

Emel sentenced for DUI homicide

The man responsible for last year's alcohol-related death of Kim Fisher received four to eight years in state prison.

By Alex Weininger
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

BELLEFONTE — Scott A. Emel, the 22-year-old man responsible for last January's death of Penn State librarian Kim Fisher, was sentenced yesterday to four to eight years in state prison and fined for reckless driving offenses.

Emel was convicted Jan. 10 on a charge of homicide while driving under the influence and on two additional counts of DUI. Emel was also found guilty of two summary offenses related to reckless driving.

Assistant District Attorney Stephen Sloane said he would push for a maximum sentence of five to 10 years incarceration.

In discussions prior to the sentencing,

Assistant District Attorney Lance Marshall explained to Judge Tom Kistler why he felt the maximum sentence should be applied in Emel's case.

"The worst thing that could happen in this case is that the sentence doesn't reflect what the defendant has done from age 16 to 20," Marshall said.

"...Drinking and numerous driving offenses ... sooner or later, these two things were going to be combined and tragedy would happen."

Marshall discussed some of Emel's past offenses, including Emel's March arrest for possession of cocaine and drug paraphernalia.

The drug arrest occurred three months after Emel killed Fisher.

"If Emel isn't eligible for the statutory maximum sentence ... then nobody is," Marshall said.

Emel's attorney, Joseph Amendola, asked Judge Kistler to consider a combination of rehabilitation and prison time for Emel.

"Yes, Emel will be thrown in with rapists, armed robbers ... but I dare say, I don't know how that will help his rehabilitation," Amendola said.

Amendola said the death of Fisher was a sufficient "wake-up call" for Emel.

But Marshall argued that Emel was still decisively negligent, even after killing Fisher.

"The wake up call, if any, was after he was caught drinking the second time — and with cocaine in the hotel room," Marshall said. "A long prison sentence will speak volumes for Mr. Emel."

After arguments from both attorneys, Emel spoke to the judge and court, describing his remorse for his actions that led to and followed Fisher's death last Jan. 7.

"I apologize to the court and apologize to anyone who knows or is related to Mr. Fisher," Emel said. "For what it's worth ... I'm sorry."

Kistler said Emel was not an eligible candidate for boot camp because it could interfere with the mandatory legislative sentence for homicide while driving under the influence.

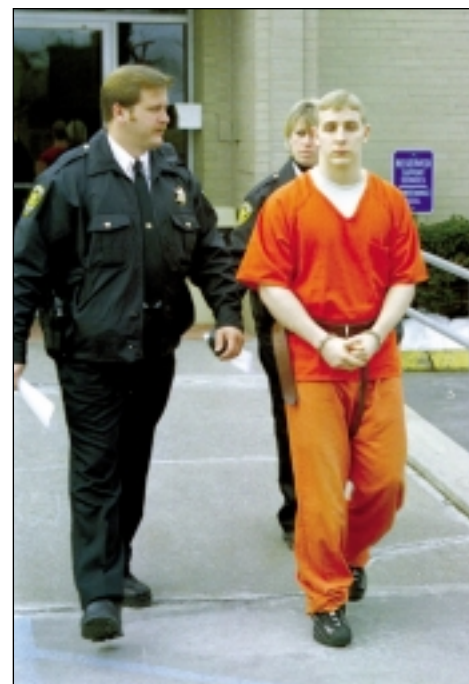
"It is clearly evident to me that this is a pattern."

This was not a momentary lapse of judgment," Kistler said.

Emel has 30 days to appeal the sentence. Amendola said an appeal has not yet been discussed with Emel and his family.

Emel and several local businesses, including Damon's Restaurant, 1031 E. College Ave., were charged in a wrongful death suit filed by Fisher's sister, Carla Manley.

The suit claims that the co-defendants, who served Emel alcohol, are partially responsible for the driving accident that killed Fisher.



Barbara Ovrutsky/Collegian

Scott A. Emel is led out of the Bellefonte courthouse after his sentencing.

Bloomsburg student found dead on floor

Officials believe the freshman died in his sleep from alcohol poisoning following a heavy night of drinking.

