

The Daily Collegian

psucollegian.com

@dailycollegian

Published independently by students at Penn State

Vol. 111 No. 30

Monday, Aug. 23, 2010

30 cents off campus

QB list narrows

By Andrew J. Cassavell
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

There may not be a more pressing question in Happy Valley these days than who will start at quarterback when Penn State kicks off its season against Youngstown State on Sept. 4.

And there may not be anyone who wants the answer more than the man who ultimately has the power to make that decision: football coach Joe Paterno.

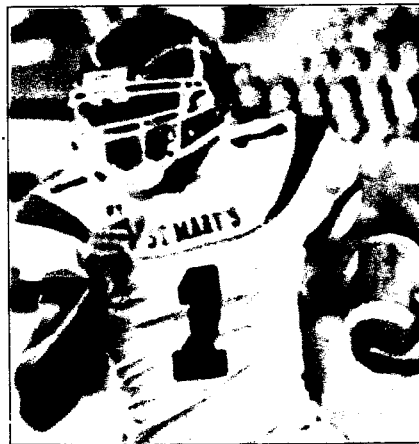
Despite the quarterback race being narrowed from four to three last week

— freshman Paul Jones apparently the odd man out after the coaching staff reportedly opted to redshirt him — no decision has been made on Kevin Newsome, Matt McGloin or Robert Bolden being the starter. And that decision may not be announced until next week.

“There isn’t anybody with any experience out there,” said Paterno, who hasn’t seen a true freshman start the

See **QUARTERBACKS**, Page 2.

A look ahead at this year’s football season | **SPORTS**, Page 18.



Courtesy of Robert Bolden

Robert Bolden makes a run during one of his high school football games.

Leaders question THON structure

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Top student leaders say they disagree with the THON overall committee’s decisions to select greek liaisons without greek input and to not release complete fundraising totals for the second consecutive year.

Interfraternity Council (IFC) President Max Wendkos said the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon overall committee is making policy decisions without soliciting input or informing students, but THON Overall Chairwoman Kirsten Kelly said the committee’s decisions are what’s best for the children they raise money for.

Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) said the THON overall committee recently e-mailed IFC and Panhellenic Council (PHC) officials to inform them that they will not be part of the selection of the Greeks 4 Kids liaisons to the THON communications committee this year.

Wendkos, who said he is not speaking on behalf of the IFC executive board, said the e-mail about the selection changes was “disturbingly nonchalantly” phrased.

“At this point, [Greeks 4 Kids] doesn’t have a clear enough direction to warrant having input on our communication captains,” Kelly said.

And for the second consecutive year, only the fundraising totals announced during THON will be posted online — part of an effort to decrease competition among groups, Kelly said.

But Wendkos said that competitive spirit is vital to raising money for THON.

“What would Kirsten Kelly prefer?” Wendkos asked. “A THON with less competition that raises less for the kids or a THON with the usual amount of competition that raises more for the kids?”

He said THON needs more internal checks and balances, as there are “red flags everywhere” regarding internal THON issues.

Last year, the IFC, PHC and THON overall committee jointly selected the communication liaisons from the greek community, Wendkos said.

But this year, the overall committee will select the liaisons without IFC or PHC input.

Greeks 4 Kids — which was formed last year to unite greeks in THON-related issues — is not yet recognized by the university, Kelly said.

The liaisons replaced the two greek associate vice president positions on the THON overall committee in 2009.

PHC President Sara Linkosky (senior-political science) said the THON overall chairperson holds too much power, and THON should be held accountable like other student organizations.

The controversy surrounding the Greeks 4 Kids liaisons isn’t the only change garnering criticism.

Upholding last year’s policy change, THON officials decided that only the fundraising totals announced at THON will go online, Kelly (senior-marketing) said.

“That is an effort to take focus away from competing with each other and focusing on the kids,” Kelly said.

For Wendkos, the worry is that students aren’t being made aware of the changes.

