

NEWS IN BRIEF

Former PSU instructor sentenced

Eliot Preschutti was sentenced Tuesday to time served with immediate release following two years of criminal disputes with a former girlfriend.

Student injured after jump from window

A Penn State student was seriously injured after jumping from a second story window at 2:18 a.m. Tuesday at 128 W. Hamilton Ave., the State College Police Department said.

LUNCH

Findlay, Pollock, Redifer and Warnock: canteloupe slices, hot and sour soup, mushroom barley soup, Asian bbq pork sandwich, Asian stir-fry, Shanghai chicken, sticky rice, vegetable egg roll, vegetable lo mein, Kyoto blend, sauteed zucchini

DINNER

Findlay, Pollock, Redifer and Warnock: mixed melon cup, hot and sour soup, mushroom barley soup, cajun baked tilapia, chicken marsala, grilled chicken breast, penne pasta with roasted tomato sauce, romano cheese, Antigua blend, sauteed zucchini, whipped sweet potatoes

Corrections

An article "Green space to honor Phi Delta Theta" on page 3 of Monday's Daily Collegian incorrectly stated the address of the former Phi Delta Theta fraternity house.

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Marines likely to stay in Afghanistan

Leaders warn of long fight ahead despite 2011 pullout

By Anne Flaherty ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON — It will likely be a few years before Afghanistan is secure enough for the U.S. Marines to leave, Commandant Gen. James Conway said Tuesday.

He was adding his voice to a growing chorus of military leaders warning of a long fight ahead in the Middle Eastern country.

Afghan war commander Gen. David Petraeus and other senior officers have recently said that considerable time will be needed before Afghan troops can take over the fight.

But Conway's blunt assessment was the first of its kind to come from a service chief since President Barack Obama announced that U.S. troops will begin leaving Afghanistan in July 2011.

Last fall, Obama said that security conditions will determine how many forces can leave and how fast. Conway also said intelligence intercepts suggest that Taliban fighters have been encouraged by the talk of the U.S. beginning to withdraw troops next year.

"In some ways, we think right now it's probably giving our enemy sustenance," Conway said of the 2011 deadline.

"We think that he may be saying to himself ... 'Hey, you know, we only have to hold out for so long.'"

But, Conway quickly added, the perception that the U.S. is pulling out completely is likely to work in America's favor after the deadline passes.

"Though I certainly believe some American unit somewhere in Afghanistan will turn over responsibilities to Afghan security forces in 2011, I do not think they will be Marines."

Commandant Gen. James Conway U.S. Marines

Even after the deadline, Marines will likely still be fighting insurgents.

Taliban morale is likely to drop when "come the fall we're still there hammering them like we have been," he said.

"I think it could be very good for us in that context, in terms of the enemy psyche," he said.

The Marines have been at the forefront of America's toughest fights in the Afghanistan war.

Those include attempts to oust the Taliban from the farming hamlets of Marjah in Helmand province.

Conway has been known for his candor. He's planning to retire this fall after 40 years in the Marines.

"Though I certainly believe some American unit somewhere in Afghanistan will turn over responsibilities to Afghan security forces in 2011, I do not think they will be Marines," he told reporters in his opening remarks at a Pentagon news conference.

Conway noted that Helmand and Kandahar are considered the "birthplace" of the Taliban.

"I honestly think it will be a few years before conditions on the ground are such that turnover will be possible for us," he said.

wants to prepare Marines for the likelihood that the war will continue past the 2011 deadline.

He recently returned from a trip to Afghanistan.

There, he said morale was high because Marines "can sense conditions are turning their direction."

Conway also said he believes that the Afghanistan government's effort to reconcile with low-level Taliban foot soldiers could be a "game changer" in the war.

But "when that will come remains to be seen," Conway said.

When asked about a proposal in Congress to lift the military's ban on openly gay service members, Conway said he still opposes such a move.

He said that Marines in particular recruit "pretty macho" young Americans.

Many of them, Conway said, have religious objections to sharing a room with a gay person.

But if the law changes, the Marine Corps will "deal" with it and not drag its feet, he said.

"We've got a war to fight," he said. "We need to, if the law changes, implement (it) and get on with it."

Fees

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throughout the fall and spring semesters, Mixon said.

Last spring, the IFC announced that recruitment would be alcohol-free in an attempt to focus on "value-based" recruitment, Mixon said.

And, Mixon said, the focus on values and the positive relationships among the brothers will continue for

the current rush season.

Formal recruitment starts on Monday the 30th, with the first of four "zone days," but interested recruits can get more information at one of the eight information sessions or at Thursday's Greek Involvement Fair in the HUB, Mixon said.

During zone days, fraternities are divided into geographic zones and only fraternities in a certain zone hold open houses on their designated day, Mixon said.

