to Thompson's testimony.

"It all comes down to whether you believe [the woman] was unconscious," Smeal's attorney, Sean McGraw, said during closing arguments.

McGraw noted during his closing arguments that there was no toxicology report regarding the woman. A hospital report found no injuries on the woman, according to court documents.

Smeal entered the dark bedroom and sat in a chair while petting his dog, deciding whether he would make sexual advances toward the woman, according to the State College Police Department detectives' taped interview with Smeal, which played during the trial.

"I smelled a little bit of vomit," Smeal told the detectives on the tape.

After the intercourse ended and the lights were back on, Smeal noticed scars on the woman's wrists and chest, which he said he figured were a result of previous self-mutilation, according to the taped recording.

During prosecutor Steve Sloane's closing arguments, he held up the picture of the woman and asked the jury whether a person in her state was capable of giving consent.

"She was so drunk that under the law she is not capable of making consent," Sloane told the jury.

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Michael Felletter/Collegian

Spectators check out Richard Scaife's 1957 BMW Isetta at the Last Cruise Car Show at Mount Nittany Middle School Saturday. The car show celebrated its 23rd anniversary this weekend and despite scattered rain, it hosted a variety of events, including a 5K race and a car competition.

Alum pens novel about time travel

By Jesse Hein

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While painting the side of his business, Jack Speight met a character from his imagination and envisioned the adventures she would have.

Speight, Class of 1989, runs Robbins Motel, a small motel in Bar Harbor, Maine, where he said he is in charge of everything from cleaning to maintenance.

"When I'm outside doing maintenance — if I'm outside painting — I'm alone," Speight said. It was during one of those afternoons that he decided to begin fleshing out a character from his imagination.

His book, *Jinda Maige and the Bone of Evil*, which came out July 1, offers life lessons in the context of time travel.

In the novel, the main character, Jinda Maige is able to travel to another world, but the price is steep. Each time she travels, she loses a non-essential body part.

He said that many of his ideas for his book came from his reflections on real life. He offered an example.

"Wherever I travel — even if I travel to the grocery store — there's a cost," Speight said. "Wouldn't it be cool if there was a story about travel-

ing to another world, but there was a price to pay?"

Throughout his book, Speight said he tries to relay positive messages to his readers.

Mae Corrión, a librarian at Jesup Memorial Library in Bar Harbor and one of the book's initial editors, felt that the idea of working for what you want is particularly important for today's youth.

"So many times kids think things are just gonna come to them," Corrión said. "It's something that I think all young people have to learn."

Speight said these kinds of lessons, which he tries to teach through his novels, have always played an important role in his family.

"When my kids were very little, I told them that the two most important things you need to know in life are that you need to respect other people and you need to take responsibility for your actions."

The idea of writing a novel is something Speight has wanted to do for a while, he said. Finally getting the opportunity to fulfill that desire is something Speight is excited about.

"Most people have a job and they're in a cubicle and they go to work and they go home, and maybe they think about doing some of these

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Chris Donadio/Collegian

'Firefighter for a Day' participants take a break from activities at the Alpha Fire House Saturday afternoon.

Fire Co. puts locals to the test

By Spencer Malloy
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

For 24 hours this weekend, eight residents of State College were able to step into the very large boots of members of the Alpha Fire Co.

The fire company held its "Firefighter for a Day" program, in which the residents were able to get a taste of what being a firefighter entails. "We give them the opportunity to try it," said fire company Capt. Andrew Prestia.

The program, which ran from 6 p.m. Friday until 6 p.m. Saturday when the participants "graduated," provided experience in a variety of firefighting skills and an introduction to the working environment.

"It's as real as we train," Prestia said.

The stations included instruction in vehicle extraction, simulated vehicle fires and navigation through a smoke maze using a self-contained breathing apparatus.

"They also got to see what it's like to

not get any sleep," Capt. Tony Berrena said.

The participants were on call and rode out in their own vehicle for three calls on Friday night, he said.

Richard Stout, Class of 2008 and an active member of the company, invited his father, Bill Stout, to participate in the program.

"It gives me a little better appreciation for what Richard does," Bill Stout said.

As an all-volunteer company, con-

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