

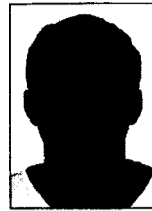
# Theater instructor enters plea bargain

By Laura Nichols  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State instructor Eliot Preschutti entered a plea bargain Monday of no contest to reckless endangerment, ending a year-and-a-half-long legal battle. The theater instructor was arrested in 2008 on charges of assaulting a woman whose arm was fractured after the incident, according to court documents. New charges were added when

police said Preschutti tried to intimidate her into dropping the case, according to court documents.

Now, Preschutti will be sentenced on Aug. 24, his attorney Brian Manchester said. The terms of the deal credit Preschutti for the seven months he spent incarcerated before posting bail, but he could still face three to 22 and a half months in jail, Manchester said.



Preschutti

Preschutti did not plead guilty to hurting the woman — the no-contest plea wasn't based on the reports of him hurting her, his attorney said. Instead, they are based on his actions following reports that the woman cut Preschutti with a knife and attempted to stab him, Manchester said.

"He already went to jail for seven months based on what he did to do — he will never plead guilty to the original charges," Manchester said. The attorney said Preschutti did previously plead guilty to charges of intimidation of a witness, though he said his client was only speaking out of anger and frustration while incarcerated. "He was in a rather upset state, but the commonwealth consid-

ered it intimidating," Manchester said. Preschutti is happy to be moving on with his life, Manchester said — this decision is something the instructor can live with. Penn State spokesman Geoff Rushton said the university did not have any involvement in the legal proceedings and could not comment.

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# Senate tables marriage bill

By Zach Gelger  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The Pennsylvania State Senate Tuesday to table Senate Bill 707, blocking a proposed bill aimed at amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

The vote is being seen as a victory among the LGBT community and allied politicians. "One small victory adds up to larger victories," said State Sen. Daylin Leach, D-Delaware/Montgomery.

Senate Bill 707 is one of two competing bills concerning same-sex marriage in the state, Leach said.

The first bill, Senate Bill 935, was introduced by Leach in June 2009 and called for full equal marriage rights. Senate Bill 707, a proposed amendment that would

have defined marriage between "one man and one woman," was introduced by Sen. John Eichelberger, R-Blair, in February. Tuesday's vote defeated the legislation with a majority of 8-6 within the committee, Leach said.

"It's a crack in the wall of discrimination," Leach said. "It's important to remember the historic nature of this. People are increasingly uncomfortable with the idea of legalized discrimination."

Two years ago, the State Senate Judiciary Committee voted in favor of a more restrictive bill by a 10-4 majority, Leach said. In a bipartisan effort, five Democrats and three Republicans voted to oppose Senate Bill 707, including three senators who changed their minds from their previous votes in 2008.

"Why should I try to deny some-

one else the right to live their life as they see fit?" Leach said.

The state Senate vote took place the same day Penn State's Interfraternity Council voted to recognize Delta Lambda Phi, a fraternity for gay, bisexual and progressive men.

Though Michael Hong (senior-marketing) was initially unaware of Senate Bill 707, the former president and current member of Delta Lambda Phi said the Senate's move might help bring equal rights to Pennsylvania — and maybe even same-sex marriage. And for Mark Gardner, a graduate assistant working with LGBT Student Resource Center, the defeat of Senate Bill 707 was a surprise and a small victory.

"Our state Senate is realizing that equality for all is necessary," Gardner said. "But we still have a long way to go."



Students eat ice cream outside The Creamery. Scholars Chip, which took Schreyer Honors Christian Brady a year to create, was introduced on campus this week.

# Creamery introduces Scholars Chip flavor

By Jourdan Cole  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For April Hile, going to the Berkey Creamery has become part of her daily routine — she jokes she's majoring in ice cream. But Wednesday was different.

Hile (freshman-engineering) sat down with Schreyer Honors College Dean Christian Brady and other honors students Wednesday afternoon and weighed in on the new flavor: Scholars Chip, a combination of vanilla bean ice cream and dark chocolate flakes.

"I've been on a 'Death by Chocolate' kick, but this is refreshing," Hile said.

Berkey Creamery Manager Thomas Palchak said Scholars Chip is vanilla bean ice cream injected with melted down Wilbur's chocolate bars through an ingredient feeder. It immediately solidifies upon contact with the ice cream, giving the chocolate a flaky consistency.

Palchak said the ice cream has a simple taste with a lot of "extravagance."

"I think it's a good addition to the Creamery and another way

that we can do our part in promoting Penn State," Palchak said. Scholars Chip took about a year to create, Brady said. First, the dean called college founder William Schreyer to see what kind of ice cream he liked, and he got a quick answer — chocolate chip. Brady asked, or a chocolate swirl or fruit? Schreyer's answer remained the same. Chocolate chip it is.

Brady said Simmons Dining Hall will be making an exception to its healthy diet policy and will include the new flavor in its frozen yogurt line-up.

While 300 of the 400 half-gallon Scholars Chip tubs produced have been sold in the past four days, cones were free to the first 20 students wearing Schreyer Honors College apparel Wednesday afternoon.

And Schreyer students competed to be the first in line to try it. Josh Park won the "Ice Cream Dream" contest for creating a mathematical equation involving the limits of ice cream and himself.

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## ST. PATRICK'S PRIDE



Julien Behal/Associated Press

In Dublin, Ireland, people watch a St. Patrick's Day parade. Celebrations of the day began in America.

# After 4th day, Veon jury shows strain

By Mark Scoloro  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HARRISBURG — Jurors in the public corruption trial of a former Pennsylvania state lawmaker and his aides showed signs of frustration Wednesday as they left the Dauphin County courthouse following four days of deliberations without reaching a verdict.

One juror told Judge Richard Lewis that talks have been "hard for everybody. ... We're turning on each other."

She and two other members of the eight-woman, four-man panel appeared to be crying as they broke at the end of the day. They have now spent about 29 hours considering the case since they started deliberations Friday following nearly six weeks of trial testimony.

Former Beaver County Rep. Mike Veon, the second-ranking Democrat before his defeat in the 2006 election, and former aides Brett Cott, Annamarie Perretta-Rosepink and Steve Keefer are accused of running a scheme to siphon off taxpayer resources to wage political campaigns and underwrite other activities. Lewis encouraged jurors to approach the talks as if they were neighbors trying to come to an amicable resolution.

"We're aware of the strain on you, believe me," Lewis said. "We ask that you give it your best and keep trying."

The exchange occurred in open court, but neither prosecutors nor the defendants and their lawyers were present. The day began with Lewis responding to a set of questions from the jury, informing them that they could not issue verdicts against some of the defendants before they were finished considering the charges against all four. He also clarified the structure of verdict sheets they will have to fill out when they render judgment in the 139 counts, including how they should account for the dollar value of any guilty verdicts in theft charges. Other questions concerned the conflict-of-interest and conspiracy charges that all defendants face.

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