

Corbett takes health care bill to court

By Brendan McNally
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Local Republicans and Democrats are deeply divided over a lawsuit filed by Pennsylvania Attorney General Tom Corbett that challenges the constitutionality of the recently passed Health Care Reform Bill.



Corbett

Corbett filed the lawsuit in Florida with attorneys general from 13 other states, spokesman Kevin Harley said. Rep. Kerry Benninghoff, R-Centre, supports Corbett's decision to challenge a law he believes

will have unintended consequences.

"I think he's representing a majority of people that think [the law] was passed unconstitutionally," he said. "People are concerned about the unknown costs of the bill."

Besides being unconstitutional, Benninghoff said the bill waters down the quality of insurance. The law is projected to expand access to insurance for millions of Americans but it doesn't add more doctors to treat them, he said.

"We need people there to provide the care," Benninghoff said. "We have less and less people graduating from our fabulous medical schools in Pennsylvania and staying here."

Harley said the attorney gener-

al is mainly concerned with a provision of the law that mandates every individual buy insurance or face a penalty. He said the mandate violates sections of the Constitution that provide for states' rights and set limits for the federal government's control over commerce.

"The government cannot order an individual to buy any good or service," Harley said. "What's next? Is the government going to tell you what kind of car to buy?"

Democrats, who are mostly opposed to the lawsuit, say it will strengthen Corbett's position in his primary race for governor.

"It gives him an advantage because the lawsuit appeals to his base," said Dianne Gregg, chairwoman of

"People are concerned about the unknown costs of the bill."

Kerry Benninghoff
Centre County Representative

the Centre County Democrats.

Gregg said she did not want to speculate whether Corbett filed the lawsuit for political reasons. Penn State College Democrats Executive Vice President Dustin Dove wasn't so cautious in judging Corbett's motives.

"In Corbett's case, it's pure politics," he said. "Corbett is running for governor, and he wants to appeal to his base."

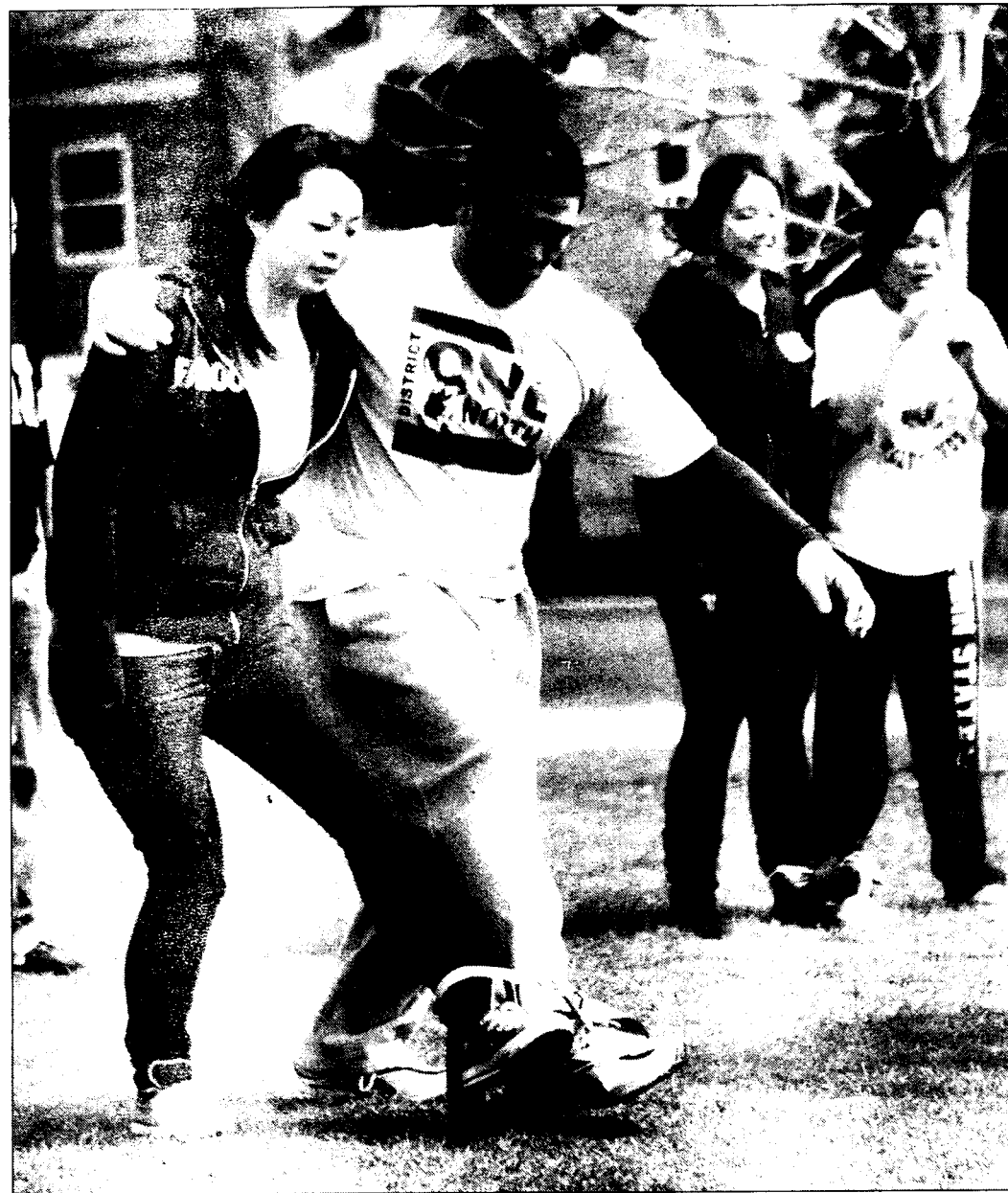
Harley firmly denies that Corbett's run for governor had any effect on his decision to file the

lawsuit. He said Corbett is protecting the rights of Pennsylvanians against a bill he called "a violation of our individual liberties."

