

NEWS IN BRIEF

CPA to collect food bank donations

The Center for the Performing Arts (CPA) will collect donations for Centre County food banks Feb. 2 through April 15, according to a CPA press release.

Patrons may drop off non-perishable food and household items at Eisenhower Auditorium weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Items will also be accepted at all CPA presentations in Eisenhower Auditorium, beginning with "The Trial of the Catonsville Nine" on Feb. 2 and ending with "Mamma Mia!" on April 15. A list of all events can be found at cpa.psu.edu.

Items especially in demand include cooking oil and spray, coffee, tea, hot chocolate, canned vegetables, baking mixes, pasta, soup, baby-care items, pet supplies, laundry and dish detergent, supermarket gift cards and hygiene products, according to the press release.

All donations will benefit the Centre County Network of Food Banks.

POLICE LOG

DUI: A 49-year-old woman with a blood alcohol content of .260 percent was arrested after driving under the influence at about 5:30 p.m. Tuesday on the 1100 block of University Drive, the State College Police Department said.

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

There is a THON food drive in Brill Hall from 1 to 7 p.m. and another in Sparks Building from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thomas Wood, of Texas A&M University, will speak about "Cellular Sleeping Pills and Engineered Biofilm Systems" at 10:00 a.m. in 102 Chemistry Building. The Department of Chemical Engineering is hosting this event.

Srinivas Raghu, of Stanford University, will speak about "Superconductivity in the Repulsive Hubbard Model: An Asymptotically Exact Weak-Coupling Solution" at 10 a.m. in 339 Davey Laboratory. Jainendra Jain, of the Department of Physics, is hosting this event.

Jian Li, of Penn State, will speak about "Kinetic Regulation of Promoter-Proximal Pausing by GAGA Factor in Drosophila," at 11:15 a.m. in 101 Althouse Laboratory. David Gilmour, of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, is hosting this event.

Le Thai Hoang, of the University of California, will speak at 11:15 a.m. in 106 McAllister Building.

The Department of Mathematics is hosting this event.

Kim-Anh Do, of the University of Texas, will speak about "Computer-Intensive Statistical Methodology with Applications to Translational Cancer Research," at 4 p.m. in 201 Thomas Building. The Department of Statistics is hosting this event.

Ilijas Farah, of York University, will speak about "Graphs and Uniformly Hyperfinite C\*-Algebras," at 4 p.m. in 114 McAllister Building. The Department of Mathematics is hosting this event.

Chuck Dermer, of the Naval Research Laboratory, will speak about "High Energy Radiation from Black Holes," at 4 p.m. in 117 Osmond Laboratory.

Ty DeYoung, of the Department of Physics, is hosting this event.

Andrew Greytak, a faculty candidate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will speak about "Smart Quantum Dot Sensors," at 4 p.m. in 102 Chemistry Building.

Correction

A photo caption on page 1 of Wednesday's Daily Collegian incorrectly identified a Penn State wrestler performing at the Mr. and Miss Student-Athlete pageant. The wrestler's name is Noam Shaham (senior-engineering science).

Correction

An article on page 1 of Wednesday's Daily Collegian incorrectly described an action Faculty Senate took Tuesday. Faculty Senate passed a resolution, which does not require Penn State President Graham Spanier's approval and will not become official policy.

Correction

A brief on page 2 of Wednesday's Daily Collegian incorrectly stated several charges to which Kalen Shaffer pleaded guilty. Shaffer pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor charges of heroin possession. Charges of possession with intent to deliver heroin, delivery of heroin, criminal conspiracy and criminal use of a communication facility were dropped.

The Daily Collegian

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Weather

Today: High 32; Tonight: Low 13; Tomorrow: High 23; Extended forecast campusweatherservice.com Courtesy of Campus Weather Service

SOMA hopes to advise Wallypalooza

By Chidi Ugwu and Nick Weingarter COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Wheels are churning at Students Organizing the Multiple Arts (SOMA).

The organization is currently in the process of forming a coalition with other music groups on campus to create an advisory board designed to aid in the planning process for this year's incarnation of Wallypalooza, the music festival that kicked off last May with an Asher Roth concert on the HUB lawn.

"We're asking if [University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) President Gavin Keirans] would like to have us advise in the whole music portion of it," said SOMA member Ethan Palmer Smith. "And not have it named Wallypalooza."

