

## FAIL TO THE LIONS

The Lions followed an NIT championship with a disappointing season | **SPORTS**, Page 14.



## SUGAR SUGAR

Country duo to visit **A&E**, Page 7.

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## Nobel writer to speak

“Beloved” author Toni Morrison will visit Penn State on April 7.

By Sarah Peters  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Award-winning author Toni Morrison will speak at 8 p.m. on April 7 in the Eisenhower Auditorium, hosted by the Paterno Fellows program. Morrison, author of novels including “Beloved,” “The Bluest Eye” and “Song of Solomon,” won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in

### If you go

**What:** Toni Morrison to speak  
**When:** 8 p.m. April 7  
**Where:** Eisenhower Auditorium

1988 and the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993.

She’s the latest recipient of the Penn State Institute for the Arts’ Medal for Distinguished Contributions to the Arts and Humanities.

Though admission is free, tick-

ets may be required, according to an Institute press release. Details on ticket distribution have not yet been released.

Prior to the lecture, Paterno Fellows can attend a reception where director of the Africana Research Center and Penn State English Professor Lovalerie King will deliver a brief introduction, according to the Paterno Fellows’ blog.

Sue Paterno said she’d like to meet Paterno Fellows, and Joe Paterno may attend, according to the blog.

See **MORRISON**, Page 2.



Courtesy of commons.wikimedia.org

**Toni Morrison** will speak as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series. She has won the Pulitzer Prize and the Noble Prize.

## Locals react to tax

Some bar owners are against the proposed drink tax, and officials don’t think it will pass.

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Though borough officials would like to institute a 10-percent tax on poured liquor in bars and restaurants, they don’t think they’ll be able to anytime soon.

Representatives from the Pennsylvania League of Cities and Municipalities — including State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham

— proposed the drink tax during a March 8 rally in Harrisburg as one of its four initiatives to raise revenue for struggling municipalities across the state.

But State College Borough Council President Ron Filippelli, who supports the tax, said municipalities’ right to enact the tax would be a tough sell in state legislature because lawmakers hesitate to raise taxes during an election year.

“This kind of tax, I think they view as bad politics for them in their jurisdiction,” he said. “I don’t think legislatures are interested in raising taxes on constituents.”

Though Goreham has said she does not support raising taxes, she recognizes the borough spends a lot of money on alcohol-related services. A tax is needed to raise revenue to provide services like police and clean-up crews, she said.

“She called the tax “voluntary,” since people would be choosing to pay the tax by attending a bar. But supporters face an uphill battle. Legislatures have not shown any interest in bringing the proposal to the House or Senate floor, Goreham said. And downtown, businesses and students are firmly against it.

State College Tavern Association President Jennifer Zangrilli said the association does not support the proposed drink tax. Some bar owners said if the right to tax was given to municipalities, downtown bars would be hit hardest.

See **DRINK TAX**, Page 2.

