

# Schlow Library passes \$2.2M budget

By Nathan Pipenberg  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Schlow Centre Region Library's board of directors passed a \$2.2 million budget Wednesday, an increase from last year despite the poor economy and cuts in state aid.

Though the budget is a 3.9 percent hike from last year, the library has decreased staff and plans to purchase fewer new books than before.

Library Director Cathy Alloway said the library will lose almost \$52,000 in state aid in 2011, and has lost \$120,785 since 2007.

But at least for this year, \$60,000 in donations from the community and a potential increase in Centre Region Council of Governments (COG) funding will cover some of what could have been a gaping hole in the budget.

The library asked for a 2.9 percent increase in COG funding, but it was the library's patrons who came through in the end, Alloway said.

"People in this community are incredibly generous," she said. "We had an outrageously successful fundraising campaign."

While the library's board of directors has already confirmed the budget, Alloway said COG will have to approve the budget as well.

Jody Alessandrine, director of the Downtown State College Improvement District, said every effort to maintain funding levels for the library should be taken.

"It's a wise investment in their community," he said. "People have to be very judicious with their money, but this is one non-profit that has far-reaching effects on the community."

Despite better-than-expected levels of donations, Alloway said the library still has to look for ways to cut costs in order to continue operating with the same standards.

One reason for that, she said, is because maintenance costs have risen over the past few years, especially as more people use the

library's services because of the poor economy.

"People aren't going to the bookstore to buy fiction anymore," she said. "So the library is getting busier."

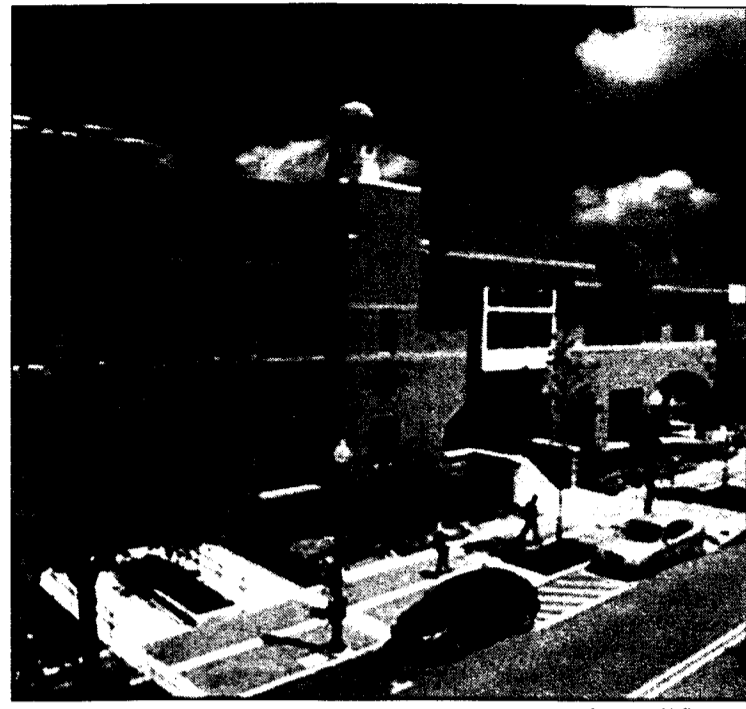
Alloway said the library will be forced to decrease new material purchases this year.

Previously, the library spent about 13 percent of its budget on new books — but this year it will only spend the mandated 12 percent.

Though libraries are supposed to spend more on new materials every year, this year the library will apply for an exemption, allowing it to scale back on new purchases.

Alloway also said the library is looking into adding meters to its parking lot to benefit from customers who visit other downtown businesses after library hours.

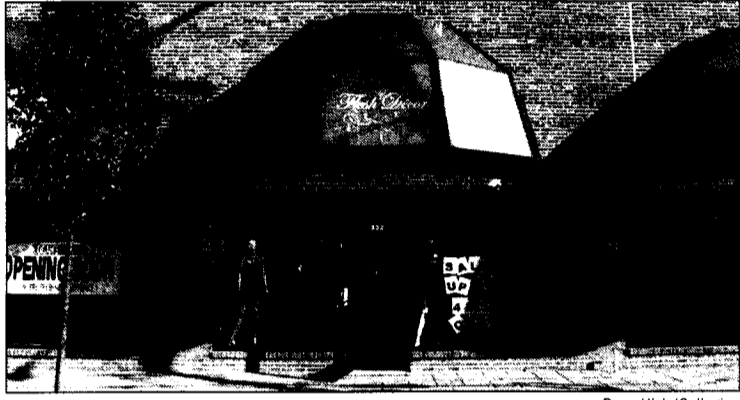
"Librarians are always living on the edge and looking for cheaper ways to do things," she said.



Courtesy of Isfiore.com

Schlow Library Director Cathy Alloway said donations from the community helped cover what could have been a gaping hole in the budget.

To e-mail reporter: [ndp5045@psu.edu](mailto:ndp5045@psu.edu)



Ryan Ulish/Collegian

Flesh Décor, 332 E. Calder Way, is one of the many businesses that have opened recently in State College.

## State College makes room for new stores

By Nathan Pipenberg  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

State College is like a home away from home for many students — with familiar campus landmarks and downtown stores welcoming them back for a new semester.

But like all towns, State College has evolved, with some businesses closing doors and others opening shop.

Students looking for new shopping destinations should begin their search on Calder Way, where three new stores opened over the summer.

One of those is State College's newest convenience store — Calder Convenience, 213 E. Calder Way. The owners of the store find themselves in an already thriving market, with Penn State students often on the lookout for a cheaper cup of coffee or bag of chips.

How does Calder Convenience set itself apart? The owners think they've found the answer with café-style seating, hardwood floors and inexpensive cigarettes that are rolled in front of your eyes.