Dove couldn't disagree more. "[Gov. Ed] Rendell has come out against the lawsuit because [health care reform] will actually benefit a lot of people," he said. "Thirty million people will get insurance and nobody can be denied coverage for pre-existing conditions."

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OLYMPICS



Sarah Finnegan/Collegian

Ashley Yang (senior-animal biological science) and Peter Nguyen (sophomore-biological chemistry) participate in a three-legged race at the fifth annual Multicultural Greek Olympics. The organizations held the event as a part of Multicultural Greek Month. To read the full story | psucollegian.com.

UNIVERSITY PARK AIRPORT

Airport to build control tower

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

State College's University Park Airport is one of the last airports in Pennsylvania without an air traffic control tower — but recently released state funds will help the airport leave the list.

The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation allotted \$562,500 to the airport through the aviation development program. PennDot spokeswoman Erin Waters said. The money will be used to fund site preparation and equipment for the project. State College Borough Council President Ron Filippelli said University Park Airport is the busiest airport in the country without a control tower. A New York City air traffic controller currently handles the University Park Airport's workload, but Filippelli thinks building a control tower on airport grounds will be beneficial for passengers.

"There are certainly safety benefits that will come from it," Filippelli said. "There will be more regional control, and that will work to the advantage of travelers."

The air traffic control tower project began about a month ago. Filippelli, who is also a member of the airport's air force authority, said the project is slated to be completed in late fall.

Some local residents and students agree the new control tower will bring passen-

"I'm all for safety everywhere - if you save even one life, then it's worth it."

Duffy Franjesc
State College resident

gers a greater sense of safety.

State College resident Duffy Franjesc said while he assumed the airport already had a control tower, he was pleased to hear a tower was finally being built.

"I do think control towers contribute to safety," he said. "I'm all for safety everywhere — if you save even one life, then it's worth it."

Fangxi Lin uses the airport to fly to connecting flights to China and said the new air traffic control tower will make passengers feel safer.

"There are a lot of international students who use it and they should be doing something to the airport," Lin (freshman-actuarial science) said.

University Park Airport officials were not available for comment as of press time Sunday.

Gov. Ed Rendell released more than \$13 million in state and federal funding to 32 state airports on March 22. The University Park Airport received only state funding.

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Lionettes to attend nationals

By Jessica Wabara
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Friends and families of the Lionettes filled the stands of the White Building's gym Sunday afternoon to show their support for the dance team before they leave for a national competition.

The dancers will depart April 6 for Daytona Beach, Fla. to compete in the National Dance Alliance Collegiate Competition. The Lionettes will compete in the preliminary rounds April 8, and if they rank high enough, they'll proceed to the final round on April 9.

Last year, the girls placed fourth at the competition.

"I think the Lionettes are an awesome dance team," audience member Rene Garcia (sopho-

more-forensic science) said. "They put a lot of work into their dance routines, and they deserve to win."

Dressed in black-and-violet outfits covered in glitter, the girls entertained the crowd with jumps, twirls and flips in an energy-filled routine.

Kneeling down and cheering on the dancers was the Lionettes' national captain, Nicole Bautz (senior-crime, law and justice).

While the girls prepare for national competition, Bautz is in charge of costumes, make-up and making sure the performance is ready for competition.

"It's been a long, bumpy ride, so I'm excited to see it on the dance floor in Florida," Bautz said.

After their performance, the team captains, Alexandra Costello

(senior-health policy and administration), Erin Zoch (senior-kinesiology) and JoAnn Esposito (senior-finance), told the crowd that they appreciated its love and support.

Sue Sherburne, the team's adviser for 12 years, ended the event by promising the audience that the team will rank at least fifth.

Unlike the other teams at the competition, the Lionettes will be the only team without a coach. Zoch explained that because the team has no coach, each of the girls has to push herself and her teammates.

"We like to look at what we have," Sherburne said, "rather than what we don't have."

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Katie Silvis/Collegian

Lionettes Melissa Diehl and Erin Zoch perform Sunday afternoon for a large crowd in the White Building.

WPSU awarded for Web program

By Terhea Doaty
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

WPSU was recently recognized by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for its online Blue Ribbon Readers program.

The program, which won the My Source Education Innovation Award, was created by Penn State students and faculty, and focuses on interactive literacy games for students ranging from kindergarten through fifth grade. The award will help to increase funding for production to publicize the program.

"It helps to produce publicity pieces so that people know what you're doing, as well as the opportunity to avail themselves to the same service," Director of Programming Services Greg Peterson said.

The Blue Ribbon Readers program is a series of seven online games that build skill and confidence in the students who play them, said Ted Krichels, general manager of Penn State Public Broadcasting. The assessment of both the pre- and post-test scores showed that students using these games gained an oral reading fluency of 17 words per minute and increased their reading comprehension scores by 28 points.

The program was based off a book titled 7 Keys to Comprehension by Chryste Hutchins.

"For each key, we created a game," said Rucha Modak, one of the content writers for the program. "Our goal is to make it as accessible as possible."

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