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Catherine Coren, of State College, browses the dealer's gallery at the 2010 Setsucer. An me Convention, held Saturday and Sunday at the Data ton.

PSAO anime event draws large crowds

By Chris Bickel COLLEGIAN STAFF ARITER

With people dressed as Ness from Super Smash Brothers to Spock from "Star Trek" - along with the guest appearance of anime's "Justin Timberlake" equivalent — the Setsucon anime convention reached record attendance this weekend.

Visitors dressed in costumes ranging from video game to anime characters were the norm this weekend at the Days Inn. 240 S. Pugh St. This weekend marked the fourth annual Penn State Anime Organization's (PSAO) Setsucon anime convention.

Anthony Ellison, 27, said he is a "Risenbool Ranger" - a member of anime voice actor Vie Mignogna's fan club — and attended the personation for the first time because of Mignogna's applicatione

"He is like the Justin Timberative of anime," Ellison said. "Vic is one of the voled and s, and he's one of my inspirations.

Ellison said he loved Mignorna's vocal performance, which he said was a rarity of anime conventions. "I was this close to crying," he said off was totally that epic."

Though PSAO President Dan Cicconi (senior-new media) estimated a crowd of about 600 attendees, his approximation was blown away. The convention reached its maximum occupancy limit -- about 900 attendees and staff members before noon Saturday. Setsucon Vice President Maggie Dunagin said this was partly due to Mignogna's popularity. "We had more people come this year than expected." she said. "It's heartbreaking to have to turn people away

Having been around since the first convention as an emcee, Frank Criscione said be's seen a "weird network" form between convention-goers, who tell their friends about conventions they haven't been to

'It's a sad and scary thing," said Criscione, Class of 2007. "Everyone who goes to conventions all know each other.

While some convention goors were enjoying the events, others were enjoying the "cosplayers" - people who dress up as their favorite anime characters. Ben Weldy, vice-president of PSAO, said he saw several costumes that impressed him. citing "Lyn" from the Fire Emblem series as an example. When people ask to take their picture with you. that's really the biggest compliment you can give to a cosplayer," Weldy (senior Japanese and Eastern Asian studies) said. And Paula Godshall (treshman visual arts) did just that - putting several weeks into creating the Lvn costume that left Weldy awestruck. But not only anime fans can be found at these conventions. Val O'Donnell (senior-electrical engineering) showed up dressed as Spock, a character from "Star Trek." Though she didn't dress up as an anime character this year, O'Donnell said people were still excited about her costume and asked to take pictures. "I bust out my phaser and strike a pose — set phasers to fabulous," she said.

OCAL

Group calls for Mann's external investigation

By Colleen Boyle ...GEAN STAFF WRITER

A conservative research organization has called on state lawmakers to conduct an outside investigation of embattled (esearcher

Michael Monn. saying Penn State's inquiry is tainted by a conflict of interest. In the past month,

the Commonwealth Foundation released a 10-page policy statement Pennsylvania General

Assembly to commission an external and independent investigation of the Penn State meteorology professor.

Penn State's inquiry was prompted when hundeeds of illegally obtained emails were leaked last November from a private server in the climate research unit at the University of East Anglia in England. Critics say the emails suggest that data released by Mann and his colleagues may have misrepresented climate change.

said the inquiry Penn State has been review of the case is concluded before conducting into Mann's ethics is inap-they condemn it." propriate, considering the university's glaring conflict of interest.

"If the school conducts the investigation, there is likely to be a white- according to Penn State policy, said

Policy RA-10

The policy Penn State uses to handle inquiries and investigations on research misconduct. One facet of the policy defines misconduct as "fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or other practices that seriously deviate from accepted practices within the academic community for proposing, conducting, or reporting research or other scholarly activities.'

Source: http://guru.psu.edu/policies/RA10.html

would harm the school's reputation," said Joe Sterns, communications director for the Commonwealth Foundation.

dation's policy letter.

But Penn State spokeswoman Lisa Powers expressed her confidence in Penn State's ability to carry out a fair inquiry.

From what I have heard and read. [the Commonwealth Foundation] already believes Professor Mann is guilty and that Penn State is unable to conduct a fair and impartial inquiry, she said. "We take issue with that, and encourage the Commonwealth A spokesman from the foundation Foundation to wait until Penn State's they condemn it.'

