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# The Daily Collegian

psucollegian.com

Published independently by students at Penn State

Vol. 109 No. 212 Tuesday, Aug. 11, 2009 30 cents off campus



**Katie O'Connell (freshman-premedicine)** plunges from the high dive at the McCoy Natatorium's outdoor pool Monday afternoon. The temperature was recorded as the hottest day so far this summer.

## PHEAA sticks PSU with bill PSU to pay \$25M in grants

By **Evan Trowbridge**  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

"We need to find a resolution for this yesterday," he said.

While the state budget hangs in limbo, Penn State is stuck paying a \$25 million bill left by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) while it waits for state funding for student scholarships.

As of today, Pennsylvania will have been without a complete state budget for nearly a month and a half. In previous years — the legislature hasn't passed a budget on time since 2002 — wrangling has lasted well into July.

About 18,000 students at Penn State are anticipated to receive grants from PHEAA to help with tuition, Director of Student Aid Programs Melissa Kunes said. But until the budget passes and PHEAA delivers the grants, Penn State is supporting the students with its own money.

Last year, PHEAA received \$407.3 million in the state budget, PHEAA spokesman Keith New said. Some fear that the student aid agency might not receive as much funding as last year, something New said is very rare.

The money for covering the grants was compiled by shifting overall funding, Kunes said. While there are no "gaping holes" in the Penn State budget, there aren't any surpluses either, she said.

The average amount of a PHEAA grant last year was \$2,738 and the maximum amount was \$4,120, New said. PHEAA projects that 172,000 students will receive a state grant for the 2009-2010 academic year.

And the university is going to have to take more drastic measures if the budget is not approved by the latter end of the fall semester. Kunes said Penn State cannot continue funding in place of PHEAA and may have to cut off grants in the spring if the impasse continues much longer. Meanwhile, students' budgets and Penn State's budget are going to suffer, she said.

Penn State students receiving PHEAA grants will see how much the university is covering on their tuition bill statement, Kunes said. However, because the budget has not been approved, PHEAA is unable to inform students of the official amount of their grants.

Once the budget is passed, students will be informed almost completely by e-mail and will then be able to go to PHEAA's Web site to find out their actual grant amount, New said.

The University of Pittsburgh and Temple University are taking similar measures. In Harrisburg, local legislators think it's about time state government found a solution.

### State budget

Pennsylvania hasn't passed a complete budget before the June 30 deadline since 2002. Below are the dates previous general appropriation budgets were signed.

- 2002-2003: June 29
- 2003-2004: March 20 & Dec. 23
- 2004-2005: July 4
- 2005-2006: July 7
- 2006-2007: July 2
- 2007-2008: July 17
- 2008-2009: July 4

Source: The Pennsylvania General Assembly

"I think it's terrible that once again, another group of people are being held hostage," said Rep. Kerry Benninghoff, R-Centre, referencing the recent hold on state employees' salaries. Gov. Ed Rendell recently signed legislation that would pay state workers their wages while the budget is hammered out.

Benninghoff said Rendell and Democrats in the state legislature are trying to attach too much policy to the budget, specifically in gambling.

Tor Michaels, chief of staff for Rep. Scott Conklin, D-Centre, said there has been enough shouting by politicians on both sides of the aisle. He is looking for leadership, he added.

## Heat hits campus

By **Spencer Malloy**  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Mark Frank (sophomore-energy, business and finance) said.

As an uncharacteristically cool summer soared into the 80s yesterday, Kevin Fanning sought refuge at the outdoor pool at the McCoy Natatorium.

The combination of high humidity and high temperatures left many uncomfortable and unprepared for the heat, said Michael Kozar (junior-meteorology), Vice President of Newspaper Operations at the Campus Weather Service at Penn State.

"It's mad amazing hot outside," Fanning (freshman-engineering) said.

Kozar said that the heat index for Monday was more than 96 degrees, with the dew point at 73 degrees. A dew point above 70 degrees is considered "oppressive."

Other visitors to the pool agreed that they were there to get out of the sudden heat as thermometers marked the hottest day of the summer.

The National Weather Service issued a heat See **HEAT, Page 2.**

## Man's death a suicide

By **Kevin Cirilli**  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Authorities say the State College man found dead in a downtown alley Sunday afternoon committed suicide.

Witnesses saw Martin J. Swisher, 32, enter the top of the Pugh Street Parking Garage shortly after noon Sunday, pacing around before jumping off the edge, Centre County Coroner Scott Sayers said.

