

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gingerbread Man faces fine from PLCB

The Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board cited the Gingerbread Man, 130 Heister St., with serving alcohol to a 19-year-old minor, Pennsylvania State Police said.

Police: Cash, stickers stolen from Texaco

Unidentified individuals broke into the Texaco Service Station, 1310 S. Atherton St., sometime overnight Nov. 23 and stole \$700, 29 Pennsylvania emission inspection windshield stickers and 29 Pennsylvania vehicle inspection stickers, State College Police Department said.

The suspects — who authorities did not name — broke into the unoccupied business through a door and somehow got into the safe, police said.

Police are asking anyone with any information to notify the authorities.

Police investigate thefts from vehicles

Police are investigating five male suspects ranging from 17 to 19 years of age in connection with a rash of thefts from motor vehicles throughout the fall semester, the State College Police Department said.

Through a joint investigation with the Ferguson and Patton Township police departments, authorities have identified the five individuals who have taken "large quantities of stolen items," police said.

A majority of the items were stolen from unlocked vehicles parked in lots, garages and at private residences, police said. Authorities believe the men stole numerous electronic items.

Anyone with further information is asked to contact the authorities, police said.

UPUA members to meet with Sen. Casey

Members of the University Park Undergraduate Association's (UPUA) Government Affairs Committee will meet with the office of Sen. Robert Casey, D-Pa., to discuss the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009, according to a press release from the student government.

The act would "expand federal Pell Grants to a maximum of \$5,500 in 2010 and tie increases in Pell Grant maximum values to annual increases in the Consumer Price Index plus 1 percent," according to the press release.

UPUA Governmental Affairs Chairwoman Colleen Smith said the meeting with Casey's assistant is part of a larger initiative led by other student governments at Big Ten schools. Representatives from each student government will meet with their respective senators to discuss the act and report their findings at the next Association of Big Ten Students conference.

"We don't have an official stance, but we think that preliminarily the act looks like it'll be very beneficial for students," Smith said. "We're hoping that tuition relief in general for students will come, but I feel like we need to ask a few more questions before we come out with an official stance."

This is the first time that UPUA has lobbied on a national level, Smith said.

"That's a really exciting step for us," she said.

UPUA ADD-ONS AND EVENTS

Mauricio Terrones, of the Institute for Scientific and Technological Research of San Luis Potosi in Mexico, will speak at noon in S5 Osmond Lab. Nitin Samarth, of the Department of Physics, will host the event.

Xiaoying Meng, of Penn State, will speak on "Functional Studies of S-RNase-Based Self-Incompatibility" at 12:10 p.m. in 108 Wartik Lab. Teh-hui Kao, of the Intercollege Graduate Program in Plant Biology, will host the event.

Paul Backman, of Penn State, will speak on "Interfacing Microbial Ecology with Development Needs in Latin America" at 3:30 p.m. in 112 Buckhout Lab. The Department of Plant Pathology will host the event.

Correction

Correction: Articles "Senior leadership paces Lions" and "Team starting to get healthy" on Nov. 18 and Nov. 19 respectively incorrectly state forward Nick Seravelli's year and the years of the Icers' top scorers. Seravelli is a sophomore, and four of the Icers' top six scorers are upperclassmen.

Correction

An article "Incident spurs blackface discussion" on page 4 of Thursday's Daily Collegian incorrectly stated the group Keiwana Jones advises. She is adviser of the National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC).

Weather: Today: High 49, Tonight: Low 35, Tomorrow: High 43. Extended forecast campusweatherservice.com

Holiday shopping starts off strong

By Anne D'Innocenzio ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Holiday shopping held steady through the Thanksgiving weekend after retailers saw a huge crowd of bargain shoppers on Black Friday buying discounted flat-panel TVs and fleece jackets.

Economic worries about jobs were still apparent as shoppers stuck to their lists and focused on practical and small-ticket items for themselves and for their loved ones, resulting in a mildly encouraging start to the season.

Online sales on Thursday and Friday, however, rose 11 percent to \$913 million, according to data released Sunday by comScore, an Internet research firm.

According to preliminary figures released Saturday by ShopperTrak,

a research firm that tracks more than 50,000 outlets, sales rose 0.5 percent to \$10.66 billion Friday, compared with a year ago. That was on top of a 3 percent increase last year.

The National Retail Federation trade group said Sunday it is sticking to its forecast for holiday sales to decline 1 percent from last year.

