

Penn State to increase campus security

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State Police are increasing security efforts in response to a string of 10 indecent exposure incidents that have been reported in university dorms since August 2009.

The number of police officers and student auxiliary officers will be increased near residence halls, said Deputy Director of Penn State Police Tyrone Parham. For security reasons, Parham said he could not confirm how many additional officers will be patrolling or the specific locations where they will be stationed.

Parham said university police is also trying to curb "piggybacking" — the act of holding the door open for a stranger to enter a residence hall behind you.

For students who feel uncomfortable shutting the door in the face of a person walking behind them, Parham said they should keep the situation in perspective. "It's matter of feeling weird versus jeopardizing safety and security of everyone in the building," he said. "You might assume the per-

son doesn't look like a criminal or someone who might put a mask on and expose themselves — and students are trusting their instincts — but the bad thing in this case is the guy probably looks like other students."

Campus-wide security will also be tightened in other ways to streamline safety measures at University Park, said Stan Latta, assistant vice president of the Penn State Office of Housing, Food Services and Residence Life.

If a preliminary trial in the basement hallways of Redifer Commons goes smoothly, students could soon see cameras outside of residence hall entryways. Latta said. The hallways' high-traffic levels, in addition to previous cases of assault, make it a particularly vulnerable area in need of monitoring, he said.

"Our goal would be to place security cameras at major entrances to all residence halls and anywhere we'd like to gain major visibility," Latta said.

Both Latta and Vice President for Finance and Business Al Horvath said card-access systems at University Park will also

receive an upgrade. Latta said the university is looking into a "key-less" entry system for each dorm room, in which students would swipe their student ID card and enter a code on a keypad instead of relying on a traditional lock and key.

The measure was implemented two years ago at Penn State Mont Alto campus and most recently at a new Penn State Harrisburg, said Chris Hurley, senior director for Housing and Food Services at Commonwealth Campuses.

Hurley said all commonwealth campuses are already equipped with security cameras outside of the residence halls.

Ultimately, Penn State President Graham Spanier said the university will determine which methods to implement at University Park based on the projects' costs and achieving the right balance between privacy and security. Latta said Penn State's expanded security efforts began in 2006 and are not a response to the indecent exposure incidents. But in any case, he said, students should not take their safety lightly. "Our community is no different

Indecent exposure incidents prompt increased security

Thirteen indecent exposure cases have been reported on campus and in State College since August 2009.

Date	Location	Masked?
8/10/09	Brumbaugh Hall	Yes
8/14/09	Brumbaugh Hall	Yes
8/21/09	Holmes Hall	Yes
9/6/09	Holmes Hall	Yes
3/2/10	Brumbaugh Hall	Yes
5/8/10	Brumbaugh Hall	Yes
5/21/10	Shulze Hall	No
6/7/10	Heister Hall	Yes
6/11/10	Imperial Towers Apartments, 425 Waupelani Dr.	Yes
8/18/10	Holmes Hall	Yes
8/18/10	Tener Hall	Yes
9/3/10	Nittany Garden Apartments, 445 Waupelani Dr.	Yes
9/3/10	Nittany Garden Apartments, 445 Waupelani Dr.	Yes

Source: Penn State Police and Collegian archives

Junlin Chen/Collegian

than any other community anywhere else," Latta said. "Even though you're on a college campus and you have a perception that you're in Happy Valley, there are crimes that occur on campus and there are those who are curious as to what's behind locked doors."

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Fresh Fest gets new students involved

By Alyssa Sweeney
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Enticed by free Insomnia cookies, College Pizza and Berkey Creamery ice cream, freshmen approached information tables in the East Halls quad on Wednesday at an event to promote student involvement.

Fresh Fest, which is sponsored by the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA), featured the spread of Penn State favorites, as well as a disc jockey and a step performance by members of Kappa Alpha Psi. Right next to the snickerdoodles sat applications for the student government.

"We just want to show them what we're about and reach out to them," said UPUA member Ali Cook (sophomore-finance and economics). "We want them to know we're here as a sounding board for any problems or ideas they may have."

Freshman flocked to the food, but stayed for the information. Students stood listening as UPUA members — which had 100 percent of their assembly present — talked about different ways they could get involved in the student government.

Two freshman positions in UPUA are appointed in the fall, and they can also run in the spring for spots on the assembly the following fall semester, explained campus representative Adam Boyer.



Freshmen students grab their free pizza at Fresh Fest, an event sponsored by UPUA to reach out to those interested in student government involvement.

"All they need is an application," Boyer (junior-history and political science) said.

Attendee Jasmyne Franklin (freshman-hotel, restaurant and institutional management) said that Fresh Fest got her interested in the UPUA.

