

System limits interaction

By Julia Anselmo
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Though some Penn State student football fans say the current assigned seating system limits interaction with friends, athletic officials said there's no plan to change the system.

The current system assigns students to specific seats and sections, forbidding them from freely moving about and changing seats upon entering the stadium.

Some students said they find it annoying that if they enter the stadium without their friends, they are separated from them for the duration of the game.

Evan Miller (sophomore-kinesiology) said he doesn't like that once students enter, they cannot switch sections.

"It's dumb because you can't move around and see your friends," Miller said. "It should just be that you get a ticket and

can sit wherever you want. It's all about enjoying yourself."

But Penn State Associate Athletic Director Greg Myford said nothing about the seating system has actually changed, other than the fact that students enter the stadium differently now.

"There is no difference in how seating is being allocated, even though the way we enter the stadium is different today," said Myford. "Even prior to when tickets were identified with ID cards, students would still pass through the gates and receive assigned seats, just as they do now. There wasn't the opportunity to roam about and just select a seat wherever you wanted to."

Myford said there has not been a change in enforcing the policies — it is impractical to allow students to roam about Beaver Stadium and choose their seats at random. He said allowing that would only create additional con-

fusion and disorder on game days.

"If it were to be done any differently, I think there would be even more confusion and problems in making sure that all the students that wanted to come into the game had a seat for the game," Myford said.

Paternoville President Alex Cohen (senior-marketing) said it is unrealistic for students to want the privilege to randomly choose and change their seats once they enter the stadium.

"You have to realize they're dealing with 100,000 people," Cohen said. "They can't just say, 'OK, go wherever the heck you want.'"

Thomas Stille (sophomore-electrical engineering) suggested that admission be changed to general admission and be based on a first come, first served basis.

"It is very annoying. It needs to be general admission like it was years ago — you would just come



Chloe Elmer/Collegian

Some Penn State students are unhappy with the current ticket distribution system, saying it prevents them from visiting with their friends.

in and sit wherever the heck you wanted," Stille said.

But some students were less upset about the assigned seating, saying the easy solution to the problem is to enter the stadium with friends. Pat Baum (sophomore-aerospace engineering) said he does not care about assigned

seating because he comes to the game with the people he wants to sit with the entire time.

"I don't really mind it because as long as you go to the game with people you're friends with, it doesn't really matter," Baum said.

To e-mail reporter: jma5349@psu.edu

Alumni help solve Mexico's water crisis

Rainwater harvesting systems were installed to accommodate water shortages.

By Eddie Lau
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State alumni Jennifer White and David Vargas have worked diligently for the past year to provide water to a poor neighborhood in Mexico.

Now they are counting on Penn State students to take their effort to the next level.

Composed of five people with different ethnic and educational backgrounds, Isla Urbana — a non-profit organization that designs and installs rainwater harvesting systems in Mexico City — was initiated by Enrique Lomnitz, a student of the Rhode Island School of Design.

Vargas, Class of 2006 and 2009, said 36 percent of houses in Mexico City do not have adequate access to water. The number is predicted to rise drastically in the coming years.

Most homes in Mexico City use a cistern to store water, he said, but due to water shortages, the city's government often turns off the water supply in certain areas.

Often, water is provided only for a few hours in an entire week, Vargas said.

"People stop showering, they stop showering their kids. It causes a sanitation problem," Vargas said.

White said the team has been selected as one of 12 finalists to compete in the 2010 World Challenge, which is hosted by BBC World News, Newsweek magazine and Shell Oil Company.

Now in its sixth year, World Challenge is a global competition to find innovative projects or small business ventures that show promise and elevate their potential.

The team who earns the most votes will receive a grant of \$20,000 to fund its project, White said. People who wish to vote can do so starting today until Nov. 12 at the competition's website, theworldchallenge.co.uk.

"It has been a very difficult job as before, because you are trying to compare different type of enterprises, different projects with different stages of development," said Richard O'Brien, chairman of the World Challenge's judging panel.

"I am so happy that we have got a really powerful set of candidates for this year's award."

After receiving his master's degree in civil engineering from Penn State, Vargas decided to move back to his hometown of Mexico City to use his creative skills to improve quality of life there.

Vargas said his team's project is notable because they design and install systems that collect and purify rainwater free of charge for community members in Mexico City.

"Rainwater harvesting uses nature's free transport system by collecting water as it falls on a rooftop then storing and filtering the rainwater for household use," Vargas said. "It is an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable design solution that works with the city's natural processes to provide a clean water supply to everyone living here."

So far, 110 rainwater harvesting systems have been installed in Mexico City, Vargas said. These systems harvested about 4,165,000 liters or 1.1 million gallons of water, benefiting about 740 households, he said.

"The cost of materials for each system is about \$350 and all materials are bought from local hardware stores," Vargas said. "Not only does this improve the local economy, but it also ensures that the homeowners can build and fix the systems on their own, without having to purchase special, hard-to-find items."

