

Marshal selected

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Speed skating Olympian Allison Baver is the first Commonwealth Campus alumna to ever be selected as Penn State's Homecoming Grand Marshal.

Baver's selection was announced on Wednesday, and members of the homecoming committee said there are plenty of reasons why Baver. Class of 2003, is a great representative for the university.

Caitlin Rush, Homecoming public relations director, said Baver is a "timely" alumna because of her recent appearance and accomplishments in the Winter Olympics. Baver earned her first Olympic medal at the Vancouver games, where she placed third in the 3,000-meter relay.

But it's not just her professional accomplishments that earned Baver, who was unavailable for comment, her title.

Baver's philanthropic work also makes her a strong representa-

tive for the university, Homecoming Alumni Relations Director DJ Ryan said.

Baver began the "Off the Ice" program, which encourages young children — especially children from disadvantaged areas — to get involved in speed skating, Ryan (senior-communication arts and sciences) said.

"It seems like she's constantly doing something in an advocacy level," he said. "That made me realize we made a good choice."

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David J. Phillip/Associated Press

Allison Baver skates at Vancouver.

Loop cuts back hours

Late bus now runs to 4 a.m.

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The contract for the White Loop extension program — initiated last spring — has been renewed for the fall semester but will only be available until 4 a.m. as opposed to the previous 4:30 a.m.

With the reduction in the time the student government-sponsored program runs, there's a "substantial difference in the cost," said Doug Holmes, interim director of transportation at Penn State.

"The spring semester was the first trial period of the year," University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) President Christian Ragland said. "After looking at the spring semester, we saw that it wasn't really being used from 4 a.m. to 4:30 a.m."

Ragland (senior-political science) said student safety was the reason UPUA members wanted to have the program.

But the program has not only been beneficial for students — the Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) said it fulfilled the two goals CATA had.

"[We wanted] to establish a partnership with UPUA, and also through the extensions, we saw the possibility to mitigate the behavioral issues we saw between 2 a.m. and 2:30 a.m.," CATA Service Development Manager Eric Bernier said.

Bernier said the extension proved successful for last semester.

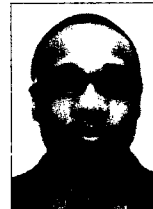
"People don't have to rush home at 2 a.m. for the last trip, so the buses weren't as crowded," he said. "People weren't as charged up when they came on the bus."

Holmes said the program is still in its trial period, and should problems arise, the extended hours will be "re-looked."

Ragland said a full year is necessary for a "firmer perspective" on the success of the program.

The White Loop will begin its extended hours this weekend, and student ambassadors from various student organizations will continue to ride the buses during the extended hours to

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Ragland



Amanda August/Collegian

Al Brulo (senior-civil engineering) interacts with magician Justin Kredible during his show on Wednesday night in Heritage Hall. Kredible performed Wednesday night, mixing his magic with comedy to target his show to a college-aged audience.

Magician gives 'Kredible' show

By Heather Panetta
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Chatter and laughter quickly filled the Paul Robeson Cultural Center's Heritage Hall on Wednesday night as students piled in to see magician Justin Kredible perform.

"Like a magician but cooler," Kredible said as he got the crowd motivated by shouting to each side and asking where the freshmen were. Kredible can also be

seen as the host of Cupcake Wars on the Food Network.

The Magician got the ball rolling, literally, for his first trick. Urging the audience to clap to Kings of Leon's song "Taper Jean Girl," Kredible drew a bowling ball on a large notepad. He then closed the notepad and a real bowling ball dropped out.

Kredible's mix of comedy and magic is what students said they could really relate to and what makes him stand out from

other magicians they've seen.

"He seemingly combined humor with magic," said Ravender Virk (sophomore-electrical engineering), the president of the Penn State Performing Magicians.

"And that is what a lot of modern magicians strive for, especially those who do shows at college campuses."

Several students were asked to assist Kredible on some of his tricks, including one student who

offered Kredible a hundred-dollar bill to use in his trick.

Kredible had the volunteer write her name on the bill, fold it and place it in an envelope. Combined with three other sealed decoy envelopes he had put a folded post-it note in. Kredible told her to pick the envelope she believed the money was in as he shredded the rest of them. The student opened the envelope she picked and did not find her money.

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Copper Beech renews bus contract

By Anita Modi
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Five days after tenants received a notice on their doors informing them that Copper Beech had decided to discontinue CATA bus services, the apartment complex posted another notice: The regular bus routes were back.

The notice, posted Wednesday morning, announced that Copper Beech had reinstated its relationship with the Centre Area Transit Authority, providing more convenient hours to transport

students to and from campus.

According to the notice, Copper Beech will discontinue the private shuttle service it established in CATA's place at the beginning of fall semester.

Dong Liu used the private shuttle Monday morning to get to class and said he was disappointed with the experience.

"The frequency of the buses was unsatisfactory," Liu (graduate-civil engineering) said. "Also, it only stopped at the west side of campus, so I had a long walk to class."

Effective immediately, CATA will now provide service to tenants of Copper Beech's two Aaron Drive locations and to its sister property, Parkway Plaza Apartments.

The notice stated that the same quality and frequency of service from previous years will be upheld.

"Copper Beech is thankful to CATA and to our tenants for working together with us to resolve this situation," a Copper Beech representative wrote in an e-mail. "We

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Andrew Dunheimer/Collegian

Copper Beech will renew its contract with CATA buses.

Coach talks women's volleyball future

By Emily Kaplan
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Russ Rose addressed reporters Wednesday morning in his annual preseason press conference at the Bryce Jordan Center, but there wasn't much the 56-year-old was willing to give away.

Dressed in a navy blue polo and his signature thin-wired, wide-oval glasses, the head coach of the Penn State women's volleyball team displayed his usual straight-faced sarcasm.

Solemn and cryptic, he refused

to give definite answers on who would replace Alisha Glass as the team's regular setter or who would be in the starting lineup when top-ranked Penn State kicks off the season against North Carolina this Friday.

Rose did, however, want to make one thing clear: He doesn't think his Nittany Lions are a No. 1 team.

Not right now, at least.

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For more coverage on women's volleyball | **SPORTS**, Page 10.



Tyler Sizemore/Collegian

Volleyball Coach Russ Rose talks about the upcoming season.

Students seek say in IT fee

By Micah Wintner
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Many first-year Penn State students leaving home for the first time will quickly have to adapt to rooms without wireless internet — but some student leaders are trying to change that.

Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) President Mohamed Raouda is working with University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) President Christian Ragland to try to increase student oversight over the mandatory information technology (IT) fee.

CCSG recently submitted a proposal that would allow students to set the priority list of what gets funded by the IT fee, Raouda said. Without student oversight, it is difficult to track

See **IT FEE**, Page 2.