

NEWS IN BRIEF

Board of Trustees to meet today

The Penn State Board of Trustees will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Nittany Lion Inn, led by newly-elected Chairman Steve Garban, who said "concern for tuition will continue" under his leadership. The meeting is open to the public.

The Board will be asked to approve the launching of "For the Future: The Campaign for Penn State Students," and will also listen to informational reports on energy planning for University Park and reports from the Education Policy, the Campus Environment and the Finance and Physical Plant committees. Also, Board members will elect directors to head the Corporation for Penn State, an organization established during the 1985-86 school year to conduct support activities on behalf of the university.

Man arrested after pointing pistol

A Milesburg man was arrested after the State College Police Department said he pointed a .45 caliber pistol at another driver around 4 p.m. Wednesday on the 700 block of Benner Pike in Bellefonte.

Shawn Meecker, 26, was arraigned by Centre County District Judge Leslie Dutchcot and was taken to the Centre County Correctional Facility on \$75,000 cash bail, police said.

Local man ejected off motorcycle

A 22-year old State College man is in stable condition after being ejected off of his motorcycle on Blue Course Drive, according to the Ferguson Township Police Department.

At about 2:50 p.m. Thursday, the unidentified man was driving on the 900 block of Blue Course Drive when he lost control of his motorcycle and entered oncoming traffic before hitting a curb and being thrown from his vehicle, police said.

The man was taken to Mount Nittany Medical Center, but was later taken by helicopter to Geisinger Hospital in Danville, police said.

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UPUA "Encampment" revived

Reconvening for the first time since 2001, the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) will gather student leaders from across campus this Sunday for its "Encampment" event at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel.

Students to meet with feminists in D.C.

The National Young Feminist Leadership Conference will be held in Washington, D.C., on March 20 and 21. Twelve Penn State students will attend.

Bazaar and arts transform HUB

The Paul Robeson Cultural Center's Heritage Hall saw yet another transformation for this week's World Cultural Festival with the "Cultural Arts and Global Bazaar" on Thursday.

"Meat In" sparks discussion

Complete with beef jerky samples, "I love beef" pins and a man in a life-sized stuffed hamburger suit, proponents of eating meat spread the word about meat-inclusive diets outside of the HUB on Thursday afternoon, as well as in Findlay Commons that evening.

Local Iranians share food, prayer

Aside from schoolwork, the last thing Hasti Khodabakhsh wants to worry about is the safety of her family members in Iran. Though her father is an outspoken professor and is actively involved when it comes to marches and protests against the current Iranian regime - and a brother who attends a school that's constantly raided by police - Khodabakhsh (graduate-architecture) is often living a life of worry in Happy Valley.

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Weather: Today: High 66 Tonight: Low 42 Tomorrow: High 69 Extended forecast campusweatherservice.com Courtesy of Campus Weather Service

Ordinance

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duct or nuisance gathering offenses could now be fined to help cover administrative police costs, Fountaine said. Both ordinances will also be supplemented by a third proposed ordinance called the Public Urination and Defecation Ordinance, which would allow police to cite individuals found urinating or defecating in public under a local ordinance and increase the fines for violations. Any person caught violating the ordinance would be fined \$300-\$600 plus court costs.

According to the State College

Police Department, current fines range from \$25-\$300 plus costs.

Fountaine also said that a "catch-all" phrase that listed any action that "injures or endangers the safety, health or welfare of the neighborhood" as a crime was removed from the Nuisance Gathering Ordinance.

A first draft of the ordinance said that a gathering of three or more people could qualify as a "nuisance gathering" and that offenders could be fined \$300-\$600 and find themselves facing a 30-90 day jail sentence. In response, borough officials received two letters from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Pennsylvania stating that the ordinance was unconstitutional.

After the first ACLU letter threatening a lawsuit if the ordinance was passed, the borough made several changes and additions. The requirement for a gathering was increased to 10 people, and the penalty of jail time was removed.

Now, with the issue back on the agenda, UPUA Governmental Affairs Chairwoman and vice presidential candidate Colleen Smith said she doesn't think the ordinance accounts for all facets of student life.

Mayor Elizabeth Goreham said she was not able to comment on the ordinance since she had not yet been briefed on its new contents.

