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30 cents off campus

Charge dropped in Dado case

By Brendan McNally
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Prosecutors dropped a misdemeanor furnishing alcohol charge against Alpha Tau Omega (ATO) Tuesday in connection to Joseph Dado's death — leaving the fraternity with one lingering misdemeanor charge that could see a conclusion within a month.

ATO attorney Kathleen Yurchak said prosecutors dropped a misdemeanor charge against the fraternity for furnishing alcohol to Penn State student Dado and three of

his friends on the night of his death.

Judge Thomas Kistler did not offer a verdict on the second charge of misdemeanor unlawful acts relative to liquor, malt and brewed beverages and licenses, but is expected to issue a written decision in as early as a month, Yurchak said.

The second charge, which Kistler has not yet ruled on, does



Dado

n't specify a person needs to knowingly furnish the alcohol to be convicted, according to court documents.

No more evidence can be submitted at this point, she said, and the case will continue only through briefs written and submitted by both parties.

The two-day search for the Penn State student concluded when Dado, 18, was found dead in a stairwell between the Steidle and Hosler Buildings on Sept. 21, 2009.

Dado visited ATO, 321 E.

Fairmount Ave., and Phi Gamma Delta (Fiji), 319 N. Burrowes Rd., before falling to his death across the street from the Fiji house, police said.

Dado, of Latrobe, Pa., had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.169 percent — more than twice the legal limit for a 21-year-old to drive, police said.

Yurchak said she expected the furnishing charges against ATO to be dropped because the facts of the case cleared the fraternity from any wrongdoing on that count.

"That's simply what the facts were from day one," she said. "Fraternities are made to be fall guys in these situations."

ATO National Fraternity did not return calls for comment.

County prosecutor Nathan Boob did not return calls for comment by press time Wednesday.

ATO was originally charged under both the Pennsylvania Criminal Code and the Pennsylvania Liquor Code laws with furnishing alcohol to minors, according to court documents.

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Elaine Meder-Wilgus, owner of Webster's Bookstore Cafe, 148 S. Allen St., speaks with supporters at a meeting Wednesday night.

Store seeks public donations

By Paul Osolnick
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The shelves at Webster's Bookstore Cafe are emptying, and there are no plans to refill them — at least not at 128 S. Allen St.

The bookstore held a meeting last night as its owner informed patrons and supporters how they can help in the store's effort to move to a new location.

Elaine Meder-Wilgus, owner of Webster's, addressed a group of about 60 patrons regarding the store's future plans.

"Webster's is not the building, the stained ceiling and crappy tile," Meder-Wilgus said. "It's the people that fill it."

Meder-Wilgus said she asked the landlord for an extension of

time to conclude business in a less constricted manner — only to hear no.

"I am taking personal responsibility for that hole I got into," Meder-Wilgus said. "And I will get myself out."

But the main attempt to raise capital for a possible future bookstore will go through Cogster, a local business that helps residents in State College, Bellefonte and Philipsburg invest in small businesses in the community.

Cogster opened on July 8, 2009 and currently works to raise money for 51 businesses in the State College area, Cogster president Steve Bisbee said.

Bisbee said supporters of Webster's can give the bookstore a certain amount of money — a

minimum of \$20 — and in turn receive goods from the store upon reopening.

The Webster's account on Cogster will open at 10 a.m. today, Bisbee said. Patrons interested in assisting the bookstore can go to cogster.com, he said.

Bisbee said a \$20 investment would yield a credit of \$40 of books, coffee and other products at Webster's that will be returned to the investor in increments to be determined by the cafe and bookstore. The credit is dependent on the store finding a new location, Bisbee said, and is non-refundable.

"This is simply a way to give money to a local business owner who needs it," Bisbee said. "and get money back."

Bisbee said Cogster does receive an "arrangement fee" of 10 percent of the total funds raised. If a supporter gives \$20, Cogster receives \$2, Webster's receives \$18, and the supporter receives \$40 worth of Webster's items over a period of time, he said.

Meder-Wilgus said she would like to collect \$40,000 to \$50,000 in capital before opening the bookstore at the new location.

With no hopes of maintaining the current location and the end of July deadline moving closer, Meder-Wilgus said her concerns are for the future of Webster's and making the transition seamless.

Meder-Wilgus said she has talked with several landlords in

See WEBSTER'S, Page 2.

PSU stands firm

After receiving a letter asking them to denounce study findings, Penn State stands by research policies.

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Responsible Drilling Alliance (RDA) has asked Penn State to denounce research done by Penn State professors on the Marcellus Shale natural gas deposit, but university officials said they have no plans to do so.

In early June, the alliance, which strives to understand the issues raised by natural gas drilling, sent a letter to Penn State President Graham Spanier and William Easterling, dean of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. The letter asked Penn State to denounce research on the economic impact of Marcellus Shale.

