

REVOLVING RAIN RESCUE



Madelyn Hawk, 22, of State College, traipses through revolving doors into the Pattee Library to escape the rain. State College was bombarded with rain due to the remnants of Hurricane Jeanne. Jeanne is the fourth hurricane that has brought rain to the central Pennsylvania region.

Natalie Tranelli/Collegian

Officials: Voters uninformed locally

By Holly Hildreth

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As some college students approach their first presidential election as voters, many may enter the polls or send in absentee ballots without educating themselves about local races.

State Rep. Kerry Benninghoff, R-Centre, said that while more students may vote, many of those voting will be more interested in the national election than the local races.

"[Students] may make blind guesses

in races where they won't get themselves properly educated, and that may have a negative impact on local races," he said.

Benninghoff added that in presidential election years, people often vote Democratic or Republican across the board.

Some students agreed that they might walk into the polls uninformed.

William J. Post (junior-advertising) said during a presidential election year, voters from another area may overlook local elections. Post, originally from

Columbus, Ohio, is registered to vote in Centre County.

"People have an impression that governing only happens at a federal level," he said. "At a campus like Penn State, so many students have formed rash decisions on who they support, following whatever trend seems to be most popular, and I doubt they take the time or energy to make an educated decision about the less glamorous local elections."

Tom Andrews, press secretary for

See **LOCAL ELECTIONS**, Page 2.

Robinson describes his recovery

By Jenny Vrentas

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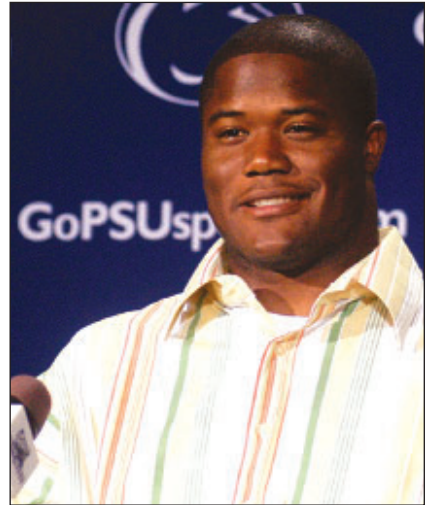
He strode in wearing a bright green, yellow and orange-striped dress shirt, sat down, and on the very first question, displayed his trademark grin.

"I feel fine, other than a couple headaches here and there," Michael Robinson assured the media at Joe Paterno's weekly press conference yesterday. "I just pray to God that I'm walking and able to come back and say hi to you guys."

Yep, same old Michael. But, after Penn State's utility player suffered a concussion and temporary paralysis in a brutal helmet-to-helmet hit Saturday in the Wisconsin game, it was a Michael who was especially relieving for many to see.

Robinson was present to report — and show — that he was, indeed, all right and that other than the headaches, the inability to sleep through the night and the restrictions on his physical activity, nothing about him had changed since before the weekend. Still, he is being monitored on a day-to-day basis by team doctors and will most likely not participate in this weekend's game at Minnesota.

"When you get knocked out, they've got a procedure where it's going to take at least a week or two," Penn



Randall Mertzfeld/Collegian

Michael Robinson fields questions at the press conference yesterday.

State coach Joe Paterno said. "He will not play this week. I talked to [Director of Athletic Medicine Dr. Wayne] Sebastianelli, and he said it may be three or four weeks before he will be cleared."

Robinson is not allowed to play with the team yet, but nevertheless attend.

See **ROBINSON**, Page 2.

More coverage on the Penn State football team | **SPORTS**, Page 11.

Conservative Novak first in speaker series

By Anne Hainer

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The Distinguished Speaker Series will kick off at 8 tonight in Eisenhower Auditorium with Robert Novak, political analyst, journalist and commentator.

"I think with it being topical and Novak being a television personality — it's an election season and you're going to get true political believers out and a lot of people who are politically attuned will attend," said Tom Hesketh, Center for Performing Arts events manager. "We expect capacity seating."

Novak's conservative political commentaries are heard on CNN's *The Capital Gang*, *Crossfire* and *The Novak Zone*.

