



Courtesy of the State College Police Department
Two men are wanted for questioning.

Police follow leads

By Brendan McNally
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Police released four images and a video from video surveillance footage yesterday of two men police are calling "persons of interest" in connection to their investigation of Sunday's arson that destroyed a State College Police Department cruiser.

Police did not say the men were suspects in the case but said they would like to speak with them because they were nearby around the time of the fire.

According to police, the arson occurred Sunday morning at about 3:23 a.m. when an unmarked police cruiser parked to the rear of the State College Borough Municipal Building was intentionally set on fire and destroyed.

An "accelerant" caused the fire to spread more quickly than usual, police said.

The fire began at the front of the vehicle and spread toward the back of it before the Alpha Fire Company extinguished the flames, police said.

The front of the vehicle was completely charred and the tires were burned away, police said.

Police said the footage was taken from a parking garage within close proximity to the arson but did not disclose which one.

Police are describing the two men in the footage as white males in their late teens.

One of the men seen on camera has dark hair and was on video wearing a gray T-shirt, tan shorts and dark sneakers, police said.

The other man has lighter hair and was on the video wearing a gray T-shirt, camouflage shorts and white sneakers, police said.

On Tuesday, police connected Sunday's arson with another act of arson against a police vehicle that occurred June 21, police said.

In the June 21 incident, police found a flaming box on the hood of a marked police vehicle that was also parked behind the municipal building, police said.

An officer noticed that fire quickly and was able to extinguish it before any major damage to the vehicle occurred, police said.

Upon further examination of the extinguished box, police said the box was actually a homemade bomb made from household items.

Police did not say what new evidence — if any — led them to connect the two arsons.

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Project mistaken as bomb

By Brendan McNally
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After finding a suspicious package at about 1 p.m. Wednesday near Old Main, police cordoned off the area and called in the Centre County Bomb Squad — only to find that the package contained a high school student's science project.

The project — an electrical meter made in an Eberly College of Science summer camp — was

accidentally left on Old Main's patio when a group of high school students put down their belongings to take a picture in front of Old Main.

The building was not evacuated, Penn State university spokeswoman Lisa Powers said, but university officials sent out a PSUTXT alert at about 1:15 p.m. that read, "Suspicious package found on Old Main patio. Police on scene. Avoid area."

Students, faculty and visitors

came to the scene to observe or take pictures of police activity.

The unopened cardboard box on the southeastern side of Old Main sat on the patio's ledge until about 2 p.m. when two officers approached the box, looked inside, and then carried it away.

Two officers were visible from the Old Main lawn guarding either side of the patio, while another officer stood at the top of the stairs in front of the doors to the building.

After the suspicious package was taken away, police reopened the area for pedestrian traffic.

The box contained a conductivity meter made by high school students in a Penn State summer camp, Powers said.

The meter was a small, black plastic box with an electronic numerical display and wires protruding from it.

Powers said the university follows a protocol for dealing with
See BOMB, Page 2.



Todd Foster, 42, re-canes a chair Wednesday morning at Centre Peace, 3013 Benner Pike.

Inmates reconstruct lives

By Brendan McNally
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Centre Peace offers Centre County inmates three things: the chance to learn new skills, to make a contribution to the community and maybe most importantly, to gain a new appreciation for themselves.

Centre Peace, 3013 Benner Pike, takes contributions of old furniture and household items from the community and teaches inmates the carpentry skills

needed to repair and refurbish the items, Centre Peace Executive Director Thom Brewster said. Then, he said, the organization sells the items back to customers at a reasonable cost.

Centre County Correctional Facility inmates take courses designed around nonviolent conflict resolution while getting to work in the shop doing "meaningful work," he said.

The courses and sense of responsibility make a world of

difference in many inmates' attitudes, Centre Peace Treasurer Peter Shaw said.

"If [inmates] want to have a good feeling about others, they first have to have a good feeling about themselves," Shaw said.

