

The Daily Collegian



psucollegian.com

@dailycollegian

Published independently by students at Penn State

Vol. 111 No. 63

Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2010

30 cents off campus

Police: Students involved in brawls

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Riot charges may be in store for anyone involved in one of the two fights that landed four Penn State students and one non-student in local hospitals with stab wounds this weekend, the State College Police Department said.

The Sunday morning brawl outside of 797 Lounge, 224 W. College Ave., involved 30 to 40 people actively fighting, State College Police Chief Tom King

said — far more than the threshold of three or four people needed to constitute a riot.

King said he plans to petition District Attorney Stacy Parks Miller to pursue, at minimum, misdemeanor riot or disorderly conduct charges against anyone that could be connected with the incident.

The incident at 797 Lounge injured two Penn State students, one 21 years old and another 22, police said.

It followed another fight that occurred just 24 hours earlier

outside of the Knights of Columbus, 850 Stratford Dr., which left three people — two students, 19 and 21, and another non-student, 21 — with “life-threatening stab wounds,” police said.

But at this point none of the injuries have proven to be fatal: King said all four students were released from the hospital, and the non-student injured during the fight at the Knights of Columbus is still hospitalized but not in critical condition.

The extent of the injuries

is still unknown, though, King said.

On paper, King said the weekend might have otherwise looked like a slow one, yielding 196 calls, which is less than officials have experienced on an average football weekend in State College, let alone Homecoming weekend. But the intensity of the two fights still required “significant manpower” to deal with, he said.

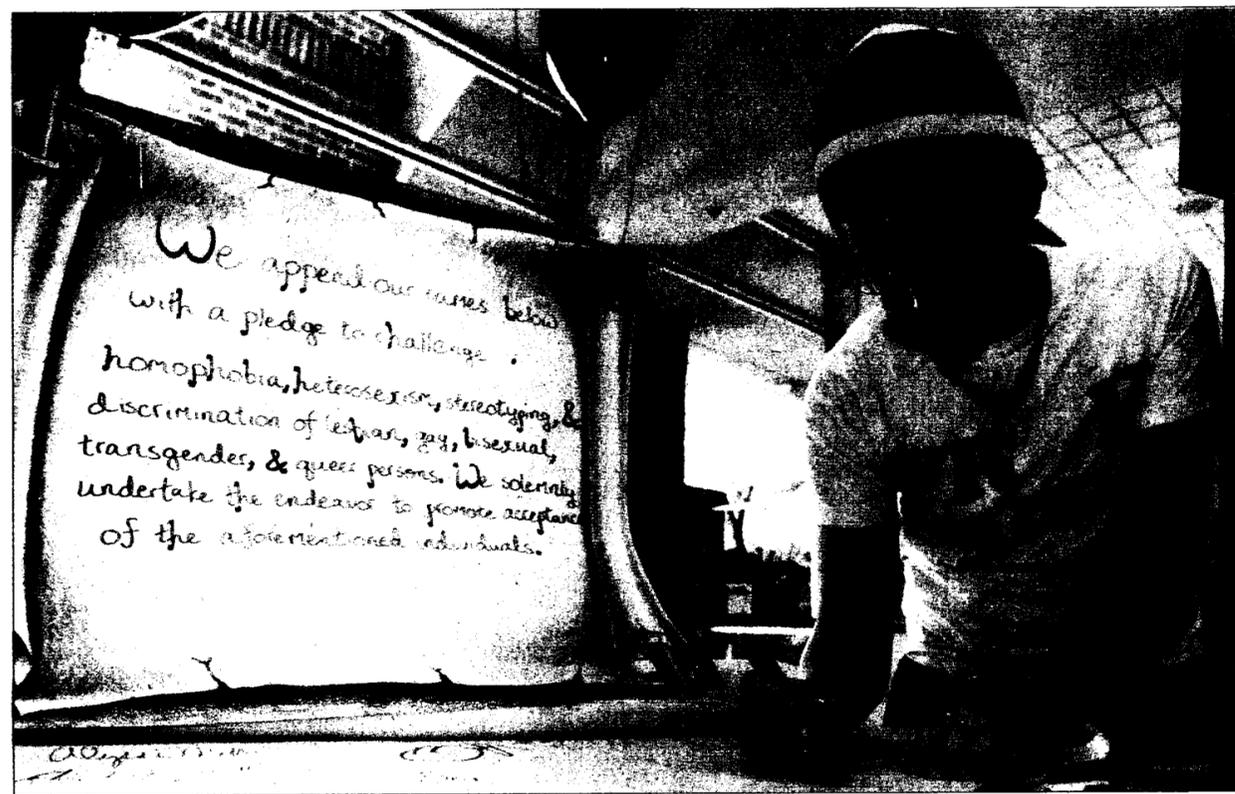
At this point, King said police are not able to identify any suspects in either case and are

treating the two fights as separate, unrelated incidents.

Investigating the weekend incidents has been a top priority of the borough's 10 detectives. King said, and police have garnered “voluminous reports” from the 40 to 50 people who were interviewed about the two fights.

Police are also examining video footage and personal items left at the scene — ranging from footwear and clothing to cash and hair extensions — as they try

See POLICE, Page 2.



Chloe Elmer/Collegian

Jenny Shipley (sophomore-mechanical engineering) signs a paper in a booth set up by the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Allies Resource Center. Monday marked the beginning of Coming Out Week, a national event to celebrate the LGBTQA community.

