

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police: Ohio man faces DUI charges

A 52-year-old Ohio man is facing DUI charges after a single-car accident on the 2900 block of South Atherton Street on Tuesday night, the State College Police Department said.

A female passenger exited the vehicle and began to bite and kick the officers at the scene, police said. Names were not released for either the driver or passenger, police said. No injuries or damage were reported for either person, police said.

There will be a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in HUB Heritage Hall. For every presenting donor, \$4 will be donated to THON.

There will be a Student Health Tune-up on yoga from 5 to 6 p.m. in 205 Student Health Center.

As a part of NAACP week, "Ayiti Sove!": Save Haiti will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. in Alumni Hall. The Penn State United for Haiti Coalition is sponsoring the event and will be selling "Help Haiti" bracelets for \$5.

There will be a Borough Planning Commission held from 7 to 8 p.m. in 304 Municipal Building.

Angela Lueking, of Penn State, will speak about "Nanomaterials for Gas Storage and Separations Via a Trapping Mechanism" at 10 a.m. in 102 Chemistry Building. The Department of Chemical Engineering is sponsoring the event.

Rebecca Keller, of Penn State, will speak about "Stalking Cytochrome P450 Compound I: The White Whale of C-H Bond Cleaving High-Valent Iron Complexes" at 11:15 a.m. in 101 Althouse Laboratory. Carsten Krebs, of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is hosting the event.

Eugene Demler, of Harvard University, will speak about "Learning About Order from Noise" at 4 p.m. in 117 Osmond Laboratory. Ken O'Hara, of the Department of Physics, is hosting the event.

Matthew Ferrari, of Penn State, will speak about "State-Space Models for Infectious Disease Surveillance Data" at 4 p.m. in 201 Thomas Building. The Department of Statistics is sponsoring the event.

LUNCH

Findlay, Pollock, Redifer and Warnock: Baked Potato and Cheddar Soup, Black Bean Chili, Baked Four Cheese Penne Pasta, Cheeseburger Wrap, Open Faced Hot Turkey Sandwich, Glazed Baby Carrots, Whipped Potatoes

Simmons: Cream of Tomato Soup, Baked Sesame Tofu, San Antonio Chicken Wrap, Dal Makhani, Grilled Cheese Sandwich on Whole Wheat, Grilled Turkey and Cheese Sandwich on Whole Wheat, Vegetable Fajita with Whole Wheat Wrap, Baby Carrots with Dill, Broccoli Florettes, Brown Rice, Buttered Parslied Potatoes, Chick Pea Bulgur, Tomato Pilaf, Grilled Eggplant, Sauteed Zucchini

Warning: Baked Potato and Cheddar Soup, Lunch Roll Basket, Soup of the Day, Chicken Cosmo Not, Corn, Open Faced Hot Turkey Sandwich, Quarter Pound Hamburger, Shoestring Fries, Turkey Gravy, Whipped Potatoes, Hunan Beef Stir Fry, Cheese Pizza, Garlic Mashed Potato Pizza, Macaroni and Cheese, Marinara Sauce, Meat Sauce, Pasta with Spinach and Chicken, Pepperoni Pizza, Black Bean Chili, Cheddar Cheese Sauce, Hearty Vegetarian Chili, Vegetable Turnovers, Vegetarian Burger, Velvet Gravy, Wheat Rotini Pasta

DINNER

Findlay, Pollock, Redifer and Warnock: Baked Potato and Cheddar Soup, Black Bean Chili, Beef Gravy, Golden Gravy, Grilled Chicken Breast, Meatloaf, Stuffed Chicken Breast, Vegetable Turnovers, Velvet Gravy, Broccoli with Toasted Almonds, Corn, Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes

Warning: Assorted Specialty Breads, Baked Potato and Cheddar Soup, Soup of the Day, Antigua Blend, BBQ Ranch Chicken Grinder, Broccoli with Toasted Almonds, Jasmine Rice with Edamame, Pecan Encrusted Salmon, Chicken with Mixed Vegetables, Cheese Pizza, Garlic Mashed Potato Pizza, Hoagie Roll, Meat Sauce, Meatballs in Sauce, Pepperoni Pizza, Potato and Cheese Pierogies, Sour Cream, Black Bean Chili



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Weather

Today: High 28, Tonight: Low 18, Tomorrow: High 28. Extended forecast campusweatherservice.com

Students get auctioned off for THON

By Sarah Peters COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Romantic music and dim lighting set the mood for West Halls Residence Association's (WHRA) date auction, held Wednesday night in the Waring Study Lounge to benefit THON.

WHRA President Mark Magnotta (senior-aerospace engineering) organized the auction, which he said was the second in the past five years. Magnotta said he felt as though students were more inclined to donate to THON through an alternative fundraiser, like the auction.

