

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fraternities waive rights to preliminary hearings

Three fraternities each waived their right to a preliminary hearing in court Wednesday.

Phi Kappa Theta fraternity, 338 E. Fairmount Ave., is charged with two counts of misdemeanor unlawful acts relative to liquor, malt and brewed beverages and licenses, the State College Police Department said.

Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity, 329 E. Prospect Ave., is charged with one count of unlawful acts relative to liquor, malt and brewed beverages and licenses, police said.

Beta Sigma Beta fraternity, 255 E. Fairmount Ave., is charged with two counts each of misdemeanor selling or furnishing liquor or malt or brewed beverages to minors and misdemeanor unlawful acts relative to liquor, police said.

Local superintendent charged with DUI

State College Area School District Superintendent Richard J. Mextorf, 48, of Port Matilda, was charged with DUI on Wednesday, Pennsylvania State Police said.

At 7:58 a.m. on Nov. 18, police said an officer stopped Mextorf for a traffic violation along Route 64 near Stover's Sub Shop and detected an odor of alcohol on Mextorf's breath.

Mextorf was found to be under the influence of alcohol, and police said he was taken into custody and charged with DUI and other related traffic offenses.

THE MENU

LUNCH

Findlay, Pollock and Warnock: Turkey noodle soup, wild rice soup, chicken cheesesteak, edamame fried rice, shrimp scampi with penne pasta, broccoli florets, cheddar cheese sauce, seasoned curly fries, sugar snap peas, fresh baked chocolate chip cookies, guilt-free zucchini bread, orange gelatin, oreo cookie, strawberries and bananas, whipped topping

Simmons: Baked tomato basil tofu, grilled buffalo chicken wrap, chicken pot pie, hearty vegetable sauce, sixth pound burger, vegetarian garden burger, wheat penne pasta, baby carrots with dill, broccoli florets, chick pea bulghur, tomato pilaf, ginger glazed sugar snap peas, oven baked potato wedges, sauteed zucchini, tropical rice pilaf, chocolate pudding, fresh baked chocolate chip cookie.

Warning: Lunch roll basket, soup of the day, turkey noodle soup, turkey BLT salad, broccoli florets, chicken cheesesteak, featured grilled chicken sandwich, grilled chicken breast, popcorn chicken, quarter pound cheeseburger, quarter pound hamburger, seasoned curly fries, sugar snap peas, white cheese sauce, beef and broccoli stirfry, baked sweet potato, edamame fried rice, vegetarian burger, wild rice soup, fresh baked chocolate chip cookie, guilt-free zucchini bread, orange gelatin, oreo cookie, strawberries and bananas, whipped topping

DINNER

Findlay, Pollock and Warnock: Turkey noodle soup, wild rice soup, burger topping bar, grilled chicken breast, hot dog, hot dog bar, quarter pound bacon cheeseburger, quarter pound hamburger, turkey burger, vegetarian burger, boston baked beans, shoestring fries, sugar snap peas, zucchini and yellow squash, aerosol whipped topping, banana cake, applesauce, chocolate shavings, graham crackers, hot chocolate, midnight cake, mimi marshmallows, white cake

Simmons: Whipped topping, chocolate shavings, hot chocolate, mini marshmallows, California teriyaki rice bowl, baked cod with lemon, grilled chicken breast, grilled vegetables with whole wheat penne, sweet and sour beef stir fry, baby carrots with dill, broccoli florets, chick pea bulghur, tomato pilaf, ginger glazed sugar snap peas, oven baked potato wedges, sauteed zucchini, tropical rice pilaf, chocolate pudding

Clarification:

An editorial "Tuition can't be taken lightly" unclearly stated some information about Rally in the Rotunda. The tuition event in Harrisburg is spearheaded by the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments.



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IFC president discusses THON, term

By Vera Greene COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

"It decreased competition and negatively impacted productivity."

Max Wendkos Interfraternity Council President

At a press conference on Wednesday night, Interfraternity Council President Max Wendkos addressed different aspects and occurrences throughout his term.

