

Back in the game

... presidential candidate
... returns to student government
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... of the season



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30 cents off campus

Lawmakers vexed over less-than-pressing proposals

By Evan Trowbridge
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Pennsylvania representatives might not be able to tell voters when the state budget will pass, but some have set the date for Worldwide Day of Play on Sept. 26.

While the state budget enters its third month in limbo, some bills and resolutions being brought up for consideration in Harrisburg may come across as less than urgent. In addition to penciling in Worldwide Day of Play, Penn-syl-

vania residents may need to mark their September calendars for Commodore John Barry Day, Gold Star Mother's Day, Vertebral Subluxation Awareness Month, National Food Safety Education Month and Emergency Preparedness Month, should current resolutions in the legislature pass.

Pennsylvanians may also want to set aside time to brush up on their dancing skills in case House Bill 1937 passes, which would make polka the official state dance of Pennsylvania and square danc-

ing the official American folk dance.

"The polka dance and those silly things, I think those are a waste of time," state Rep. Kerry Benninghoff, R-Centre, said. "I'd like to see them seriously, seriously reduced."

The resolutions usually do not take up much time in the House and are often voted on while waiting on procedures, Benninghoff said. However, he still believes they're inappropriate for a state in a budget impasse that has kept

wages from state workers and grant money from college students.

"I think there are some legitimate ones ... but I don't want that to be the only thing that occurs," Benninghoff said.

The resolutions are "one of the very low time-consuming things that representatives can do ... to encourage people to work harder and recognize people for things," said Leon Czikowsky, a spokesman for state Rep. Cohen, D-Philadelphia, the prime sponsor

of Vertebral Subluxation Awareness Month, which recognizes the work of Pennsylvania chiropractors.

The resolutions are often introduced as "non-controversial," meaning they are not intended to be controversial and rarely face debate.

State Rep. Paul Clymer, R-Bucks, the prime sponsor of the bill involving polka and square dancing, said the bill will take "a backseat" to the budget.

See **LAWMAKERS**, Page 2.

KARATE KID



Daniel Bott/Collegian

Sensei Jaeson Koszarsky, of State College, right, demonstrates a karate move on Joe Anstine (senior-toxicology) during Tuesday night's Penn State Karate Club self-defense demonstration in the White Building. Anstine said the demonstration was a good way for interested students to learn more about what the Karate Club does. See full story, page 2

Faculty Senate talks flu, energy

By Lexi Belcuffine
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Right before he addressed the Faculty Senate on Tuesday afternoon, Jeremy Cohen received an e-mail saying two students on campus had contracted H1N1 and have been asked to self-isolate for two weeks.

"We're trying to encourage students to stay away if they're ill," said Cohen, the associate vice president and senior associate dean for undergraduate education. "We're here to help them survive the semester."



The Faculty Senate addressed Penn State's response to H1N1 at its meeting Tuesday, discussing flu prevention among other topics including the university budget and a new Energy Conservation Policy.

A vaccine for H1N1 will hopefully be available in mid-October, though faculty and students are encouraged to get the seasonal flu vaccine in the meantime, Director of University Health Services Margaret Spear said in her address to the Faculty Senate.

"We speculate that if you can protect yourself from the seasonal flu, that you can protect yourself from H1N1," said Senate member Billie Willits, the associate vice president for Human Resources.

The H1N1 vaccine will be made available to at-risk groups first, which includes college students.

As 70 percent of people who have contracted H1N1 in Pennsylvania are under 24, the university has moved quickly to respond. Public restrooms and dining commons will be cleaned more often, Spear said, and while it is nearly impossible to disinfect keyboards, hand sanitizer will be available in all computer labs soon.

"The response to H1N1 is measured yet appropriate," said Nicholas Quesenberry, a student senator for the Dickinson School of Law. "Flexibility is really encouraged so it won't hinder academic success."

In other business, the university's new Energy Conservation Policy is making a special effort to cut costs and greenhouse gasses by targeting wasteful fume hoods and community computers.

