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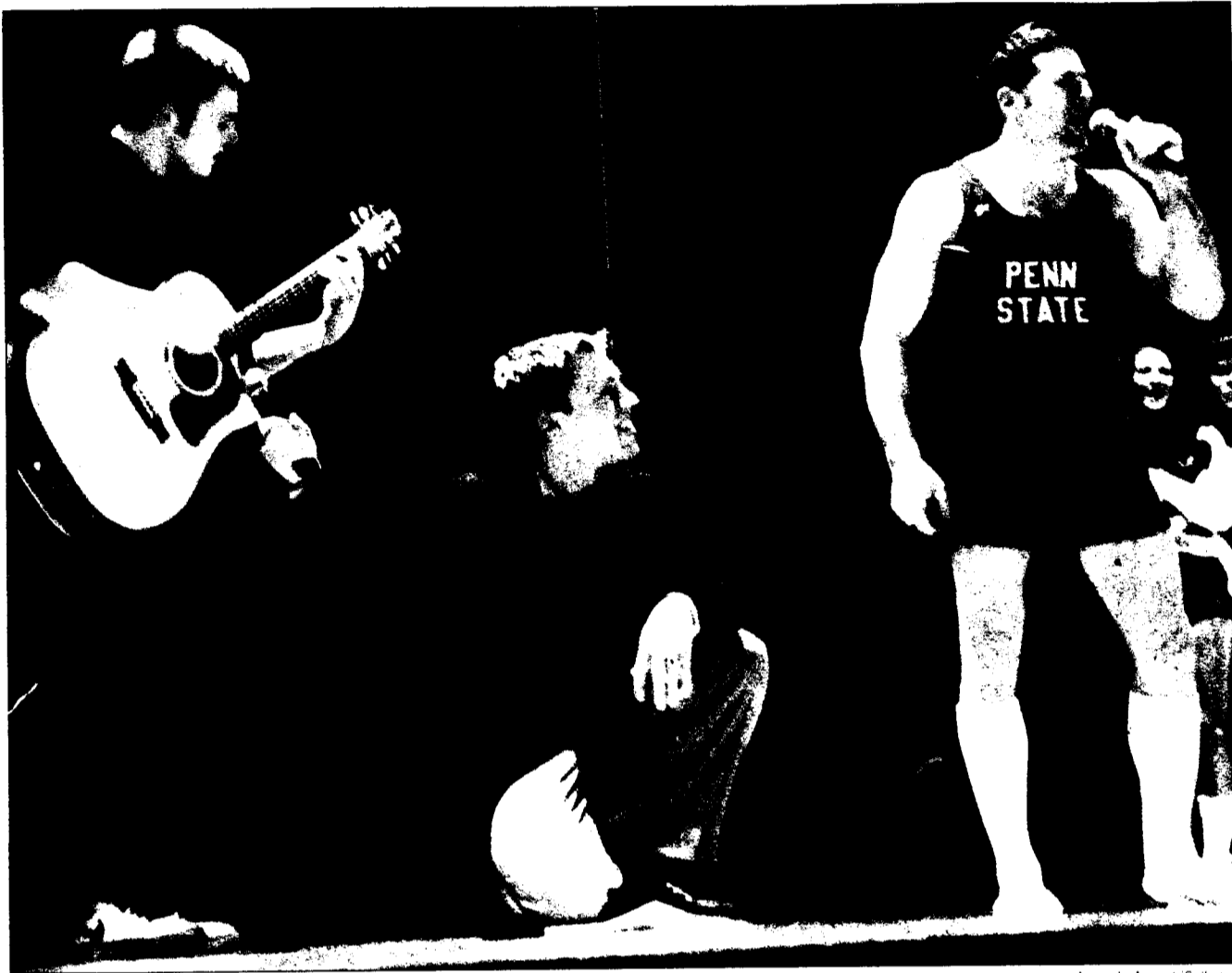
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39 cents off campus

STRUT YOUR STUFF



Felix Aronovich (freshman-division of undergraduate), a gymnast, sings Britney Spears' "Baby One More Time" for his talent during the Mr. and Miss Student-Athlete pageant on Tuesday night in HUB-Heritage Hall.

Pageant showcases athletes

By Katrina Wehr
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Freestyle swimmer Mike Kaiserian and track and field sprinter Fawn Dorr were deemed the winners of the 3rd annual Mr. and Miss Student-Athlete pageant Tuesday night at Paul Robeson Cultural Center's Heritage Hall.

It was an evening filled with fun facts and interesting talents by student-athletes, as well as clever commentary from emcees P.J. Maierhofer (senior-public relations) and Alex Middleton (senior-integrative arts). The event was held by the Student-Athlete Advisory Board

(SAAB), and proceeds benefited the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon.

Athletes competed in categories ranging from talents to formal and athletic wear. A popular "Would You Rather..." question and answer session was also part of the competition. The athletes were judged by prominent Penn State students, including University Park Undergraduate Association President Gavin Keirans (senior-business management), THON Overall Chairwoman Caitlin Zankowski (senior-industrial engineering), and 2009 Homecoming King Greg Tallman (senior-finance).



Throughout the evening, SAAB sold raffle tickets and t-shirts to benefit THON. The raffle prizes included: a Nike football bag and a voucher for one free Domino's pizza every week, for an entire semester.