The question now is whether merchants will be able to keep customers coming back for the rest of the season. A year after suffering the biggest sales decline in 40 years, the nation's merchants pulled out all the stops in stores and online to keep the momentum going for the holiday weekend, further blurring the lines between their Web-based and land-based businesses.

Major merchants including J.C. Penney Co. and Sears Holdings Corp., which operates Kmart and Sears, broke new ground this year

by making many of their early morning Black Friday specials available on their Web sites at the same time.

Marketing gurus have started calling the season a "Twitter Christmas" as merchants have been tweeting deals and offering previews of discounts on Facebook pages. Sears spokesman Tom Aiello noted Sunday that since Wednesday, the chain has sent out a few dozen tweets to inform customers of bargains for the weekend and for the Monday after Thanksgiving, which is heavily promoted as Cyber Monday but could lose some of its steam this year.

"Forget Black Friday for bricks and Cyber Monday for clicks — this year it's all about making it easy for customers to satisfy their shopping fix ... wherever and whenever," said John Long, a retail strategist at Kurt Salmon Associates.

Climategate

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any of his colleagues went through with the deletion either.

But he does believe the controversy is a smear campaign led by those who do not believe in climate change — skeptics who also consistently "badgered" Jones to try to distract him from his research.

"Someone being constantly under attack could be what causes them to make a poor decision," Mann said, though he didn't specifically say Jones' e-mail was inappropriate.

Mann said Friday that in their e-mail exchanges, the scientists used phrasing that can be easily misinterpreted by outsiders — a misunderstanding that fueled accusations the scientists had tampered with data.

In one of the contested e-mails, Jones writes his colleagues to tell them that he had "just completed Mike's Nature trick of adding in the real temps to each series for the last 20 years (i.e., from 1981 onwards) and from 1961 for Keith's to hide the

decline," according to the Associated Press.

Jones confirmed to the Associated Press that this was accurate, but the "Keith" in reference could not be identified.

The controversy continues with only one week left before the United Nations Climate Change Conference 2009, where politicians and scientists will meet in Copenhagen to discuss what measures they will take to combat climate change.

President Barack Obama is expected to attend a portion of the event, along with other world leaders and scientists.

Climate scientist Brenda Ekwurzel, a member of the Union of Concerned Scientists, said Sunday she does not think "Climategate" will be a distraction at next week's summit.

But she said a number of people have made a concerted effort to distort facts presented by scientists as the summit approaches and climate change legislation is debated in Congress.

"One thing is for sure," Ekwurzel

said. "These allegations do not take away from the fact that the ice sheets are accelerating their melting rates and that the oceans are heating up at a pace that is entirely consistent with the heat-trapping gases that we have added to the atmosphere."

Ekwurzel said these changes are consistent with research done at East Anglia's climate change research center — as well as data recorded in many other independent studies.

Mann said his research was reviewed by the United States National Academy of Sciences (NAS), a group of scholars specializing in furthering the use of science and technology for the general public.

In a report published by NAS in 2006, the academy said it saw nothing in his work that was in any way inappropriate, Mann said.

"They went out of their way to state that our work was of the utmost scientific integrity," Mann said.

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Dado

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HUB, blue-and-white wristbands printed with the words "In Loving Memory...Joey Dado" will be sold at a table run by Joe Dado's friends and sponsored by Colleges Against Cancer, a club his sister Natalie Dado (senior-industrial engineering) is involved in.

The fund aims to give high school students the chance to attend college — something the Dados had always hoped for their son, who died Sept. 20 after attending a party at Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji) fraternity, 319 N. Burrows Rd.

His body was recovered the next day from an exterior stairwell between Steidle and Hosler buildings.

Mike Cook, one of Joe Dado's friends and the event's organizer, said he got the idea from Dado's sister and her friends, who sold the wristbands at Joe's alma mater, Greater Latrobe Senior High School in Latrobe, Pa. Dado's father said

the girls who started the sale knew his son loved Penn State, so blue and white were fitting colors for the bracelets.

Joe Dado loved playing soccer, his father said, and the fund will award money each year to two students from Greater Latrobe Senior High School — one member of the women's soccer team and one member of the men's soccer team.

"We want it to last for a whole generation, to keep Joey's memory alive and so hopefully the classmates of Joey, our friends' sons and daughters, will have an opportunity to go to college," Joseph Dado said.

Non-profit organization The Latrobe Foundation will administer the scholarship, Dado's father said.

After his son's funeral, he and his wife weren't anticipating anything but flowers and condolences. The influx of donations to the fund, he said, has been touching.

