

# 'Zombies' return to PSU

By Jessica Tully  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Starving Penn State zombies are craving humans for the next two weeks — in a make-believe game, of course.

The Urban Gaming Club began a game of Humans vs. Zombies at 8 a.m. Monday that will continue 24 hours a day — until Saturday, Oct. 23.

Urban Gaming Club President Ryan Bisbey (senior-chemistry and mathematics) said he looks forward to this event every semester.

"It's the one game I can't miss. The adrenaline rush makes it all worth it for me," Bisbey said.

The game begins with one student chosen by the Urban Gaming Rules Council to play the role of the zombie. It's the zombie's goal to tag the 150 other gamers who are all playing the role of the human. Hetty Nie (sophomore-bioengineering) said.

Once tagged, the human becomes a zombie and assists in

"I've been preparing for this for my whole life."

Robbie Horton  
sophomore - fine arts

tagging the remaining humans. If a zombie does not "eat" a human every 48 hours, it will "starve" to death, Nie said.

Each day, the humans also have specific missions they must complete, Nie said — like finding artifacts buried both on and off campus.

To avoid attacking non-gamers by accident, each human must wear a green armband and each zombie must wear an orange headband at all times, Nie said.

Club member Robbie Horton said he's excited for the next two weeks.

"I've been preparing for this for my whole life," Horton (sophomore-fine arts) said.

To protect themselves against

the zombies, the humans can throw socks and marshmallows or shoot the zombies with Nerf blasters. If the zombies are hit, they can't tag any humans for the next 15 minutes, Nie said.

Some students, Nie included, said they look forward to Humans vs. Zombies each year because it allows them to use their imaginations.

"Playing Humans vs. Zombies is so much fun because it lets me make logical solutions to illogical things," Nie said. "I know that I will never actually have to defend myself against zombies, but in the game, you get to strategize and make solutions to the problems you are given."

The two-week game has been a great way to build strong bonds between groups, Martin Castner (junior-information sciences and technology) said.

"This is my fourth time playing, but every Humans vs. Zombies game is different," Castner said. "I'm excited for the stakeouts and late-nights trips to Eat'n Park."



Steph Witt/Collegian

The Urban Gaming Club demonstrates how Humans vs. Zombies is played in April 2008. This semester's game began Monday and will continue 24 hours a day until Saturday Oct. 23.

## Trip abroad inspires new outreach group

By Anna Orso  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

While many college students were on a beach or visiting home last spring break, Sharon Silverman was in Eastern Europe, reaching out to Jewish communities with 16 other Penn State students.

But their impact didn't end there.

"We got back from the trip and decided that the experience wasn't over for us," Silverman (senior-Jewish studies) said. "And we decided to make a group."

After painting a mural in a Jewish community center in Estonia, touring the ghettos of Lithuania and speaking with Holocaust survivors, the group of students wanted to start an organization at Penn State called JDC@PSU.

Melissa Doberstein, director of the Presidential Leadership Academy and adviser for JDC@PSU, said JDC stands for the "Joint Distribution Committee," based on the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee — a group that's been around for more than 95 years.

While JDC is a national organization, Penn State is only the third college campus in the country to have a JDC chapter.

Doberstein said the organization provides relief to Jewish communities around the world and also focuses on providing sustainability for communities that were wiped out from the Holocaust.

"We want to foster support for Jewish communities all around the world and also learn about those communities and the cultures — not just the Jewish culture, but the cultures of the country that the JDC is working in," said Silverman, JDC@PSU's president.

Doberstein said students involved in JDC@PSU should expect to learn about many different cultures.

"There are populations all over the world that have Jews there and we're trying to partner up

### If you go:

**What:** JDC@PSU meeting  
**Where:** 52 Willard Building  
**When:** Every other Sunday  
**Details:** Contact Sharon Silverman at sjs5204@psu.edu

with other organizations so the outreach can be more and the learning can be more," Doberstein said. Doberstein said JDC@PSU is affiliated with Hillel, one of Penn State's Jewish student organizations.

Aaron Kaufman, executive director of Hillel, said the students who went on the spring break trip last year were so moved by their experiences that they wanted to help people around the world.

"They had an unbelievable experience and wanted to bring awareness to the Penn State community about global Jewish issues," Kaufman said.

The success of the alternative spring break last year led Silverman to be named trip coordinator for JDC@PSU's trip this spring. She said a trip to Moldova, a small former Soviet Union country, is in the works for spring 2011.

"The Jewish community there is definitely struggling and we'll have the chance to do some good and give back to this community," Silverman said.

In addition to planning the alternative spring break, JDC@PSU hopes to hold movie nights, host speakers, learn about global cultures, organize fundraisers and partner up with other Penn State organizations to reach out to communities around the globe.

"This group is full of really passionate people that took a great experience and turned it into something awesome here on campus," Silverman said.

Anyone who is interested in joining JDC@PSU should contact Silverman at sjs5204@psu.edu. The group will meet every other Sunday evening in 52 Willard Building.

## SCHOOL'S OUT(SIDE)



Amanda August/Collegian

Graduate Student Alastair Goff teaches Philosophy 118 (Introduction to Environmental Philosophy) on Monday. The 70 degree weather was the highest projected for this week, according to [accuweather.com](http://accuweather.com).

## Oprah 'disappointed' by court ruling

Jenny Gross  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

JOHANNESBURG — A woman accused of abusing teenagers at Oprah Winfrey's school for girls in South Africa was acquitted of the charges Monday, and Winfrey said she was "profoundly disappointed" by the trial's outcome.

Prosecutors had accused former school matron Tiny Virginia Makopo of trying to kiss and fondle girls at the school soon after it opened in 2007 outside Johannesburg.

Makopo also had been accused of assaulting one of the teens as well as a fellow supervisor.

"The matron who was working at the Oprah Winfrey school was found not guilty on all the sexual assault charges," Mthunzi Mhaga, a spokesman for South Africa's National Prosecuting Authority, said Monday. "The magistrate was of the view that the state had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that she was guilty. We won't be appealing the judgment."

Winfrey had called the allega-

tions crushing given her own stated history-of childhood sexual abuse and promised an overhaul of the school.

"I will forever be proud of the nine girls who testified with the courage and conviction to be heard," Winfrey said in a statement Monday.

The lavish \$40 million Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls, which opened in January 2007, aims to give girls from deprived backgrounds a quality education in a country where schools are struggling to overcome the legacy of apartheid.

"It's unfortunate that this had to happen because what Oprah Winfrey has done for those children in that school — it's really encouraging, it's outstanding, it's really appreciated by South Africans," Mhaga said. "But unfortunately, in the justice systems in every country, it's not about what you know, it's about what you can prove in the court of law."

The school is spread across a 22-acre campus with neat lawns and garden paths decorated with mosaics. It has computer and sci-

ence labs, a library and a wellness center. The school is home to about 300 girls from across the country.

Winfrey said Monday that the school's staff "is committed to providing a nurturing educational environment so that all of our girls may continue to flourish. And they are indeed thriving."

In March, Winfrey had settled a defamation lawsuit filed in Philadelphia by the school's former headmistress, Nomvuyo Mzamane, who claimed Winfrey defamed her in remarks made in the wake of the 2007 sex-abuse scandal at the school.

Mzamane claimed that she was never told of any sexual abuse. However, Winfrey's lawyers said in a March pretrial memo that Mzamane failed to discipline Makopo despite her history of run-ins with students and fellow staff.

Mzamane said she had trouble finding a job after Winfrey stated she had "lost confidence" in her.

Lawyers for both sides in March said Winfrey and Mzamane met to resolve their differences out of court.

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