But Brewster said Centre Peace's mission of changing traditional incarceration — just putting inmates behind bars with little contact with the outside world — wouldn't be possible without the Penn State community.

See INMATES, Page 2.

Café waits for new location

By Paul Osolnick
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER



Meder-Wilgus speaks at the store.

Webster's Bookstore Café owner said the store's new location could be determined any day now, as the bookstore is in negotiations with several possible locations.

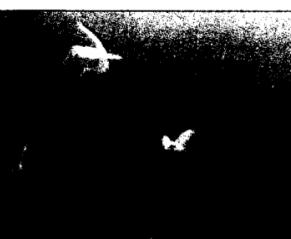
Elaine Meder-Wilgus, Webster's owner, said she would like to see the new location become available within the next nine days — as the bookstore's cur-

rent location at 128 S. Allen St. is losing its lease after falling behind on rent.

"I'm working on it every minute of every day," Meder-Wilgus said. "I feel very positive about this right now, but I don't want to jinx it."

Downtown State College Improvement District (DSCID) Director Jody Alessandrine said he has discussed the possibility of several locations with Meder-Wilgus.
See WEBSTER'S, Page 2.

Students dive deep into scuba exploration



Courtesy of Rich Best
Erika Roach swims during an open water training dive Monday.

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

It's a world only few have the chance to discover — a world hidden by the ocean's depths.

But Sarah Richer is one of the few people who have delved deep into the water.

As president of the Nittany Divers — Penn State's scuba diving club — Richer (junior-biological engineering) has been on multiple dives. She said she has been



certified since 2003 because her entire family is certified, so they enjoy going on dives while on vacation, she said.

"I think it's really cool to see things that most people in the world only get to see through glass," she said.

Richer said her favorite place to visit with the Nittany Divers is Dutch Springs in Bethlehem, Pa.

"I think it's worth the drive," she said. "I think it has better visibility and nice things to see, and it also has stuff for non-divers to do, so if you want to take your non-certified friends it's fun."

Rich Best from Sunken Treasure Scuba Center in nearby Jersey Shore, Pa., said scuba
See SCUBA, Page 2.

OPP talks energy

Eco-Action discusses coal

By Micah Wintner
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Penn State student leaders met with an Office of Physical Plant (OPP) official Wednesday morning to discuss the environmental impacts of the university's West Campus Steam Plant, which uses coal to heat the entire campus.

Penn State environmental activist groups Eco-Action and Beyond Coal argued against the use of coal as a means of supplying energy to the Penn State campus.

Wednesday's meeting with Steve Maruszewski, deputy associate vice president for OPP, was the result of earlier delays in discussion.

"There was supposed to be a meeting a month ago with the [Penn State] Board of Trustees about retrofitting the steam plant," Eco-Action Vice President Stefan Nagy said.

He said the board never mentioned the steam plant.

Nagy (junior-economics, energy business and finance) said the goal of the meeting with OPP was to discuss why the steam plant had not been brought up before.

The delay in discussion was caused due to new regulations on coal plants and power plants that require them to meet higher environmentally friendly standards, Nagy said. Now, OPP is being forced to wait to "take action" while these regulations are being finalized and tested, Nagy said.

OPP spokesman Paul Ruskin said a changeover from coal to new energy is something that will require a lot of money and time.

"We want to find an alternative to coal and to do it in stages over a few years so we don't buy into the wrong solution," Ruskin said.

About six percent of the university's electricity is generated at the West Campus Steam Plant, while almost 100 percent of the heat is generated there, Ruskin said.

"Penn State has been using coal to heat this campus for about 70 years now," he said. "We meet all government standards. We meet all regulations."

Ruskin said OPP has been working with Eco-Action to try to find a good solution to the steam plant issue.

But that solution can't come soon enough for Nagy.
See OPP, Page 2.



Lynn McGonigal / Collegian
Students protest the use of coal at Penn State last year.