BLOOMSBURG (AP) — A Bloomsburg University freshman found by men who described themselves as his fraternity brothers on a living room floor died of alcohol poisoning, officials said yesterday.

Jared M. Drosnock, an 18-year-old business administration major, likely drank too much too quickly and died in his sleep, Columbia County Coroner Michael Kenny said. Drosnock's body was found Sunday morning in an off-campus house.

Drosnock, described as a hardworking high school athlete from Pen Argyl, was recruited to wrestle at Bloomsburg, but decided to forego wrestling for his first year in college, said Pen Argyl Area High School wrestling coach Darrin Evans.

Evans said he was stunned by the death of Drosnock, who he described as "very driven to succeed."

Drosnock's body was discovered at 10:20 a.m. by Pi Kappa Phi fraternity members on a first-story living room floor in a house next

door to the fraternity house. Police said members of the fraternity live in both houses.

Bloomsburg Police Sgt. Joseph Wondoloski said Drosnock had been drinking Saturday night with friends while watching a basketball game on television. Wondoloski said it "wasn't a fraternity party as we know it," but said police found empty beer cans and bottles and hard liquor bottles inside the house Sunday morning.

Pi Kappa Phi was not formally recognized as a fraternity by the school and its charter was suspended earlier this month by its national headquarters because brothers were falling behind in dues, university spokesman Jim Hollister said. The fraternity otherwise had been in "good standing" with the university, Hollister said.

Police were continuing their investigation and did not rule out filing criminal charges against those who provided alcohol to Drosnock, Wondoloski said.

Study: PSU most recognized, well-reputed university in Pa.

By Jeremy R. Cooke
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

U.S. News and World Report, take note. According to the opinions of average citizens, Penn State continues to be the most quickly recognized and well-reputed college or university in the state.

Penn State President Graham Spanier highlighted the results of a recent opinion survey in his remarks at the Board of Trustees meeting on Jan. 19.

But don't expect a new ad campaign to herald these specific findings right away.

The survey, which was conducted by the university's department of marketing and advertising, is primarily used for internal decision-making, said director Cynthia Hall.

She said its main purpose is to monitor the way Penn State is perceived by citizens and to see if those perceptions vary among different parts of the state.

Nonetheless, Penn State spokesman Bill Mahon said it's encouraging to see that the level of respect for the university stays high from year to year. When prompted to select the top college or university in Pennsylvania, Penn State came up in 44 percent of the

responses. A similar poll conducted in 1999 put that percentage at 43.

The University of Pennsylvania was the second most frequent answer both years, with less than 20 percent each time.

One aspect of the survey was designed to help people differentiate between these top two institutions. When respondents initially answered "Penn," the interviewers pressed them to pick between the Big Ten school and the one in the Ivy League.

Another recent popular opinion poll — by Gallup in September 1999 — placed Penn State fifth on a list of the best national universities, according to popular opinion.

However, this year's rankings of national universities by *U.S. News*, with its statistically-based methodology, put the university at No. 13 among publics and No. 44 overall.

Penn State's own survey also researched if citizens see Penn State as "a good educational value for the money" and if the university "provides outreach and service to the state." 56 percent agreed with the first statement and 43 with the second.

The random telephone survey, conducted last October, polled 817 adult Pennsylvanians.



Dan Saellinger/Collegian

Eric Horowitz sits in his messy dorm room in Simmons Hall. Horowitz and his roommate are planning to enter a dirty dorm room contest.

Dirty money

Students can earn cash with dirty room contest

By Allison C. Kistler
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Is your roommate/mother/significant other constantly pestering you about the condition of your room? Has the Board of Health threatened you on more than one occasion?

Tell them all to relax. Vaultcracker.com is sponsoring the "Junkiest Dorm Room in America Contest."

The contest requires participants to send a photograph of the "junky room" to the site. The room deemed the "junkiest" will win its inhabitant \$300. The runner up will be awarded \$100.

"The 'Junkiest Dorm Room in America Contest' was designed to promote our site to college students who enjoy fun 'timewaster' sites on the Internet," said Richard McNaily, president of Excaliber Entertainment, Inc.

