

Driver who hit student with aluminum found

Police concluded it was an accident and the case is closed.

By Greg Galiffa
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After a week of investigating, Penn State Police have found the driver of a construction vehicle that inadvertently clotheslined a Penn State student with a piece of aluminum.

The incident occurred on Jan. 26 at the corner of Pollock and Bigler Roads near the Millennium Science Complex and sent the student to the hospital where the student received seven stitches, police said.

Following the incident, police began searching all the construction sites on campus for the vehicle and its driver to determine if they were affiliated with the university.

At the time, they had no license plate numbers for the truck and no description of the driver.

But that changed when they were contacted by an employee from TMG Builders in Bellefonte.

Randall Laslow told authorities that he was the driver of the white pickup truck

and that he was unaware a student had been hit.

Penn State Police Deputy Director Tyrone Parham said it was an accident and the case is now closed.

"He heard or read about it and realized he was the truck involved," Parham said. "He didn't see anyone there that he thought was hurt."

Along with police, Penn State's Environmental Health and Safety office and the Office of Physical Plant — two departments that oversee construction safety on campus — were also investigating the report.

Laslow told authorities he is not with the university but was working at the Agricultural Administration Building at the corner of Shortlidge and Curtain roads, police said.

Laslow also confirmed the object hanging out of the truck was a piece of aluminum with a white rag wrapped around the end of it.

Parham said he could not comment on the student's current condition because police have not received any medical reports.

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Ryan Ullsh/Collegian

Alexis Pitcairn (junior-Spanish and health policy administration), left, Nikki Hatza (senior-women's studies and Spanish), center, and Kate Robertson (sophomore-mechanical engineering), knit for Haiti at the HUB-Robeson Center on Tuesday afternoon.

Knitters fundraise for Haiti

By Christine O'Brien
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Though a campus group of knitters-turned-activists usually raises awareness by holding quiet demonstrations, they used their knitting needles Tuesday afternoon to raise money for Haiti.

"We use knitting because it's a peaceful action that draws people in," Nikki Hatza, Knitivism co-founder, said. "It's kind of an alternative and radical idea, but for the most part we get a positive response, which is different than a lot of other activist groups."

Tuesday's knit-in was to raise money for ShelterBox, an international organization that provides boxes containing a 10-person tent, thermal blankets, ground sheets, a basic tool kit, small wood burner or multi-fuel stove and coloring books for children.

One ShelterBox costs about \$1,000, according to its Web site.

Knitting scarves crossed-legged on a blanket and stationed behind a candy- and pamphlet-filled table in the HUB-Robeson Center, members of Knitivism raised \$125 yesterday.

Hatza (senior-women's studies and Spanish) said she was surprised to have raised that much money. At Thursday's meeting, the club will decide if they will only donate yesterday's take to ShelterBox or continue to fundraise and sponsor an entire box, she said.

"We can't all donate a million dollars, but if a million people donate one dollar, we're better off,"

Kate Robertson
sophomore - mechanical engineering

Knitivism member Kate Robertson said the group of knitters usually draws the attention of students at Penn State.

"We can't all donate a million dollars, but if a million people donate one dollar, we're better off, because that's a million people that are involved in the cause," Robertson (sophomore-mechanical engineering) said.

Hatza said she was asked to redefine the act of knitting in a women's studies class two years ago and found that it lends itself to activism. She has been knitting for human rights issues ever since.

Members of Knitivism have been raising awareness for a variety of issues, including genocide in Darfur, peace in the Middle East, gay rights and sexual assault.

"We go to school with 50,000 kids, so you would think that we'd be more aware and involved, but we live in a bubble," Hatza said. "Part of our mission is to help Penn State's campus be more aware."

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Defense wants Perryman's testimony out for rape trial

By Laura Nichols
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Authorities continue to investigate the Oct. 24 shooting of Racheal Perryman, but the trial for the man she accused of raping her is near — and the defense wants the transcript of her testimony trashed.

But Centre County District Attorney Stacy Parks Miller said the only way the prosecution can win its case against Kyle Lingle is if the transcript of Perryman's testimony is present during the trial.

"If we don't succeed in trial by providing the transcript, then we don't have a case," Parks Miller said.

Perryman was fatally shot at about 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 24 in Black Moshannon State Forest in Union Township, about 30 minutes from campus, according to court documents.

Her boyfriend, Penn State student Troy

R. Tierney, told police he accidentally shot Perryman, according to court documents.

Last March, Perryman testified in the preliminary hearing for Lingle, who is charged with raping her in 2008.

Perryman testified at a March 18 preliminary hearing that she was watching television with Lingle on his couch in 2008, expecting another friend to join them, when Lingle got on top of her and raped her, according to court documents.

Lingle first denied having any sort of sexual relationship with Perryman when he was questioned by police but later changed his story, saying the two did have sex, but she "was not into it," according to court documents.

In November, former Assistant District Attorney Steve Sloane said authorities were looking into finding out if Perryman's testimony would provide enough evidence for a conviction in the rape case.

Parks Miller said that if the request is granted to throw out the transcript of the testimony, the case won't go to court.

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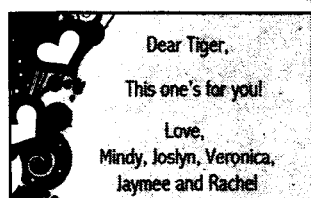
Perryman

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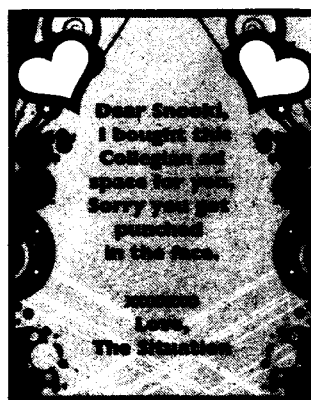
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