"It's a good way to benefit THON," Magnotta said. "It will be a fun event for everyone involved."

About 14 people, clad in formal attire, auctioned themselves off to about 20 prospective buyers, raising \$308 for the Interfraternity

Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon. Those being auctioned off smiled, twirled and flexed their muscles for the crowd. Some even promised to sing and dance for their buyers. Others used jobs, such as a Christmas tree farmer and a Berkeley Creamery ice cream dipper to try to drive up the bidding.

Master of Ceremonies Kristen Hershberger (sophomore-meteorology) prompted Creamery employee Patrick Ritsko (freshman-meteorology) to flex his "ice cream scooping muscles."

In an attempt to raise higher bids, Ritsko offered his date ice cream and milk shakes from the Creamery — on his tab, of course.

In the end, Ritsko sold for \$20 and promised his date three ice creams and three milk shakes.

"It's all good fun. That's what we're here for," he said.

Matt Urmson (senior-wildlife biology) performed push-ups on stage, clapping his hands between push-ups. Urmson said he'd take his date for sushi and a "night out on the town." Though he was persuaded to participate by his friends, Urmson was one of the participants who auctioned himself off a second time to raise even more money for THON.

"It goes to a good cause," he said. The highest bidder was awarded a \$50 gift certificate to The Tavern. Kaitlyn Pulharic (freshman-biology) purchased friend Joe Ranallo (sophomore-criminology) in order to get him to see "Valentine's Day" with her at the movies.

Pulharic's \$42 bid won her the gift certificate because Magnotta forfeited it though he had the highest bid at \$60, since he organized the event.

To e-mail reporter: svp5071@psu.edu

UPUA

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advocating against the holiday altogether, and instead focuses on calling into question the destructive behavior seen during the event in past years.

"Instead of taking a stance that said 'Get rid of State Patty's Day altogether,' [the organization's] were comfortable with signing something that promotes a stance of 'Let's not have what we had last year,'" he said. "We don't support 'acts of shame' like this."

The final design, however, will be approved by UPUA at the organization's next meeting, primarily in light of dissent among some members regarding the rhetoric of the current draft. Several members at the meeting said the pledge as it stands carries an air of condescension towards the student body.

"I don't know about you guys, but this ad seems awfully damning and sort of pretentious," said Eberly College of Science Representative

Pat Byrne (senior-chemistry).

Internal Development (Chairman Dustin Dove called the ad's approach into question, saying he did not oppose the design but wondered whether this initiative indicated an attempt by UPUA to overstep its role as student representatives.

"It feels a little 'administrative-y' to me," Dove (senior-secondary education) said. "I like the bombastic style, don't have any problems in general with this, but is it talking down to students?"

Governmental Affairs Committee Vice-Chairman Nathan Andrews also questioned whether this was the best approach to take.

"It seems like we're playing a moral 'Big Brother' here," Andrews (senior-engineering) said. "How many of you have had a drink underage? You do realize that you're condemning other people for the same thing you do all the time."

But UPUA Programming Vice Chairman Josh Crawford said he disagreed with this interpretation.

"I don't think this has the Big Brother mentality - it's really saying,

'We screwed up last year, let's not do that again.'" Crawford (sophomore-crime, law and justice) said. "It's not saying 'Don't go out,' it's not saying 'Don't have a good time' ... It's saying 'Don't be an idiot.'"

Blake Bonnewell, an off-campus representative, said the intent also shows that multiple student organizations don't want to see last year's statistics happen again.

"As far as the architecture of the language on this ad ... the intent is to say we messed up last year ... and here's a list of every other student organization who says they don't want to be part of the problem," Bonnewell (junior-mechanical engineering) said.

Ragland said this is the first of several initiatives UPUA is planning to steer students away from excessive alcohol consumption this State Patty's Day, and also to prevent these patterns of behavior during similar annual events like the Blue-White Game and the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts.

To e-mail reporter: cmm5773@psu.edu

Election

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The campaign period will still start March 17.

Last week UPUA increased the number of off-campus representatives to eight and the number of on-campus representatives to 12, changing the proportion distribution. Keirans said. This week's change reversed the proportion of off-to-on campus representatives to 1.667-to-1.

Keirans said both the extended election period and the proportion of representatives "violate our principles."

There was also some discussion

on the total number of students living both on and off campus, and it was determined that an exact number isn't known yet.

But some believed the number of representatives shouldn't change until the proportion could be calculated exactly.

"I think if we're going to change anything we might as well do it right rather than putting it back the way it was," said Internal Development Committee Chairman Dustin Dove (senior-secondary education).

Discussions about the downtown UPUA office, 103 E. Beaver Ave., came up briefly near the end of the meeting. UPUA rented a downtown office in June, but the office didn't open until the end of January caus-

ing people to question if funds were used improperly.