Penn State students were pleased to be able to get something for their filth. Joe Gugel (sophomore-computer engi-

neering), whose friends Eric Horowitz (sophomore-premedicine) and Matt Spicher (sophomore-computer science) are the proud owners of a messy room, said, "I know that they love their room messy, and wouldn't have it any other way."

Other students like the fact that there is a cash prize.

"That's pretty easy money," said Diana Del Toro (sophomore-business).

Vaultcracker.com was sympathetic to the typical plight of college students.

"We know that college students, one, don't have a lot of money and, two, have messy rooms," said McNaily.

While "junky" as a term may fall into several different categories, Vaultcracker.com has definite ideas of what it's looking for.

"We would consider a 'junky' room to be anything ranging from a messy bed to a room in which the inhabitant can't open the door from the inside of the room," said McNaily.

McNaily, as president of the company, will be judging the contest.

"I'm looking for something that's eye-popping," said McNaily. "Still, it has to be livable. Normal people don't live with trash all over the floor. If we see stuff like that, we'll know it's a false entry."

The contest is designed as a promotion tool for the Web site.

"We're promoting our new site, and thought this would be a special thing for college students," said McNaily.

E-mailed photo entries to the contest are due Feb. 16. The winner will be announced by Feb. 23. Students interested in more information should e-mail info@vaultcracker.com.

Vaultcracker.com is an online contest site. Clients register with the site and select four numbers. If ever the site randomly selects those numbers, the vault is considered cracked, and whoever selected those numbers wins the prize. Prizes range from cash to actual items, such as electronics.

Inside

Playing the cards right

Whether they are psychic or not, businesses downtown are picking up on students' interest in fortune telling. Readings began in State College as a way to draw customers from the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts. | LOCAL, Page 2

Is Carr ready to lead Lions?

All season long, junior Katrena Carr and sophomore Ashley Luke have battled for the starting point guard spot. In turning in her best performance of the season Saturday, Carr perhaps solidified the position. | SPORTS, Page 10

More controversy for Bush

President Bush, challenging the notion of separation of church and state, opened the door yesterday for religious groups to receive government money for their work aiding addicts, prisoners, the homeless and more. | NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL, Page 6



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School of IST introduces doctoral program

By Lynne Funk
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

The School of Information Sciences and Technology (IST) earlier this month introduced its doctoral program to admit its first class of candidates for the fall of 2001.

Charles DuBois, director of communications for IST, said, "Our mission at IST is to build leaders for the digital global economy. Our doctorate program is here to produce the next generation of professors and researchers in the field of IST."

DuBois said about 60 people have inquired about a doctorate program for IST and the school believed there was a need for it.

IST anticipates admitting five to 10 doctoral candidates to its program per year, opening the door for graduate students to research an array of subjects.

Within IST, there are 43 new courses. DuBois said it is a whole new curriculum.

Frank Ritter, associate professor of IST, said it is about how people, information and

technology are related and can work together.

"I think IST is about 'How do people process information using technology?'" Ritter said. Ritter said it is not a major for training technicians.

"It's (training technicians) not the point of Penn State; it's not the point of IST," he added.

Others emphasized the growing necessity of the IST program. "I think there's a real need for the IST program and IST is offering one of the best new programs in that area," said C. Lee Giles, professor of computer science and engineering.

DuBois said IST teaches students how to apply technology in a number of subjects and helps to fill gaps within some professions that could use IST degree holders.

Building leaders with solid technological backgrounds is a priority, DuBois said, as is having people that can apply their education to different situations and different settings — not just for corporations, but for all sec-

tors of the economy. IST teaches students how to be leaders and develop solutions for problems, he added.

DuBois said the IST program has experienced tremendous growth since its birth in the fall of 1999. At the beginning there were 400 students; now, there are more than 1,300 bachelor and associate degree students across the commonwealth.

DuBois said the IST program is very excited about how well students have taken to IST and the positive feedback the program has received from the government and educators. Regarding the construction plans for the new IST building in West Campus, DuBois said, "This (the building) will provide a single focal point for students to interact, a place for faculty offices and a place to hold conferences."

The building, which will span North Atherton Street and cost about \$58.5 million to construct, will house the growing IST program, now located in Rider Building on South Burrows Street.