Smith (senior-international politics) said the group has already sent out e-mails to underground music club Asylum, the Penn State Songwriters Club and Original Music at Penn State.

The group is plans to propose

the idea about Wallypalooza to UPUA soon.

"This is a really good opportunity to have us all come together and make a good music festival," SOMA President Danny Michelson said. "Not called Wallypalooza."

Last year's festival was headlined by the "I Love College" rapper and was headed up by Mike Wallace (senior-economics), who resigned from his position as programming chairman of UPUA on Jan. 20.

Leanna Usnik, who took Wallace's place, was unavailable for comment by press time Wednesday.

Members of some other campus arts groups said they see value in SOMA's initiative.

"They want to try to have more people involved in making the decisions," said Mike Doyle (senior-mechanical engineering), a member of Original Music at Penn State and local band British Phil. "They're also trying to get more kinds of music involved, like more pop and rap."

SOMA also set a date for this

year's Arts Crawl at the Wednesday meeting. The event is set for April 9.

The group is considering Black Moth Super Rainbow, Le Loups and Freeland Whales as potential headliners.

SOMA member Devan Kochersperger (sophomore-history) said this year the group is looking for bands that incorporate multimedia into their shows — a change designed to make this year's Arts Crawl different from previous years.

The group is also looking to include a fashion show to further differentiate 2010's effort from previous crawls.

Michelson (senior-film and video) said the group is also looking to hold a charity show at Abba Java Coffee Shop to benefit the people of Haiti.

"I want to make more money than George Clooney," said Michelson, referring to the actor's recent charity telethon. "So that's our goal."

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Obama

From Page 1.

He spoke to a nation gloomy over double-digit unemployment and federal deficits soaring to a record \$1.4 trillion, and to fellow Democrats dispirited about the fallen standing of a president they hoped would carry them through this fall's midterm elections.

With State of the Union messages traditionally delivered at the end of January, Obama had one of the presidency's biggest platforms just a week after Republicans scored an upset takeover of a Senate seat in Massachusetts, prompting hand-wringing over his leadership. With the turnover erasing Democrats' Senate supermajority needed to pass most legislation, it also put a cloud over health care and the rest of Obama's agenda.

A chief demand was for lawmakers to press forward with his prized health care overhaul, which is in severe danger in Congress. "Do not walk away from reform," he implored. "Not now. Not when we are so close."

Republicans applauded the presi-

dent when he entered the chamber, and even craned their necks and welcomed Michelle Obama when she took her seat. But the warm feelings of bipartisanship disappeared early.

Democrats jumped to their feet and roared when Obama said he wanted to impose a new fee on banks, while Republicans sat stone-faced. Democrats stood and applauded when Obama mentioned the economic stimulus package passed last February. Republicans just stared.

On national security, Obama proclaimed some success, saying that "far more" al-Qaida terrorists were killed under his watch last year in the U.S.-led global fight than in 2008.

Hoping to salve growing disappointment in a key constituency, Obama said he would work with Congress "this year" to repeal the ban on gays and lesbians serving openly in the military. But in a concession to concern about the move among Republicans and on his own party's right flank, Obama neither made a commitment to suspend the practice in the interim nor issued a firm deadline for action.

The president devoted about two-

thirds of his speech to the economic worries foremost on Americans' minds as recession persists. "The devastation remains," he said.

Obama emphasized his ideas, some new but mostly old and explained anew, for restoring job growth, taming budget deficits and changing a Washington so polarized that "every day is Election Day."

Declaring that "I know the anxieties" of Americans' struggling to pay the bills while big banks get bailouts and bonuses, Obama prodded Congress to enact a second stimulus package "without delay," specifying it should contain a range of measures to help small businesses and funding for infrastructure projects.

Also, fine tuning a plan first announced in October, Obama said he will initiate a \$30 billion program to provide money to community banks at low rates, provided they agree to increase lending to small businesses.

The money would come from balances left in the \$700 billion Wall Street rescue fund — a program "about as popular as a root canal" that Obama made of point of saying "I hated."

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Speech

From Page 1.

"Reading up on blogs previous to the speech, I got a good preview of what he was going to say," Dove said. "I liked how he talked a lot about jobs and education and the reforms, it was something you would expect."

Obama addressed that jobs and the economy "must be our number one focus in 2010" and proposed that a new jobs bill should be in the works.

