

## Blown out of proportion

Artist brings larger-than-life art to PSU (pg. 4)

## Work the runway

Fashion show raises self-defense awareness (pg. 6)

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# Obama: 'I don't quit'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama is renewing his pledge to have all of the nation's combat troops out of Iraq by the end of August. And he says he's confident of success in Afghanistan.

In his State of the Union address,

Obama said of Iraq, "This war is ending, and all of our troops are coming home." He said the U.S. will support Iraq's government as it holds elections and help Iraq's people work toward peace and prosperity.

He's warning of "difficult days

ahead" in Afghanistan but said Afghan forces are being trained so they can "begin to take the lead" by July of next year and U.S. troops can start to come home. And he said he's "confident we will succeed" there.

Declaring "I don't quit," the

embattled president vowed in his first State of the Union address Wednesday night to make job growth his topmost priority and urged a divided Congress to boost the still-ailing economy with fresh stimulus spending. Defiant

see **OBAMA** page 3

# One year down



President Barack Obama walks along the West Wing Colonnade toward the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010, ahead of his State of the Union address.

## Obama receives average grade from students

**BARTHOLOMEW KLICK**  
Collegio Reporter

Obama appears to be slowly losing the support of voters aged 18 to 30, a group that supported him by a more than a 2-to-1 ratio in November 2008.

A Zogby poll conducted from Jan. 15 to Jan. 18 found that only 50 percent of this age group support Obama, which is down from 54 percent in a December 2009 poll.

It's easy to tell by talking to PSU students that college-aged voters are growing cool to President Obama.

"He's not doing a very good job," Aaron Voth, senior in automotive technology, said. "I don't think he knows what he's doing. The guy is

out of touch."

Voth isn't the only PSU student who thinks Obama doesn't know how to do his job.

"I like him," Ari Haviland, junior in history, said. "I think he's trying to do good, but at times I don't think he knows what he's doing. We need someone with more experience."

Other students were critical of Obama receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.

"He won the Nobel Prize, but I don't know why," Ziyou Li, senior in computer science, said. "The army is still in Iraq."

Not every student is openly critical of Obama, however, and many students have complex opinions about him that cannot be summed up with

the simple labels of approval and disapproval.

"He has some high points and he has some low points," Justin Young, senior in communication, said.

Young says he hates the healthcare bill and sees areas where Obama's performance could use improvement.

"But, he brings a new idea on how things should go and he has a more peaceful attitude," Young said. "I'd give him a B+. He's not letting old politics block him."

Keeping in mind what the country was like before, Emily Bachtel says Obama isn't doing too bad of a job.

"I think Obama is doing good, considering what he was given," Bachtel, junior in graphic communication management and commercial

graphics, said. "The economy was s--t."

Jonathan Dennis, senior in psychology, says he thinks the president is doing the best he can.

"Republicans and Democrats, instead of working together, work against each other. They have an attitude of, 'We get it done my way or not at all.'"

Still, many students choose not to have an opinion on the president's performance.

Mohammed Alassaf, a graduate student with his MBA studying English at PSU, is one such student.

"He's been president for only a year," Alassaf said. "You can't have an opinion in one year."

## Sneak peek



### Crude cliché

Even arch angels can't redeem this apocalyptic disaster (pg. 5B)



### Open for business

SIFE sponsors fourth-grade economic lesson. (pg. 4)



### Hit the note

PSU professor almost grabs Grammy nomination (pg. 5B)

## Discussion about a different kind of war

**BROCK SISNEY**  
Collegio Reporter

Seven speakers provided students, faculty and staff with information and insight during the "Terrorism, War, and the Challenge Facing the U.S. in Afghanistan and Pakistan" symposium held Tuesday inside the Crimson and Gold Ballroom.

President Barack Obama recently announced that he wants 30,000 more troops in Afghanistan, which will move the overall American troop number in Afghanistan closer to 100,000. In July 2008, for example, the United States had 33,700 troops committed to Afghanistan.

Senators John Kerry and Dick Lugar cosponsored a bipartisan bill called the Enhanced Partnership with Pakistan Act of 2009. Both Congressional houses passed the bill.

William Lambert, course director of the Afghanistan elective at the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, gave an overview of the Afghanistan-Pakistan theater.

Lambert showed the evolution in media coverage of Afghanistan by presenting



Jim Quist/Collegio

**Major Nelson David responds to a question during the "Terrorism, War, and the Challenge facing the U.S. in Afghanistan and Pakistan" discussion in the Crimson and Gold Ballroom on Tuesday, Jan 26.**

various Time Magazine headlines over the last eight years. A December 2001 headline read "The Last Days of the Taliban."

see **WAR** page 3

## Possible ban on driver texting

**JEN RAINEY**  
Collegio Reporter

The Kansas Legislature has Heather Hopkins' full support on banning Kansas' drivers from sending text messages while driving.

"I know a few people who have wrecked their vehicles because of text messaging," Hopkins, junior in English literature, said.