Wendkos said this makes it easier for freshman to navigate the fraternities — which can be difficult, because Penn State has one of the largest IFC programs in the world.

Registration for recruitment is currently ongoing and potential new recruits can sign up even after the zone days — which end September 2 — but they must be registered to accept a bid.

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Budget

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UPUA President Christian Ragland said the student leaders sent the proposal because they wanted to be a "voice for students," especially since a tuition increase was approved at this summer's Board of Trustees meeting in DuBois, Pa.

"[The approved proposal] is a big accomplishment for us in the summertime," Ragland (senior-political science) said. "We're very excited about us being a voice on these meetings."

Because the meetings will be spaced throughout the year, student government leaders will be able to advocate and show legislators they're "proactive," he said.

The partnership Ragland and

Raouda established this summer extends beyond the work environment.

Ragland and Raouda have formed such a strong friendship they even decided to set up eHarmony pages together.

"The most important thing is me and Mo have eHarmony profiles because we can't find girlfriends," Ragland said, laughing. "We have matching profiles."

Both presidents said they hope to extend the partnership into the school year.

"There's more to come," Raouda said.

"This is just the beginning."

At the Wednesday UPUA meetings, Sanny Hines will act as a liaison for CCSG, and leaders from UPUA will sit on CCSG's meetings, Raouda said.

In the next week, Ragland said he

will nominate a Commonwealth Outreach Director to further communication between the two governmental organizations.

Ragland and Raouda also worked on an Information

Technology proposal to acquire student representation on the board, Raouda said.

With representation, they hope to be able to work on issues like using part of the activity fee for wireless internet, he said.

Overall, Ragland and Raouda said they aspire to strengthen the lines of communication between UPUA and CCSG.

"It goes back to the phrase 'There's strength in numbers,'" Ragland said.

"At the end of the day, we're representing the same university."

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Shale

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about the environmental impact of Marcellus Shale gas drilling.

But, he said, MCOR could raise public awareness of Marcellus Shale drilling.

Tutolo said Eco-Action supports a tax on the natural gas.

That tax, he said, will go toward

enforcing environmental regulations intended to prevent damage to the environment.

One of MCOR's goals is to research how the drilling industry can operate while still being environmentally friendly, Murphy said.

"We will be working with the technical, as well as the environmental, side to utilize those expertise so that [drilling] will be done in an environmentally sustainable fashion,"

Murphy said.

Arthur said the natural gas in Pennsylvania could meet the needs of the entire country for 20 years based on current rates of consumption.

He added that MCOR hopes to find new uses for natural gas after the industry becomes established in the state.

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Magic

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dexterity back in my hands. That's where my love of magic started."

And Kredible had advice for students who are interested in magic and want to learn more.

"Find a community with people who have the same aspirations," Kredible said.

"Share tricks and do what you love to do."

Especially at a big school with great resources like Penn. State, amateur magicians are bound to find someone to relate to, he said.

Alexandra Collins, a member of the Penn State Performing Magicians, agreed with Kredible's advice.

"My freshman year I went to the

involvement fair and saw kids doing tricks," Collins (junior-secondary math education) said. "It was something I always wanted and thought about doing. I started not knowing anything and learned tricks through the club."

Penn State Performing Magicians President Ravender Virk began doing magic as a junior in high school. Once he joined the magic club at Penn State, his expertise and love for magic grew.

"We provide feedback for each other," Virk (sophomore-electrical engineering) said. "It's nice to have feedback because you can test out the trick and we can tell each other what's wrong before we get in front of the audience."

Kirk, who plans to go to Kredible's performance, said the fun part for the club members is trying to figure

out how the magicians do the tricks. "Sometimes we know how they do it but other times we sit there just like the rest of the audience," Kirk said.

McKnight said Kredible is usually willing to mentor students after his performance, if they are interested in talking to him.

Seeing other magicians perform encouraged Kredible to do magic. As a kid, his parents would take him to see his idols like David Copperfield and Lance Burton.

"Lance Burton would do acts in tuxedos, so I did [that]," Kredible said.

"But I realized doing shows in tuxedos is weird. Through trial and error I found my personal voice by imitating my idols."

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Website

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it's more motivation for doing well in classes.

"It makes you set high goals for yourself, because you have other rewards for doing well besides boosting your GPA," McClintock said.

That's the concept in a nutshell:

improve grades, earn money, Gelbart said. Because the incentive is customized to the individual using it, even a 'D' student who improves to a 'C' will be rewarded for his academic progress.

Mike Alexander (junior-marketing) said he isn't interested in Ultrinsic because it clearly sounds like gambling.

Alexander said he doesn't need any financial motivation to do well in

class — his grades are for his personal satisfaction.

But Gelbart said the reason people label Ultrinsic as gambling is because it's new, and they don't know how to categorize and deal with it. Ultrinsic's creators are open to discussing the site with people and explaining it to them, Gelbart said.

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