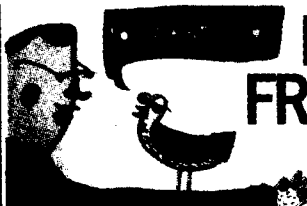


LADY LIONS  
LOSE FIRST  
GAME OF 2010  
SPORTS, Page 8



FAR FROM 'BORING'  
Los Campesinos! excel on new album  
ARTS IN REVIEW, Page 12.

Some Penn State students are  
hoping to install swings on several  
trees on campus | LOCAL, Page 4.

# The Daily Collegian

FLYING HIGH  
psu.collegian.com

Published independently by students at Penn State

Vol. 110 No. 88

Friday, Jan. 29, 2010

30 cents off campus

## LGBT hopes to see repeal

By Edgar Ramirez  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State LGBTQA members are praising President Barack Obama's renewed promise Wednesday night to repeal the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

During his State of the Union address, Obama said he would work with Congress "to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country" due to their sexual orientation.

"It's significant that a president would take a bold stance in the State of the Union," Rainbow Roundtable President Steve Lucas said. "From what I can remember, even President Clinton wasn't as outspoken in that kind of form."

Lucas (senior-English) said Obama's stance on the issue says a lot about his character — especially with the number of other problems requiring his attention.

"He's finding time to getting around to getting rid of such a discriminatory policy in his second year," Lucas said.

Alex Yates (junior-secondary education) said he is looking forward to seeing where the issue goes in 2010.

Yates serves as the public relations chairman for the Delta Lambda Phi colony, the national fraternity for gay, bisexual, and progressive men.

"I think it's awesome that he's challenging [Congress] to do something about it," Yates said. "It shows that not only is Obama behind all Americans serving in the military, but he's behind all the troops despite orientation."

The bill was passed by Congress in 1993 and signed into law by Clinton.

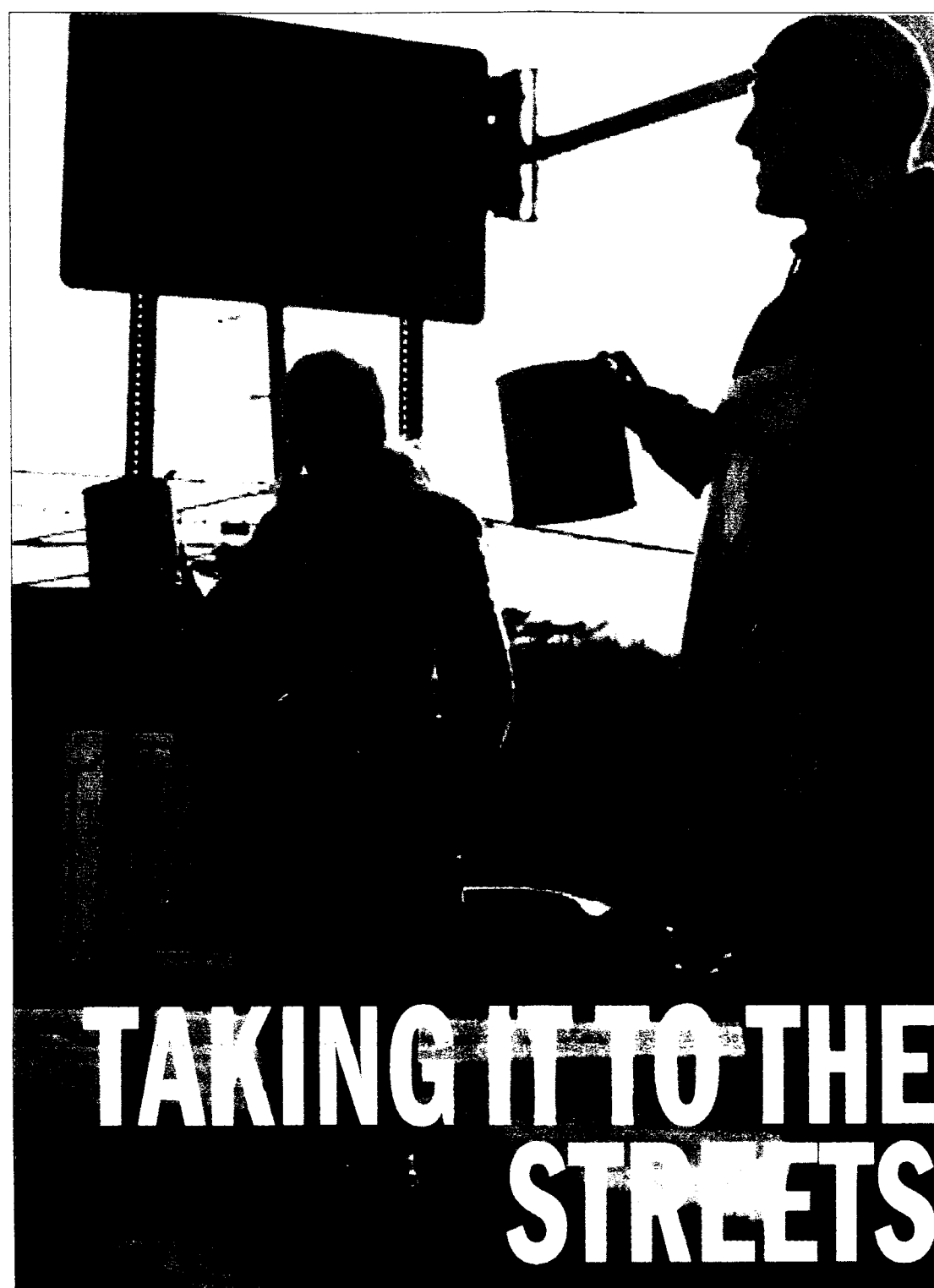
It currently bans any openly gay, lesbian or bisexual person from serving in the military  
See OBAMA, Page 2.



