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30 cents off campus

Paterno has eye surgery, loses iconic thick-framed specs

By Wayne Staats
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The rolled-up khakis aren't going anywhere, but Joe Paterno is changing his look. Bidding farewell to the Coke-bottle glasses that have been his trademark longer than most students have been alive, the 83-year-old had surgery to improve his vision and now dons frames with much thinner lenses. Sports information director Jeff Nelson confirmed in an e-mail that Paterno had the surgery in January. "They are new glasses — I just got an eye

exam," Paterno said Thursday at the Multi-Sport Facility during media day for Centre Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM), which is fielding a team to raise money through the 2010 CVIM Boston Marathon Challenge. "I had trouble reading the last six months. I went down to Philadelphia to the Scheie Eye Institute. The guy said to me, Dr. [Stuart] Fine, who I've known for 40 years, 'I think we can fix that up.'" Despite the improvement in Paterno's eyesight, fans shouldn't expect the long-time coach to depart from his normal attire and look. Paterno still has the habit of reaching to take off his glasses whenever he puts on a

sweater — even when he's not wearing them. Penn State historian Lou Prato said he was surprised Paterno got the surgery. After all, the combination of the glasses and the rolled-up cuffed pants are the coach's trademark. "He's got to wear [the glasses] — he's Joe Paterno," he said. As for Paterno himself, he seems at least a little impressed with his improved vision. "I can tell you what time it is," Paterno said while looking at his watch. "Let's see what I got here — 21 minutes after."



Joe Paterno sports his thick glasses at a press conference last year. Paterno had eye surgery in January to improve his vision.

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Snow restricts THON canning

Snowy weather prohibits canners from street intersections and corners.

By Sarah Peters
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The snow that blanketed the Mid-Atlantic this weekend has led THON officials to tighten restrictions on the final canning trip, banning street and corner canning.

Allowing storefront canning and door-to-door pledge booking only, officers are prepared to lay harsh sanctions on violators — revoking dancers, floor passes, all canning weekend totals or the group's entire total for 2010. Overall Chairwoman Caitlin Zankowski said.

Thursday afternoon, Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon officials scrambled to call all of the organizations registered for canning this weekend to notify them of the new restrictions and punishments for failing to comply, Zankowski (senior-industrial engineering) said.

They always encourage students to be safe on canning weekends, but the weather brought additional safety concerns, she said.

"Because of the weather, we're taking an extreme stance," she said. "I trust people's judgment and I have faith in the students and they won't put themselves or others in harm's way."

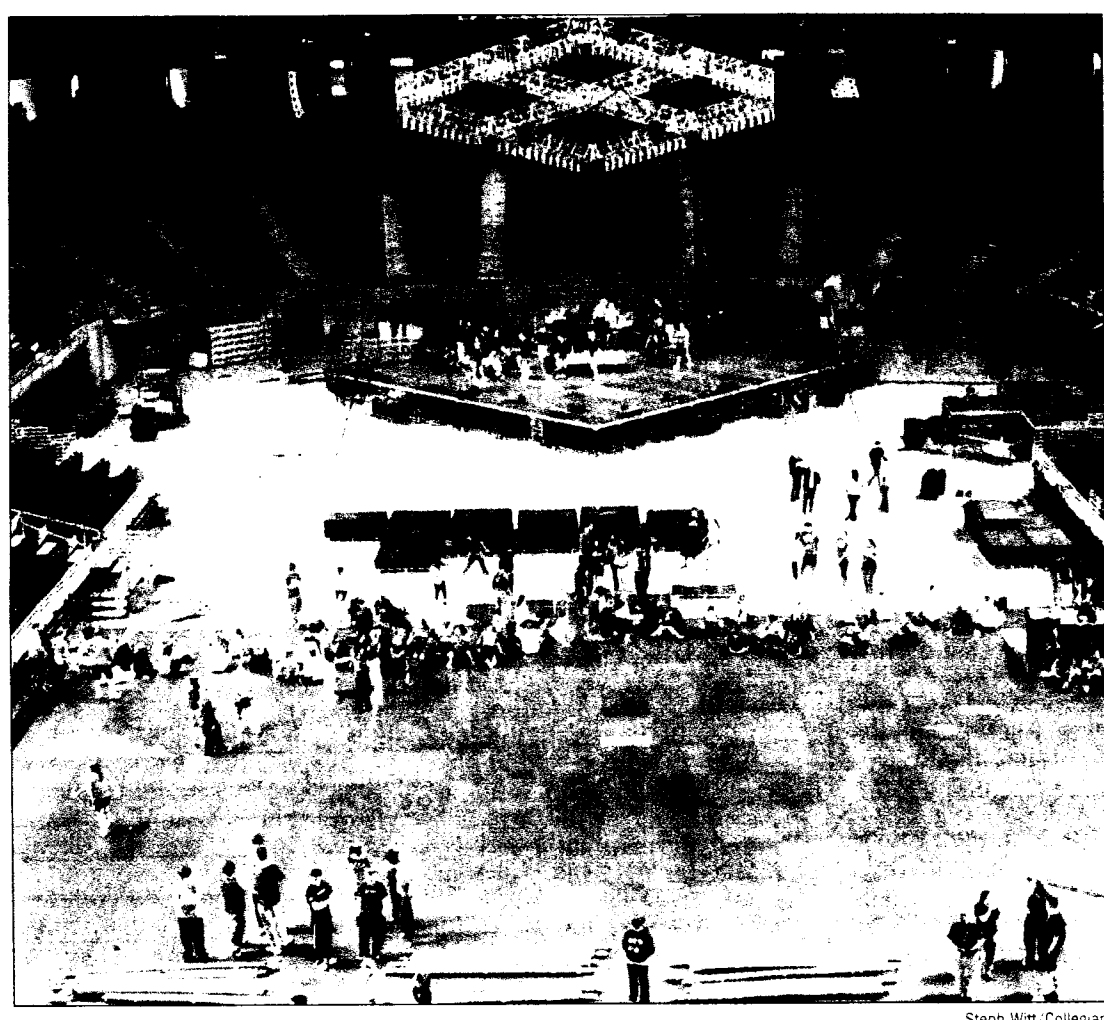
See CANNING, Page 2.

