

Groups allocate
Haiti relief funds

LOCAL, Page 4.

THON LOVE AND B-BALL

Beth Carey is a family relations captain, basketball player and Four Diamonds Fund child | WE ARE, Page 14.

PARTY TIME

State College prepares for subdued Mardi Gras
LOCAL, Page 3.

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30 cents off campus

Later loop draws riders

By Paige Minemyer
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As the first month of the White Loop extension comes to a close, ridership data shows consistent use of the buses in the early morning hours.

Extended weekend White Loop hours — running until 4:30 a.m. on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights — were approved by the University Park Undergraduate Association on Jan. 13 and went into effect two days later.

The Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) has been monitoring the number of riders during the past month, and officials are pleased with the results.

"It's too early to say if this should be permanent," service development manager Eric Bernier said. "But we think the early results are encouraging."

The number of students using the extended hours has remained consistent during the first four weeks, averaging 1,281 riders per weekend, according to a CATA report. In fact, the only time the number of riders dropped below 1,000 was the second week — a canning weekend.

UPUA President Gavin Keirans thinks warmer weather will bring even more riders. "I think we're going to see a major uptake in numbers in the second half of the semester," he said.

UPUA continues to employ ambassadors to monitor these extended hours — including some non-UPUA ambassadors and members from greek and other student organizations.

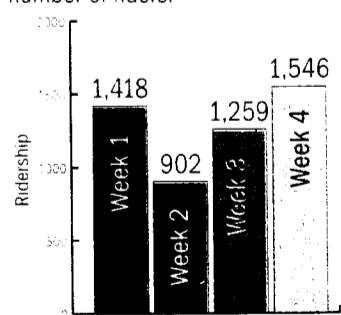
"I hate to be cheesy, but I would call it a success," UPUA Student Life and Diversity Chairman Christian Ragland said.

Ragland (junior-political science) said he initially thought being an ambassador would be boring, but the ambassadors found ways to keep up morale — including meeting a diverse cast of students and bus drivers.

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Another one rides the White Loop

The first month of the CATA extension maintained a consistent number of riders.



Source: Gavin Keirans/CATA

Ashley Rickard/Collegian



State Patty's Day T-shirts are on sale in People's Nation. The holiday will be on Feb. 27.

Prof. demands end

Dennis Shea asks peers to stop State Patty's

By Laurie Stern
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Professor Dennis Shea is calling upon the Penn State faculty to demand an end to State Patty's Day, saying it is the only responsible thing to do.

A health policy and administration professor, Shea has frequently posted on the wall of the "End The 'State Patty's Day' Tradition" Facebook group, engaging other group members about the harm the day can cause. The group had

more than 1,100 members at press time and aims to stop at nothing less than ending the event before it "brings a bad name to the area again."

"We absolutely have to talk about this," Shea said. "The impact of this type of stuff goes way beyond the students. It impacts alumni, faculty and the university community in every way. I think part of the problem is faculty don't talk out about this."

Shea, who lives just outside of State College, recalled one con-

versation he had with a member of a local church who was considering changing the date of a major fundraiser because many members won't venture downtown on State Patty's Day.

"It's really important to talk about appropriate behaviors," Shea said. "If we're not really willing to talk about those sort of things, we're stepping away from our ability as faculty to be responsible."

Though some students may feel
See STATE PATTY'S, Page 2.

WALKING IN A WINTERY WONDERLAND



Kelley King/Collegian

Steve Migliore (sophomore-veterinary and biomedical sciences), Jim Smith (junior-kinesiology) and Mark Rubin (junior-psychology) shuffle through the snow at the Pattee Mall on Monday night. After last week's snow storms, a new layer added to the previous accumulation but did not keep students indoors. According to [accuweather.com](#), State College will see more snow in the coming days.

Alumni to return, dance at THON

By Sarah Peters
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Getting married, having children and dancing in THON — these are the experiences of a lifetime, said Stacey Bingle Forbes, president of the Dance Marathon Alumni Interest Group (DMAIG).

Forbes, Class of 1995, served as the overall THON chairwoman in 1995 and has been involved with the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon in almost every way imaginable, including as an alumna dancer.

When she danced as an alum-

3rd 2010

na in 2000, Forbes said many of the student dancers asked her how dancing in Rec Hall was different from organizing THON in the White Building as an overall five years earlier.

The biggest difference? Moralers are even more important, she said.

"It's a different kind of experience, because when you dance as a student, you know everybody,"

See THON, Page 2.



Peter Tesonero/Collegian

THON dancers participate in the 2009 line dance in the Bryce Jordan Center at last year's THON.

UPUA closer to finishing manual

By Paige Minemyer
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) moves toward its planned deadline for the freshman handbook, members looked to the past for inspiration.

The handbook committee invited alumnus Ben Bronstein, Class of 1961, to its Monday night meeting. Bronstein worked on the handbook when he was at Penn State and came to advise the committee.

He said he was glad to see the handbook coming to fruition after several years of stalled plans.

"I congratulate you guys on finally making it happen," Bronstein said.

Bronstein addressed several issues with the potential handbook, including the fact that it is to be printed instead of put online.

He said the committee just has to try out the different alternatives.

"I think it's a good idea and you have to test it and see how it works," he said.

Samantha Miller, UPUA
See UPUA, Page 2.

Professor still positive in face of hardships

By Pete Dombrosky
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

On any given day, Penn State kinesiology instructor Mike Morse can usually be found deep in a story in front of a class of wide-eyed students who can't believe what they're hearing.

Mike has been struck by lightning, hit by a drunk driver and survived cancer. While these events nearly killed him, they also left the 56-year-old with a mental

toughness and an optimism he passes down to his students.

That toughness is about to be tested again. His doctor found a spot on his spine two weeks ago — could be cancerous, could be nothing.

Regardless, Mike underwent the eighth major surgery of his life Monday, forcing him to take a three-month medical leave.

Leaving his students behind will be the hardest part, he said.

See PROFESSOR, Page 12.



Steph Witt/Collegian

Mike Morse watches as students in his KINES 090B (Introduction to Team Sports/Indoor - Basketball) class do drills Thursday morning.