She said she was involved in student government in high school, and that Fresh Fest sparked her interest.

"I didn't know much about it here before — I'm definitely filling one of these out," she said about the student government applications. "Everyone in it seems really involved."

State College Borough Council President Ron Filippelli also attended the event.

"Everyone on the UPUA this year seems very engaged and passionate, that's a good sign," he said. "This is a good jumpstart for first year students."

Cook said that she hopes this is the first of many Fresh Fests, and that the UPUA would like to see it grow and be held annually. The motion only passed in time to give them a week to prepare, which resulted in it being more casual, she said.

Despite the little time assembly members had to organize the event, UPUA President Christian Ragland said he was pleased with how it came together.

"I'm standing here passing out applications, and I'm actually running out," Ragland (senior-political science) said laughing. "Students are even coming all the way over from West and Pollock for this too. For being put together in a week, I'd definitely say it's going well. Overall, I'm really excited."

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Executive board members elected

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After being interviewed by student government's Internal Development (ID) Committee twice, Nick Coleman, director of Commonwealth Outreach, passed through the assembly with a vote of 24-5-1.

Originally the ID Committee did not confirm a director of Commonwealth Outreach because the committee had questions about the position, Coleman (junior-health policy and administration) said.

Some of the University Park Undergraduate Association (UPUA) members had similar concerns because they questioned the difference between the roles of the director of Commonwealth Outreach and the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments (CCSG) liaison, Sanny Hines.

"Sanny's role is the liaison — to be the eyes and ears for their organization," UPUA President Christian Ragland said. "Nick Coleman's role will be to execute, actually. Nick is extremely qualified and understands student government."

Coleman said he would like to work with other Commonwealth student governments to find ideas that UPUA can work on implementing.

But Coleman was not the only person voted on at the meeting. With a vote of 24-3-3, Chrissy Boggs will now serve as the sub-director of THON under the director of programming. Though Boggs (senior-international politics) stepped down earlier this year from her role as programming chairwoman, she said she is able to tackle the role as sub-director because it's "very focused."

"My sole role will be concentrating my efforts and UPUA efforts on THON," she said. "This is the year to really set a precedent — get really involved."

Ragland (senior-political science) said he is confident that Boggs will be able to perform well because "she has all the experience in the world."

UPUA Vice President Colleen Smith said she was pleased that both positions passed through the assembly.

"These two positions will really almost balance out our executive board. They're both new [positions] but definitely much-needed," Smith (junior-history) said.

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GSA addresses grad student concerns

By Alyssa Sweeney
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Vice President of Student Affairs Damon Sims spoke at the Graduate Student Association (GSA) meeting on Wednesday to address issues concerning students and the relationship between the university and the GSA.

Sims said the GSA is one of the three most significant organizations at this university because of its consistent representation at the Board of Trustees meetings.

"We'd like to work together to enhance the student experience at Penn State for all levels of students," he said.

Members presented Sims with a variety of questions and concerns surrounding the graduate student community at the meeting in the HUB-Robeson Center.

One focus was the tuition of out-of-

state graduate students who are employed by the university. Complaints were made about cost because grad students who also work for Penn State pay taxes without receiving the discounted in-state tuition, and many members said they were having trouble paying for their education.

Sims said he sympathized with their plight.

"A long, long time ago, I was in a situation like yours as a student, and I'm fairly confident that you're not getting rich," he said, laughing.

Sims said he would look into the issue. He also advised the GSA to invite a representative from the Bursar's office to the next meeting and to contact a member of the Board of Trustees to address the problem.

Other members suggested investigating a possible change in policy regarding graduate students being

allowed to take elective classes. At present, classes such as dance and scuba diving are off-limits to grad students, which many agreed would enrich the student experience for them.

GSA President Jon Lozano said plans would be made to explore solutions to the concerns in the upcoming meetings.

He said that he would like to start filling the open positions in the GSA by the next few meetings as well.

GSA executives are looking to fill spots in the Workforce Safety, Internal Development and Student Concerns committees.

"To make sure we serve the diverse needs of the student body, it is very important to fill every position," said GSA Vice President Kimeka Campbell.

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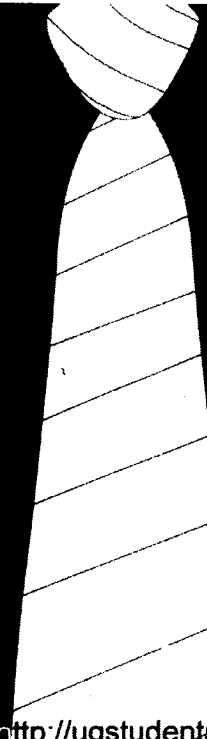
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