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38 cents off campus

UPUA to close office

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After the \$5,200 Downtown Student Center sat vacant for much of its 2009-2010 lease, the student government opted not to renew the initiative this year and will instead be focusing its town-gown efforts elsewhere.

The lease on the 130 E. Beaver Ave. property expired July 31, but University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) officials say

the decision to close its doors was made several months ago.

UPUA first purchased the office's 12-month lease in June 2009, using funds left over from its 2008-2009 budget. At the time, former UPUA President Gavin Keirans said he hoped to begin using it in September 2009, but the office didn't open its doors until January.

Following its opening, an audit was conducted by UPUA to determine whether the initiative was

mismanaged, and the investigation eventually found that the office's delayed opening was the result of a "lack of initial planning."

When UPUA President Christian Ragland took office this year, he said he didn't enter into his term as president intending to use the Downtown Student Center.

Ragland (senior-political science) said he received a letter about renewing the lease shortly

The history

June 2009: UPUA obtains lease for downtown office

January 2010: Office first opens doors, four months behind schedule

April 15, 2010: UPUA approves new budget, without funds for downtown office

July 31, 2010: Downtown office's lease expires

after he began his term in April but is unsure of the exact deadline
See UPUA, page 2.

Police find body

Student dies following fall

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Police found a Penn State student dead at about 12:40 a.m. today on the 200 block of "F" Alley, west of the Beaver Avenue Garage, and foul play is not suspected, the State College Police Department said.

Centre LifeLink officials were called to the scene along with Centre County Coroner Scott Sayers, who pronounced the 23-year-old dead as a result of a fall from the Beaver Avenue Garage, police said.

Police said they have not found anything that leads them to believe the death was a result of a criminal act.

Police could not confirm the cause of death or if alcohol was involved.

The coroner and medical examiner could not be reached for comment and are still looking into the cause of death, police said.

State College Police Detective J.W. Aston is investigating the incident, police said, and information will not be released until the detective is "100 percent sure" all family members of the student have been notified.

Police are still investigating the incident and said they arrived at the scene in response to a report of an unresponsive person.

Police said the Penn State Office of Student Affairs was notified, and officials from the office are providing assistance to family and friends.

Penn State officials could not be reached for comment.

The student's identity will be released once the family has been notified, police said. Police said more details are expected today.

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Steph Witt/Collegian

The Cast of Beatlemania, a Beatles tribute band, performed in front of a packed crowd last night on the Old Main lawn.

Beatlemania invades Penn State

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Old Main lawn was packed as audience members of The Cast of Beatlemania were transported back to a time when people were 'free as a bird.'

The Cast — a band that impersonates The Beatles — was the fourth performance of Downtown State College's First Thursday Series.

The Cast is a spin-off of the

Beatlemania show that previously ran on Broadway. Only one original member of the Broadway show remains, but the current members have been performing together since the mid-90s, said Carlo Cantamessa, who impersonates John Lennon.

"The most fun I've had is with The Cast," he said. "We're more like a band of brothers than a band of musicians. [It's] a great group of guys to be with."

This past concert marks the

eight year that The Cast has performed in State College, Cantamessa said.

Dylan Dziuba said he went to last year's show because he loves The Beatles.

"They're legend, and Beatlemania is just keeping the legend going," Dziuba (sophomore-aerospace) said.

Jim Palmer, who came to the show with Dziuba, said he also enjoys seeing The Cast perform. "For people of our generation,

we never got to see The Beatles live, so this is really the next best thing," Palmer (sophomore-civil engineering) said.

Though audience member Steve Brezler did not mention attending a live performance of The Beatles, he said he grew up hearing the band's music.

"I was brought up on The Beatles through their albums," Brezler, of State College, said. "So far [The Cast] sounds authentic. See BEATLES, page 2.



Alex Brandon/Associated Press

Elena Kagan answers questions at her hearing.

Senate OKs Elena Kagan

By Julie Hirschfel Davis
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON — The Senate confirmed Elena Kagan Thursday as the Supreme Court's 112th justice and the fourth woman in its history, granting a lifetime term to a lawyer and academic with a reputation for brilliance, a dry sense of humor and a liberal bent.

The vote was 63-37 for President Barack Obama's nominee to succeed retired Justice John Paul Stevens.

Five Republicans joined all but one Democrat and the Senate's two independents to support Kagan. In a rarely practiced ritual reserved for the most historic votes, senators sat at their desks and stood to cast their votes with "ayes" and "nays."

Kagan watched the vote with her Justice Department colleagues in the solicitor general's conference room, the White House said.

Obama, traveling in Chicago, said her confirmation was an affirmation of her character and judicial temperament, and called the addition of another woman to the court a sign of progress for the country.

Kagan isn't expected to alter the ideological balance of the court, where Stevens was considered a leader of the liberal wing. But the two parties
See KAGAN, page 2.

Ragland to travel to conference

UPUA will participate in Big Ten student leader meeting

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The student leaders traveling to the Association of Big Ten Students conference in Columbus, Ohio this weekend said they hope to return with new ideas and feedback on current initiatives.

University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) President Christian Ragland and Director of Governmental Affairs Travis Salters said the conference will be a good opportunity to hear criticism and comments from student leaders from other universities on initiatives before they decide to implement them in the fall.

The pair will spend the weekend at the Ohio State University networking,

attending workshops and even proposing legislation for the Big Ten student leaders to support, Ragland (senior-political science) said.

Salters (junior-broadcast journalism and African and African-American studies) is currently working to unite all Pennsylvania colleges in the Pennsylvania Student Association — which would work to represent student issues in Harrisburg — and said he is most excited to see if any other state has a similar program.

"If they are, that would be awesome because I could get a lot of tips,

advice and help," Salters said.

Salters said he wants to hear about programs other student governments have put in place to solve issues that Penn State students are facing, like having a voice in the university's budget process.

For Ragland, the trip isn't much of a social gathering, but rather a forum to discuss issues like sustainability, town and gown relations and campus safety.

"It's a good opportunity to get inclined to what's going on in the Big Ten, because we all face the same issues," he said.

Ohio State has a subsidized program with the Princeton Review for preparatory classes for the GRE, LSAT, MCAT
See RAGLAND, page 2.



Ragland

Student housing part of West End talks

By Paul Osolnick
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Though months of discussion by the borough council have yielded no vote, the proposed zoning changes in the West End of State College could provide opportunities for Penn State students in future developments.

With the possibility of new housing for students, new buildings for businesses and a new plan for greater town-gown relations, the West End zoning ordinance would change building standards for future development, including future building plans for property owned by the university.

The West End ordinance — which, if passed, will affect the building standards of the West End of State College near campus — was originally proposed in 2007.



M. Antonio Sillas/Collegian

Peter Morris discusses the West End plan at a borough council meeting.

The West End Neighborhood Revitalization Plan — which would provide new standards for future building development — would replace the standards set for the Urban Village District.

Council member Peter Morris said the building standards under the Urban Village District need to be replaced because the standards did not inspire a large amount of development in the West End.

The Proposed Ordinance

The West End Traditional Neighborhood Development District would provide the opportunity to redevelop buildings near Penn State's West Campus. That means the proposal could potentially lead to buildings being demolished and replaced with new ones.

Council member James Rosenberger
See WEST END, page 2.