Both the House and Senate committees in Kansas addressed passing a law to ban texting, instant messaging and e-mailing on Kansas roadways last week. If passed, drivers will be given a year to gain awareness of the law and \$100 fine would be enforced beginning July 1, 2011, according to Kansas.com. Nineteen states, including the District of Columbia and Guam, have already enforced this law. Teenage drivers in Kansas have also already been banned from using cell phones on roads.

This is a part of the state's graduated driver's license bill that went into effect Jan. 1.

"When I text and drive, I really notice that I'm distracted. That's why I try to avoid it," Tracey Fiennen, sophomore in communication, said. "I can usually tell when other drivers are texting because they aren't paying attention and they hold up traffic."

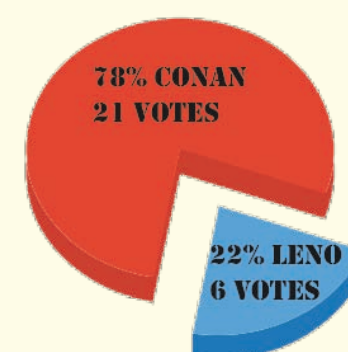
According to fox4ks.com, some professional truck drivers would have a problem with the ban. Several truck drivers use an on-board computer system to communicate with their companies. If they pass a law to ban these types of programs, truckers believe it will make it that much more difficult to do their jobs. However, truck drivers using these programs are 10 percent more likely to cause an accident, according to a study conducted at Virginia Tech University.

see **TEXTING** page 3

## COLLEGIO onlinereaders'poll

### Last week's question

Which late night host were you rooting for, Conan or Leno?



Remember to check out this week's question on page 2B



# Blowin' up

## Artist's inflatable work on display in Porter Hall

**MANDY TOEPPER**  
Copy Editor

Students, instructors and kids gathered around the back entrance of Porter Hall, anxious to see what Jimmy Kuehnle was going to do with the brightly colored slick material on the ground.

Kuehnle took fans and blew air into the material. After it was blown up, he put on the inflatable suit made of neon pink, orange and purple lightweight nylon over his head.

Now it's time to show the campus his artwork.

More than 50 students and onlookers followed the walking inflatable sculpture around campus, including the Oval, watching as he spun around like a tornado, ran into trees and tried to fit his oversized suit through doorways last Thursday.

His work of art, entitled "You Wear What I Wear," looked like a distorted molecule. The main part of the suit consisted of two large pink rectangles with a thin layer of purple between them that had more than 50 bright orange inflatable cylinders attached. Pink and purple inflatable squares were attached to the cylinders, resembling the many legs of a centipede. The artwork's bright colors were more reminiscent of summer, and added a pop of color to the dreary, cold and misty winter day.

Rachel Hegarty followed Kuehnle around for 30 minutes and says she enjoyed other students' reactions.

"I like that he ran into doors and scared people and people ran away from him," Hegarty, freshman in elementary education, said.

Students did more than run away from the unusual sight.

One pulled out a camera phone. Another tried to body-slam him. While others couldn't help but talk about it: "This is too amusing to leave" and, "Someone may think he's a stupid student and attack."

He walks on and passes the dining hall, leaving students rushing to the window to see what's going on.

Hegarty says these reactions are probably Kuehnle's goal.

"I think that was part of the artwork, how people react to it," she said.

After wandering the campus grounds, Kuehnle headed downtown to see what reactions he would get there. He says he jaywalked in front of the sheriff and the sheriff did nothing.

But, he says he's gotten reactions before from law enforcement when he's walked around in his inflatable suit.

"It's so absurd that they don't have a numbered code for that," Kuehnle said. "And before they can think it's a bad idea, the serve-and-protect part of their job comes in and they're helping me out."

Later, after his public performance, Kuehnle, pronounced "keenly," gave a lecture to a crowd of students, with every chair taken in Room 316 Hughes Hall.

Originally from St. Louis, Mo., Kuehnle completed his bachelor of fine arts in sculpture at Truman State University in 2001 and his master's in sculpture, video and performance from the University of Texas at San Antonio in 2006. Since then, he's traveled around the world, including places such as Japan and Finland.

His artwork is eclectic, complementing his quirky personality.

