

Former student found dead

Saulis Kvaraciejus drowned after falling off a raft in Philadelphia.

By **Brendan McNally**
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Police found the body of former Penn State student Saulis Kvaraciejus at about 3:30 p.m. Thursday on the bank of Pennypack Creek in Philadelphia after he fell out of a raft into the

water Tuesday and drowned. A Police Marine Unit had been searching for him since Tuesday, the Philadelphia Police Department said.

Penn State spokeswoman Lisa Powers said Kvaraciejus, 20, was in his third semester at Penn State in the spring but was not currently enrolled for fall classes.

At 6 p.m. Tuesday, Kvaraciejus was riding in an inflatable raft with friends over a waterfall on Pennypack Creek when he fell

into the water, the said.

He was swept underwater by strong currents and drowned, police said.

Police could not say how many of his friends were in the raft, but said all of them escaped unharmed, police said.

Police said a passerby noticed the body on the bank of the creek and called police, police said.

Police did not say if Kvaraciejus suffered any injuries while falling out of the raft that may have

contributed to his drowning.

Kvaraciejus' family said he had been enrolled at Penn State Abington before dropping out last semester.

Police did not say exactly where his body was found or how far it was from where he fell out of the raft.

Kvaraciejus' family lives in Philadelphia and did not offer further comment.

To e-mail reporter: bwm5147@psu.edu



Steph Witt/Collegian

A robbery took place at First National Bank, 460 Westerly Parkway.

COLE OF DUTY



Courtesy of the State College Spikes

Outfielder White runs the bases.



Courtesy of Jeff White

White smiles at West Point.



Courtesy of Jeff White

White, left, stands with a fellow soldier during his Army service.

Spikes player returns from service

By **Jake Kaplan**
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Taking a break after a normal day of work in early June at Fort Hood, Cole White received a puzzling text message from an old friend.

It was from Caleb Campbell, a classmate from their days at West Point. The message read: "Congratulations."

Moments later, White received a phone call from the United States Army's Human Resource Command.

White soon understood Campbell's message — the Army was going to let White pur-

sue his professional baseball career.

Knowing his service time was nearing the obligatory two-year mark, White had applied for an early release from the Army in January. Five months later, the 25-year-old, whose unit was set to deploy to Iraq in February, finally found out which direction his life would be going.

And it wouldn't be overseas.

Instead, it would be in the New York-Penn League with the short-season Class A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates, the State College Spikes — the same team he played 21 games with two years ago.

On June 20 — exactly two years to the day after he debuted in State College — White was back in town, having added about 10 pounds of muscle to his 6-foot-2 frame.

He arrived at Medlar Field at Lubrano Park the next day and did something he hadn't done since leaving State College — hit a baseball on an actual field.

"It didn't really set in until I was taking batting practice here in State College," White said. "And then I was like 'Wow, I'm back.'"

The West Point experience White didn't know much about

West Point — until the tragic events of 9/11.

"I kind of felt like a greater purpose and I just felt like I needed to do something," White said. "I talked to my dad and I said that I wanted to join the Army."

His father, Jeff, suggested his son, then a junior at Midland High School in Midland, Texas, take a look at the United States Military Academy, a place where he could join the Army and play Division I baseball.

White, who helped his team win the Texas 5A State Championship as a sophomore, committed to West Point around See **WHITE**, Page 2.

Bank thief flees scene

Police are still searching for a man who walked out of a local bank with an undisclosed amount of cash.

By **Brendan McNally**
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Police are searching for a man who robbed the First National Bank, 460 Westerly Parkway, at about 9:10 a.m. Thursday, after telling the bank teller a note that said he had a gun.

The man ran south from the bank toward Waupelani Drive with an undisclosed amount of cash, the State College Police Department said.

The man entered the bank Thursday morning and handed the teller a note that said he had a gun, police said.

But witnesses did not report seeing a gun at any point during the robbery, police said.

Police said witnesses described the man's appearance: about 5' 10", of medium build, and with two to three days' worth of facial hair growth.

He was wearing a dark-colored hat, sunglasses, a polo-style shirt and shorts, police said.

Police said video of the robbery was captured by surveillance cameras inside the bank.

No bank employees or patrons were harmed in the robbery, police said.

Police said no witnesses reported seeing the man enter a vehicle after he ran out of the bank.

