



Local blind respond

By Mike Hrick
 COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Local advocates for the blind say they commend the National Federation of the Blind's complaint against Penn State, which alleges civil rights violations against the visually impaired.

Happy Valley NFB Treasurer Michelle Michaels said the move by her organization's Baltimore-based national headquarters is not meant to antagonize the university.

"It's not so much that we want

to cause a problem. It's more just equal access," Michaels, Class of 2002, said. "The technology's out there and we want to put it to use."

The complaint accuses Penn State of unlawful discrimination toward blind students through restricting access to PNC Bank ATMs, the ANGEL course management system and classroom equipment.

Michaels said changes to ANGEL would be minor, pertaining to "only a few lines of HTML" coding, but NFB needed to act for Penn State officials to take notice

of accessibility problems.

The NFB is the largest and oldest blind association in the United States.

The organization filed the complaint with the Philadelphia-based U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights Friday after Michaels said members of her local chapter appealed to the national branch.

Happy Valley NFB Vice President and current student Alyssa Bates said during her time at the university, she and her

Penn State criticisms

The National Federation of the Blind called for an investigation of Penn State Friday.

Penn State's persistent failure to abide by the law has resulted in gratuitously denying its blind students and faculty equal access to information and thereby to an equal education opportunity.

While students have indicated that the keys on the device were accessible, they are not able to independently read either the screen at the front of the room or the LCD display on the "clicker," which provides response confirmation and status messages.

Source: NFB complaint
 Heather Schmelzlen/Collegian

West End sees push

By Anita Modi
 COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The prospect of increased student housing was brought up repeatedly at the State College Borough Council meeting Monday night as council members debated several agenda items.

Council members first considered the West End Zoning Report, originally received by the State College Planning Commission in 2008, recommended to the borough council in 2009 and discussed at a public hearing on Nov. 1.

On Monday night, the council members agreed to send the West End Zoning Report back to the planning commission for a final review — but not before making a few comments.

Council member Silvi Lawrence commented on the parking layout proposed in the West End Zoning Ordinance, noting that the current setup would overwhelm West End backyards with parking.

"I'm concerned that we'll end up with continuous parking across the backyards of all the properties in the West End and there won't be an ounce of green space at all," Lawrence said. "The whole idea of the West End was to make the area more people-friendly, but it seems like we're giving the whole place over to parking."

Council member Peter Morris said another issue would prevent him from voting on the ordinance when it returns to council for an official decision in January.

"It's an accepted piece of wisdom that the West End will be almost 100 percent students, with a higher density than it has now," Morris said. "I'm opposed to keeping it as a student ghetto. Our original idea was to have 50 percent student and 50 percent non-student residents."

"What's needed now is not a new zoning law, but a public-private partnership putting in development of student and non-student housing and office space," he said.

Student housing was brought up again as the council turned to the next item on the meeting's agenda: the Redevelopment Authority's report and recommendation for the Verizon building, 224 S. Allen St.

State College Planning Director Carl Hess said the 10,500 square foot site is currently zoned as commercial incentive property and is rented on a temporary basis.

It is located within a district that encourages mixed-use development including owner-occupied housing and rental housing alike. He said the redevelopment authority plans to allow adult-oriented retail, eating and drinking uses on the ground floor of the building, with office and residential space occupying the six floors above.

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Former student killed on duty

By Zach Geiger
 COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

On the drive home from a hunting trip in North Carolina, Walter "Deet" James, Jr., received a call from his former Penn State adviser about his old roommate.



Grove

"You better pull over," the adviser said.

That phone call was how James first heard Pennsylvania Wildlife Conservation Officer David Grove, 31, of Fairfield, Pa., had been killed in the line of duty at 10:30 p.m. Thursday.

"He had a love for wildlife and conservation," James said. "That's why he was doing it — he loved it."

