

OBAMA MIA!
Comics slam politicians

CHEERLEADING!
Squads take over BJC

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING:
Fair attracts students

THON VOLLEYBALL
Players ref for the boys

ALL ONLINE AT
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'Idol' worship

Chris Daughtry will play at the BJC in March
A&E, Page 5.

Relief on its way

Group sends 32,000 food packages to Haiti
LOCAL, Page 3.

Back to Earth

The Lady Lions dropped their second straight game
SPORTS, Page 8.

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30 cents off campus

Pres. sorry about e-mail

Max Wendkos sent an e-mail cautioning greeks on Pulse survey.

By Jourdan Cole
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After cautioning fraternity members against taking a Penn State drinking survey in an e-mail last week, Interfraternity Council (IFC) President Max Wendkos apologized and said he wasn't trying to cover up alcohol statistics.



Wendkos

Last Tuesday, Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) sent an e-mail to all IFC chapter presidents discouraging them and their fraternity's members from taking the Penn State Pulse survey on drinking, writing "the last thing we need right now are more fingers being pointed in our direction."

Data is currently being collected for the annual Penn State Pulse survey, which operates under Student Affairs and records student drinking habits. In 2009, the survey showed about 75 percent of the respondents said they drink on Friday nights, having an average of about five drinks.

In Tuesday's e-mail, Wendkos suggested fraternity presidents have "members take the survey and indicate responsible and monitored consumption of alcohol by fraternity men," avoid questions where they must identify themselves as members of the greek community or avoid taking the survey altogether.

"It will be really, really bad for the greek community if the survey's results indicate an excess and binge drinking within fraternities," he wrote in the original e-mail.

On Saturday, Wendkos formally apologized to fraternity members for sending the initial message, writing he hopes the survey will be completed honestly and without exaggeration by the greek community.

"I acted only to prevent the distribution of potentially unreliable information regarding the drinking habits of members of the fraternity community," Wendkos wrote. "I want it to be done correctly — specifically, in a way that does not unjustly make us the scapegoat for a problem that is significantly more far-reaching than the Penn State greek community."

Vice President of Student Affairs Damon Sims said he was unaware of the initial e-mail but plans to speak with Wendkos about it soon.

"IFC and other groups have been more than willing to engage in conversations about the problems caused by excessive drinking, and their willingness has given me some optimism," Sims wrote in an e-mail Sunday. "Burying our heads in the sand to hide from the issue will not help, and hiding from the survey would be both silly and counterproductive."

Wendkos said he was concerned the prizes being offered for participation in the survey —

See IFC, Page 2.

Timeline

Before June 31, 2009: UPUA spends \$5,200 on Downtown Student Center

June 31, 2009: Student organizations' unused funds from 2008-2009 are returned to Student Programming Office

September 30, 2009: Policy #7, outlining the use of the Student Center, is adopted

January 18, 2010: UPUA begins holding office hours in Downtown Student Center

April 30, 2010: Students' last day of classes

July 31, 2010: Lease expires

Keirans concerned

Questions arise over downtown office

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

UPUA's Downtown Student Center opened last week — about six months after the student government bought the office's lease.

Now, some University Park Undergraduate Association members, including President Gavin Keirans, are wondering if the initiative was handled properly from the outset. Indeed, Keirans said the delay in the office's opening may warrant some "sanctions."

"When you commit to a project, anything involving funds, it's really important to come away with a clear-cut plan before going into something," he said. "This is an example where there were people who wanted to rush into the situation before we had a plan in place."

In June 2009, UPUA spent \$5,200 on a 12-month lease for the 103 E. Beaver Ave. office using leftover funds from the 2008-2009 budget.

Though Keirans initially said he

hoped the office would open in September, he told UPUA members at their Sept. 23, 2009 meeting he was hesitant to adopt the initiative after seeing its legislation, according to meeting minutes.

After being sent back to the Governmental Affairs Committee to work out several "fundamental differences" made apparent at the meeting — including whether this new location, only a block from campus, is truly more convenient than UPUA's current HUB —

See OFFICE, Page 2.



Peter Tesorero/Collegian

Greg Gabbard sits hard at work behind the cash register at City Lights Records, 316 E. College Ave. Gabbard closed City Lights after 25 years of business on Jan. 30. During its last operating day of business, students and alums visited the store.

City Lights closes after 25 years

On its last day open, City Lights had many people saying goodbye.

By Alexandra Fletcher
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Down the steps and past the high-end clothing store; that's where to find the doors to a hidden room of treasures.

Once inside, the smell of aged records permeates the air. Behind the counter sits a man whose view is blocked by the towers of CDs stacked around him. A sticker is taped to the front of his desk —

"Drum Machines Have No Soul" — and there's just the right amount of disarray a record store needs to feel lived in.

The faded shag carpet hung in patches on the wall is a testament to the 25 years of service City Lights Records, 316 E. College Ave., has given to State College.

And even on Saturday — the store's final day of operations after closing due to a trying economy — owner Greg Gabbard still answers every call like he's talking to an old friend: "City Lights, hey! How are you?"

People from all over filed in and

See CLOSING, Page 2.



Peter Tesorero/Collegian

Rebecca Berdar, Huntingdon, looks through records at City Lights on Saturday, which was the store's last day open for business.

Odrick may go in NFL's first round

By Wayne Staats
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The top two picks in the upcoming NFL Draft may be defensive tackles, but OurLads.com's Dan Shonka considers Penn State's Jared Odrick to be just as special.

The Lebanon native posted one tackle in Saturday's Under Armour Senior Bowl and was impressive all last week in practice as the North dominated the line of scrimmage and topped the South, 31-13, at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, Ala.

"He's strong, quick and uses his hands well. He gets separation and can handle the run. The guy's a total package," Shonka said.



Collegian file photo

Former defensive tackle Jared Odrick tries to tip a pass against Indiana.

Next up for Odrick is the NFL Scouting Combine, which starts on Feb. 24, and then Penn State's Pro Day in March.

Celebs tweet about THON

By Sarah Peters
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Television celebrity Khloé Kardashian-Odom tweeted about THON on Friday afternoon, bringing the philanthropy's account thousands of new followers and catapulting THON into a worldwide trending topic.

This weekend marked a flash point for the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon and social media, grabbing the attention of several celebrities and a worldwide audience.

Kardashian-Odom's initial tweet read: "Have any of you heard of THON? It's the biggest student run."

See THON, Page 2.



To keep up to date on all coverage of the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon follow the THON blog:
psucollegian.com/blogs/THON