

Greek leaders react to database restrictions

By Megan Rogers
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Some greek student leaders said they are unsure of the impact that the recent decision to prohibit student groups access to the Alumni Association's contact information will have on the greek community.

The Penn State Division of Development and Alumni Relations made the decision to restrict access to contact information for the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon because of an overabundance of alumni solicitation,

Alumni Association Executive Director Roger Williams said.

The university believes THONvelopes are the best method for garnering donations from alumni, he said.

Interfraternity Council President Max Wendkos said the decision will have the most impact on the greek community because they have the deepest alumni databases, having been around the longest of THON fundraising organizations.

Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) said the greek community is currently working with THON leaders to gain a better

understanding of how the decision will impact greek's fundraising totals for THON.

If the decision will have a negative impact, the groups will work together to find a remedy to ensure fundraising can continue to grow, he said.

Most of the requests to use contact databases come from greek organizations, Williams said. But he said because the groups have access to alumni databases from their national organizations, they shouldn't be put in a tight spot.

Williams said he couldn't say whether access will be denied to the database for student groups

who need the resource for other reasons.

The Panhellenic Council executive board has not yet held discussions about the decision, PHC Vice President for Communications Marina Matteo (senior-public relations) said.

At a meeting with THON leaders, officials from the Division of Donor and Alumni Relations asked THON to examine how much the impact will affect THON, Williams said.

THON Overall Chairwoman Kirsten Kelly said THON has been working on an internal database that organizations could use to get

contact information for alumni. They began the process before the decision came from the alumni association, Kelly (senior-marketing) said.

Williams said the measure is in effect for now, but talks are ongoing with THON leaders and any further decision will stem from these conversations.

The point is not to say that THON shouldn't solicit donations from alumni, Williams said — but rather to emphasize that solicitations should be done in a more coordinated fashion.

To e-mail reporter: mer5200@psu.edu

UPUA discusses 'Donut Day' ideas

By Alyssa Sweeney
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Discussion of handing out free donuts was on the table at Wednesday night's University Park Undergraduate Association meeting in the HUB-Robeson Center.

The establishment of "Donut Day" as a student outreach project was suggested, which would entail members handing out Dunkin' Donuts to students in the HUB at the beginning of each month in exchange for completing UPUA surveys.

Representatives were equally divided over the donut debacle — many said they firmly believed in the allure of jelly-filled and Boston crème donuts to promote UPUA, but some strongly objected, and said they thought the proposal was impractical.

"No pun intended — but it seems like there's a lot of holes in this plan," said UPUA representative Anthony Christina. "I don't think we should blow our allowance and leave ourselves with almost 30 dollars left."

Christina (sophomore-political science and history) said the estimated \$960 total cost for Donut Day over four months was a waste of the student activity fee budget, which is \$1,000.

Representative Tim Dooley (senior-classics and ancient Mediterranean studies) said he didn't think passing out donuts was an effective way to teach students about UPUA.

"If it takes a donut to show that student government matters, we're doing something wrong," he said.

Other assembly members argued free food was the best way to entice college students, and that it had proven successful on other occasions.

"It's almost bad to say, but free food is one of the best incentives for college students," said representative Nick Grassetto (junior-mechanical engineering). "How

"... free food is one of the best incentives for college students."

Nick Grassetto
junior-mechanical engineering

many of us have walked past the kids with flyers in the HUB with our heads down to avoid them — we'd get a lot more attention with free donuts."

UPUA Programming Committee Chairwoman Ali Cook (sophomore-business administration) said handing out free food has helped promote events like Fresh Fest in the past.

"It's not just to get our name out, it's to let students know about different things going on and events coming up." Cook said. "I'm not guaranteeing it's going to be successful, but I'd hate not to try."

Representative TJ Bard (sophomore-economics and political science) described the baked goods as "a necessary evil" when trying to connect with students.

"None of you guys have thrown ideas out that are any better," said Bard.

