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Poll: PSU gay-friendly

For the second year in a row Penn State received a top rating for LGBT conducive atmosphere.

By Eddie Lau
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State is one of 19 colleges and universities in the nation to receive a five-star rating for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgen-

der (LGBT) inclusion and friendliness. The Campus Pride Climate Index was announced on Monday by Campus Pride, a Charlotte, N.C.-based organization that promotes an LGBT-friendly learning environment.

Five stars is the group's highest rating.

Colleges are ranked from one to five stars, depending on the answers those colleges provide to Campus Pride, according to the

press release. The index looked at university policies, programs and practices concerning LGBT community.

"I am very exciting about the rating — it shows the progress and the wonderful things that Penn State have in place," said Allison Subasic, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered and Allies (LGBTAA) Student Resource Center director.

This is the second year Penn State received a five-star rating.

Other 5-stars

Carleton College
Ithaca College
Princeton University
Princeton University
San Diego State University
Syracuse University
The Ohio State University
University of California Berkeley
University of California, Los Angeles
University of Oregon
University of Pennsylvania
University of Vermont

Berns picks new team

UPUA adds group liaisons

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The 11 new student government liaisons didn't have to submit an application or run in an election to be appointed, but the leaders who selected them say the process still produced the best possible people for the jobs.

University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) Student Life and Diversity Director Michal Berns and President Christian Ragland worked together to place the new liaisons across areas like Greek Affairs, Religious Affairs and Multicultural Affairs.

In the interest of speeding up the selection process, Berns (senior-media studies) said she thought it'd be best to forgo an open application.

"We needed people immediately so we could be able to contact them over the summer," she said.

"If we opened up the application to everyone, the whole process would have taken a month or two and would have gone on into the [fall] semester."

Ragland (junior-political science) said he did publicize several of the positions — Community Services Liaison, Campus Sustainability Liaison, Health Services Liaison and Sports Services Liaison — via Twitter, asking interested students to contact him.

Otherwise, he said, the selection process was essentially a matter of looking for "known faces" in various areas of student life. For example, he said, new Women's Affairs Liaison Dahiana Tejada (senior-geography and Latin American Studies) is involved in the Commission for Women.

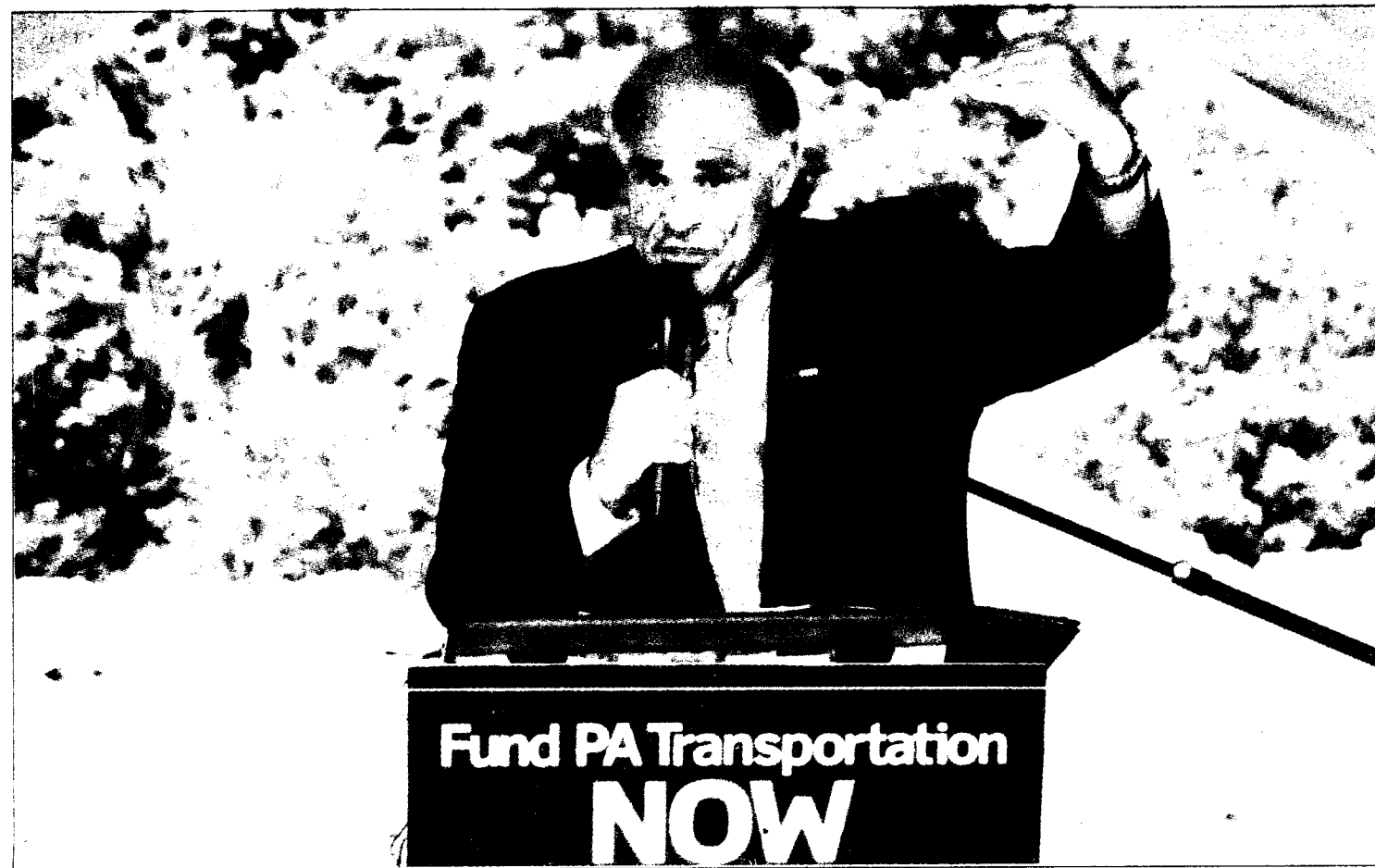
Berns said she and Ragland looked for people they knew personally when choosing the liaisons.

