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Students will commemorate MLK VENUES



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30 cents off campus

STATE PATTY'S DAY Event set for Feb. 27

By Colleen Boyle
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Once again, Penn State will be turning green — this year on Feb. 27.

With the date for the fourth annual State Patty's Day set, some community leaders are concerned about the impact the pseudo-holiday could have on students and the community.

"It's a costly, dangerous, total-without-merit indulgence," Penn State spokeswoman Annemarie Mountz said.

She's surprised the event is continuing after last year's celebration when "negative fallout" exceeded the year's biggest football weekend.

Penn State students created State Patty's Day in 2007 in response to St. Patrick's Day occurring during spring break. Since then, many Penn Staters and locals have begun marketing the holiday, with bars opening earlier and stores stocking green and shamrock-covered clothing.

But some say that despite economic benefit, other areas of the community are being negatively affected. Mountz said the event is costly in manpower, stressing the police department and hospital staff.

State College Police Department Capt. Dana Leonard said the police department is used to handling high risk nights like Halloween, but State Patty's Day takes the risks to a whole new level because of the time frame in which students drink.

"It's doubly disturbing to see them walking around the streets at noon," Leonard said.

Injuries and arrests signify that students often exceed their limits, he said. He recalled one instance in which a student urinated on the terrace of the police station in broad daylight.

"It's very disappointing that this much effort would be put forward to establish one more day on the calendar to promote drinking," Leonard said.

The Student Programming Association, which coordinates some on-campus entertainment, See **EVENT**, Page 2.

State Patty's Day

State Patty's Day began in 2007 because St. Patrick's Day fell during spring break. It is now a yearly tradition.

2007	FEB	MAR	APR
2008	FEB	MAR	APR
2009	FEB	MAR	APR
2010	FEB	MAR	APR

● St. Patrick's Day ● State Patty's Day ● Spring Break
Source: Collegian archives
Junlin Chen/Collegian

SHAKING A NATION



Jorge Cruz/Associated Press

In the aftermath of the worst earthquake the country's seen in 200 years, Haitian natives lost homes, hospitals, schools and loved ones. Many are struggling to survive without food and water from the magnitude-7 quake that struck the country Tuesday.

Haiti looks to world for help

By Johnathan M. Katz
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Dazed survivors wandered past dead bodies in rubble-strewn streets Wednesday, crying for loved ones, and rescuers desperately searched collapsed buildings as fear rose that the death toll from Haiti's devastating earthquake could reach into the tens of thousands.

The first cargo planes with food, water, medical supplies, shelter and sniffer dogs headed to the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation a day after the magnitude-7 quake flattened much of the capital of 2 million people.

Tuesday's earthquake brought down buildings great and small

— from shacks in shantytowns to President Rene Preval's gleaming white National Palace, where a dome tilted ominously above the manicured grounds.

Hospitals, schools and the main prison collapsed. The capital's Roman Catholic archbishop was killed when his office and the main cathedral fell. The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was missing in the ruins of the organization's multistory headquarters.

Police officers turned their pickup trucks into ambulances to carry the injured. Wisnel Occilus, a 24-year-old student, was wedged between two other survivors in a truck bed headed to a police station. He was in an English class when the earth See **HELP**, Page 2.

Students fear the worst for loved ones in Haiti

By Megan Rogers and Evan Trowbridge
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As news of Tuesday's catastrophic earthquake in Haiti started rolling in, tremors of the tragedy's destruction could be felt as far away as University Park.

While some students are planning fundraisers for victims of the disaster, others are still waiting for news on the safety of their relatives and friends.

Bianca Jeanty (sophomore-biobehavioral health) is of Haitian

Text to help

Text: "HAITI" to 90999 and \$10 will be donated to Red Cross International Relief

Text: "YELE" to 501501 and \$5 will be donated to Yele, Wyclef Jean's organization that supports Haiti

Source: American Red Cross Association and Yele.com

heritage and still hasn't heard from relatives who were visiting Haiti. See **HAITI**, Page 2.