Frat under review

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The Interfraternity Council is investigating Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity for potential violations — a move that caused its national officials to suspend the Penn State chapter.

The national suspension comes after members of the fraternity reported policy violations, Sigma Alpha Mu Executive Director Leland Manders said.

Manders did not say what violations prompted the suspension, but he said the investigation is ongoing.

The suspension will continue until the conclusion of the investigation, he said.

Part of the investigation will include Penn State and the fraternity's board of directors looking into the situation, Manders said.

IFC Vice President for Public Relations Dan Cartwright confirmed that the IFC is investigating Sigma Alpha Mu.

Cartwright (senior-energy, business and finance) declined to comment on the specific reasons behind the investigation.

IFC President Max Wendkos did not confirm that an investigation was ongoing and declined to confirm if Sigma Alpha Mu is on probation.

“We’re in constant contact with the headquarters of tons of fraternities. The fact that we talked to them has nothing to do with whether there is an investigation going on or not,” Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) said.

Members of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity did not return calls for comment.

Roy Baker, director of the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, said his office is not involved in the investigation. He declined further comment on the situation.

But Manders said the national headquarters supports the investigation.

“Sigma Alpha Mu supports the investigation and upon its completion, may take permanent action against individuals involved and/or the chapter, and will work in cooperation with university officials in this regard,” Manders said.

Members are encouraged to cooperate with the investigation, he said.

To e-mail reporter: mer5200@psu.edu

LGBTQA ‘takes over’ HUB

By Alexa Agugliaro
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Jordan Darosh said the giant arch of rainbow balloons he stood under on Monday was more than an international symbol of the gay community — it meant visibility to everyone who walked by.

Students gathered in the HUB-Robeson Center on Monday as part of the HUB Takeover, which marked the beginning of Coming Out Week, a national event celebrating the

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Allies (LGBTQA) community.

Darosh, the co-president of the LGBTQA Student Alliance, said the HUB Takeover was a great way to kick off Coming Out Week, which began Saturday and lasts until Friday.

“The rainbow is a real marker of who we are,” Darosh (sophomore-liberal arts) said. “It’s great how everybody can see us as they walk down the stairs.”

Mike Skocik (junior-physics) said the HUB Takeover does a



great job each year of letting students know it’s OK to express themselves.

“It’s cool that people who want to be true to themselves can come here and breathe easy for a while,” Skocik said.

Skocik, a member of the Rainbow Roundtable and a

fraternity of Delta Lambda Phi, and progressive men, said the message in this year’s theme of “Bonded by the Rainbow” is very important for students who are afraid to be their true selves.

He said the theme emphasizes the unity of Penn State’s gay community.

LGBTQA Student Resource Center Assistant Director Brian Patchcoski said the HUB Takeover is an annual collaboration between various LGBTQA

See TAKEOVER, Page 2.

Council to vote on seat

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

On Oct. 18, State College Borough Council members will cast the official vote on the addition of a student representative to the council.

The decision to vote on a student seat came after it moved through the work session on Monday night.

The work session served as an opportunity to hear University Park Undergraduate Association members’ opinions and concerns about the resolution drafted by council in response to UPUA’s initial proposal for a non-voting student member.

Though the resolution changed the name of the

See COUNCIL, Page 2.

For more coverage of the council meeting | NEWS, Page 3.



Ragland

Senior class gift options discussed

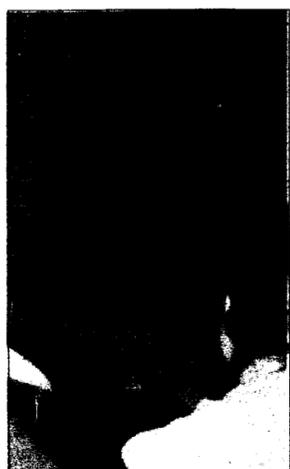
By Alyssa Sweeney
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The 2011 Senior Class Gift Committee presented the top 10 class gift ideas to students in a town hall-style meeting Monday in the HUB-Robeson Center. The ideas for Penn State’s 150th graduating senior class will be narrowed down to three Tuesday, and voted on by seniors Oct. 25 through Oct. 29.

The committee presented a slideshow detailing each gift and asked for feedback from stu-

dents on each option. Gift ideas included a Penn State alumnus mater display, a class of 2010 monument and photo area, a class of 2010 trustee scholarship, green walls for the library, a HUB Aquarium endowment and scholarship, a HUB electronic board, a Lt. Michael P. Murphy Plaza, a Penn State history and traditions exhibit, replacement trees for the dying elm trees, and a willow tree to honor “Old Willow” for the arboretum.

See GIFT, Page 2.



Christine Reckner/Collegian

The 2011 senior class gift was discussed Monday in the HUB.

By Lindsay Cryer
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Following the merger of several smaller spring concerts, the Movin’ On festival has annulled its longtime affiliation with the Association of Residence Hall Students

Movin’ On Overall Director Tim Haynes said a split has been discussed since last spring, when talks of a combined concert began. When plans for the larger festival became more serious, so did the idea of Movin’ On splitting from

ARHS, Haynes (senior-energy, business and finance) said.

At last week’s University Park Undergraduate Association meeting, a resolution was passed to unite Movin’ On and the student government’s Last Stop festival.

The split made sense because of a mutual decision by both sides — a move that came with no hard feelings, Haynes said.

The organization of the new festival’s executive committee contributed to the

See MOVIN’ ON, Page 2.



Andrew Dunheimer/Collegian

Less Than Jake performs last spring at Movin’ On.