Penn State began the inquiry Nov. 29 and will conclude on Jan. 29.

The inquiry is being conducted wash given that a negative finding Henry Foley, vice president for

research at Penn State. Foley and fellow Penn State faculty members William Brune, head of the meteorology department, and Candice Yekel, As of press time, no Pennsylvania director of the Office of Research lawmakers had responded to the foun- Protections, are conducting the inquiry.

Based on their findings, the panel will decide whether to proceed with a deeper investigation of Mann.

Powers also said Penn State has a good track record for handling these ypes of inquiries.

Any notion that we are not prepared to be objective in evaluating our own or are incapable of invoking appropriate sanctions in the event of misconduct is incorrect," Powers said. We would not jeopardize the integrity of the entire institution and its researchers for a single individual."

Mann did not comment on the inquiry, saying that a response would be inappropriate.

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Grad student faces felony charges

By Greg Galiffa

A Penn State graduate student faces felopy charges after police said she sent several threatening text messages to her ex-boyfriend and his girlfriend due to Thanksgiving break.

Kathiem Lengel (graduate-biochemisury, microbiology and molecular biology was taken into custody Friday after being charged with two counts of felony intimidation of witnesses or victims and two counts of felony retail ation against witness, victim or party, according to court documents.

She was also charged with two counts of edisdemeanor stalking and six counts of misdemeanor harassment, police said.

Lengel's ex-boyfriend and his girlafter they began receiving text mes- telephone calls from a withheld num- Township. sages from Lengel saving she is going to come after them. Penn State Police ner. said. afraid to leave her home, and the exboyfriend reported it has affected the said. couple's encoday life. The threats have even caused the girlfriend's employer to heighten security at her work, police said.

19 that Lengel started sending her calls total. texts at the beginning of the month, police said.

They were "annoying" at first, she told police, but over time, they had her "concerned about her life," police said.

In several of the texts reported to police. Lengel called her ex-boyfriend a "fag," asked about the couple's sex life and threatened the girlfriend by saying she was going to "blow her brains out," police said.

At the end of November, Lengel was arrested on charges of terroristic threats, stalking and harassment of victims and was released on a \$25,000 bail, police said.

Her charges were waived on Nov. 25. just prior to her preliminary hearing. police said.

ber at her family's Thanksgiving din-

The girlfriend told officers on Nov. The couple reported they received 20

The ex-boyfriend tried calling Lengel on her phone, but she did not pick up. police said.

She did. however, make two phone calls to authorities that were then terminated when the dispatch answered, police said.

Lengel's ex-boyfriend reported he received several more text messages at about 8 p.m. the same day.

The messages referred to the girlfriend as a "whore" and claimed the couple was destroying the sender's life

The sender also wrote "I still love u. please dont destroy my future or my death will b on your hands," police said.

At about 10 p.m., police said they During Thanksgiving break, police unsuccessfully tried contacting friend recently contacted authorities said the girlfriend received several Lengel at her home in Patton

The ex-boyfriend stopped receiving the texts at about 10:20 p.m., police On Jan. 14, police were able to con-Lengel posted bail of \$35,000 Saturday. Her preliminary hearing is set for 8:30 a.m. Wednesday.



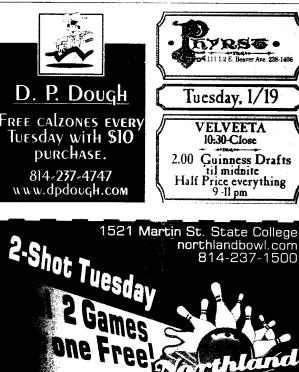
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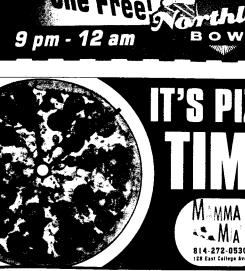
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To watch a video of interviews with visitors to the convention who dressed up as characters from TV shows and films: psucollegian.com





The girlfriend said she did not said. The giritriend told police she was answer the calls because she was afraid it might be Lengel, police nect the Thanksgiving calls to Lengel.

> Lengel's ex-boyfriend, along with several of the girlfriend's family members, answered a few of the calls, but the caller did not speak, police said.

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