Senator asked to lower tuition

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

They had everything they needed to make their case for student aid reform. What was missing was a pair of ears to hear them out.

Following Tuesday night's "Tuition on the Rocks: Happy Hour for Student Aid Reform" event at Zola New World Bistro, 324 W. College Ave, a modest fleet of Penn Staters and Campus Progress activists approached the Bellefonte office of U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa.

Despite the icy weather and early morning commute, the group intended to deliver a petition signed by 59 of their peers in

favor of the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act, which would invest billions of dollars into Pell Grants and reduce subsidies to banks that offer student loans. The group also hoped to set up a future meeting with the senator to discuss the issue.

Interfraternity Council (IFC) President Max Wendkos, IFC Vice President for Membership Mark Mixon and Matt Shimizu, Class of 2009, were accompanied by Campus Progress representatives Pedro de la Torre and Vincent Villano on Wednesday morning when the group hoped to speak directly with officials from the senator's staff.

Campus Progress aims to help See **CASEY**, Page 2.



Chloe Elmer/Collegian

Students leave a petition with Sen. Bob Casey on Wednesday.

Wagner brings HOPE to PSU

By Brendan McNally
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Auditor General Jack Wagner, a Democratic candidate for governor, proposed establishing a new scholarship program for students in Pennsylvania during his visit to Penn State on Wednesday.



Wagner

The proposed program — "Helping Our Pupils to Excel" (HOPE) — would provide millions of dollars in new tuition grants for Pennsylvania students. Funding would be provided by revenue created by the recent gaming expansion bill, and the program would cost about \$400 million a year, Wagner said.

"The cost of higher education in Pennsylvania is too high," he said Wednesday afternoon in the HUB-Robeson Center. "If you are a Pennsylvania resident going to a Pennsylvania school and you maintain a certain GPA, you would qualify for a HOPE scholarship."

Wagner discussed the idea in a meeting with about 15 Penn See **WAGNER**, Page 2.

Date Auction heats things up, raises \$3K

By Sarah Peters
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Participants in Phi Delta Phi's second annual Date Auction sat on black leather couches under the bright lights of the stage of the 797 Lounge, nervously waiting for the auction to start.

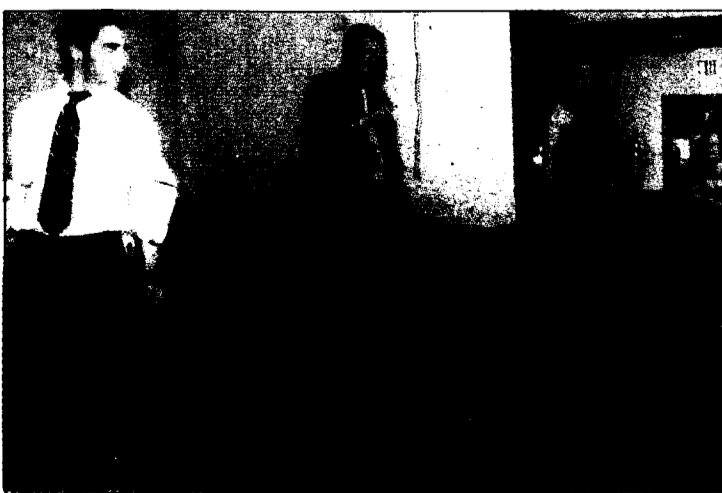
Once the auction began, however, they loosened up, showing off their best poses, blowing kisses to the audience and taking bows in an attempt to increase the bid-

ding, eventually raising \$3,076.

The fraternity's fundraiser was a pledge class project designed to raise money for Relay for Life Jaclyn Reilly, a new member of Phi Delta Phi, said.

The fraternity said they hoped this year's auction would match the \$3,000 that the first auction — which benefited the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Council Dance Marathon (THON) — brought in.

See **DATE AUCTION**, Page 2.



Kelsey Morns/Collegian

Wesley Goldbum (sophomore-kinesiology) strikes a pose at the Date Auction held for Relay for Life at 797 Lounge on Wednesday night.