Among the different stances he took, policies he helped form and rules he enacted, one thing Wendkos didn't have much pull over was what happened at the beginning of fall semester: controversies surrounding the Interfraternity Council/Panhellenic Dance Marathon.

After various THON overalls made the decision to no longer release the list of totals raised by individual organizations and to change the quantity of organizations publicly recognized, Wendkos said he had a few bones to pick with their approach.

"It decreased competition and negatively impacted productivity," Wendkos (senior-marketing and psychology) said. "They didn't really see it that way, they just thought that competition detracted from the kids."

However, Wendkos said that the

greek community deserved more. Even though there was a compromise between greek life and THON that entailed naming the top five totals and putting six through 10 on a big-screen, Wendkos said more could be done.

"Competition fuels incentive. They have to stand out in the cold and rain, I think it'd be great if they announced and recognized them for their hard work," he said. "But it doesn't seem like at this time THON wants to do that."

Wendkos said he understood some of the rationale, but he isn't sure if it's the right way to move forward.

"I guess they're trying to make it more equal," he said. "It may be the right thing to do or may not be the right thing at all."

Above all, Wendkos said, greek life needs better communication with THON in the future. Dealing with a lot of miscommunications this year, he said the incoming executive board for the IFC is looking to assign more liaisons for THON to improve communication

between the groups.

"We need to connect the gap," he said.

Sydney Bickford, a member of a THON committee, said she thinks Wendkos made the right move in terms of speaking out on behalf of the greek community during his presidency.

"He took a stance and shared his opinion with members of THON because it directly affects both parties," Bickford (sophomore-English) said. "That's important and I think they should continue to keep up that communication."

Chris Hershey, another member of a THON committee, said the controversy surrounding the reveal diverted both sides from the main priority.

"Even though there were a bunch of disagreements and stuff, in the end, none of that should really matter because everything should be done for the kids" Hershey (sophomore-division of undergraduate studies) said.

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Graduate students talk HUB expansion

By Alyssa Sweeney COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Penn State graduate students met Wednesday to share ideas for the prospective expansion of the HUB-Robeson Center, including green roofs, new eatery options and water bottle fill stations.

Student Activities Director Mary Edgington attended the Graduate Student Association meeting in the HUB to get input from students. Edgington said the expansion — an estimated 30,000 square feet toward the HUB deck and the White Building — is expected to take place within the next four years.

"We understand the importance of student involvement on the project," she said. "We just want to open up the floor to students on what they would like to see done."

Graduate students requested silent study rooms and computer labs — many agreeing undergrad-

uate students are louder, which makes studying in the HUB difficult. Other ideas included a sit-down coffee shop, microwaves and more auditoriums.

Edgington said more meeting rooms would be included because of widespread demand.

"A lot of student organizations don't even apply anymore, because they know they can't get a space," Edgington said.

GSA President Jon Lozano said he thought the smaller meeting spaces would be useful to several student groups.

"Right now, you pretty much have to go small or go giant," Lozano (graduate-student affairs and law) said, who referenced venues like Alumni Hall. "Something in between there would be really good."

Graduate student David DeFulius said although he won't be at Penn State long enough to see the expansion completed, the GSA

could help prospective students with their ideas.

"I'm most concerned with what will be here for future students that we didn't have," DeFulius (graduate-communications) said.

Edgington said the project would include enclosing the outdoor space by Joagie's Hoagies, new HUB food options and renovating the Penn State Bookstore, along with adding space. The expansion would not include the original plan of connecting the HUB and White Building, Edgington said.

Edgington said much of the expansion plan has yet to be approved and the project is still in the preliminary input and design phase. Any suggestions to student activities were welcome.

GSA Executive Secretary Nana Dawson-Andoh (graduate-psychology) jokingly said her fantasy HUB would include a plastic ball pit.

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State Patty's

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dents.

