

# The Daily Collegian

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30 cents off campus

## CATA undecided Agency may limit luggage allowance

By Paul Osolnick  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Students may soon be unable to bring bulky suitcases on the Blue Loop, if a potential Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) policy is approved.

The CATA policy would limit the amount of items passengers can take on the bus with them — an effort designed to ensure the overall safety of passengers.

Sherry Snyder, director of operations for CATA, said the proposed policy would require passengers to hold items on their laps or put the items under their seats to

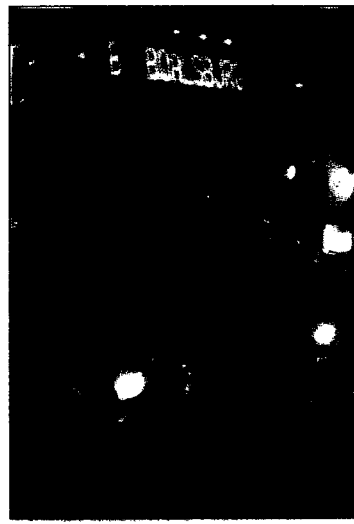
prevent uncontrolled objects from blocking the walkway.

The policy was suggested by several bus drivers to ensure the safety of everyone aboard the buses, she said.

The possible change in policy was discussed during CATA's monthly Board of Directors meeting Monday.

CATA General Manager Hugh Mose said the proposed policy is being considered because CATA has never had a set policy on what people can and cannot bring on the buses.

Mose said the transportation company  
See CATA, Page 2.



A CATA bus stops on its route through State College.  
Christine Reckner/Collegian

## Spanier denies petition

### Pro-Palestine group claims contradiction

By Casey McDermott  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

One campus pro-Palestine group is saying Penn State President Graham Spanier's beliefs — not policies — are the reason he won't sign their petition.

Spanier told the PSU Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) that he receives many petition requests and has a policy of not signing them, but SJP members say his explanation is contradictory. They note that Spanier helped to organize and sign a petition published as a full-page advertisement in the August 8, 2007 edition of The New York Times.

In the advertisement — sponsored by the American Jewish Committee — Spanier is listed with 285 other college presidents as endorsing a statement from Columbia University President Lee Bollinger denouncing a decision to promote a boycott of Israeli educational institutions.

Spanier could not be reached for comment, but Penn State Vice President for Administration Thomas Poole said Spanier couldn't respond because of his travel schedule.

The SJP petition was created following the May 31 "Freedom Flotilla" incident, in which nine activists on a ship bound for Gaza and attempting to break through an Israeli naval blockade were killed when the ship was raided by Israeli soldiers. At press time, 216 Penn State students and 34 faculty members had signed the SJP petition.

But on June 8, SJP was looking to add one more signature to the list, so SJP Vice President Shadi Ghrayep e-mailed Spanier asking him to sign.

Initially, Poole e-mailed Ghrayep (graduate engineering) back to say schedule conflicts would likely delay Spanier's response, but he promised to still pass along the note.

More than three weeks passed, and Ghrayep still hadn't heard back — so he e-mailed Poole again on July 1 and learned that his petition request had been declined.

"The President has returned from his travel and confirmed that he does not sign petitions," Poole wrote in a July 1 e-mail to Ghrayep. "He is presently with requests throughout the year and has a policy of not signing petitions."

When Ghrayep asked Poole about the 2007 petition, Poole responded via email explaining that The New York Times petition was "an educational initiative."

"He was asked to sign this as a president of the university that is a member of the educational organization and it was simply a statement about educational policy, something that would benefit higher education nationally and therefore Penn State as well," Poole said. "As a university president, that's part of his job to advocate on behalf of educational initiatives."

Ghrayep disagrees. "It seems to us that he only signs pro-Israel petitions, not pro-justice ones," Ghrayep said. "And the university is run the same way Washington is run, which means subordinating the pursuit of justice for the pursuit of fundraising."

Ghrayep said the cause behind SJP's petition has ties to education, too. Students in the blockaded region are suffering academically because  
See SPANIER, Page 2.

## SPLISH SPLASH



The fountain at Penn State's Arboretum catches the sunlight Tuesday evening. The Arboretum was constructed in 2009 and was designed to showcase Central Pennsylvanian plant life along with fostering environmental outreach and research.  
Steph Witt/Collegian

## Initiatives

**UPUA:** more on-campus, alcohol-free weekend events

**IFC:** exploring other universities' risk management policies

**Borough:** continue to work with student groups

## Groups advise safety

By Megan Rogers  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Student leaders are making it a priority to focus on deterring dangerous drinking — and local officials and police said they support the efforts.

During the summer months, both the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) and the Intrafraternity Council (IFC) have been looking into new policies and initiatives on excessive drinking.

UPUA has created a commission on safety that will enact policies to prevent dangerous drinking, sexual assault and domestic violence, UPUA President Christian Ragland said.

As one of the initiatives, the commission will work with other student groups like the Student Programming Association (SPA) and the Association of Residence Hall Students (ARHS) to create more on-campus events for students to partake in on the weekends.

Ragland (senior-political science) said UPUA is looking to  
See SAFETY, Page 2.

## University center fights youth obesity

By Micah Wintner  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

The College of Health and Human Development and Penn State's Center for Food Innovation are working together to redesign the shape of a whole wheat pretzel.

It's not an idle experiment: The redesign is part of a larger state initiative aimed at reducing obesity among Pennsylvania youth.

There is a 29.7 percent obesity rate among youth in Pennsylvania, associate hospitality management professor Peter Bordi said.

Researchers are working to "revamp" and "reformulate" foods children enjoy so they have higher nutritional value, Bordi said.

Benzel's Pretzel Bakery, of Altoona, Pa., is developing a whole wheat pretzel, which is difficult to make because of its texture, Bordi said.

To accommodate its texture, the pretzel would have to have been shaped like a potato chip, Bordi said.

Knouse Foods, of Peach Glen, Pa., is creating new kinds of apple sauce without sugar, Bordi said.

The Center for Food Innovation will then conduct sensory testing to collect children's feedback to these "revamped" foods.

This project is not limited to Penn State districts — Pennsylvania school districts, food service companies, food manufacturers and the state government are also involved, Bordi said.

Researchers are also working to include innovative menu labeling systems in school cafeterias. For younger children, there would be happy and sad faces on the menus to symbolize which foods are "good" and "bad," Bordi said.

The project is being led by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and Center for Disease Control by an \$800,000 grant, Bordi said. He said he hopes it can be implemented by the 2011-2012 school year.  
See OBESITY, Page 2.

See SAFETY, Page 2.

## Bartenders mix community, responsibility

Series Note: This is the second in a four-part series about party-related jobs.

By Zach Gelger  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Serving students and alumni, dealing with drunken comments and navigating a crowded bar during Arts Fest and football weekends.

Those are only a few of the challenges State College bartenders face.



Working during the summer is usually much more relaxed than the school year but it still has its excitement, former Penn State student Lakiesha Cooper said. "It doesn't get too crazy except for Arts Fest," Cooper said. As a server at 797 Lounge, 244 West College Ave., Cooper said

she has seen it all in State College — incredibly long lines to get into bars, fist fights and people getting kicked out of different establishments.

But behind the scenes, the State College bar scene isn't just about partying — there is also a sense of family between the employees at the different venues, Cooper said.

"The environment is really relaxed," Cooper said. "You really make friends with people from other places."  
See BARTENDERS, Page 2.



Nicole Schied, a bartender at The Deli, mixes a drink Tuesday.  
M. Antonio Sitas/Collegian