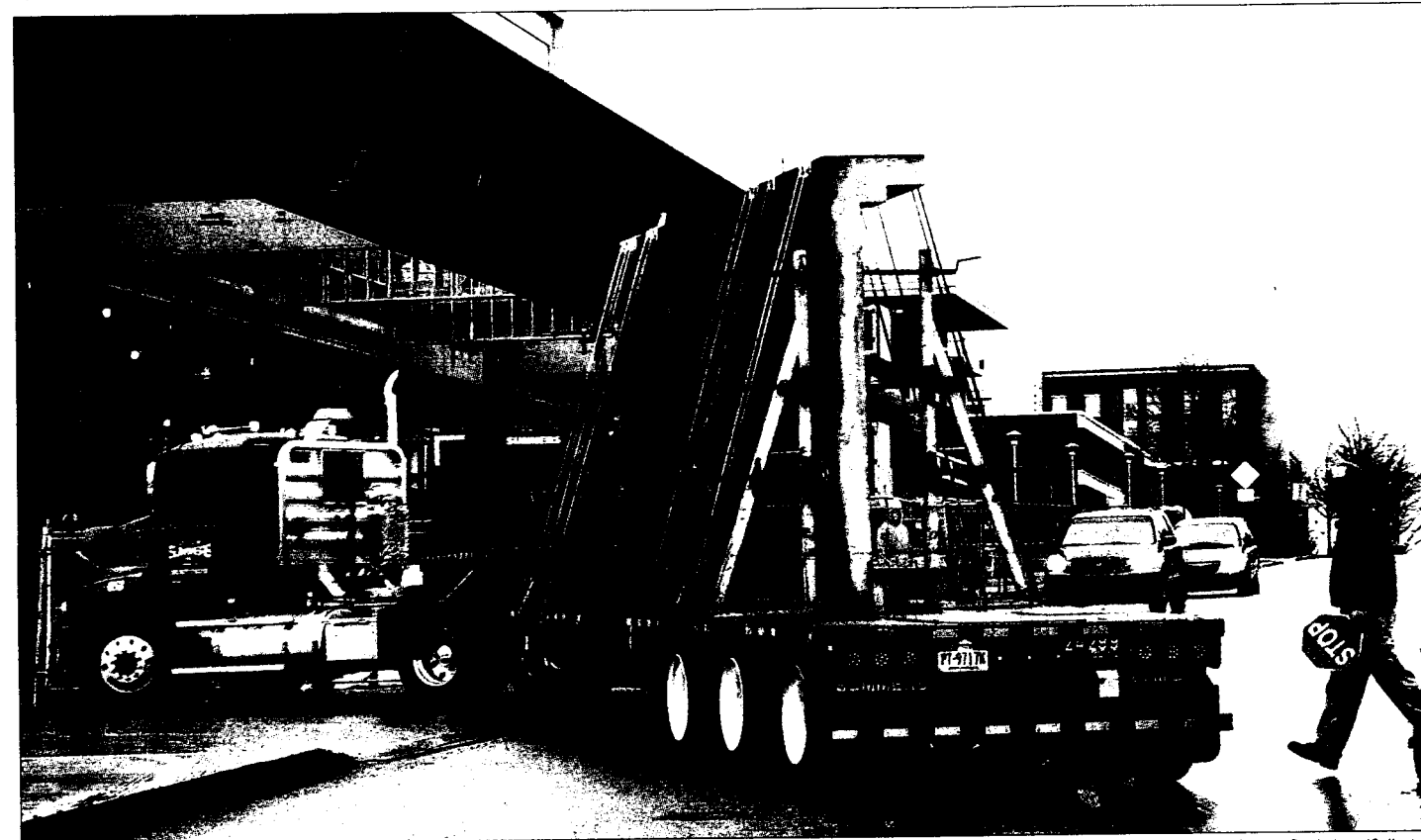


Goreham



Filippelli

### A NEW MILLENNIUM ... COMPLEX



Andrew Dunheimer/Collegian

A truck delivers a large portion of materials for Penn State’s Millennium Science Complex. The project began in September 2008 when Penn State’s Board of Trustees approved \$215 million for its construction. The 275,600 square foot complex will be state of the art, featuring research labs and classrooms. It will also feature green roofs to reduce rainwater runoff and increase the longevity of the roofs.

### BY THE NUMBERS

PSU ranks **No. 1** in grad rates among public four-year colleges.

PSU ties for **No. 10** in grad rates among public and private four-year colleges.

### GRADUATION RATES

# PSU ranks high

By Colleen Boyle  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Pennsylvania has joined a coalition of 17 states pledging to increase university graduation rates, but Penn State already ranks highly in getting students to commencement day.

The states will be working with Washington, D.C.-based Complete College America in order to set goals, establish benchmarks and develop plans to graduate more students, according to its Web site.

“Pennsylvania signed on to the multi-state Complete College America initiative in an effort to mobilize the commonwealth’s leaders to think hard and collaboratively about how we as a state can increase

See **GRAD RATES**, Page 2.

## Alumnus sentenced in Va.

By Greg Galiffa  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A Penn State graduate was sentenced to 15 years in prison by a Fairfax County jury Friday in connection with the 2008 shooting of a taxi driver in Virginia, Fairfax Court officials said.

Evan D. Gargiulo, 23, was sentenced to 12 years for second-degree murder and an additional three years for use of a firearm in the murder, Fairfax Chief Deputy Commonwealth Attorney Ian Rodway said.

Gargiulo, Class of 2008, was arrested Nov. 4, 2008, after he shot taxi driver Mazhar Nazir in

the back of his head two days before. Gargiulo pleaded not guilty by reason of insanity and self-defense. Rodway said.

Gargiulo’s attorney Steven Garver believes the jury ruled the case as second-degree murder — which carries a 5- to 20-year sentence — because there was no evidence of malice.

“He didn’t go out that night looking to kill anybody,” Garver said. “He had no malice toward that taxi driver.”



Gargiulo

The trial began March 8 and ended late Friday afternoon.

Garver said while he and Gargiulo were upset with the outcome of the case, they were thankful Gargiulo wasn’t convicted of first-degree murder, which could have handed him a life sentence.

“The jury sentence suggested while they were disturbed by it, it was not as bad as it could have been,” Garver said.

Rodway said because the story of the case was only from Gargiulo’s perspective, it was difficult to increase the sentencing to first-degree murder.

But he was still satisfied with

See **ALUMNUS**, Page 2.

## Maya Angelou tickets expected to sell out

By Laurie Stern  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Maya Angelou’s upcoming appearance is already drawing Penn State students to ticket offices in droves, and box office representatives said they expect a full house for the event.

Angelou will speak at 8 p.m. next Tuesday at the Eisenhower Auditorium as part of the Student Programming Association’s Distinguished Speaker Series.

During the first day of distribution of the free tickets for the upcoming appearance of this celebrated poet, author and civil rights activist, box office representatives said they saw long lines at many points on Monday.

Dawn Feaster, a box office assistant who was distributing student tickets at the HUB-Robeson Center, said 550 tickets were given out at that location alone on Monday. The tickets can

### If you go

**What:** Maya Angelou as part of the Student Programming Association’s Distinguished Speaker Series

**When:** 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 23

**Where:** Eisenhower Auditorium

also be picked up at the Eisenhower Auditorium, Bryce Jordan Center and the Penn State Downtown Theatre Center.

“It’s been busier than we expected,” Feaster said. “We were surprised [Monday].”

Economist Ben Stein as a part of the series on Feb. 3. Feaster said Stein’s lecture did not sell out, but they do expect to distribute all 2,500 tickets for Angelou’s appearance.

See **ANGELOU**, Page 2.



Asit Mishra/Collegian

Students get tickets to attend Maya Angelou’s speech. Angelou will be speaking March 23 as part of the Distinguished Speaker Series.