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Lady Lions

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inability to play solid defense. The Lions were outbounded by The Pride 44-33, and Penn State didn't have the type of intensity the coach expected. With four seniors taking the floor for the last time as Lady Lions, Washington wanted her seniors to have a positive memory leaving their home court, and said she was disappointed for them to go out that way. Senior Tyra Grant, who scored a game-high 23 points and moved into third place on the Lady Lions' all-time scoring list, ended her career with 2,044 points. Sitting

at the front of the media room with watery eyes, Grant couldn't get the sting of the loss off her mind.

"It's sad. For me and I'm sure for everybody else too, but obviously it's going to be even more emotional for the four of us," Grant said.

While the post season appearance was the first for the seniors too, freshman Nikki Greene said the upperclassmen told their teammates to enjoy the moments that come with being Lady Lions, because the time goes by fast. While Greene, who started every game this season and Alex Bentley who missed just one, hung their heads while walking off the court, they looked as if this loss would stick with

them for a while. And that's exactly what Washington wants. She said she hopes her younger players will learn from their defeat and use it as motivation during spring workouts. But for Grant and fellow seniors Meredith Monroe, Meggan Quinn and Nicole Arcidiacono who won't have the opportunity to experience collegiate basketball ever again, Bentley wanted to personally apologize for the team's loss.

"I just wanna say sorry to the seniors," Bentley said. "Like, my heart goes out to them and I just feel terrible for leaving them and their last season like this."

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Café Laura

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to reach 100 reservations, by Tuesday night, they had 99.

While the members prepared a presentation, for their classmates who worked at the restaurant Wednesday, for a moment it seemed like only one topic was of true importance — what to put on the set-up CD mix. Sam Warren (senior-hotel, restaurant and institutional management) insisted that the group listen to Young Money's "Bedrock" while they got ready.

"Sam is definitely our comedic relief," Jacqui Van Wert (senior-hotel, restaurant and institutional management) said.

While it seems as if each of the members fill some sort of niche within the group, they all displayed the same strong personality — something they say comes along with the major.

"We're kind of all equal: we all cry to each other too," Pittella said. "We meet every day, every week. We're like a big family."

The conversation ventured back to their preparations, but the group didn't hesitate to talk about the common nightmare that the next day's meal would go terribly wrong.

"I couldn't talk about it with my friends," Pittella said. "They're sick of hearing about it."

Morrison agreed. "They just don't get it," she said.

A Hot Meal

During the set-up, the group stood back while classmates hung

posters of the Manhattan skyline and polished silverware.

"We shouldn't be doing things that we can delegate people doing," Pittella said.

They had other things to worry about. They had seating charts to finalize, menus — which included a Little Italy Bruschetta Chicken, an Upper East Side New York Strip and a South Street Seaport Tilapia — to review and some pre-cooking to oversee. The group members often stopped to ask each other questions, to review the day's agenda or to comment on the current stresses.

"I like to be in charge. Jacqui wanted to yell at people," Pittella, general manager, said about Van Wert, the group's expediter. "It all just worked out."

The group continued to work all afternoon until 4:45 p.m. — when the dining room had to be set up for the dinner's final reservation count of 103. That's when the class's instructor would walk through and grade the final product.

Until the dinner began 45 minutes later, tensions rose with the temperatures of the ovens.

The group's comedian, Warren, anxiously set up the foyer of the Mateer Building, perfecting details as small as the height from which their restaurant's sign was hung.

"You just put so much work into it, so you want it to run smoothly," he said.

Christina Tontodonati (senior-hotel, restaurant and institutional management) piped in her agreement.

"It's our baby," she said.

Something Sweet

The restaurant's host, Warren, was the first face that dinner guests saw that night. His warm smile and suave pinstripe suit complimented the stylish martini glass decorations that lined the entrance.

The service area, managed by Kristen L. Kattas (senior-hotel, restaurant and institutional management), was filled with rich aromas and clanging dishes.

Tontodonati said once the dinner began, it all paid off.

"Everything just melts away, and..." she said, pausing with a smile. "It's happening."

Both Tontodonati, manager of one half of the dining room, and Pittella remained available in the service-area, ready to answer questions, solve problems and even take a few precious moments to sit down.

Even while they sat, they had important things to discuss.

"We should start to push the lamb," Morrison, the other dining room manager, said to Tontodonati about one of the less popular dishes.

The kitchen remained warm from the ovens and aromatic from the sizzling fish and steak, but the feet within those walls never stopped moving.