Matt Sheroff, director of internal affairs, said he doesn't think anything was done deliberately to delay the opening of the office, but that it just took longer than expected.

He said he would be having a meeting with Mark Cannon, chairman of the assembly, Colleen Smith, governmental affairs chairwoman, and other members of the assembly who had concerns "to get the full picture" as to why it took so long.

"I don't suspect foul play on anyone's part," Sheroff (senior-finance) said. "It's more of an issue with pursuing a very experimental initiative."

To e-mail reporter: cmb5305@psu.edu

Snow

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dedicated about going to class — but Wednesday was another story.

"What are they trying to accomplish? What's the big deal about closing?" he said. "We're trying hard, but this isn't worth the risk."

But Penn State officials said there was no risk, maintaining that despite the student outcry, the weather was not dangerous enough to cancel classes.

University spokeswoman Annemarie Mountz said each Penn State campus is in charge of deciding its own fate for the day.

"Personally, when I came into work this morning, I had absolutely no trouble," she said. "I thought,

'Well, they made the right call here.'"

State College Police Department Capt. Dana Leonard said it was "very quiet" in town on Wednesday afternoon since streets were virtually clear and local schools had closed.

But throughout Tuesday night, as the snow began to pile up, police responded to 10 weather-related vehicle accidents.

No one was seriously injured, Leonard said.

Penn State's Snow Marshal Lloyd Rhoades said Office of Physical Plant (OPP) staff has been working around the clock to ensure the safest commute possible for students — though he did receive some calls from students asking why a snow day had not been declared.

"The students have paid their

tuition, and we want to give them their money's worth," Rhoades said.

Crews were out starting at midnight Tuesday and will continue to work through today, he said.

Though he did not agree with the initial decision to still hold classes, Rosales commended the OPP staff for their efforts to keep up with clearing sidewalks and streets, combating snow that continued to fall through the afternoon.

Mountz was also dispelled some of the rumors circulating around the Internet about snow days.

In the event of a university-wide class cancellation, dining halls would remain open and no tuition would be reimbursed, she said.

To e-mail reporters: gmg5041@psu.edu, lcn5019@psu.edu

IFC

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restrictions to fraternity members. But he said the resolution was not passed to appease university and borough officials, who have consistently railed against the student-created holiday.

"Obviously this is a tough decision for many members of the greek community to accept, because State Patty's Day is like Christmas to many of them," he said. "It is important to understand that the primary purpose of this resolution was not to make [them] happy — it was to protect our chapters."

State College Mayor Elizabeth

Goreham applauded IFC's actions and said she recognizes the leadership it takes to re-brand a Penn State tradition like State Patty's Day. It's a step in the right direction that says a lot about the greek community, she said.

"It allows us to see they are embarked in the same struggle that many of us are in, wanting to reduce the dangerous and unhealthy aspects of drinking in our town," she said.

State College Police Department Capt. Dana Leonard agrees the IFC's decisions shows strong leadership.

Wendkos said it's no secret that last year's holiday was the worst yet. "The statistics are certainly

alarming and showed that it was necessary for the fraternity community to take precautionary measures to protect themselves and ensure the safety of their members," Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) said. While Wendkos said chapter presidents may have a hard time implementing this resolution on State Patty's Day, he hopes they will understand these measures were taken to protect them.

"I believe that by following this policy, chapters will act responsibly and steer clear of the barrage of law enforcement that will be in State College on State Patty's Day weekend," he said.

To e-mail reporter: kmw5340@psu.edu

THON

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during THON weekend. At THON weekend the winning color will receive the Color Wars trophy.

Between cheering for their favorite Nickelodeon character and rooting for Nickelodeon-themed events, spirit was high among the participants.

The night started off with the Rocket Power scooter race, where dancers competed on scooters to see who could finish the fastest.

"I didn't ever think I would ride a

scooter again after grade school," said Andrew Gutting (senior-accounting). "But, I'm happy to say my skills are intact."

Taking a step into the jungle, the next event was the Wild Thornberry's "Talk to the Animals," where dancers were blindfolded into a jungle of moralers and had to find a matching animal call to get out.

They then had to find the morale group that made their same animal noise to be led out of the jungle.

"It was embarrassing in a good way," Chelsey Downey (senior-history) said. "Everything

makes you feel like a kid again."

Not without nautical nonsense, lastly was the "Spongebob Jellyfish" event, where dancers had to get the most "jellyfish," or clothespins with colored yarn, from other team colors while keeping their own.

Wednesday night marked the first time some moralers and dancers met face-to-face.

"It's always an intense moment to meet your moraler," William Wallace (sophomore-supply chain management) said. "But we're all here for the same reason."

To e-mail reporter: jpc5201@psu.edu