To read THON Overall Caitlin Zankowski's e-mail sent to captains with all the canning details: psucollegian.com/blogs

For violations:

Those who see canning regulations can call 1-800-392-THON or 814-865-0510.

ON THE FLOOR



Dozens of students and Bryce Jordan Center employees set the stage for THON 2009 last year. There are seven days left until the event begins, exciting THON members, Four Diamonds families and PSU students.

Families prep for floor fun

This is the fourth in a five-part series spotlighting the people and places that make THON what it is.

By Sarah Peters
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For brothers Joey and Michael Setlock, the THON floor might as well be a playground.

This will be the fifth year that Joey, 11, and Michael, 9, will challenge the "big kids" to lightsaber battles, Giant Hero showdowns and water gun fights.

And this also marks the fifth year that Joey has been cancer-free.

Joey's dad, Stan Setlock, said seeing Joey interact with the

dancers — an experience he might have never enjoyed had his treatments been ineffective — is one of the millions of reasons love belongs on the floor of the Bryce Jordan Center for 46 hours in February.

Jessica Booher and Carrie Flanagan couldn't see much other than the dancers surrounding them when they ran through the human tunnel for the first time last year. But one thing stood out: The lit four diamonds hanging above the stage.

"This is what we're dancing for," Flanagan (sophomore-occupational therapy) said.

The BJC is awash with color from knee socks to bandanas during THON. Dancers and their moralers bounce plas-

tic balls, brandish swords and toss footballs. The Four Diamonds children and their siblings dart around the legs of those standing for a cure.

Sometimes, though, children like Joey soar above the crowd — riding on their dancer's shoulders. From this vantage point, it's easy for the children to see why love belongs on the floor.

Joey Setlock has been on the floor every year since he was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma in April of 2005. Since conquering the disease, Joey has

See FLOOR, Page 2.

CATA fares could rise

If CATA's Board of Supervisors approves, bus fares will increase from \$1.25 to \$1.50.

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State students making a trip to Wal-Mart or visiting friends off campus may find themselves digging a little deeper into their wallets.

Fares for off-campus Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) routes could see a \$0.25 increase from \$1.25 to \$1.50 as early as August, said Jacqueline Shneider, marketing manager of CATA.

It's far from being finalized, she said — but the increase already has some students concerned.

"If I had to pay for it, I'd be a little mad, especially if you are only going for just a few stops," Josh Jarmul (senior-civil engineering) said.

While CATA is financially sound, it doesn't expect to receive increases in governmental funding, Shneider said. Funding from federal, state and local governments make up half of CATA's \$10.9 million budget, and a fare increase could be necessary to balance the books.

The increase, which would be the first increase in nine years, was proposed at a recent finance committee meeting and was presented to representatives from State College and other municipalities Thursday morning.

While the fare increase will come up briefly at the CATA Board of Supervisors meeting on Feb. 22, it will not officially be considered until March, Shneider said.

If the board approves the suggestion, CATA will hold a public hearing to hear riders' opinions.

"Most people wouldn't even notice the increase because most people riding the buses are already using prepaid bus passes," Shneider said.

"It's the people who pay cash tokens or bus tokens who would notice," she added.

Because the increase is only a possibility, CATA will not yet determined what the increase to bus passes would be, Shneider said.

Most students who take the bus routes outside of campus live in apartments and have bus passes, she said.

But some Penn State students said they don't think the increase will be passed without protest.

"I don't think anyone riding the bus will be supportive of it," Nicole Umosella (senior-hot restaurant and institutional management) said.

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Michael Felletter/Collegian

Bridgid Zvirblis acts the role of a 72-year-old woman in her part titled "The Flood" in Chambers during last year's rehearsal for the Vagina Monologues.

Vagina Monologues to see post Valentine's Day debut

By Renée Guida
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State students looking for their annual dose of Eve Ensler's classic feminist play will have to wait a little longer this year.

In a break from tradition, no campus group will stage a Vagina Monologues production near Valentine's Day this year. The three-day show will instead debut on March 3 and will be sponsored by Penn State Thespians.

"It wasn't any kind of bold movement to be different," director Ashley Morocco (senior-theatre) said. "It was just a matter of convenience for myself and the other director."

One of the biggest reasons for the delay was the production's financial decision to move from Schwab Auditorium to the Forum, she said. Holding the production in the auditorium would have pushed the total cost to about \$10,000, leaving few funds for the larger V-Day movement.

"We had to minimize the budget while still charging for tickets so that more proceeds could go to V-Day and the Centre County Women's Resource Center," Morocco said.

With the location move, the production staff realized they didn't have enough time to work on the show if they wanted to perform it by Valentine's Day. Auditions were also held later than usual, in December.

See VAGINA MONOLOGUES, Page 2.