Labeled "one of America's leading political columnists," by www.cnn.com, Novak founded the nationally syndicated *Inside Report*, co-authored *The Evans-Novak Political Report* and recently published his newest book, *Completing the Revolution: A Vision for Victory in 2000*.

"With it being election year, there is no doubt that lots of Penn State students will come out to hear [Novak] speak," said Matt Midles, Distinguished Speakers Series Committee chair. "Recently he has been so much more of a lightning rod than

usual — who knows how it will go."

Midles said Novak's speech will be open-ended.

"Because we don't ask him to talk about anything specific, his speech could go anywhere," he said. "We are expecting him to talk about being a journalist, to talk about taxes, the federal government and his views on the president."

Megan Green, College Democrats president, said she looks forward to Novak's visit.

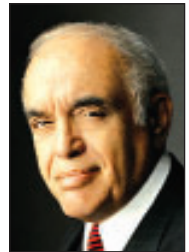
"I haven't decided if I am going yet ... but I really like Novak — I'm a pretty avid watcher of *Crossfire*. The show takes views from the left and the right and I just enjoy watching people debate," she said.

College Republicans President Andy Banducci also said he is looking forward to Novak's speech.

"I really respect Novak as a journalist; he is certainly one of the best conservative journalists out there," he said.

However, Banducci said he had reservations about the political leanings of the Distinguished Speakers

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Novak

Online poker tournament deals scholarships to college students

By Alex Muller

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Students across the country are signing online to compete for money and vacations in this year's The 2nd College Poker Championship.

"Colleges everywhere have a fine poker-playing tradition," said Lou Kreiger, event host and co-author of *Poker for Dummies* and *Internet Poker: How to Play and Beat Online Poker Games*. "It seems natural to hold a poker tournament where students from

all colleges can come together and test their skills."

Students are invited to compete in the online poker competition at www.collegepokerchampionship.com from now until Feb. 20. The players will compete in 25 qualifying rounds known as Super Satellites, which begin at 4 p.m. on Sundays.

Phil Smith (sophomore-geography) placed 16th in his fourth Super Satellite competition last Sunday, which was the fifth round of competition.

"It's great because it's free and since you're playing against other college kids

across the country, you get a chance to gauge yourself against your peers," Smith said. "Plus you win money. Last week I won \$4."

Smith said the weekly Super Satellites take about four hours to complete.

The Satellite Event, consisting of the top 10 percent in each of the 25 Super Satellites, will begin on Feb. 20, offering \$5,000 in scholarship awards.

About 160 people qualify for the Satellite Event every week, Smith said.

The top 20 percent of players from the Satellite Event will play in the Online

Final where first-through 10th-place winners will receive a spot at The 2nd Annual College Poker Championship Land Based Grand Final in Cancun, Mexico. The eighth- through 11th-place finishers will share \$5,500 in scholarship awards.

The top-10 finishers receive the free trip to Cancun as well as a VIP pass to a spring break party that will be hosted by www.collegepokerchampionship.com. They will also compete for the chance to win \$40,000 and a \$10,000 donation to any charity they decide that they want to

donate to, according to the information on the Web site.

"The competition in Mexico is played in real life," Smith said. "The top 50 players usually win a cash prize."

Students can go to the Web site and download the free software required to play the Texas Hold 'em style of poker in the online tournament.

"The competition doesn't cost anything, so you're not losing anything no matter how you finish," Smith said. "It's definitely a learning experience."

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Men's soccer ties in overtime

Last night in front of a meager and soggy Jeffrey Field crowd, the Nittany Lions (5-0-4) played yet another overtime game to a tie. After wins against ranked opponents this past weekend, the Lions rose to No. 3 in the polls. In doing so, they also placed a huge target on their backs. | **SPORTS**, Page 11.

Educators try to enforce voting

In an attempt to increase voter turnout some, professors at Penn State are requiring students to participate in the election process. Some students say such a requirement is improper. However, there is no specific university policy that regulates professors to enforce voter participation. | **LOCAL**, Page 3.

Pa. bands to play Roustabout!

Two bands from the opposite sides of the state converge tonight at Roustabout! Philadelphia-based Hilliard and Pittsburgh native Black Tie Revue are both first-timers at Roustabout! Hilliard formed in 2002 when band members were going to college in the Philadelphia area. | **ARTS** Page 7.

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