The last time a Pennsylvania Game Commission officer was fatally shot in the line of duty was Nov. 7, 1915, when Game Protector Joseph McHugh was killed in Carbon County, according to a press release from the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Grove, a 2004 Penn State graduate with a bachelor's degree in wildlife and fisheries science, was on patrol in Adams County when he was fatally shot while investigating reports of nighttime shooting and poaching activity off of Shriver Road in Freedom Township.

Following Grove's death, Christopher Lynn Johnson, 27, of Fairfield, Pa., was arrested in connection with the shooting.

Johnson was charged with criminal homicide, second-degree felony possession of a prohibited firearm, third-degree felony charges of flight to avoid apprehension and carrying a firearm without a license, according to court documents.

Johnson is currently incarcerated in the Adams County Adult Correctional Facility and no bail has been set. His preliminary hearing is scheduled for Nov. 18, according to court documents.

On Monday the Pennsylvania state flag on the Old Main lawn was at half-mast to honor Grove, Penn State spokeswoman Jill Shockey said.

"We are shocked and saddened by the killing of WCO Grove," Game Commission Executive Director Carl G. Roe said in a press release. "He was a bright, young officer who was

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Kelly Rootes-Murdy/Collegian

Michael DuBois, Class of 2004, escapes from a straitjacket on top of a 6-foot unicycle in front of a crowd in the HUB Monday afternoon. The surprise event was sponsored by the Student Programming Association.

SPA solo circus surprises HUB

By David Strader
 COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

No tents, no clowns — just a one-man circus.

The Student Programming Association hosted multi-talented circus artist Michael DuBois, Class of 2004, for "SPA's Surprise HUB Event" on Monday afternoon.

DuBois's performance incorporated juggling, unicycling and other feats of dexterity.

DuBois kept things dangerous,

too, as he escaped from a straitjacket atop a five-foot unicycle and juggled machetes on a tightrope.

Amy McBride (freshman-English) said DuBois' show was enjoyably stressful.

"It's kind of scary to watch," she said. "It was really cool though."

Tanner Sweeney (junior-film and video), a unicyclist himself, said he took particular interest in DuBois' unicycling.

"Unicycling to me is purely

sport, but it does have an entertainment aspect," Sweeney said. "I'm definitely glad he's here and doing his thing."

On the safer side, DuBois juggled seven rubber balls simultaneously — a feat George Prutzman (junior-electrical engineering) said was very impressive.

"I can do a little bit of juggling myself, but nothing like that," he said.

DuBois was rarely alone on

See SPA, Page 2.

Penn State alumnus starts vinyl record label

By David Strader
 COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Starting a record label and working with your favorite bands: It's a music lover's dream.

Steve Kelly, Class of 2006, recently branched out from his position at Sony Music Entertainment to co-found an independent record label, Sinking Ship Records in August.

The label is currently producing and distributing vinyl records for its first signed band, A Great Big Pile of Leaves.

Kelly said the idea for Sinking Ship Records came to be when he

and two Sony Music Entertainment co-workers, Jonathan Mabb and Charlie Scott, discussed their woes with the music industry.

"We saw a lot of the costs that go into production, and we wondered why you would pay a producer that much when you probably won't recoup that cost," Kelly said. "It just gets ridiculous when you see people like Ke\$ha. Where's the art in that?"

Mabb, 26, of Astoria, N.Y., said these shortcomings are the inspiration behind Sinking Ship Records.

"The industry is a sinking

ship," Mabb said. "But if the ship is going down, we'd prefer to be at the helm."

Scott, 27, also of Astoria, N.Y., said the trio wanted to bypass unnecessarily high production costs by working with bands that were able to record independently.

With recording costs minimized, Kelly said the goal is to provide a high-quality vinyl pressing. This was the case for A Great Big Pile of Leaves.

"We wanted to make a nice pressing of this album because A, it's our first project, and B, we

See LABEL, Page 2.



Clare Becker/Hanover Evening Sun
 Police gather at the scene where David Grove was shot to death in Freedom Township, Pa.



Courtesy of Steve Kelly
 Steve Kelly, Class of 2006, co-founded a vinyl record label.