The research — which was conducted by Penn State professors Seth Blumsack and Robert Watson and retired Penn State professor Tim Considine — determined that in 10 years, the Marcellus Shale resource could create 200,000 new jobs and increase gains in state and local

See RESEARCH, Page 2.

Author backs THON

By Anita Modi
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of his first novel, a Penn State alumnus has released his book online with

100 percent of the proceeds going directly to the Four Diamonds Fund.

Paul Levine, Class of 1969, released "To Speak for the Dead" again — this time, as an Ebook selling for \$2.99 per copy.

The Four Diamonds Fund is supported in part by Penn State's Interfraternity/Panhellenic Dance Marathon. Both the fund and THON raise money for pediatric cancer patients treated at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital in Hershey, Pa.

As long as the Ebook is available to customers online, its proceeds will be dedicated toward the Four Diamonds Fund, Levine said.

"I intend for it to be a long-term donation," he said. "It combines my love for Penn State with the respect I have for what the students are doing for children's cancer."

Curran McCready, overall donor and alumni relations

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Students learn about new eco-program

By Zach Geiger and David Bodin
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Freshmen who attended the first Eco-Rep Program informational session yesterday at the Pollock Cultural Lounge got a taste of what the program's goals are and the expectations of the Eco-Reps.

The Eco-Rep is a student that will live in East Halls and be paid to promote behaviors that are environmentally responsible, Program Coordinator Milea Perry said.

The program is looking to fill in 28 positions open to freshmen living in East Halls in the fall, Perry said.

"We want to have a Penn State culture of being environmentally conscientious," Perry said.

Perry, who works in the Campus Sustainability Office, began the presentation by asking students what they are passionate about, specifically related to the environment. Perry then shared her "Erin Brockovich Experience" with the group of five students in attendance about her own experiences working in a community near a toxic chemical plant.

Perry then explained the goal of the Eco-Rep Program, which is starting up for the first time at Penn State during the fall semester.

"Hopefully what you learn you'll take with you and use that in your residence halls," Perry said.

Students watched a brief video and observed a PowerPoint presentation by Perry. They were also briefed on what an Eco-Rep is expected to accomplish in the program—requirements that are challenging and character-building, Perry said.

Some of the benefits of the program include leadership experience, a close relationship with peers, going green, and working to decrease electricity use and waste on campus, Perry said.

Keri Mahoney (freshman-communications) saw the information meeting on stall stories and decided to attend the session.

Not having enough recycling bins on campus is a problem, Mahoney said.

"I don't think Penn State is doing enough about the lack of recycling bins," Mahoney said.

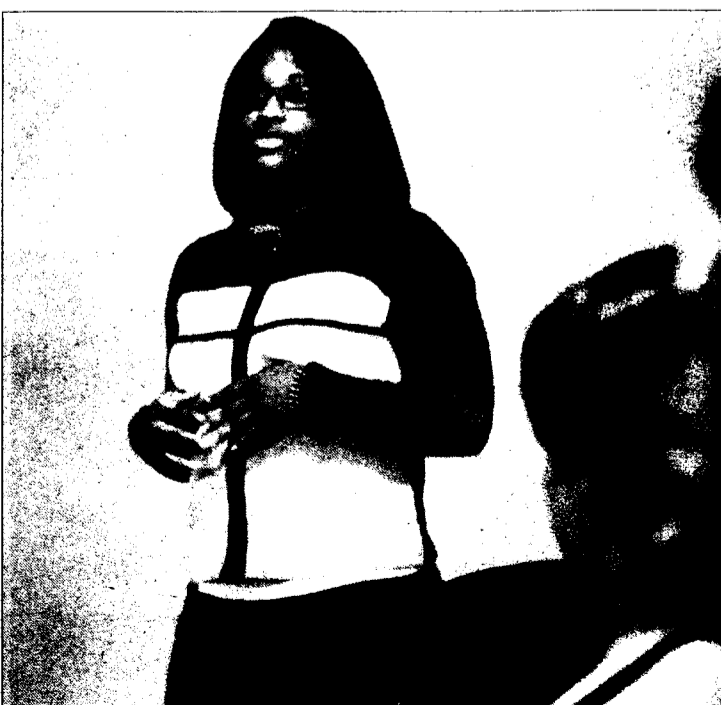
One of the attendees, Roni Pasi, is now more interested in apply-

ing for the program after the session and said the requirements don't deter her.

"I've always been interested

about the environment," Pasi (freshman-environmental resource management) said. "I

See ECO-REP, Page 2.



M. Antonio Silas

Milea Perry, a student program coordinator in the Office of Campus Sustainability, discusses an the Eco-Rep program initiative.