

Former wrestlers plead guilty

By Casey McDermott
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Two former Penn State wrestlers, Eric Bradley and Patrick D. Cummins, pleaded guilty in connection with a string of break-ins at Penn State fraternities and are set to be sentenced Jan. 11 — nearly three years after charges were first filed against them.

The pair pleaded guilty to felony burglary charges “on each and every case.” Centre County District Attorney Stacy Parks Miller wrote in an e-mail Wednesday.

After “a long and protracted process whereby they had filed numerous motions,” a judge denied the former wrestlers’ motions and they have now pleaded guilty, Parks Miller wrote.

While at Penn State, Bradley was an All-American in the 184-pound weight division and Cummins finished second in the heavyweight division in the 2004 NCAA wrestling championship.

In September 2008, Bradley and Cummins were charged with seven counts of burglary and 17 additional counts related to those

burglaries, which spanned from December 2007 to May 2008.

Police said the pair stole items from the Phi Kappa Theta, Phi Sigma Kappa, Alpha Chi Sigma, Acacia, Kappa Delta Rho, Sigma Pi and Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity houses.

Items stolen included laptops, video games, televisions, cash and clothing — much of which has been returned, according to court documents.

The pair also damaged fraternity property, according to court documents.

Earlier in 2008, officials from the State College Police Department saw the pair leaving Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity house, 338 E. Fairmount Ave., and attempting to break into several vehicles outside, according to court documents.

After police obtained a search warrant and found numerous items stolen from the fraternity inside the pair’s apartment, Bradley and Cummins were each charged on May 30 with two counts of criminal conspiracy, one count of burglary, one count of theft by unlawful taking and one count of criminal trespass.

At that point, Bradley and Cummins also confessed to burglarizing the other fraternities, according to court documents.

The two “cooperated with the police in helping to identify where each piece of stolen property came from,” according to court documents.

According to court documents, the former wrestlers were advised that all of their felony charges would be dismissed because they cooperated with the investigation into unsolved burglaries.

But after Bradley and Cummins provided additional information, they were charged with more counts of burglary, theft, criminal mischief and seven counts of receiving stolen property, according to court documents because there was no written agreement, as found by a judge in 2009.

Defense attorney Philip Masorti declined comment.

Defense attorney Jason S. Dunkle could not be reached for comment by press time Wednesday.

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Courtesy of Paul Jordan

Penn State student Paul Jordan walks in the desert during one of his tours. Jordan spent two out of his five years in the U.S. Army in Iraq.

Student recounts life, experiences in Iraq

By Anna Orso
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Paul Jordan was inches from being shot and feet from being blown up by a grenade — all in just one day.

Jordan (freshman-mechanical engineering) started his career at Penn State last year, after spending two out of his five years in the U.S. Army in Iraq on two separate deployments with the 101st Airborne Division.

Jordan’s first deployment to the war zone was from October 2005 to October 2006, when he was stationed next to the Baghdad International Airport. On his second deployment, from October 2007 to November 2008, he was stationed 30 miles away from Baghdad.

“The hard part about Iraq is that they really don’t fight,” Jordan said. “They lay booby traps and roadside bombs instead. There’s very few times when you can actually see the enemy.”

As a sergeant, Jordan’s responsibilities included being in charge of a group of five soldiers and making sure they were always looking the right way, or being aware of what they were doing at all times. On Jordan’s first deployment, he was responsible for carrying a machine gun.

“It didn’t really scare me. I figured I would be an adventurer,” Jordan said. “I knew that I would be doing something, which is why I joined in the first place. I wanted to fight.”

While Jordan said being at war could be boring at times because

sof no action, he was shot at by snipers and was nearby trucks that were bombed.

Jordan’s mother, Lois Jordan, said she knew her son would be shipped out to war when he enlisted.

“I knew he was going to go when the towers fell because he had always wanted to be in the military. So I had a few years to prepare myself,” she said. “I was just happy that he came back physically OK and emotionally OK, which is what I was really worried about.”

After being involved in violent warfare and seeing endless bloodshed, Jordan said he had to cope with some adverse emotional effects.

“When I was there, I don’t know how I did it. I guess I just knew that the rest of my platoon depended on me to keep going, and I depended on them, too,” Jordan said.

Jordan said the high emotions carried over after his return home. He used to dream about his experiences, but those have subsided, he said.

“I also don’t like big crowds of people, that’s kind of weird,” Jordan said. “Oh — and fireworks. If I don’t know they’re going off, it will scare me.”

Despite the horrors of war, Jordan said it wasn’t all bad. He recalled laying on top of roofs of their patrol houses on summer nights, just staring at the stars.

“There were good things,” Jordan said. “I really liked the sunrises and sunsets. They were the most beautiful things I’ve ever seen.”

UPUA conducts audit of expenses

By Kathleen Loughran
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

After University Park Undergraduate Association members discovered the Department of Legal Affairs did not obtain necessary approval before buying promotional materials — including beer cozies and bottle openers — UPUA members conducted an audit. UPUA Internal Development Committee Chairwoman Kelly Terefenko said.

As a result of the audit, it was found that the problem came from a lack of communication. Terefenko (junior-international politics) said.

“The former director Matthew Lachman had not educated the new director on how to spend UPUA’s money correctly,” she said.

Because of the findings, Resolution 19-05 was passed Dec. 1. The resolution reported the results of the audit and called for a presentation on proper budget

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Christian Ragland
senior-political science

expenditures to be held. UPUA President Christian Ragland said this presentation was recommended to be held at UPUA’s Wednesday meeting, but will not be given until next semester.

“I think it will only make UPUA stronger in terms of it lends to our credibility,” Terefenko said. “It lets us know what is being spent and why, and every member of the assembly should know how our budget is being spent.”

Genevieve Farrell, director of the Department of Legal Affairs, said the presentation should prove beneficial.

“The overall budget presentation clears up a lot of little stuff that you wouldn’t know about a budget,” Farrell (sophomore-

English) said. “It’s a good reflection, to make sure that everything is going smoothly.”

Ragland (senior-political science) said the purchases were not the fault of Legal Affairs members because there were no guidelines set up.

“[It was] not a bad thing at all, just a miscommunication,” Ragland said.

“There was not controversy at all. We’re just making sure we’re doing everything properly financially.”

UPUA Vice President Colleen Smith said the audit served as a way to ensure funds were being spent correctly.

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