

SPA to host author, inventor

By Sarah Peters
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The man proclaimed "the restless genius" by the Wall Street Journal will speak at Penn State tonight.

Acclaimed inventor, author and futurist Ray Kurzweil will speak at 8 p.m. in Schwab Auditorium as the second speaker in the Student Programming Association's Distinguished Speaker Series.

Kurzweil wrote in an e-mail that he decided to become an inventor at the age of five.

"I was intrigued by the idea that if you put things together in just the right way, you could create apparently magical effects that could solve problems," he wrote.

DSS Chairwoman Emily McConnell said the DSS committee strives to be as diverse as possible "in every sense of the word" when selecting speakers, and Kurzweil rounds out the series this year.

Kurzweil has made it to the final

round of potential speakers for the past couple of years and provides something different to the students, McConnell (junior-economics) said.

"He will be able to open a lot of students' eyes, and he will challenge them to think about things differently," McConnell said.

Kurzweil was the principal inventor of the first CCD flat-bed scanner, first print-to-speech reading machine for the blind and first music synthesizer to recreate the sound of the grand piano and other orchestral instruments, among other creations, according to his web site, kurzweiltech.com. In 2002, he was inducted into the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's National Inventors Hall of Fame, according to the site.

Kurzweil wrote that he primarily defines himself as an inventor.

"The invention I am most proud of is the Kurzweil Reading Machine for the blind in 1976, which was the first print-to-

If you go

What: SPA's DSS presents Ray Kurzweil

When: 8 p.m. tonight

Where: Schwab Auditorium

Details: Student tickets are free and available at the HUB-Robeson Center, Eisenhower Auditorium, the BJC and the Downtown Theater Center.



Courtesy of zmescience.com

Ray Kurzweil will speak at 8 p.m. tonight in Schwab Auditorium.

speech reading machine for the blind. It also represented the invention of three core technologies which became successful on their own: the flat-bed scanner, omni-font (any type style) optical character recognition, and computer speech synthesis," he wrote.

Chris Calkins, director of outreach health initiatives for Penn State, said he'd encourage students to attend. Calkins said he's fascinated by Kurzweil's idea of replacing body parts as they wear

out, potentially creating an unrecognizable combination of man and machine. Science makes a lot of what Kurzweil describes possible, while raising ethical concerns, Calkins said.

"The question is the ethics of pushing up against the edge of what it means to be human and how people think about that," Calkins said. "We don't often think about implicit rationing in the healthcare system. If those tech-

nologies become available, who gets to take advantage of them and who doesn't?"

McConnell said tickets are still available.

"It will really be enlightening and rewarding for the student body to hear," McConnell said. "He's a genius. His ideas are very unique and it's very worthwhile to hear him speak."

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Students charged in jersey incident

By Casey McDermott
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

It started as a "drunken prank," the State College Police Department said.

But the fun didn't last long for four Penn State students who police said stole a handful of University of Akron men's soccer jerseys, delaying the team's October 13 match at Jeffrey Field. The men are now facing criminal charges in connection with the missing gear, police said.

Charles E. Bademan III, Mitchell A. Good, Eric S. Jordan and Brandon M. Lyons are charged with one count each of misdemeanor criminal conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking and receiving stolen property, police said. All four men are also charged with one count each of misdemeanor theft by unlawful taking, misdemeanor receiving stolen property and summary criminal mischief, police said. Bademan, 20, of Hatboro, Pa., and Jordan, 20, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., are also charged with one count summary purchase, consumption, possession or transportation of liquor, malt or brewed beverages, police said.

Police said they first stopped the group on campus near Nittany Apartments after receiving reports from Penn State Police that a group of white men wearing yellow T-shirts stole jerseys from the Akron team.



Kelley King/Collegian

Corey Hertzog (11) dribbles through University of Akron defenders during the Nittany Lion's game against No. 1-ranked Akron Oct. 13. The game was delayed by about 40 minutes after, police said, four Penn State students stole a handful of Akron's jerseys.

scys from the Akron team.