On the issue of education, Obama also proposed that the Senate pass a bill "that will revitalize our community colleges," along with ending the

taxpayer subsidies that go to banks for student loans.

Instead, Obama said that that money should be given to families as a \$10,000 tax credit for four years of college and increase Pell Grants, an act Dove said will help benefit lower-income families.

"The expansion of the Pell Grant is something needed," Dove said. "So many high school students these days are entering college, so expanding it for people that can't really afford it is great."

Frantz said he found Obama's idea on education to be more "idealistic."

"Like the things he promised during his campaign and all, it sounds nice and I'd like for it to work, but it's

something hard for that to get done."

Frantz said there would be too many obstacles within banks and loan agencies that would prevent such a bill from passing.

Samuel Settle (sophomore-political science and history) said the idea itself would not work due to the decrease already being seen in scholarship funds.

"The idea that we're going to help fund students when they're slashing scholarships...is offensive," Settle said.

Settle said he would like to see the money being given to public institutions instead to help shorten tuition.

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Frats

From Page 1.

But bouncers are not checking to see if the person is over 21 year of age at parties, Tom Piarulli, IFC vice president for risk management said. It is up to the fraternity to make sure it is not serving alcohol to underage attendees.

"We will not be verifying the age of a person for consuming alcohol — it's a liability issue," said Richard Payton, a consultant for St. Moritz.

The IFC is trying to standardize

enforcement for all fraternities — and it's St. Moritz's job to make sure each item on the IFC's checklists is hit, Piarulli (senior-security and risk analysis) said.

If a "special violation" occurs, the security personnel can shut down the event immediately, he said. Some party-ending violations include excessive guests, taking straight shots and fighting, he said.

Otherwise, security personnel will report more minor violations to IFC officials.

The average St Moritz security guard, clearly defined by his or her

neon orange arm bands, is not trained to break up fights, Payton said.

Monitors can call authorities when they see the need, but all other problems are to be reported back to the IFC, he said.

Indeed, he would prefer if the guards were not thought of as bouncers at all.

"They're security personnel," he said. "A bouncer is the guy in all black who's going to throw you out and bounce you around."

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Student

From Page 1.

or a license plate number for the vehicle. They are also unsure if the driver was aware of the incident, Hazel said. Police are checking all the construction sites around campus to see if the vehicle is affiliated with the university, Hazel said.

Penn State spokeswoman Lisa Powers said the incident is currently under investigation by Penn State's Environmental Health and

Safety Office as well as the Office of the Physical Plant — two departments that oversee construction safety on campus. The two offices will work with police and speak to the student to get more details about the incident.

"Contractors have a number of requirements, and the offices do job site inspections," she said. "If the contractors are found to not be in compliance, it could terminate the contract."

Powers also said construction traffic has increased lately because

construction on the Millennium Science Complex has required longer hours of labor. As for students, paying more attention and reading the signs posted around construction sites can help prevent future incidents, she said.

"I really, really encourage students to be much more alert around construction sites," Powers said. "Everyone needs to be a little more aware of traffic that's coming through."

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Concert

From Page 1.

Though she could not disclose Flogging Molly's opener, she did say it will be an Irish band, in keeping with the St. Patrick's Day spirit of the event.

DiGiacomo said that by keeping up with the St. Patrick's Day spirit, Flogging Molly offers something most SPA concerts don't.

"It's something different than we normally do since it's geared as a St. Patrick's Day concert," she said. "It's going to be a lot of fun. Flogging Molly just has a good time

with each concert they put on."

Because the concert is unique for SPA and Penn State, DiGiacomo said she thinks it will bring in a broad range of student fans.

"There should be much more of a variety of audiences because it's kind of different than most shows we put on at the HUB," she said.

Fan Zoe Yeaton (senior-psychology) said the band attracts a wide variety of people. "Flogging Molly is a fairly universal band," she said. "You can like them regardless of what type of music you like."

Yeaton said she found out by accident that the band was coming to Penn State — and while looking for a

Flogging Molly concert to attend with her brother, she noticed the State College stop.

"It's great because I don't have to drive anywhere," she said.

DiGiacomo said she is excited SPA has been able to book a wide variety of artists this year — from Pitbull to Motion City Soundtrack and now Flogging Molly.

"The point of SPA is to provide events for students to further their experiences at Penn State and to bring different varieties of artists so students can come and enjoy," she said.

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