Chris O'Meara/Associated Press

President Barack Obama speaks at the University of Tampa in Tampa, Fla., Thursday. He plans to work with Congress to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" act.

## THON 2010



Amanda August/Collegian

Emily Cassidy (senior-English education) and David Haneman (junior-psychology) wear signs that say "Help Kids with Cancer," and ask passing cars to donate money to THON.

## Family welcomes canners

Editor's Note: This is the second in a five-part series spotlighting the people and places that make THON what it is.

By Katrina Wehr  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Hidden beneath the mound of coins, the recycled aluminum cans held a few stray novelties — a Canadian

penny, a flattened penny, a New Hampshire Transport coin, a McDonald's Monopoly game piece and a torn dollar bill.

Wading through these knick-knacks are just a part of the job for the average Penn State THON canner. Money is the end goal, but love belongs in these trinkets, too.

Claire Brobson, 9, of Harrisburg, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia when she was 6 years old. The



To view pictures and hear about Atlas' canning trip with the Brobson family:  
psu.collegian.com

pennies, coins and McDonald's toy cast aside by Atlas THON became gifts to Claire.

For Atlas, she is the reason love belongs in Harrisburg's suburb of Lower Paxton Township.

Claire will receive her final  
See THON, Page 2.

## Corroded pipes may pose hazard

By Brendan McNally  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After local officials expressed concern over corroding storm water pipes under Atherton Street, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) has allocated \$400,000 to research whether a potential \$15 million project is necessary to replace the infrastructure.

State College Director of Public Works Mark Whitfield said pipes under the road have become cor-

roded to the point that they may begin to slowly collapse under the weight of the road.

PennDOT press officer Marla Fannin said PennDOT is working with local municipalities to identify what steps must be taken to fix the problem.

She said cameras may be put into the pipes to better understand what is causing the corrosion.

"It will help us determine if there is a need for a highway project, and, if there is, what kind of

project it needs to be," Fannin said.

Kent Baker, a College Township engineer, said the affected pipes run through State College, along with College, Ferguson, and Patton townships.

Whitfield said local municipalities own the pipes running under Atherton and are responsible for their maintenance under state law.

"The problem is that the pipe is deteriorated for the entire length of Atherton Street," Whitfield

said. "It's a pretty big price tag to replace all that pipe."

Fannin said that if the \$400,000 study finds that the pipes need to be replaced or the road resurfaced, it is likely the project will receive state and federal funding. However, it would need to compete with others to win funding. Whitfield stressed there is little chance of an imminent collapse and that any collapse would probably occur over time.

To e-mail reporter: bwm5147@psu.edu

## Speech contest inspired by MLK

By Chidi Ugwu  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Four students each spoke out for change in the speeches given Thursday night in room 100 of the Life Sciences Building.

The students had each been asked to write a speech, and the one that best encapsulated the theme of the evening, "Dream the change, lead the change, be the change," would be declared winner.

Each speech, and the theme

itself, was inspired by the life and teachings of Martin Luther King Jr.

Out of the four speeches given throughout the night, Jasmine Rushum's (sophomore-broadcast journalism and sociology) speech best articulated the evening's theme, which helped her win the contest. Her message was one of leading by example and embodying a change that others are encouraged to follow.

"Within yourself — that's where the real change starts," she said.

Each speaker focused on different ills of society and proposed ways to eliminate them, and left the audience with a sense of community.

"It was a nice, unifying event," Germel Ford (freshman-communications) said. "And it was nice to see some diversity in the crowd. Dr. King wanted change for everyone."

The evening began with an emotional PowerPoint tribute to the late Dr. King, and showed his  
See SPEECH, Page 2.



Chloe Elmer/Collegian

Jade Perry (senior-integrative arts) leads the United Soul Ensemble during Alpha Phi Alpha's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Speech Contest.