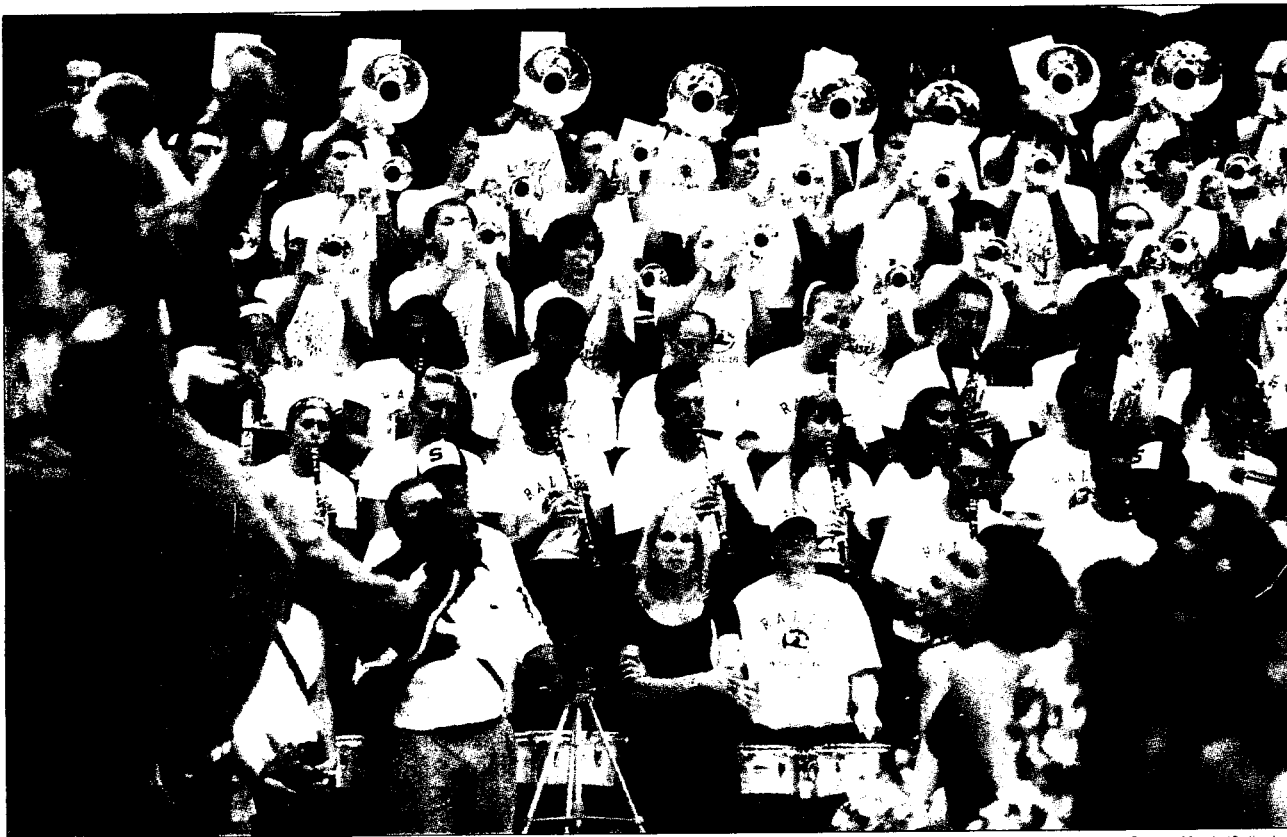
“I don’t understand why the THON overall committee — which is representing the thousands of students who are passionate about THON — is making such impactful decisions without considering that dynamic,” he said.



Wendkos



Kelly



Kelly Rootes-Murdy, Collegian

The Penn State Nittany Lion mascot helps welcome freshmen at the Be A Part From The Start pep rally in Rec Hall Sunday.

Rally welcomes freshmen

By Alyssa Sweeney
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Thousands of first-year students stood shoulder-to-shoulder, shouted Penn State fight songs and cheered as the Nittany Lion mascot raced through 14 one-armed pushups for the Class of 2014 at the Be A Part From The Start pep rally last night.

The event, held at Rec Hall and sponsored by the Lion Ambassadors, kicked off this year’s Welcome Week.