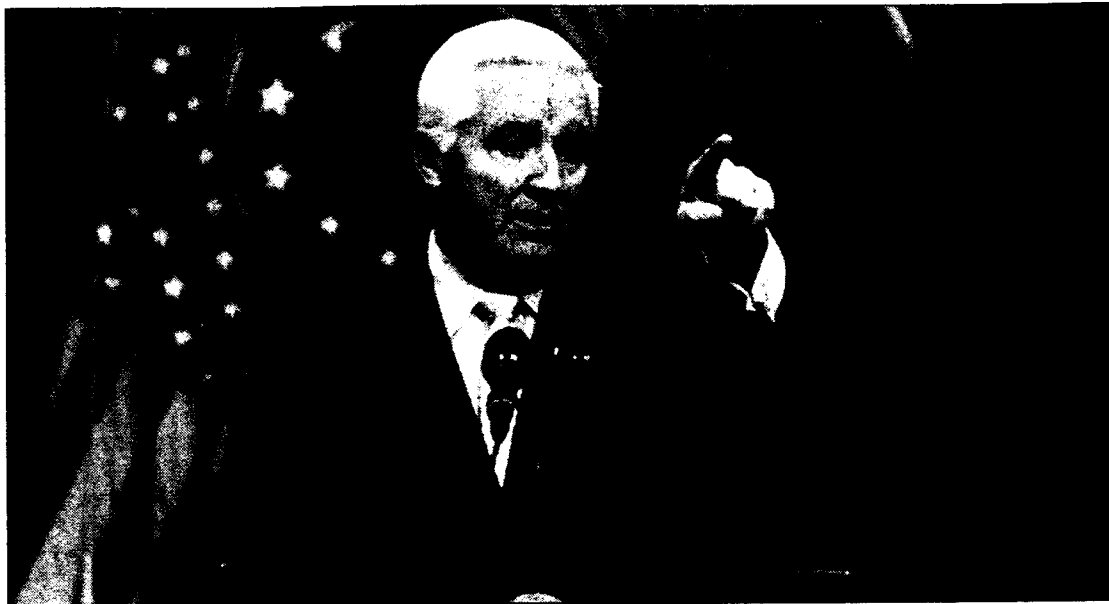
"I'm conservative, but I'm going to look past what I'm thinking and give it a chance. Even just a one-month trial."

Assembly members discussed the importance of consistency, amendment ideas and what it was that defined the success of similar programs.

Representative Courtney Lennartz (sophomore-health policy and administration) said the waste was in the time the assembly spent on the debate.

"We shouldn't be going back and forth on this, it needs to be recommitted to the programming committee," said Lennartz. "This is not what assembly is about."

To e-mail reporter: ars5474@psu.edu



Daniel Shanker/Associated Press

Tom Corbett will take office starting Jan. 18. Until then, the chance of any legislation passing through the state government is still uncertain, according to Gov. Ed Rendell's Press Secretary Gary Tuma.

Office enters lame duck period

By Katrina Wehr
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

As Gov. Ed Rendell prepares to leave office, Pennsylvania entered its first lame duck period in eight years this week.

A lame duck refers to an elected official approaching the end of his or her tenure, as a new official prepares to enter office.

Rendell, who was unable to run for re-election because of term limits, will be replaced by governor-elect Tom Corbett on Jan. 18.

Until then, Rendell is still the governor of the commonwealth. He called the state senate to reconvene this week, and any legislation passed during this time is still valid.

But the chances of any legislation passing through the state government at this time is uncertain, said Gary Tuma, the governor's press secretary.

"It varies from year to year," Tuma said. "Sometimes it's easier to get things passed in lame duck sessions because some people won't be returning to office and are free to vote their conscience, even though it's a tough political vote."

And for those who will return to

office in January, some may think it's better to vote on a controversial subject sooner rather than later to allow more time between the vote and the next election, Tuma said.

A lack of motivation also poses a problem to some legislators during the lame duck period, he said.

"Sometimes it may be harder because there may be some people who are leaving office who don't feel they have any incentive to cast a different vote," Tuma said.

Anthony Christina, vice chairman of the College Republicans, said the lame duck session offers some U.S. representatives a chance to leave their last mark on Congress.

"It's a last opportunity to make their mark and truly put their principles on bills, as opposed to what looks good for them to be re-elected," Christina (sophomore-political science and history) said.

While other news outlets have reported that laws such as Don't Ask, Don't Tell and the Clean Air Act might be revisited during this lame duck session, Young Americans for Freedom Chairman Samuel Settle said it's

not likely that any controversial decisions will be made.

"The problem with bills like that is if they couldn't get them passed during past sessions, it's unlikely that a demoralized Congress will be able to muster enough votes to do it now," Settle (junior-political science and history) said.

This year's lame duck session wouldn't be as notable if control of Congress wasn't changing from Democrat to Republican hands, Settle said. With Republicans having enough power to filibuster any legislation during this session, Settle said he can't foresee anything passing before January.

"The big problem with using this session as an opportunity to pass more legislation is it really is an excuse to circumvent democracy," Settle (junior-political science and history) said. "Republicans need to be committed to making sure that the current Congress doesn't do anything else."