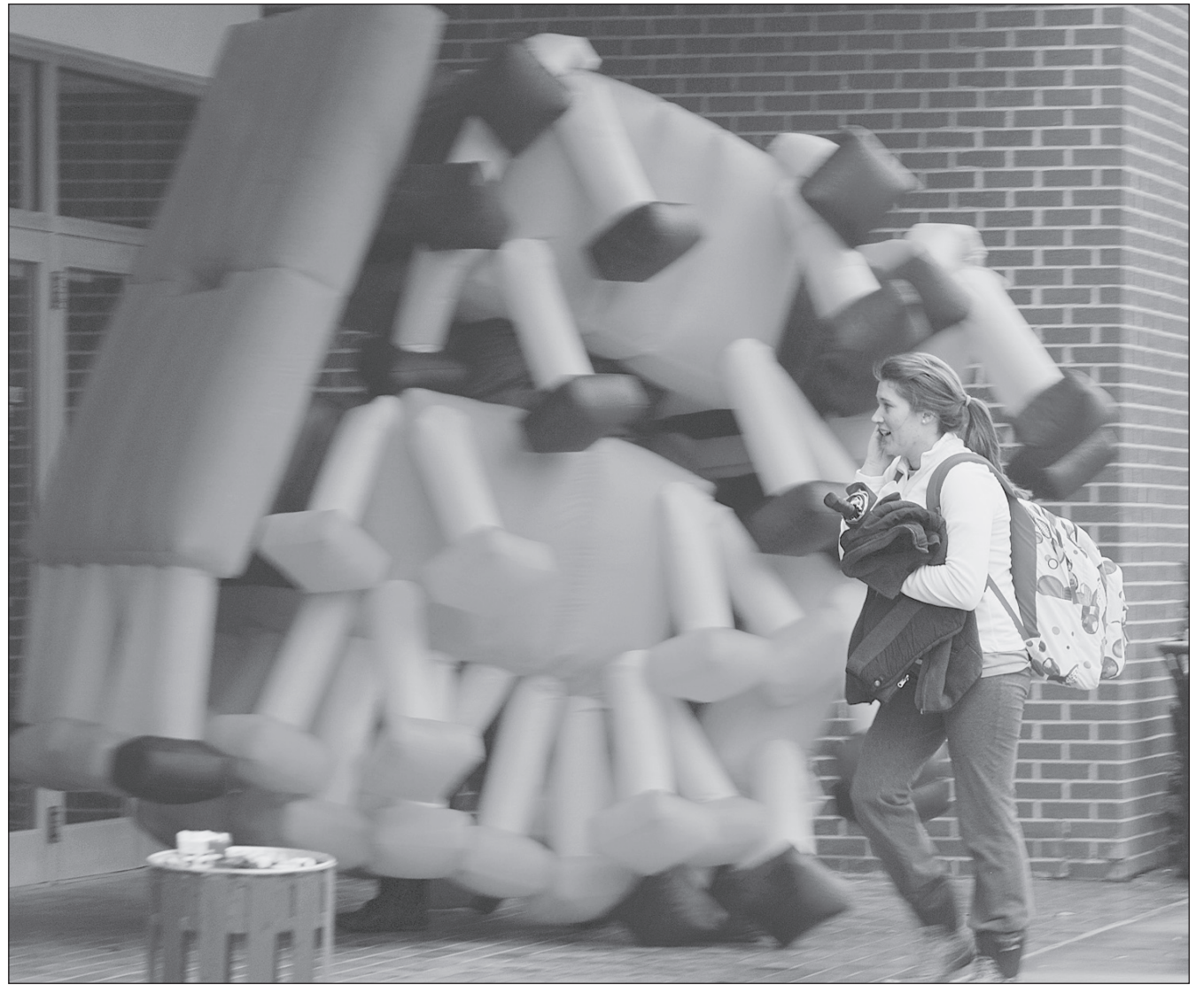
In addition to his inflatable sculptures, he has created volcanoes that spew nacho cheese, bikes that look like words, such as "ART," and a video sculpture where the viewing individual sits on a chair made of televisions that play an image.

To come up with project ideas, Kuehnle says one doesn't have to look to famous artists. Inspiration is all around.

"... You're influenced by everything. You're influenced by the trash on the ground, the McDonald's sandwich you eat. You know, the argument with your friends, you know, a movie you saw. You know, everything influences you," he said.

After seeing pictures of Kuehnle's artwork at the lecture, Candy Hill, sophomore in art education, says she learned a lesson from the presentation.

"If I would take anything it would



Aaron Anders/Collegio

Jimmy Kuehnle in his "inflatable suit" keeps students wondering what is going on as they walk by the artist on Thursday, Jan. 21. Kuehnle's inflatable art is on display in Porter Hall through Feb. 26.

be moving on to new things, not just be stuck in my ways artistically and to explore new things, because I'm sure that when he started out with the bike, I'm sure he didn't see himself sewing together these giant sculptures," she said.

Kuehnle's exhibit "Things Bigger Than People" will be on display in the University and Harry Krug Gallery until

Friday, Feb. 26. The showcase includes his inflatable art sculptures "Air to Air Communication" and "Stuffed Full." Neither inflatable can be overlooked. "Air to Air Communication" consists of five large yellow inflatable rectangles that have an inflatable cylinder connecting them, end to end. The other inflatable, "Stuffed Full," resembles hot tamales. The art has more than 20 elon-

gated red inflatable cylinders overflowing out of a room.

S. Portico Bowman, associate professor in the art department, says Kuehnle's work won't be soon forgotten.

"If another exhibit might have a piece that really impacted you, then you might remember it for a long time. I think those of us who were here for it will always remember (the exhibit)."

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