

## Uphill climb

Pirates' General Manager Neal Huntington has been rebuilding the club since taking over.

SPORTS, Page 5

## 'Panda'-monium

A metal band will rock out at the 797 Lounge for its first local performance.

ARTS, Page 5

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Gerald Herbert/Associated Press

Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor hugs her mother Celina Sotomayor, left, July 14 after she testified on Capitol Hill in Washington, before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

## Sotomayor takes seat

By Julie Hirschfeld Davis  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON — The Senate confirmed Sonia Sotomayor Thursday as the first Hispanic justice on the Supreme Court.

The vote was 68-31 for Sotomayor, President Barack Obama's first high court nominee. She becomes the 111th justice and just the third woman to serve.

Democrats praised the 55-year-old Sotomayor as a mainstream moderate. But most Republicans voted against her, saying she'd bring personal bias and a liberal agenda to the bench.

Senators took the rare step of assembling at their desks on the Senate floor for the historic occasion. See **SOTOMAYOR**, Page 2.

## Students approve of newest justice

By Evan Trowbridge  
and Peter Panepinto  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

With the Senate confirmation of Sonia Sotomayor as the first Hispanic woman on the Supreme Court, leaders of Latin American groups on campus see a breakthrough for the U.S. Latino population.

"She worked her way up, like everybody else," said Elena Segura, president of the Penn State Puerto Rican Student

Association. "I'm sure it gives inspiration to people of any race that if you work hard, you can achieve whatever you want in life."

Seeing a Puerto Rican being installed in such a pivotal position is good for the rest of Puerto Rico, Segura said, adding that she was "obviously" proud.

Judge Sotomayor's Supreme Court nomination was confirmed by the Senate Thursday in a 68-31 vote. Sotomayor is the first Hispanic woman on the Supreme Court. See **JUSTICE**, Page 2.

## CATA logs record high ridership

By Chris Bickel  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) has seen record ridership this past year, and they think they have cost-conscious riders to thank.

Total annual ridership increased 6.4 percent, with numbers climbing to more than 6.9 million. The previous annual record was more than 6.5 million, set last year.

That wasn't the only record broken during CATA's 2008-09 fiscal year.

Jacqueline Sheader, CATA marketing manager, said there was a record 45,157 bus passengers carried on Feb. 27 — the beginning of the State Patty's Day weekend.

She said this student holiday was "definitely why" the prior record of 43,869 set in October 2005 was broken.

"We're glad people are choosing not to drive, if they're choosing to imbibe," Penn State spokeswoman Annemarie Mountz said.

Sheader thinks that the biggest reason for this change in overall ridership was due to the climbing gas prices.

"When [gas prices] were really high, people would ride the bus more," she said. "It's because there are people wanting to go green, people wanting to cut their costs."

Rich Kirkpatrick, a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) spokesman, agrees the gas price spikes could be a cause for the increase of CATA patronage. Pennsylvania is one of the leading states in offering higher-quality public transportation, he said.

"CATA is becoming one of the leading transit agencies in the state in terms of ridership," he said. "It's a very good development to have."

Sheader said CATA has also seen an increase in usage of non-student routes, including the Park Forest, Boalsburg and Houserville lines. Sheader said the new routes and beefed-up bus schedules could elevate the ridership total even more.

Elizabeth Goreham, State College Borough Council President, agrees.

"If you can find a route and a timing for you, it's ideal," she said. "Having a car and parking a car and tolls are becoming more expensive."

Goreham said the government estimates it costs 55 cents per mile to drive. Rates are only going up, she said, and the current costs are expensive enough. Goreham said it's "delightful" to see residents using the bus system and hopes CATA continues to grow.

CATA is the third-largest transit system in the state, Sheader said.

The largest is Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) in Philadelphia with an estimated annual ridership of 325 million. The Port Authority Transit (PAT) in Pittsburgh comes in at No. 2.