One bill Christina said he hopes will be revisited in Congress before the end of the year is the Bush tax cuts.

To e-mail reporter: kmw5340@psu.edu

Muslim panelists talk heritage, identities

By Alaina Gallagher
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Despite being from Kosovo, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan and Ethiopia respectively, Armend Tahirsylaj, Amal Sayed and Ahmed Ahmed all have one important thing in common — they are all Muslim, something they reflected upon Wednesday night in the Schlow Library.

As members of the Penn State community, each spoke about their own experiences with religion during a panel discussion called "I Am a Muslim: Personal Reflections on Islam," an event hosted by the Global Connections Program and held during International Education Week.

Tahirsylaj began by talking about how he identifies himself as an Albanian first and Muslim second, all while living under the secular government in Kosovo.

Sayed spoke of her experience being an Islamic woman.

"I'm just hoping people would understand that I am not an oppressed person, I'm not degraded because I wear my hijab," Sayed (sophomore-immunology and infectious diseases) said.

"I choose to be Muslim, wear what I wear and do what I do."

"I choose to be Muslim, wear what I wear and do what I do."

Amal Sayed
sophomore - immunology and infectious diseases

Ahmed concluded the panel by talking about the diversity he experienced growing up in Ethiopia and the relationship between his Christian neighbors and Muslim family.

"Muslims are capable of coexisting in peace regardless of where they are and I believe the theme behind my presentation was harmony between religions," he said.

Ahmed (senior-management) said he was surprised to see the variety of people in the audience, which included college administrators, retirees, other Muslims and people from the State College community.

Having friends who are of different religions, Heidi Beman (junior-public relations) said she found it interesting to hear from other people on campus about their different experiences.

"I thought it was interesting



Kelley King/Collegian

Armend Tahirsylaj talks about his life and experiences as a Muslim.

how the panelists were all from different countries and the religion implemented itself in different ways in each country," she said.

Barbara Ballenger, programs' coordinator for Global Connections, said the panel was extremely successful.

"It started with three courageous people telling stories of being Muslim and it became an interesting, respectful and hopeful conversation among 70 people and the conversation continued after the program ended — to me that's success," she said.

To e-mail reporter: ag5087@psu.edu

Former HUD secretary urges city development

By Mike Hrick
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros spoke about economic development, cities and their importance in American culture at the Nittany Lion Inn on Friday afternoon.

"Cities are where people work, learn, recreate, live and govern. They're the building blocks of American progress," Cisneros said during his introduction to a crowd of about 75 people.

Part of the Penn State Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering's Hankin Distinguished Lecture Series, Cisneros's talk emphasized the importance of college-oriented education for middle-class Americans.

"You can't build a city without human capital. You have to think about education," Cisneros said.

Cisneros rose to political prominence after serving four terms as mayor of San Antonio, Texas, one of the first Latino mayors of a major United States city.

After working from 1993 to 1997 for the Clinton administration, Cisneros currently acts as head of CityView, an urban capital investment group.

J. Roger Glunt, president at Glunt Development Co., Inc. and sponsor of the lecture series, said he "greatly admires" Cisneros.

Glunt originally met Cisneros after President Clinton's election, cautious about a Democratic administration in HUD.

"I had this apprehension that this Republican-Democrat rivalry might unravel what we had over those years, but boy was I wrong," Glunt said.

Cisneros also addressed his part in the 2007 recession, placing blame on homeowner speculation practices which took advantage of policies he initiated to stimulate homeownership.

"We don't have a way to finely calibrate housing policy as we might hope. We pushed for home ownership but I did not see that in a boom environment, we could not predict it," Cisneros said.

Students in attendance praised Cisneros's candor.

Hunter Woron said his involvement as a member of the Penn State National Association of Home Builders drew him to the former secretary's lecture.

"I like that Mr. Cisneros [gave] us an idea of where the housing industry's going," Woron (senior-architectural engineering) said.

To e-mail reporter: mjh5507@psu.edu

Think you know sports? Prove it.
Win The Trophy.com

CAFE 210 WEST

Come watch your favorite NFL football teams on our big screen TVs!

Sunday & Tuesday
1/2 priced wings (5-CLOSE)

210 W. College Ave. cafe210.com

Ellie's Collection

HURRY! Limited Time Offer: FREE 18K White Gold Plated Bracelet/Anklet for every order over \$30! Enter Offer Code: FREE 18K10P at Checkout. Style may vary.

Pearls Starting \$16

www.elliescollection.com
Gift Certificates available for purchase!