

Male leaders to raise voice against assault

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Student body president Christian Ragland wants to create a strong male voice against sexual assault on campus.

To establish this, Ragland (senior political science) will hold a meeting at 8 tonight in 314 HUB-Robeson Center for men against sexual assault.

"[We'll] try to go over some concrete plans on how to be a voice from some strong male leaders on campus," he said.

About eight to 10 men from various student organizations plan to attend the meeting, Ragland said.

He said he decided to keep the number of people in attendance small so it was "concise to the leadership represented on campus."

Bello Galadanchi, a speaker with Penn State Men Against Violence, said he is glad to attend the event.

"As a member of Penn State Men Against Violence, due to the recent incidences we have on campus, we think it's great to talk about it," Galadanchi (senior-bioengineering and film and video) said. "We shouldn't be desensitized. We have to do something."

Penn State College Republicans Chairman Josh Crawford said he will also attend the meeting because sexual assault and domestic violence are problems on campus.

"So much of the emphasis is on what girls can do to protect themselves, but what we're saying is that they shouldn't have to worry about that," Crawford (junior-crime, law and justice) said. "We're trying to basically put a face to the male opinion on stopping it."

In 2008, the Clery Act reported nine on-

campus sex offense cases, four resident hall cases, two public property cases and five non-campus cases at Penn State.

This isn't the first year Ragland worked with the Commission for Women as the University Park Undergraduate Association's (UPUA) student life and diversity chairman. As the only man who was a part of the Commission for Women, Ragland said he spoke to members about how to get more men involved in spreading awareness about sexual assault.

As a result, Ragland decided to hold a meeting for men against sexual assault last spring.

Karin Foley, chairwoman of the Commission for Women, said Ragland "stepped up and did a lot in his role as the UPUA diversity chair."

"He was active in getting male leaders engaged in the conversation, and I'm happy to hear that he's doing that again this year, so I'm very impressed and very thankful for his efforts," she said.

Though Graduate Student Association President Jon Lozano did not attend last year's meeting, he said he is looking forward to attending the meeting tonight and showing the "solidarity between the graduate and undergraduate students on the sexual assault issues."

"By promoting awareness, especially this early on in the year, it shows that we don't tolerate that type of behavior at Penn State," Lozano (graduate-law and student affairs) said. "It's not just female students that care about this issue. There are male student leaders that take this as a high priority to make sure there's awareness about this issue."

To e-mail reporter: krl5106@psu.edu

Superbug found in 3 states

Marilynn Marchione
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

BOSTON — An infectious-disease nightmare is unfolding: Bacteria that have been made resistant to nearly all antibiotics by an alarming new gene have sickened people in three states and are popping up all over the world, health officials reported Monday.

The U.S. cases and two others in Canada all involve people who had recently received medical care in India, where the problem is widespread. A British medical journal revealed the risk last month in an article describing dozens of cases in Britain in people who had gone to India for medical procedures.

How many deaths the gene may have caused is unknown; there is no central tracking of such cases. So far, the gene has mostly been found in bacteria that cause gut or urinary infections.

Scientists have long feared this — a very adaptable gene that hitches onto many types of common germs and confers broad drug resistance, creating dangerous "superbugs."

"It's a great concern," because drug resistance has been rising and few new antibiotics are in development, said Dr. M. Lindsay Grayson, director of infectious diseases at the University of Melbourne in Australia. "It's just a matter of time" until the gene spreads more widely person-to-person, he said.

Grayson heads an American Society for Microbiology conference in Boston, which was buzzing with reports of the gene, called NDM-1 and named for New Delhi.

The U.S. cases occurred this year in people from California, Massachusetts and Illinois, said Brandi Limbago, a lab chief at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Three types of bacteria were involved, and three different mechanisms let the gene become part of them.

"We want physicians to look for it," especially in patients who have traveled recently to India or Pakistan, she said.

What can people do?

Don't add to the drug resistance problem, experts say. Don't pressure your doctors for antibiotics if they say they aren't needed, use the ones you are given properly, and try to avoid infections by washing your hands.

The gene is carried by bacteria that can spread hand-to-mouth, which makes good hygiene very important.

It's also why health officials are so concerned about where the threat is coming from, said Dr. Patrice Nordmann, a microbiology professor at South-Paris Medical School. India is an overpopulated country that overuses antibiotics and has widespread diarrheal disease and many people without clean water.

"The ingredients are there" for widespread transmission, he said. "It's going to spread by plane all over the world."



Dan Onorato, center, Democratic candidate in the primary elections for Pennsylvania governor, walks through the crowd before a rally for him on Monday. Former President Bill Clinton also appeared at a rally in west Philadelphia for Onorato.