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Marissa Gutherz/Collegian

People wait for the arrival of a CATA bus Thursday at the stop on College Avenue and Allen Street.



## College is more than just their nickname

By Kevin Cirilli  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

ALCOHOL, coffee and pre-marital sex are just three things prohibited in the Happy Valley.

Utah's Happy Valley, that is. Nestled near Utah's Wasatch Mountains, Provo is home to the mostly Mormon Brigham Young University and shares a nickname with Penn State's college town.

The two Happy Valleys topped the lists of the latest Princeton Review drinking survey — BYU as the No. 1 Stone Cold Sober school, Penn State as the No. 1 party college. But that doesn't make BYU a safer campus than Penn State's.

The Congressional Quarterly (CQ) Press' 2008 rankings of the safest metropolitan areas listed State College as No. 2 and Provo as No. 5.

"People are both pleased and surprised to hear that we are the second-safest place to live in the United

States of America," Centre County District Attorney Michael Madeira said.

The rankings are compiled each year after a thorough investigation comparing FBI incident reports, Princeton Review officials said. According to their figures, State College has one of the lowest murder and rape rates in the country.

But campus alcohol incidents differ considerably between the two schools.

The BYU police reported a single liquor law violation in 2007, down from two incidents in 2006 and three in 2005. There were no reported drug violations in 2007 at BYU, according to police reports.

Meanwhile, Penn State police reported 402 on-campus liquor law arrests and 176 drug arrests in 2007, according to reports.

State College Police Captain Dana Leonard said 60 percent of reported crimes and offenses are "alcohol-fueled" and estimated that half of the defendants are students.

See **TOWNS**, Page 2.

## Film celebrates generation's spirit

By Amanda Elser  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It took 13 hours in a teepee to cure Carole Hart of her fourth-stage lung cancer and convince her of the power of American Indian prayer and rituals.

As director of the soon-to-be debuted *For the Next 7 Generations*, which will be shown at 4 p.m. Saturday at the State Theatre, Hart said she hopes the story of 13 international grandmothers convinces and motivates the world to have a "shift in consciousness." The grandmothers, hailing from the Arctic Circle, North, Central and South America, Asia and Africa, united to spread the same message of change in the way people relate to the earth before it is too late.

The story of these grandmothers is an epic one, and it started in 1994 when doctors told Hart, one of the original writers of *Sesame Street*, that she had up to four months to live. Battling cancer and still trying to lead a normal life, Hart had a meeting with a spiritual leader named Jyoti, who wanted to produce a film about children and dreams.

### If you go

**What:** *For the Next 7 Generations*

**Where:** The State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.

**When:** 4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 8

**Details:** Tickets are \$8 and \$6 for students and seniors

Jyoti was not fooled by Hart's attempt to appear healthy and offered her the services of her tribe's church ceremony.

"I was surrounded by 40 people singing and praying for my healing," Hart said. When she came out three hours after dawn, it was a new beginning to her life. Hart immediately stopped chemotherapy, and in every scan from there after, she watched her cancer disappear.

"I felt an incredible shift in every cell of my body," she said.

Then, when Jyoti had a vision that indigenous grandmothers from all over the world were needed to spread their

ancestral ways of prayer, peacemaking and healing, Hart said she offered her filming services.

That is where the five-year film project took root. Jyoti spread the word of her vision and the response was astounding, Hart said. Thirteen grandmothers responded to Jyoti, saying they had the same vision.

"All the grandmothers said they were waiting to hear, had visions of their own, or had heard about them from their ancestors," Hart explained. "It was all very mystical."

The grandmothers met in upstate New York for the first time and formed the International Council of 13 Indigenous Grandmothers. Hart said that every six months, she filmed the council traveling as a group to one of the grandmothers' homelands to spread their message.

Hart described the movie as a "story of meeting, bonding, finding a mission and carrying out the mission." Their journey led them to all corners of the globe, including New Mexico, the Amazon rainforest and Mexico. In the See **GENERATIONS**, Page 2.