There are 1,330 fume hoods in engineering and science buildings at University Park alone, contributing \$4.3 million to the university's \$43 million

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Police look into 11 car break-ins

By Kevin Cirilli
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Police are investigating 11 reported downtown car break-ins that occurred this weekend, leaving shattered glass windows and more than a thousand dollars worth of stolen electronics and merchandise in their wake.

"It's a good possibility it was the same people," State College Police Lt. Chris Fishel said.

Police are actively investigating the incidents and are calling on students and locals to come forward with any information or to report additional auto thefts, Fishel said.

The incidents began last Thursday. In one break-in over the weekend, an unlocked driver-side window was smashed open on the 200 block of East Beaver Avenue. Unknown individuals took an iPod and a GPS system worth a combined total of about \$700, the State College Police Department said.

On Sunday morning, an individual told police a GPS device and purse worth a combined total of \$300 were taken from a locked car sometime over the weekend, also on the 200 block of East Beaver Avenue, police said.

Police said a window of a Chevrolet Lumina was smashed Friday night on the 100 block of South Pugh Street, but police said they are not certain if anything was taken. On the same block, another person reported that an iPod, GPS system and sunglasses were stolen from a locked 2009 Toyota Tundra.

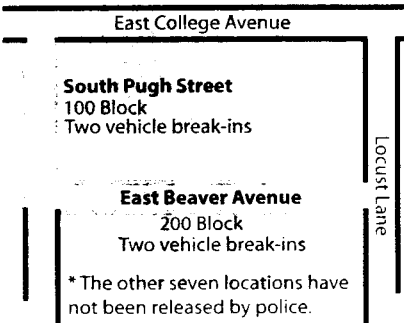
But the thefts aren't just happening to cars. Police also reported two bike thefts over the weekend.

Fishel said incidents similar to the weekend's car break-ins have happened in the past and said police were eventually able to stop them with the help of citizens.

He urged people to notify authorities if they see anyone "acting suspiciously" downtown.

Vehicle break-ins

Two of 11 recent vehicle break-ins have occurred on South Pugh Street and two have occurred on East Beaver Avenue.



Source: State College Police Department

Brittany Pavelko/Collegian

Police did not provide an official cost estimate of all 11 incident reports.

To e-mail reporter: knc5063@psu.edu

Lavishly redone Beta Theta Pi house remains vacant

By Lindsay Cryer
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After the largest fraternity house renovation in history, the Beta Theta Pi house lacks almost nothing — except members.

But the fraternity's alumni board is quick to stress the future of the chapter looks bright, even if some former brothers still hold a grudge over their March eviction after hazing and party violations.

After a \$2 million donation from alumnus Donald Abbey in 2004, the Beta Theta Pi house, 220 N. Burrowes Road, undertook a large-scale renovation effort, which began in 2005 and is currently in its final stages. Abbey's donation — which has since grown to \$7.5 million total — is the largest single donation to a frater-

nity nationwide and has funded the largest house renovation in the history of fraternities in the United States, said Ken Rawley, the executive director of the Abbey Leadership Foundation.

The renovation includes new hardwood floors, new "Beta Red" carpeting, new equipment and copper ceilings in two kitchens, Argentinean hardwood bed frames in all bedrooms and an exterior slate patio. The basement was also redone with oak walls, a skylight and air conditioning.

"I walk by every day and this beautiful house just sits there," said Kyle Richless, a former Beta Theta Pi member. "It's such a waste."

The brothers were evicted after the chapter was disbanded in February after facing suspension

for alleged party violations and hazing. For Richless (junior-finance), what was once shock and anger about losing the house is now sadness.

He said he and other former fraternity members rarely speak of the matter anymore, it's a "sore subject."

"They didn't ask for someone to make their house into a shrine," said Lloyd Richless, Kyle's father and the organizer of a parent group that fought the members' eviction. "It's something you would dream about. It's absolutely gorgeous."

Since the eviction, the house has had three caretakers who have kept an eye on the property and led active chapter reestablishment efforts, said Dan Wilhelm, See **HOUSE**, Page 2.



Abby Drey/Collegian

Renovations have been made to the Beta Theta Pi fraternity house at 220 N. Burrowes Road. A \$7.5 million donation from alumnus Donald Abbey paid for the renovations.