Cook (freshman-science) said he and some of Joe's other friends from Greater Latrobe were discussing ideas to celebrate Joe's life shortly after his funeral and came up with

the idea of selling wristbands. The wristbands enjoyed a successful sale at Greater Latrobe High School, where many students now sport the bracelets, Cook said.

Cook ordered 1,000 bracelets to sell at Penn State and said he already sold about 150 to 200 over Thanksgiving break.

Joe Dado's former roommate, Eric Hayes (freshman-engineering), said he will work at the table today. The wristbands are a great way to remember Joe and his life, Hayes said.

Lauren Stout (freshman-kinesiology), who knew Joe Dado for six years and went to high school with him, said she will stop by the booth tomorrow to help sell the bracelets. She said the sale is for a good cause, and she hopes for a good turnout.

"I know [Joe's death] has affected a lot of people in different ways," Stout said. "For some, it's losing someone who went to the same college, but for us from his high school, it's personal."

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Bowl

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I think there are a lot of advantages."

Heading into the final weekend, the Lions come in at No. 11 in the BCS, two spots behind Iowa. In all likelihood, Texas will play the Alabama-Florida winner for the BCS National Championship. Besides the conference champions, four at-large bids remain. No. 4 TCU and the SEC Championship Game loser will nab two of them. Penn State or Iowa will grab another, and Boise State looks good for the final slot, barring a major upset like a Texas loss to Nebraska in the Big 12 Championship. Although Oklahoma State's loss to Oklahoma appeared to ensure a second Big Ten team placing in the BCS, Palm believed the league would have received a second bid regardless. The team that needed help and could have been the odd team out — and may be again if Texas loses this Saturday — was Boise State.

As it is, the Orange Bowl and Fiesta Bowl are the expected BCS destinations for the Lions or the Hawkeyes. Although Iowa won the head-to-head matchup in Beaver Stadium this September, Palm said the only other real bonus the Hawkeyes have is a large alumni base in the Phoenix area, which is the site of the Fiesta Bowl. That said, Palm thinks the Fiesta Bowl is the most likely destination for the second Big Ten pick.

Of course, head-to-head results aren't the final factor in the selection process.

Even as recently as 2007, Kansas was picked by the Orange Bowl ahead of Missouri, even though the Tigers knocked off the then-unbeaten Jayhawks to clinch the Big 12 North division title. But after Missouri lost the conference championship game to Oklahoma, Kansas was selected despite ranking behind the Tigers in the major polls.

Although a similar situation could happen this season, Penn State linebacker Navarro Bowman didn't shy

away from Penn State's obstacles.

"I want to play in a BCS bowl for sure, but you got to give credit to Iowa," Bowman said. "They came and beat us at home, so that's definitely got to be added into the equation, but I know our team is a team that's going to get better and we're gonna be able to play with anybody."

Despite the win against the Spartans setting the perfect stage for open lobbying for his team for the BCS over Iowa, head coach Joe Paterno didn't expand much on the debate.

"Please, don't get me into all of the ethics of college football every time I get up here," he said after the Michigan State game about the bowl-selection process.

"We're playing, we won, I'm pleased, the kids played hard. We had a tough time out here, Michigan State's team came out and they went at it. I'm just happy for four players, and I hope they get the kind of game that they'll be excited about."

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Safest

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deserve accolades for their behavior and working relationships with each other.

"The State College Police Department is instrumental, and we also have wonderful citizens," Goreham said. "Our police do a great job of helping people and staying alert about possible crimes."

State College Police Lt. Mark Argiro said that the majority of students follow the law. Those who do commit crimes are usually first-time offenders who do not repeat offenses, he said.

"There are very few bad seeds,"

Argiro said. "Anybody who lives here knows it's a very safe place with very few violent crimes."

But CQ Press officials said some authorities view crime statistics — and therefore crime rankings — as simplistic and incomplete because of the range of categories and citizens' differing opinions on crime in different locations, according to the press release.

"This criticism is largely based on the fact that there are reasons for the differences in crime rates, not that the rates are incompatible," according to the release.

Another major difference between towns' demographics is student population, according to the release. While student population

considerably affects crimes, Goreham said the majority of Penn State students are well behaved.

"The vast majority of students admitted to Penn State are really the best and brightest," Goreham said. "The people who create problems are very much in the minority — but unfortunately, a minority is still too many."

Goreham said State College must now strive to continue to keep its safe reputation.

"We're still a pretty safe town, and we just want to keep it that way," she said, laughing. "That's the kind of pressure we really like and we welcome."

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