Bademan and Jordan fled, but police said they spoke with Good, 21, of New Holland, Pa., who initially denied stealing the jerseys. Instead, Good told police, "Akron is ranked No. 1 in the country and they were giving away T-shirts," police said.

During the conversation with Good, another officer arrived back on the scene with Jordan in handcuffs, police said. Jordan's speech was sluggish, police said, and he said he had been drinking rum at his Beaver Terrace Apartment, 456 E. Beaver Ave. Bademan also later admitted to drinking prior to the game, police said. Eventually, Good told an officer that some of his friends "grabbed the jerseys and put them on underneath their clothing" earlier that night, police said.

But police said that, even then, not all of the men were ready to confess.

An officer noticed that Jordan was wearing several shirts underneath his fleece, and asked Jordan if he was hot because of all of the layers, police said.

Jordan said he was fine, to

which the officer told Jordan he "should be hot since he was wearing the stolen jerseys," police said.

Police said Jordan hung his head and took off his fleece to reveal a No. 5 jersey and the No. 9 jersey belonging to Akron midfielder Michael Nanchoff, who scored the game-winning penalty kick, underneath. Later, Lyons, 20, of Mechanicsburg, Pa., and Bademan returned three more missing jerseys to Penn State Police, police said. A pair of stolen cleats valued at \$130 were also recovered in a Port-A-Potty near the Akron tent area, police said.

The Penn State players and fans endured a delay of about 40 minutes prior to the game while the situation was handled.

Penn State midfielder Mat' us Braga, an international player from soccer-crazed Brazil, said the situation was funny at first, but only until he heard that police said the jerseys were stolen by a group of fans.

"I've never seen that in my life," Braga said. "Even in Brazil, to be honest."

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Centre Region leaders debate emissions plan

By Anita Modi
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

An hour of debate and deliberation among members of the Centre Region Council of Governments following a presentation on greenhouse gas emissions may not have resulted in action, but it verified the importance of the issue to each municipality represented.

Brent Yarnal, professor and associate head of the Department of Geography at Penn State, presented a regional greenhouse gas emission inventory identifying the causes behind each municipality's contributions to Centre County's emissions. He also suggested the council decide on an action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions region-wide.

After listening to Yarnal's presentation, the council had to decide whether the Public Services and Environmental Committee should impose regional recommendations regarding greenhouse gas emission reduction or whether each municipality should draft their own standards individually.

Yarnal and Howard Greenberg, CIRA senior research associate, edited and presented a study conducted by Kevin Hillmer-Pegram and Peter Howe of the Penn State University Department of Geography, in conjunction with the COG Public Services and Environment Committee.

The project first focused on the Borough of State College and resulted in the development of the Borough's Resolution #944, which may be used to model the development of similar plans for

other Centre County municipalities. The purpose of the project was to set a baseline to direct future action for reducing emissions. Its proposed action plan would serve to establish regional sustainability concerns, improve transportation management and identify potential energy savings for both businesses and individual residents, Yarnal said.

The project identified the three sources primarily responsible for greenhouse gas emissions in all six municipalities in the Centre County region — electricity, local transportation, and on-site fuels, or the mechanisms used to heat residences besides electrically derived heat.

Several differences with regards to public transportation use and electricity use among the individual municipalities were highlighted in the presentation.

Dennis Hameister, a member of the council, said the municipalities should work on reducing greenhouse gas emissions together.

"Taking this to the municipal level will do the project a failure," he said. "To expect each municipality to devote the time, effort and staff to create something like Resolution #944 — it's not going to happen."

Others on the council argued that the differences amongst the municipalities were too numerous to be ignored and called for each to establish their own standards. The council finally decided to direct the action plan back to the Public Services and Environment Committee to redraft the options for its next meeting in November.

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