Clinton stumps for Pa. dems

Patrick Walters
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WYNNWOOD — Former President Bill Clinton told Democratic supporters Monday that their party leaders deserve more time to turn the nation's economy around because the Republican leadership before them left such a huge hole.

Clinton acknowledged the economic struggles of millions of Americans as he spoke at a campaign event in suburban Philadelphia for Democratic Senate candidate Joe Sestak, a former Navy vice admiral who served as a military adviser to Clinton when he was president.

Sestak is in a tight race with Republican candidate Pat Toomey at a time when many believe Democrats are vulnerable nationwide because of voter anger over the economic slumber. The Philadelphia suburbs are often a key swing district in both state and national elections.

Before unloading their ire on Democrats, Clinton said, voters should pin the blame on Republicans in power for the eight years between the time he left office and when President Barack Obama was

inaugurated. "We all know we're in terrible economic trouble," Clinton told about 150 supporters. "It is my opinion that the 20 months the president and Congress have had to dig out of the hole was not enough."

The former president said Obama's economic stimulus package has created 1.5 million jobs and saved 2 million more.

In response to Clinton's visit, Toomey's campaign released a statement calling him a congressional liberal.

"Joe Sestak likes to bring in politicians from other states to endorse him because he wants to run away from the fact that his voting record, while 100 percent in line with Nancy Pelosi, is vastly more liberal than most Pennsylvanians, including more liberal than many of his fellow Pennsylvania Democrats in Congress," the statement said.

Republicans, Clinton said, want to repeal the financial stabilization bill and health care legislation and private Social Security and Medicare. Democrats, he said, are voters' best bet for doing things that need to be done to get the economy going — growing jobs, balancing the budget and bringing back manufacturing.

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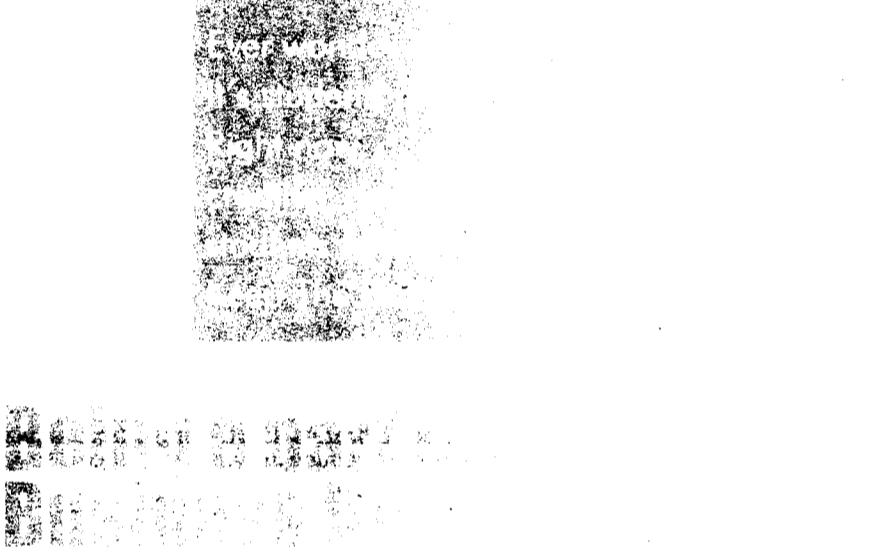
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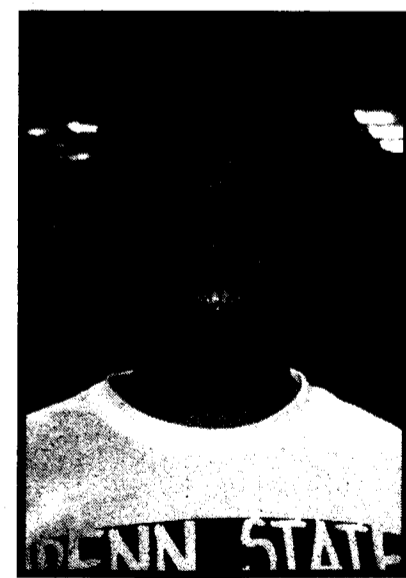
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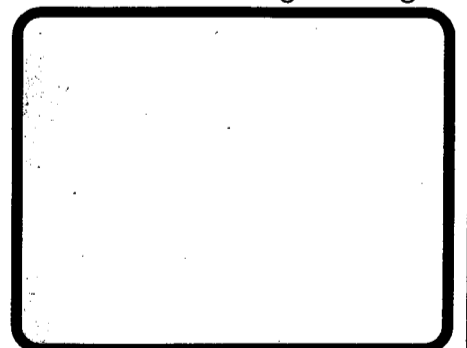
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