“All the hype is crazy. I’ve never seen

anything like this back home,” said Charlise Harris (freshman-division of undergraduate studies) after she took part in her first Penn State wave.

Charlise was one of about 7,000 to 8,000 freshmen that hiked to West campus to watch the Lionettes, learn fight songs, and of course, meet the Nittany Lion mascot.

“Hold on tight, freshmen. Your journey begins now,” yelled a Lion Ambassador as the rally began.

Performers ranged from members of the Lionettes, Penn State Glee Club and

Penn State Blue Band — plus cheerleaders and majorettes.

“We’re the spirit of Penn State — it’s our job to help create the energy,” said Lionette Kayla Weaver (sophomore-journalism).

Many Lion Ambassadors spent the summer in State College planning the rally to make sure the freshmen started the year off with a bang.

See **RALLY**, Page 2.

More coverage of new students’ first weekend on campus | **NEWS**, Page 4.



Collegian file photo

Officials visit a house during last year’s LION Walk.

Officials to LION Walk

By Colleen Boyle
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

A special “welcome back” from university and State College borough officials will greet some off-campus students on their doorsteps tonight.

Penn State President Graham Spanier, State College Mayor Elizabeth Goreham and other notable figures in the Penn State community will kick off the 2010 fall semester with LION Walk.

For three years, the Living In One Neighborhood (LION) Walk has given officials a chance to rub elbows with students and distribute information about being a good neighbor in a community where college students and permanent residents co-exist.

“This is a terrific collaboration between the university and the borough,” Penn State spokeswoman Lisa Powers said. “We know that there are sometimes issues that arise in the neighborhoods where students and residents need to co-exist, and this is just one step in finding some common ground, creating mutual respect and fostering good old-fashioned neighborliness.”

See **WALK**, Page 2.

Friends and family remember student

By Brendan McNally
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State student Tom Richards dreamed of going to law school and becoming a judge one day — a goal his father said he had no doubt his son would have accomplished.

Richards’ dream was cut short last week when he died in the early morning of Aug. 16 after suffering a seizure, Penn State spokeswoman Lisa Powers said. He was attending a retreat at Camp Blue Diamond

in Petersburg, Pa., with the Schreyer Honors College’s Leadership Jumpstart class,

Powers said.

Richards’ father, also Tom Richards, said he would have loved to see the day his son accomplished his goals.

“He was going to do it,” his father said. “He didn’t think that

See **STUDENT**, Page 2.



Richards

Matisyahu to perform acoustic set on lawn

By David Strader
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

If you’ve never seen a Jewish orthodox reggae rapper, now is your chance.

Matisyahu will perform an acoustic set at 5 p.m. Sept. 1 on the HUB lawn.

The musical performance will be the main attraction for the Jewish Life Festival, which will host an assortment of Jewish traditions, such as kosher hot dogs and Challah bread, among other attractions.

The Chabad Jewish Student Organization will host the event, and it is free to everyone.

Niki Hetchkop, a member of the event organization committee, said the event

If you go

What: Matisyahu to perform at the Jewish Life Festival

When: 5-8 p.m. Sept. 1

Where: HUB-Robeson Center Lawn

Details: Free

is the ideal way to help kick off the school year.

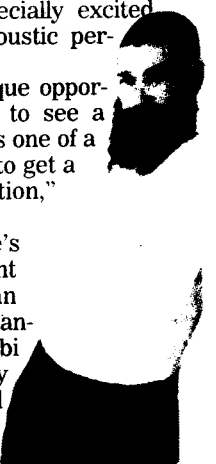
“It’s the beginning of school and freshman kids want to get involved, so this should bring a fun event to Penn State for them,” Hetchkop (senior-communications) said.

Hetchkop is especially excited for Matisyahu’s acoustic performance.

“It’s a really unique opportunity for students to see a Jewish rapper that’s one of a kind, and it’s going to get a lot of attention,” Hetchkop said.

Penn State’s Chabad has brought Matisyahu to Penn State before, but organization leader Rabbi Nossion Meretsky said this time will have a much more

See **RAPPER**, Page 2.



GoPSUsports.com/StudentCentral
TICKETS | PROMOS | JOB OPPORTUNITIES