A first pack of cigarettes — customers can choose from five tobacco blends and a variety of tubes — costs \$3.50. If you buy a carton on your next purchase, the price will stay at \$3.50.

And while co-owner John Yukevich doesn't quite advocate smoking, he swears Calder Convenience offers the cheapest cigarettes in town.

Further down Calder Way, students can find two competing women's clothing boutiques, with storefronts facing each other across the 300 block of the street.

This block of Calder Way isn't the busiest section of downtown State College. In fact, while one side of the block boasts five storefronts, only one is occupied. The lone store is Flesh Décor, 332 E. Calder Way.

Flesh Décor opened in mid-June, but owners Laura Rossman and Sarah Mayville said business has increased drastically since students have returned to Penn State, eager for the latest in trendy formalwear. Mayville said the clothes are designed with a night on the town in mind.

"We do fashion consulting," Rossman said. "We're here to give one-on-one advice."

Across the street from Flesh Décor is longtime State College businessman Art Fine's latest project, Cheap Thrills, 325 E. Calder Way, another store bursting at the seams with women's clothing.

Fine, who also owns downtown Staples People's Nation and Barefoot, said Cheap Thrills occupies a small space he has owned since 1975. Because the building measures less than 1,000 sq. ft., he had to carefully select the clothing Cheap Thrills would sell, eventually deciding on a selection of dresses, tops, leggings, bags, scarves and jewelry for the Penn State fashionista.

Downtown Improvement District Director Jody Alessandrine said the number of new businesses moving in impressed him.

"It's just always good to see growth," he said. "Other downtown areas aren't talking about business moving in and we can do that."

To e-mail reporter: [ndp5045@psu.edu](mailto:ndp5045@psu.edu)

## Graduates struggle with jobs

By Sarah Peters  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After earning three degrees, filling out 100 job applications and getting several interviews, recent Penn State graduate Mike McCallips still hasn't found a full-time profession — but he's not giving up.

McCallips, Class of 2009, earned degrees in information sciences and technology, security and risk analysis and landscape contracting. Despite the obstacles he faces, McCallips said his employed friends have been encouraging, sending him leads from within their companies and advising him to broaden his search.

"If you're set on one area, try to use Internet resources to find areas throughout the United States that are similar and apply there, too," he said. "If you have your heart set on somewhere, don't be afraid to expand your search a little bit."

McCallips — employed as a waiter, but still searching for full-time employment in his field — is among the growing ranks of those battling the recession in their quest to find employment.

Career Services Senior Director Jack Rayman said he encourages students to start looking for a job early and to take advantage of the services avail-

able to them. Though Penn State has one of the best career services programs in the nation, only about half of students use it, Rayman said.

Among graduates from May 2008 to August 2009, 76.9 percent of baccalaureate survey respondents were employed.

That number is usually around 80 percent, Rayman said.

Rayman said he's hopeful, though. More employers are registered to attend career fairs this year and more employers have reserved on-site interview rooms.

Brandon Tricou (senior-electrical engineering) said his job search isn't his "No. 1" priority right now — he's also looking into the Peace Corps — but he's optimistic about finding employment if he chooses that option.

"It seems that most of the sectors I'm looking at, manufacturing and energy, are doing pretty well," Tricou said. "But then again, I'm still early in the process."

But Stephanie Odino (senior-crime, law and justice) said her search has been difficult.

"Even though there's a lot of openings, the competition is still high," Odino said.

Odino said she's visited Career Services three times in an attempt to perfect her resume

Amount of employed graduates from May 2008 to August 2009

Average amount of employed graduates in past years

before sending it to potential employers.

Rayman encouraged jobseekers to be "resilient" in their searches.

"Be persistent and understand that just because you don't get a job on the first second or third try, it doesn't mean it's a reflection on you," Rayman said. "It's probably a reflection of the economy."

Josh Yorke, Class of 2009, is now an actuarial analyst, but getting his job was no easy task. After first being rejected by his current employer, he got a job offer the day after his graduation.

For Yorke, getting a job in the recession meant honing his interview skills.

"For me, it became much more important to master my interviewing skills, because if I didn't have a great interview, I wasn't getting a job," Yorke said.

To e-mail reporter: [svp5071@psu.edu](mailto:svp5071@psu.edu)

## Alumni to host reunion, raise funds

By Paul McMullen  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Students will get a chance to connect with their predecessors this weekend during the Blue-White Black Alumni Reunion, presented by the Penn State Alumni Association.

The reunion, titled "It's About Giving Back," will include a tailgate party at the Penn State Conference Center Hotel to watch the Penn State-Alabama game, a career fair, Friday and Saturday night parties, Sunday brunch, tours and a student-alumni networking reception.

"Alumni love talking to and getting to know current undergraduates," said Roger Williams, executive director of the Penn State Alumni Association. "Students will be given the chance to talk to alumni who are already successful, which gives them a tremendous advantage."

### If you go

**What:** Blue-White Black Alumni Reunion

**Where:** Penn State Hotel and Conference Center

**When:** 10 a.m. Friday

**Details:** Call 800-548-LION (5466) for information

effort to raise \$100,000 by the end of the year to endow the Penn State African American Alumni Organization Trustee Scholarship.

The aim of this scholarship is to extend a helping hand to black students who qualify financially and academically, said Jeff Moore, Class of 1991, chairman of the Black Alumni Reunion.

A portion of the proceeds raised through registration for this event will go towards this endowment, which can provide a boost to those who have trouble making ends meet.

"With the increasing cost of education, it is a difficult task coming up with the funding to receive a first-class education at a place like Penn State," he said. "Our goal is to ease the burden on those who seek to be a part of the Penn State tradition."

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