

MOSH PIT 'MOLLY'

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The Daily Collegian

psu.collegian.com

Published independently by students at Penn State

Vol. 110 No. 111

Wednesday, March 3, 2010

30 cents off campus

Erie dining hall catches on fire

No injuries resulted from the fire that began late Monday night.

By Laura Nichols
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The fire that broke out in a Penn State Erie, Behrend College dining hall late Monday night didn't result in any injuries, but it did leave the administration scrambling for a replacement building. The fire began sometime between 11:30 p.m. Monday and midnight Tuesday in the gazebo

at the west end of Dobbins Dining Hall, Penn State Police at Behrend said.

No injuries were reported, and no one was believed to have been in the closed building when the fire started, said Bill Gonda, director of marketing and communications at Penn State Erie.

The Brookside Fire Department in Erie was the first unit to arrive on the scene, but the Pennsylvania State Police fire marshal will assess the damage and determine the cause of the fire, Gonda said. Firefighters were able to extin-



Jon Klein/The Behrend Beacon

Firefighters work to put out the flames that engulfed the Dobbins Dining Hall at the Erie campus after it caught on fire late Monday night.

guish the flames quickly, but the gazebo was destroyed and much of the building suffered major water and smoke damage, Gonda said. The dining hall is currently

unusable until further notice. A makeshift dining hall has been set up in a commons area at Penn State Behrend, and other
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Police: Rape didn't occur

A rape was reported on Monday, but the woman withdrew her story.

By Laura Nichols
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A woman who told police she was raped at Innovation Park by an unknown man in a ski mask Monday night withdrew her statement Tuesday afternoon, telling police she made up the entire story.

Penn State Police Deputy Director Tyrone Parham said the woman was brought in to the police station for questioning on Tuesday, when she "essentially retracted her statement."

No identifying information was released about the woman, and police would not confirm if she will face charges. Parham said he's glad no rape actually occurred, but he's disappointed the Penn State community had to be put through the stress of a false alarm.

The woman, who is employed at a private firm in the Lubert Building at Innovation Park, originally told police she was in the parking lot around 8:30 p.m. Monday when she attempted to assist a driver who she thought needed help, police said.

The woman said a man in a full black ski mask, dark clothing and tan boots then got out of the car and forced her to the ground, where he raped her, police said.

The woman initially said she was able to escape and receive help. Police said she received treatment at Mount Nittany Medical Center. In a press release issued Tuesday night, Penn State Police said after a "thorough" investigation that produced no evidence of any crime, the woman was re-interviewed by detectives and eventually told them that the incident had not occurred as she had originally described.

"Sexual assaults and rapes committed by strangers are unusual occurrences in our community and we can all take comfort in the fact that this particular incident did not take place," Penn State Police Director Steve Shelow wrote in the press release.

Penn State spokeswoman Lisa Powers said the unnecessary concern over the report of a second incident in a month at Innovation Park is very unfortunate — especially for those who frequently use the building. Regardless, she encouraged victims of assault to come forward when incidents happen.

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NICK AT NIGHT



Christine Reckner/Collegian

Kai-lan, right, and friends celebrate at the Monkey King's Castle during "Nickelodeon's Storytime Live" on Tuesday night at the Bryce Jordan Center. Storytime Live, Nickelodeon's latest musical, features four of the top-rated preschool shows: "Dora the Explorer," "The Backyardigans," "Ni Hao, Kai-lan" and "Wonder Pets!" To read a story on Nickelodeon's Storytime Live. | LOCAL, Page 2.



Roberto Candia/Associated Press

Maria Isabel Pena, 70, searches for her belongings outside damaged houses in Constitucion, Chile, after Saturday's 8.8-magnitude earthquake.

Students safe after disaster

Chilean students at Penn State and those studying abroad react to quake.

By Edgar Ramirez
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Though Saturday's 8.8-magnitude earthquake in Chile left about 800 dead, all Penn State students studying abroad in the country have been accounted for, university officials said.

Barbara Owe, executive director for education abroad, said the four students studying through the education abroad program in Santiago are all OK.

"We heard through the program providers that the students were all okay, and we were able to get in touch with the students' parents to assure them that everyone was all right," Owe said.

Though classes are delayed for a couple of days, programs in Chile didn't have trouble getting in touch with Penn State to have the university know of the students' status.

"Whenever there is an international event or disaster, the first thing we say is, 'Do we have any students there?'" Owe said. "Once we heard of the
See CHILE, Page 2.

IFC asks fraternities for policy feedback

By Jourdan Cole
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After the Interfraternity Council (IFC) saw an increase in accepted bids for the spring semester, executives are soliciting feedback from fraternity chapters about the new recruitment system.

Because of the apparent success of the new "values-based recruitment," registration fees and a dry recruitment process are likely to stay in place in the fall, Interfraternity Council President Max Wendkos said.

"Considering the effectiveness of this spring's recruitment and the executive board's dedication to further facilitating the recruitment efforts of our chapters in the fall, I do not anticipate we will be elim-

inating any of these aspects," Wendkos (senior-economics and psychology) said.

During spring recruitment, fraternities saw an increase in the number of recruits who were offered bids and accepted them.

This semester, 323 registered recruits received bids and 274 accepted them, an acceptance rate of 84.8 percent. That's an increase from last year, when 282 registered recruits were offered bids and 184 accepted, a rate of 65.2 percent.

Wendkos said the high percentage of acceptance was due to the bonds formed among chapter members in the new recruiting process.

Indeed, Delta Chi President Dan Kutz said he saw improvement in the number of recruits for his fraternity go up and accredits it to the amount of time members of his fraternity spent getting to know their new members.

The fraternity held events specifically to
See RECRUITMENT, Page 2.



Wendkos

PSU players reflect on Combine results

By Wayne Staats
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Daryll Clark entered the 2010 NFL Scouting Combine as a quarterback and leaves it to continue training as one.

Penn State's starting quarterback for the last two seasons was one of six Nittany Lions to participate in the Combine in Indianapolis' Lucas Oil Stadium.

The Combine concluded Tuesday and leaves players a little less than two months away

from the NFL Draft, which starts April 22.

Dan Shonka of OurIads.com said Clark could be selected by a team to use him as a running back or to run the Wildcat offense, much like San Francisco 49er Michael Robinson, Penn State's starting signal caller in 2005. That's fine by Clark.

"I've always been a whatever-it-takes type player. If that's how they view it, that's how they take it," Clark said.

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Darron Cummings/Associated Press

Penn State's Andrew Quarless runs a drill at the NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis' Lucas Oil Stadium.