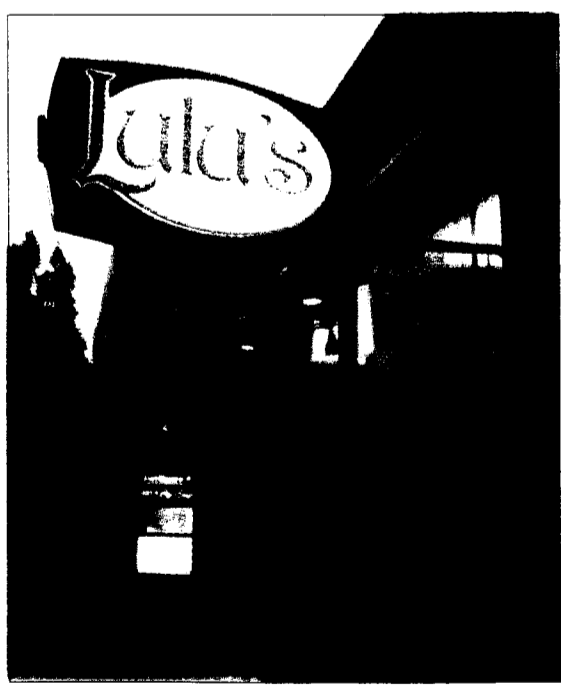
No second party was involved in Swisher's death, Sayers said. Swisher was not chased and was by himself, Sayers said.

Police relied on a witness across the street at the Arnold Addison Court Apartments, 120 E. Beaver Ave., Centre County Deputy Coroner Scott Rawson said.

Seth Koegler (junior-integrative arts) found Swisher's body at about 1:15 p.m. Sunday in an alley next to the parking garage.

Swisher pleaded guilty in 2004 to five felony counts of heroin, cocaine and marijuana delivery and one misdemeanor count of theft by unlawful taking, according to court documents.

Sayers said no drugs were found on Swisher's body. Toxicology test results are pending, and the results are expected back in four to six weeks, he said.



**Tony's Big Easy and LuLu's Nightspot, 129 1/2 S. Pugh St.,** are empty early this summer.

## Big Easy bars face lawyers for license

By **Kevin Cirilli**  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Three downtown bars that lost their liquor license will face off against state lawyers at an Aug. 18 hearing before a commonwealth judge.

The bars lost their temporary liquor license earlier this summer after Sammark's former attorney did not file a legal response regarding the appeal.

Robert Hoffman and Karen Muir are representing Sammark Inc. — owner of Tony's Big Easy, LuLu's Nightspot and Candy Bar and Lounge, all of 129 1/2 S. Pugh St. — and are asking Commonwealth Court Judge Johnny J. Butler to reopen the year-old case, which could grant the bars a temporary liquor license.

Hoffman said it's anyone's guess what the judge will decide following the Aug. 18 hearing.

Sammark hopes to continue appealing the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's (PLCB) 2008 decision not to renew the company's liquor license, according to court documents.

"If the Commonwealth Court doesn't reinstate the appeal, it's going to be hard for the licensee to prevail," he said. "I don't have a clear sense of how this will play itself out."

The PLCB filed a response on Aug. 6 and asked the judge not to reopen the case. PLCB spokeswoman Francesca Chapman did not comment on the specifics of the situation and said both parties were following legal procedure.

But even if the judge reopens the case, See **BARS, Page 2.**

## Students place in marketing contest

By **Chris Bickel**  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

When Brian Reitz looked up the **dictionary.com** Word of the Day to pick a team name, he didn't realize his class assignment would be ranked as one of the best in the world.

from 57 countries in a global marketing contest.

"This is a real accomplishment," Reitz said. "It was quite a shock."

Reitz (junior-information sciences and technology) and the fellow group members of Team Epoch were one of three Penn State teams who placed in the top 15 of the Google Online Marketing Challenge, competing against 2,184 other student teams

Each team, organized through the IST 402 (Emerging Issues and Technologies) course, was granted a \$200 budget for the competition to use and formulate an advertising campaign for its clients using Google AdWords and other tools.

course and said this was the second time Penn State has participated. Last year, a Penn State team placed first in the Americas region.

The odds of placing in the top 15, Jansen said, were about .63 percent.

"To have three teams from Penn State was just wonderful," he said. "I couldn't be more pleased with them."

### PSU teams

**Team 2xTheClick:** Mandy Mazzeo, Paul Rinaldi, Jenna Drew, Nichole Kavala and Kelly Miller

**Team Epoch:** Brian Reitz, Danielle Cope, Marco Dharmajaya, Lauren Solomon and Tiantian Tang

**Team Ocho:** Brobke Randel, Dong-jun Juang, Richard Kachman, Mitch Rukat and Dennis Siller

A total of 10 Penn State teams participated this year, teaming up with businesses from around the country. Team 2xTheClick participated. See **CONTEST, Page 2.**

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