Newly elected Interfraternity Council President Dan Florencio said statistics seem to suggest it's those from outside Happy Valley — not Penn State students — who are causing most of the problems on State Patty's Day. He said it's ultimately up to the presidents of Penn State's fraternity chapters to address State Patty's Day celebrations, but the stance of the IFC Executive Board is clear.

"We're strongly against any holiday that celebrates excessive drinking and we're going to continue to be leaders in addressing these issues," Florencio (senior-philosophy) said.

"As evidenced by past State

"As evidenced by past State Patty's Days, it's literally just excessive drinking."

Dan Florencio newly elected Interfraternity Council President

Patty's Days, it's literally just excessive drinking."

Penn State spokeswoman Lisa Powers said she preferred not to call State Patty's Day a "holiday" at all, instead calling it an "irresponsible," "made-up" and "selfish" event.

"People think they're creating a tradition," Powers said. "But the results of past years' emergency room visits and general destruction would not indicate that this is an opportunity to connect with each other."

Despite the opposition, Balamuta said she's planning on

enjoying next year's event, and she said it's ultimately up to students to behave responsibly on State Patty's Day. And Florencio said he hopes students take into account the impact their actions on State Patty's Day might have on the community before they step out for this year's event.

"I'm from State College, so I kind of have a unique stake in this," Florencio said. "But it's the responsibility of students to behave in a safe manner and take care of our town — it's home."

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Hanukkah

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to Jewish tradition, a small amount of oil only intended to last one night instead burned for eight days.

To celebrate the holiday, Jews light candles for eight nights, give and receive presents and eat fried foods.

Members of the student organization gathered in celebration and

showed their acceptance of all faiths. Chabad Vice President Jon Frisch (sophomore-computer engineering) said events like this are important in order to bring together both students and members of the community.

Student Melanie Stiekman (junior-public relations) said she is thankful for her religion.

"On Thanksgiving, I mentioned my appreciation for my religion," she said. "I came here tonight in

order to experience it and share it with others."

Rose addressed the students and families, saying he, too, was thankful for the opportunity to share the holiday with the community.

"You have to embrace diversity and celebrate it," Rose said.

"One person doing something good and sharing it with others is truly special. Holidays are for everyone."

Weather

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crews had managed to patch most of the holes and clean up the damage, Ruskin said.

Earlier in the day, though, flooding on campus was still an obstacle for many trying to make their way around.

"As I was walking this morning it was flooded all over the place," Campus Weather Service President Robert Lydick said. "The borough was basically a river."

Aside from the rain, Lydick said this week's weather was also sig-

nificant because the decline in temperatures — the mercury dropped about 20 degrees in a matter of three hours Wednesday — marked the official start of State College's "meteorological winter."

The arrival of cold weather may have seemed like it was behind schedule compared to past years, but Lydick said it's actually on time.

"The reason it feels so late is that we didn't have a cold burst this year — last year we had a record snowfall on October 15," Lydick (junior-meteorology) said. "So it seems like we've had a late start, but it's really right on par with where we'd be normally."

But back at OPP, Ruskin said he's thankful that winter wasn't in a hurry to descend on Happy Valley.

After last year's winter weather cost up more than \$1 million in snow removal costs for OPP — a first in Penn State's history — Ruskin said an extra day without snow means less money spent on heating buildings, clearing roads and other precautions that come with a colder climate.

"The earlier winter comes, the more expensive it is to deal with," he said. "Jack Frost is an expensive visitor."

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Zoning

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proposal as the Jan. 10 public hearing approaches.

Newly elected IFC President Dan Florencio said he spoke with Fountaine today to make sure everyone was on the same page with the issue. Florencio (senior-

philosophy) said he plans to reach out to fraternities to relay the clarification to them.

The borough clarified the definition of a fraternity last May, but decided to wait on voting on a suggestion, which was originally proposed by fraternity representatives.

The suggestions would place requirements on the proposal,

which would apply to fraternities re-colonizing under the temporary use provision, until this October, Fountaine said.

If there are no changes made after January's public hearing, the rezoning proposal may be voted on at the borough council meeting in February, Fountaine said.

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