If his organization wins the competition, Vargas said he will spend the money on setting up an education center and installing more rainwater harvesting systems.

To e-mail reporter: tol5105@psu.edu



Kelsey Morris/Collegian

Yoga enthusiasts practice call and response chanting during Yoga 4 Peace, a weekend-long event.

By Leah Gillen
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The smell of Indian food wafted through the Lotus Yoga Center as university students and Centre County Big Brothers Big Sisters members gathered on floor pillows preparing for an hour of yoga.

"Yoga's a really good release of stress and it allows positive energy to

Yoga practiced for peace

come through," Jennifer Rockwell (junior-public relations) said. "I also think it's really cool that Big Brother Big Sister is working with this — it's such a great cause."

Rebecca Thorsen, a mentor for the Centre County Big Brothers Big Sisters program, came to the yoga session through an invite from the organization.

"I've done yoga before," she said. "I found it relaxing. It takes me a little outside my comfort zone, which is a fun thing to do. Really I've come tonight to make a new friend through the program, and to have fun."

Erica Kaufman, owner of Lila Yoga Studio said the majority of classes were filled throughout the weekend, and the studios raised \$1,280.

The Centre County Yoga Teachers Association organized this weekend of free yoga in an effort to exhibit the growing yoga movement in Centre County. Since last winter, four new studios for yoga have opened in State College.

"This is a real celebration of yoga in our county," said Kaufman. "It's a beautiful time for yoga, a real renaissance of joy — there is more now than

there has been in the past."

Kaufman said the Yoga 4 Peace weekend, seeking to inspire peace from the inside out, is a celebration of International Peace Day. The yoga studios of Centre County opened their doors to a weekend of free yoga, inviting both novices and experts to join together in peace.

Students said they agree yoga helps reduce stress levels and improve overall health.

Michael Policelli (senior-materials science and engineering) does yoga at least once a week. He also said yoga greatly helps health and fitness.

Kaufman said the weekend had been a success — she enjoyed the aid she could give to the Big Brothers Big Sisters program and other local causes.

"One of the great things about living in a small town is that the impact of one person, or one business is really felt — it feels good to have a yoga studio that is bringing goodness to our town," she said.

The power of yoga can enhance everyday life, Kaufman said.

To e-mail reporter: lag5257@psu.edu

Unused prescriptions collected for safety

By Katrina Wehr
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The State College Police Department held a prescription drug take-back event Saturday that offered residents a safe way to dispose of their unused medications.

The event was part of a national movement by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to prevent theft and drug abuse by collecting unused prescription drugs.

Borough residents dropped off their unused or leftover medications anonymously in a box at the State College Police Department, 243 S. Allen St.

The effort was an attempt to address public safety and health issues, according to a DEA press release. Prescription drug abuse rates are on the rise in the United States, and studies show that abusers

usually obtain the drugs from family, friends and even their home medicine cabinet, according to the press release.

The take-back event provided a safe and secure disposal method for unused medications and prevented further water contamination.

Flushing leftover prescription drugs down toilets or sink drains used to be the doctor's orders, said Susan Buda, chairwoman of the League of Women Voters of Centre County's environmental committee.

"The concern is that these pharmaceuticals get into the wastewater and could possibly contaminate drinking water supplies," she said.

Buda said there have been documented findings of commonly prescribed medications in local wastewater treatment facilities, such as antibiotics and birth control.

While there are good systems in

place to remove the majority of chemicals from the water, Buda said residents of State College should still be conscious of how they dispose of pharmaceuticals.

"The responsibility falls on us residents of the Centre County area to keep these pharmaceuticals out of the wastewater so that the treatment plants and State College Water Authority don't have to deal with this problem," Buda said.

State College Police Officer William Small said the take-back event was a success and said he was given positive feedback from those who came to drop off their unused medications.

"It was very well received," Small said.

"People were requesting that we have them more regularly."

To e-mail reporter: kmw5340@psu.edu

PASTA MONDAY
All You Can Eat - All Day
11am-10pm
\$5.95
Corner of College & Allen St.

bar bleu
SPORTS LOUNGE & LIQUOR BAR
Every Game, Every Sunday.
114 S. Garner Street
(Across from McLanahan)

Advertise!

Check out Mamma Mia's
Second Annual FREE Pizza Day!
Sept. 29th from 2-3pm
128 E. College Ave.
State College, PA 16801
(814) 272-0530

AW ALL AMERICAN FOOD
99¢ plus tax CONEY DOG
Expires 10/01/2010
Valid Monday through Friday. Good only at participating locations. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Must present coupon before ordering. Offer not good with any other discounts or coupons.
Visit www.awrestaurants.com

AW ALL AMERICAN FOOD
\$2.22 plus tax TWO HAMBURGERS
Expires 10/01/2010
Valid Monday through Friday. Good only at participating locations. Limit one coupon per person per visit. Must present coupon before ordering. Offer not good with any other discounts or coupons.
Visit www.awrestaurants.com