"If I knew them personally already, there's already a trust built up there," Berns said.

She also said there was no set criteria for the liaisons, but she sought out people who were involved and interested in the field for which they were chosen, and who were able to devote enough time to serving as a bridge of communication between UPUA and their assigned area.

When selecting the Greek Affairs Liaison, Berns said she contacted Interfraternity Council (IFC) Executive Vice President Dan Florencio because she is close with him and could trust the person he recommended to her.

Florencio said it made sense to see UPUA, Page 2.



M. Antonio Silas/Collegian

Gov. Ed Rendell speaks under a tent on the side of I-80 about the importance of fixing Pennsylvania's transportation roads and bridges.

Rendell highlights Pa. roadways

By Paul Osolnick
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

BELLEFONTE — Gov. Ed Rendell stood along Rt. 26 Wednesday and proposed several potential revenue sources that could help the state's shortage of transportation funding. The press conference is a part of Rendell's statewide tour to discuss potential solutions to the gap in funds for repairs to Pennsylvania's bridges and roadways.

Rendell is making stops in specific locations around the state where roadways and structurally deficient bridges are in need of repair.

Rendell stopped in the Bellefonte/State College area to address the need for repairs to the Route 26 roadway and the bridges over I-80.

The governor discussed several ways the state could make changes in current taxes and transportation-related expenses

to close the gap in infrastructure funding.

One idea proposed by the governor is to take gas income tax out of the corporate net income tax and have companies — like Exxon-Mobil — pay the company net profits tax.

Rendell said the amount of money going to the state would increase from \$70 million a year to almost \$800 million annually.

"Now I'm happy to turn the mic over to anybody who wants to

speaking on behalf of Exxon-Mobil or BP or Shell," Rendell said. "Anybody that thinks that we're taxing them too high right now — and that this is unfair — don't you think that people that make the biggest profit from a transportation network should pay a significant share of the cost of keeping that network up? I do."

Rendell said another way to gather money to fund infrastructure is raising the cost of licenses

See RENDELL, Page 2.



Steph Witt/Collegian

Freeze Thaw Cycles settled into its new location.

Bike shop finds niche

By Nathan Pipenberg
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

At first glance, the new store doesn't look much different than the old one. Skeletons of bikes — minus wheels and other essentials — hang on racks and wait to become part of a project.

A look into the back of the shop reveals the same wrenches surrounding a pair of stands ready to hold the bikes that require some maintenance. A dog's wagging tail is still the first thing to greet customers through the door.

Welcome to Freeze Thaw Cycles.

Jordyn Drayton, 27, has seen his shop through three moves — from a below-ground Fraser Street location, to a second story shop on Calder Way, to this — prime real estate on the 100 block of South Allen Street, finally with no steps leading up or down to the front door.

See BIKE, Page 2.

UPUA invests in future Freshman internship showcases job

By Zach Geiger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

For freshmen interested in student government but who don't know where to start, the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) internship program is a way to get an early start, student body president Christian Ragland said.

"We want to show them how the executive board and UPUA works and prepare them for a future in UPUA," Ragland (senior-political science) said.

The internship spots are only available to freshmen, Ragland said. During the

summer session, he said about 30 to 40 freshmen expressed interest in getting involved in UPUA.

But the number of internship positions all depends on the number of applicants during the fall semester, UPUA freshmen outreach executive director Rebecca Alt (sophomore-communication arts and sciences) said.

"It all depends on the pool of applicants," Alt said. "We won't turn people away because we ran out of [executive] board members."

Each intern will be paired with a member of the UPUA executive board, Alt said. If more applicants than executive board members apply for the internship positions, the program could be expanded to

See INTERN, Page 2.



Ragland

PSU graduates cash in on 'SLIZ' idea

After inventing a drinking gadget with their friends, a few alumni are hoping to market their idea nationally.

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

During their time here, some Penn State graduates engineered a way to drink liquor without actually tasting anything — and they say it may become the next social staple for college students across the nation.

Their product is the SLIZ Cup — a "drinking vessel designed to eliminate the cringe between taking a shot and reaching for the chaser," said Anthony Vella, one of the product's creators.

It's a cup on top, with a straw for the handle.

To get the shot and chaser experience, co-creator Mauricio Foire, Class of 2010, said users pour the alcohol into the SLIZ cup, add a non-alcoholic beverage and then drink quickly through the straw before letting the drink mix.

The invention quickly became popular with their college friends, and soon it may be sold in Urban Outfitters and college bookstores, said co-creator Carolyn Rees, Class of 2010.

But for the time being, SLIZ cups are only sold online at sliz.com and at some downtown State College stores, like Metro, People's Nation and Old State Clothing, Vella, Class of 2010, said.

Inventing, marketing and selling SLIZ has been quite the experience, Vella said. The group got the chance to

See SLIZ, Page 2.