In the talent portion of the competition, soccer player John Gallagher

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Nation reflects on Obama's year

By Edgar Ramirez
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As President Barack Obama prepares for tonight's State of the Union address, students are reflecting on his progress entering his second year in office.

Michael Pipe, Class of 2009, compared Obama's first year to the freshman year of college.

"We all know what happens freshman year — the excitement of being in college and going to class and having all this freedom can get to your head," Pipe said.

If you watch

What: State of the Union address

When: 9 p.m.

Where: ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, CNBC, CNN

"Then your sophomore, junior and senior year comes up, and you buckle down and begin to make progress. That's how it is with Obama."

Pipe, who campaigned with Obama for

17 months, said it is too early to grade his progress.

"I think it is silly that after one year — let alone people grading him for his 100 days — some are declaring him dead," Pipe said. "People need to realize we have a lot of problems to address, and those problems were not going to be solved in his first year."

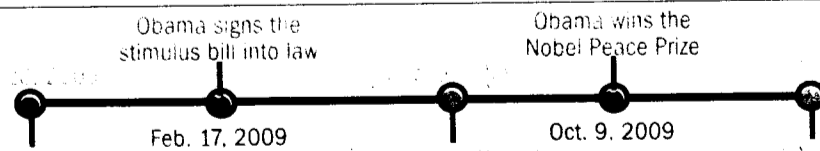
Dustin Dove (senior-secondary education), vice president of Penn State College Democrats, said he is "fairly pleased" with the work Obama has done.

"[Obama] has faced some of the

See **OBAMA, Page 2.**

Obama's year in review

Here is a look at some of the significant events of Barack Obama's first year in office.



Source: Collegian archives

Obama is sworn in as the 44th president

Ashley Rickard/Collegian

Students march in opposition to bill

By Caitlin Burnham
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

About 15 Penn State students chanted, "Shame on Uganda, love is a human right," as they marched across campus Tuesday afternoon in response to a recently proposed Ugandan anti-homosexuality bill.

"If we relinquish the rights of one people, we relinquish the rights of all," Amnesty International member Jacdane Reid said. "It doesn't just affect gay people, it affects everyone."

The Penn State chapter of Amnesty International organized the "The March for Human Rights: Say 'No' to Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill." According to the bill, which has not been passed and is currently awaiting parliamentary debate, "the offence of homosexuality" could result in lifetime imprisonment.

Committing "aggravated homosexuality" could be punishable by death. A person convicted of an "attempt to commit homosexuality," "aiding and abating homosex-



For video footage of Penn State students marching across campus:
psu.collegian.com

uality," "conspiracy to engage in homosexuality" or "promotion of homosexuality" could face seven years in prison.

The participants started at the Allen Street Gate and wound throughout campus, passing the Pattee and Paterno Libraries and the HUB-Robeson Center and See **MARCH, Page 2.**



Tom Ruane/Collegian

Students from Penn State Amnesty International marched across campus on Tuesday in protest of an anti-homosexuality bill in Uganda. The group started at the Allen Street gates and wound around campus.

FACULTY SENATE

Early breaks may be banned

By Vera Greene
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Faculty and student leaders sparred at the Faculty Senate meeting Tuesday over a resolution condemning professors who dismiss classes before break periods begin.

College of Liberal Arts Senator Dennis Gouran initially pitched the motion to the Senate as a means to officially voice its disapproval of the practice.

"It is unprofessional behavior on the faculty's behalf to cancel classes because they are simply giving themselves and students an early start home," said Gouran, a communication arts and sciences professor.

The policy was passed by a majority of the Senate on Tuesday. It will now be moved to Penn State President Graham Spanier for approval, at which point it would become official policy.

Associate professor of philosophy Leonard Berkowitz said voting in favor of the motion would put on record that the Senate feels it is a bad thing to cancel classes without a professional reason.

But Sam Loewner, chairman of the Student Senator's Caucus, said the motion will be damaging in the larger scheme of things.

"Students of Penn State, through their elected representatives, oppose this piece of legislation," Loewner (senior-political science) said, after the meeting. "We're pretty surprised that faculty is OK with basically allowing an outside influence to enter the classroom and control their ability to make class schedules."

Loewner also University Park Undergraduate Association academic affairs chairman, said he doesn't want faculty members to second-guess themselves.

"We're not advocating for canceling classes," he said. "We're for the spirit of classes because we're paying for it, but this is not the place of the Senate to interfere with an individual to run his or her own class."

This past Thanksgiving break brought the issue to light, though the university has no evidence of professors canceling classes, he said.

"They're going to show it to the president, but I doubt that they're going to do any policing," he said. "There's going to be concern with who's really making the rules right now. Faculty Senate or professors."

Student Commonwealth Chairman of the Student Senator's Caucus Peter Khoury said he had no problem with the policy on principle but did not feel the resolution was compiled fully and needed to be researched further.

Following the early dismissal resolution, the senate discussed faculty workload and advancing transparent workload policies by the end of the 2009-10 academic year.

Concluding the meeting, Office of Physical Plant Associate Vice President H. Ford Stryker presented the Senate with a slideshow showing the status of university construction projects.

To e-mail reporter: vhg5003@psu.edu

From the meeting

According to the Senate Council's Resolution of Early Dismissals of Classes, the Faculty Senate "stands in strong opposition" of professors canceling classes prior to holiday and semester breaks for the purpose of accommodating early departures from campus. The resolution starts that such conduct is "professionally inappropriate" and "demoralizing to other members of the teaching staff."