"It's an eye-full and an ear-full," Paul Howard, the class' instructor, said about the hustle-and-bustle.

This remained true for anyone walking through the restaurant, especially the eight student-managers. But their full smiles seemed to say it had all been worth it.

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Pride week

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progressive men. But as Penn State begins Pride Week on Monday, some students feel there is still a long way to go. Lerma, an only child, knows how long the road is to just be considered a human being. During one winter break, Lerma invited her girlfriend, Allison Jones (junior-nursing), over for the holidays.

But her mother wouldn't let them sleep in the same household and requested that Lerma and Jones keep their affections for each other out of her sight.

"My mother said she didn't want to be an 'accomplice to the damnation of my soul,'" Lerma said. "It was really hard to hear that."

Even though some of her old friends and family members have come to accept her lifestyle, others have not. One day, Lerma leaned in for a kiss from her girlfriend in public — and to her surprise, a fellow student gawked. Another time, a group of bystanders scowled when she and Jones held hands as they walked on College Avenue.

"If I censor myself, it's usually around a large crowd of people who may not be friendly," Lerma said. "If we're around drunken people, I may not be as quick to grab her hand or kiss her on the cheek."

On the other hand, Delta Lambda Phi President Brendon Wall said in his three years at Penn State, he hasn't encountered much homophobia. The Interfraternity Council (IFC) approved recognizing the fraternity for gay and progressive men Tuesday, which Wall said is another sign of progress in the community.

"Overall, it's a pretty accepting environment. But there are limitations, so that's why we wanted to do the fraternity," Wall (junior-energy, business and finance) said.

Wall said fraternities are stereotypically seen as homophobic, but this new fraternity could negate stereotypes and break boundaries.

Now the University Park Undergraduate Association director of LGBTQA affairs, Lerma agrees the Penn State campus has improved in accepting people regardless of their sexuality.

And some businesses have made efforts to be inclusive, too. Though it can be a pain for Lerma to be affectionate with Jones in public, she gets to be herself at the clubs on "rainbow nights." Several State College bars, including Indigo, 112 W. College Ave., Chumley's, 108 W. College Ave., and Mezzanine, 420 E. College Ave., host alternative nights for the gay and lesbian community.

But Lerma said she is still trying to figure out if they're doing it to increase business or because they

genuinely care about the attendees.

Take the case of Thomas Bierly. In January, a bouncer at 797 Lounge, 244 W. College Ave., made derogatory remarks to him during one of the alternative nights, Bierly (senior-information sciences and technology and security risk and analysis) said. Slurs flew back and forth between people on the dance floor, he said, and one bouncer kept making comments when he walked past him. 797 Lounge Manager Tyler Hornberger said he was not happy when he heard about the remarks. He's since spoken to his staff and hired new security staff.

"I don't put up with any of that — this is not the place to have any of those comments," Hornberger said.

Despite her rollercoaster ride since coming out, Lerma said she is continuing to fight for her rights and recently attended a LGBT conference in Dallas, Texas. She participated in Penn State's annual Kiss Out last month, in which non-traditional couples meet in the HUB-Robeson Center and kiss to make a statement.

It was good for the community to see, she said. And it was good for her.

"I felt so excited yet comforted to kiss her and be in her arms and not worry about people's reactions."

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March Madness

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teams are looking good," Fardoss (junior-economics) said.

There's even the potential that Fardoss will just live-stream games through his laptop during class. CBSsports.com is streaming the games live and even provides a "boss button," which turns the video into a fake PowerPoint flow chart to throw off employers or professors. Perry Babb, President of Keystone Business Support, Inc., 214 S. Allen St., related the advice he gives to employers and teachers on how to deal with the NCAA Tournament: If a big tournament game is on, he'd make class as short as possible.

"I'd say, 'We're gonna crash through the next 20 minutes of my material, have it ready for the next class and we're gonna spend the next 30 minutes watching this game,'" Babb said.

Some of those students who found time between — or during — classes, as well as State College area workers, were watching the games at local restaurants and bars. Champs Sports Grill, 1611 N. Atherton St., also saw a vast increase in business Thursday. The bar and grill was flooded with customers as early as noon to watch the early games.

"Business is more than double on this day," manager Sal Lucchesi said. "It's an exciting time to be in the hospitality business."

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