

Sestak to meet with students

By Brendan McNally
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Congressman Joe Sestak, D-Delaware County, who is challenging fellow Democrat Arlen Specter in the race for the U.S. Senate, will visit Penn State on Thursday to meet with the College Democrats.

"People have called him the most over-qualified candidate running for public office," Penn State College Democrats President Jessica Pellicciotta said. "Congressman Sestak offers us a unique opportunity for us to ask him about his personal experiences and accomplishments."

Sestak is a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and holds a doctorate in political economy and government from Harvard University. He also served under President Bill Clinton as director for defense policy and headed the Navy's anti-terrorism unit "Deep Blue" in the wake of 9/11.

Sestak calls his meeting with the Penn State College Democrats a "Kitchen Call" meeting, modeled after the "Captain's Call" meetings he held in the Navy to discuss important issues.

Pellicciotta said she expects Sestak to give a short speech at

the meeting and also to ask for feedback and recommendations from the students.

The congressman has challenged his Democratic opponent Arlen Specter to a series of six debates. Sestak's communication director, Jonathon Dworkin, said Sestak hopes to hold one of the debates at Penn State.

"These debates will give voters the opportunity to make a fair assessment of the candidates, their positions and their principles," Sestak said in a press release. "There has been a serious loss of trust in our elected representatives, and the only way to restore it is to tell the people exactly where we stand and accept accountability for our actions."

The meeting will be held 7 tonight in 129A HUB-Robeson Center. Dianne Gregg, chairwoman of the Centre County Democrats, said she plans to attend the event — and she thinks Sestak is more than qualified for a Senate seat.

"He was a three-star admiral in the Navy," she said. "He ran for Congress in a Republican district and won and was voted the most productive member of Congress."

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Members of the State College Design Board listen to Pawda Tjoa give a presentation on how architecture can calm students on Wednesday. According to Tjoa, more campus architecture could reduce crime.

Architecture could reduce crime

Designing a comfortable campus atmosphere can increase students' safety, says PSU instructor.

By Evan Trowbridge
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The State College Design Review Board listened intently Wednesday to suggestions on how to encourage "student calming" in the municipality.

Pawda Tjoa, an architecture instructor at Penn State who gave the presentation, clicked through slides with examples of how architecture on campus and removing balconies from residential buildings, can encourage and deter crime.

"Crime can be reduced through manipulating the built environment," Tjoa said.

Emphasizing that good architecture will not just reduce crime but also increase the feeling of safety, Tjoa stressed the importance of designing a comfortable atmosphere where students can develop a "sense of ownership" and provide "natural surveillance."

"It's not about creating these fortresses so that there is no crime anywhere," Tjoa said.

Tjoa used portions of West Halls as examples of good and bad anti-crime architecture. She mentioned the parking lot on

Fraser Road across from the Sparks Building as an example of a public area with good natural surveillance provided by the numerous dormitory windows overlooking the lot. But some of the corridors and enclosed entrances in West Halls would benefit from enhanced natural lighting and better surveillance, she said.

Tjoa also said high-rise buildings and parking garages that don't provide good visibility can contribute to higher incidents of crime.

"Crime and accident prevention strategies should not imply the need for extreme measures, such as building tall fences and removing balconies from residential buildings," Tjoa wrote in her presentation handout. "Rather, it advocates the integration of safety with various other design considerations such as aesthetics, structure and functionality to create a more pleasant and safer living environment."

Calming measures could also be economically practical by saving money that would be used for police and medical responses, Tjoa said.

Board member Richard Devon suggested the design board should further define what is meant by "calming" and which locations in the municipality need calming the most.

Board member Zoe Boniface

urged that further studies into student calming concentrate on the particular situations that can arise in an area with such a dense student population, compared to a more typically populated area.

One unique issue the municipality faces is that students feel that "it's our territory and, therefore, we can do what we want," she said.

"It's a real issue in trying to make the borough a better place to live," she said. "People who are trying to live downtown or live downtown are unduly suffering."

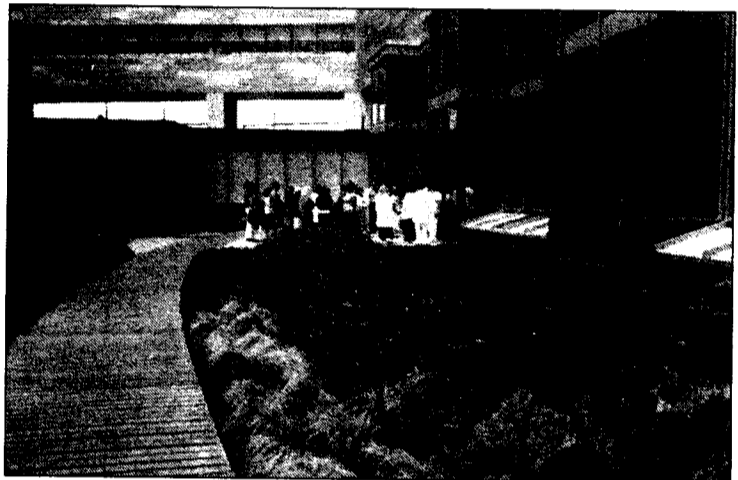
During the meeting, the board chose Boniface as the new chairwoman and Devon as the vice-chairman for 2010. Boniface will replace current chairman Kevin Gombotz.