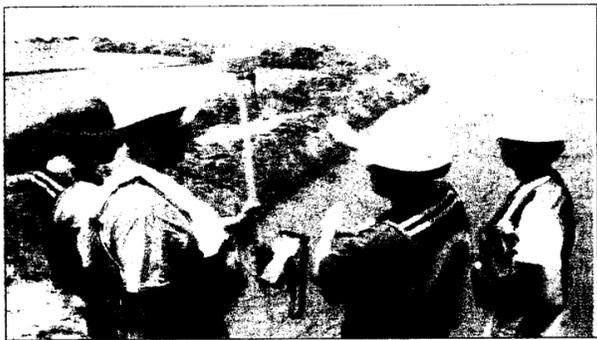
Penn State Police were called to the scene to assist in identifying the man.

Representatives of First National Bank could not be reached for comment by press time Thursday.

To e-mail reporter: bwm5147@psu.edu

Information

Individuals with information about this case are asked to contact police at **234-7150**.



Dave Martin/Associated Press

Workers discuss the berm system on the end of Chandeleur Islands, La.

BP caps oil leak after long wait

By **Harry R. Weber**
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

NEW ORLEANS — Oil stopped gushing into the Gulf of Mexico from BP's busted well Thursday for the first time since the disastrous spill began, the oil giant said. It was the most significant milestone yet in BP's effort to control one of the worst environmental disasters in U.S. history.

Now begins a waiting period to see if the cap can hold the oil without blowing a new leak in the well.

Engineers will monitor pressure readings incrementally for up to 48 hours before reopening the cap while they decide what to do next. The cap is only planned as a temporary fix until a final plug is set from underground, maybe next month.

The news elicited joy mixed with skepticism from Gulf Coast residents wearied by months of false starts, setbacks and fail-

ures. Alabama Gov. Bob Riley's face lit up when he heard the oil flow had stopped.

"That's great. I think a lot of prayers were answered today," said Riley.

The stoppage came 85 days, 16 hours and 25 minutes after the first report April 20 of an explosion on the BP-leased Deepwater Horizon oil rig that killed 11 workers and triggered the spill.

"Finally!" said Renee Brown, a 35-year-old middle school guidance counselor visiting Pensacola Beach, Fla., from London, Ky. "Honestly, I'm surprised that they haven't been able to do something sooner, though."

Video images, which for months had featured a billowing brown cloud violently fouling the Gulf, showed a remarkably different picture: A quiet, still well. Shortly after it coughed its last bit of oil and the last opening was squeezed shut, it quieted, with See **OIL**, Page 2.

Athletes cited for disorderly conduct

By **Megan Rogers**
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State basketball recruit Taran Buie and football player Curtis Drake were both cited for disorderly conduct during Arts Fest weekend.

Buie, 18, and Drake, 19, were cited for disorderly conduct by the State College Police Department at 1:21 a.m. Sunday outside of McDonald's, 400 E. College Ave.

The pair was observed fighting, throwing punches at one another and shoving each other, police said. They were cited with the intent to cause a "public inconvenience," police said.

Buie and Drake were each cited and fined \$443.50.

Police could not say if alcohol was involved.

Penn State Assistant Athletic Director for Communications Jeff Nelson said the athletic department and both men's coaches are aware of Sunday's incident. Currently, the department is in the process of gathering information on the details of the event before any decision is made on either player's status, he said.

Nelson said the current status See **ATHLETES**, Page 2.



Buie



Drake

'Idol' to perform downtown

By **Kathleen Loughran**
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Kris Allen showed he had "no boundaries" when the "American Idol" Season Eight winner traveled all around the United States as part of the show's 2009 summer tour.

This fall he will travel again — but this time he'll make a stop in State College.

Allen will perform at 8 p.m. on Sept. 2 at The State Theatre, 130 W. College Ave.

State Theatre Executive Director Mike Negra said he thinks there will be a "real good response" to ticket sales.

"He's well known," Negra said. "He won 'American Idol' last year. I think there will be an audience for him."

Tickets for the show cost \$25 and go on sale at 11 a.m. today. They are available at the box office or online.

Bianca Black said she wanted Allen to win "American Idol" because he's "relate-able" — she wants to see him perform when he comes to State College.

"I like that it's at the State Theatre," Black (senior-international politics and history) said. "It's a lot smaller than the [Bryce Jordan Center]. It's more low key, which is how I

would imagine him to be. See **ALLEN**, Page 2.