The meeting also included a critique of signs proposed for Beer Belly's, a new beer distributor to open at 258 W. Hamilton Ave., the former location of Wild Side Pets. Discussion at the meeting speculated that Beer Belly's will open in mid-to-late February.

The board also approved plans for an addition to the Centre House, a shelter for homeless persons.

The addition to the house, located at 217 E. Nittany Ave., will provide four new office spaces and eight new bedrooms.

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Courtesy of www.live.psu.edu

The Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center will dedicate its \$3.2 million appropriation to further cancer research.

Hershey to use funds for cancer research

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For the first time ever, federal appropriations released to the Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center will be used to fund groundbreaking research on the genetics of cancer.

The \$3.2 million appropriation, which was released Monday, will be used to further the research of the Penn State Center for Pharmacogenetics, said Thomas Loughran, director of Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute.

"We recognize the genetics of a person being affected by cancer is important in terms of response to treatment," Loughran said.

A patient diagnosed with breast cancer, he explained, does not have the same cancer as another patient diagnosed with breast cancer. The center will take samples from patients and analyze their genetic composition to determine to which medicine they will respond to best.

This is the first year the appropriation will go toward funding research, Loughran said. Appropriations secured in past years were used to purchase equipment for the cancer institute's new building.

The center hopes its research will match patients with the proper medicine the first time medicine is prescribed.

"The best chance of curing a

patient with cancer is the first treatment," Loughran said. "The ultimate idea is that we will be able to select the best treatment from the beginning."

The medical center is one of eight hospitals nationwide belonging to the National Functional Genomics Center, a federal initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Defense that works to come up with better ways to fight cancer, Loughran said. U.S. Rep. Tim Holden, D-17th District, helped the hospital secure the appropriation, Loughran said. The hospital has received \$37 million in appropriations in the past seven years, according to a press release from the center.

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\$3.2K

Appropriations received in 2010

\$37K

Appropriations received in the past seven years.

Source: Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center

Justice Department sues Phila. swim club on charges of race bias

A Philadelphia swim club denied a day camp of mostly black children access to its pool.

By Maryclaire Dale
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PHILADELPHIA — The Justice Department accused a suburban Philadelphia swim club of race bias in a lawsuit filed Wednesday, six months after the club barred a group of mostly black day campers from their pool.

The civil-rights suit charges that the Valley Club of Huntingdon Valley engaged in a pattern of racial discrimination in canceling its \$1,950, eight-week contract with the Philadelphia-based Creative Steps program after the children's first visit.

"I'm sorry that it's come to this. I suggested so many ways (to club officials) that this could be resolved," said Alethea Wright, the camp's founder and chief operating officer.

"I am so glad that forces are

united to make sure that this never ever happens again."

Club officials have said race had nothing to do with the ouster of the mostly black and Hispanic children from Philadelphia last June.

They say there were too many children for the lifeguards on duty, and that many of the 65 campers couldn't swim.

The lawsuit seeks to bar the swim club, or any successor clubs, from continuing such conduct.

"It is illegal and inexcusable to discriminate against patrons by barring them from a place of public accommodation on the basis of race or color," Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, said in a statement.

However, the Valley Club filed for bankruptcy amid the uproar involving the camp ban, and the 10-acre parcel is currently up for sale, according to the club's bankruptcy lawyer, Michael Cibik.

The land, listed for \$2 million, will likely be used for residential housing, he said.

Any proceeds recovered would

"What they did was disgraceful."

Amy Goldman
Huntingdon Valley Club member

go toward claimants in the bankruptcy, including club bondholders and the camp families pursuing a class-action lawsuit.

Much of the national attention in regards to the club's actions centered on a statement by club president John Duesler, who said the presence of so many children would "change the complexion" or atmosphere of the club.

He later acknowledged he had used a poor choice of words.

Duesler for a long time has refused comment on the case, and a woman who answered the phone at his previous home number said Wednesday he did not live there.

Club member Amy Goldman said Wednesday that Duesler succumbed to pressure last summer from a vocal minority at the club.

Lifestyle and Fertility Study:
Researchers seek women ages 20-34 who are planning their first pregnancy and their male partners to participate in a lifestyle and fertility study. Eligible couples with no known history of infertility will be asked to provide a urine and blood sample and fill out questionnaires.

Participation involves one initial visit and follow-up until couple is pregnant or six months have passed. Compensation up to \$150, free pregnancy tests, diet assessment and cholesterol reading will be provided at no cost to you.

(814) 865-6325 - this research is under the direction of Dr. Terry Hartman, Nutritional Sciences Dept., Penn State University.

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THURSDAY NIGHT WITH DJ SHAGGY

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