Impact on Pitt of potential cuts is unclear. Although he stated in a prepared release that the application "can be amended when the final state budget is enacted." (Of Pennsylvania's 2009-10 allocation of $5.93 million in stimulus funds, as an agreement to release from the governor's office, the June 26 application sought $1.73 million in general budget relief, $418 million for the second year of Pennsylvania's school funding formula; $77 million to restore proposed cuts to the State System of Higher Education, community colleges and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's University of Technology, and $285 million in one-time grants to school districts.)

Rendell had announced in March that he would direct $42 million of the state's share of federal economic stimulus funds to restore planned budget cuts to the state-related universities' FY 2010 appropriations. (See March 7 University Times.) Nordenberg told the trustees, "Key underpinnings of the president's federal stimulus package clearly are grounded in a belief in the positive powers of higher education," noting that the plan would include $25 million for the University's appropriation by the state, $5 million for state veterans' benefits, and $75 million in unrestricted research funding and tax credits for students. In addition to the funds intended to restore state spending cuts to higher education in a total of $16 billion for research, including $10 billion for the National Institutes of Health, the plan also noted that the research dollars are aimed not only at scientific breakthroughs, but also at the economic recovery to the communities in which they are spent. Pitt is likely to submit more than 1,000 grant applications for funding under the federal economic stimulus program, with more than 800 to NIH, Nordenberg said. "Pitt is well positioned to spur growth by bringing sizable shares of those dollars back into our home state and our home region," he said. "There is increasing demand both for high quality education and for cutting edge research -- our most basic products."

Chancellor reports on budget troubles at trustees meeting. Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg enumerated the University's recent and ongoing fiscal challenges at the June 26 Board of Trustees meeting, as much more bad news for Pitt was being released in the state's capital. In a mid-month press conference, Gov. Edward G. Rendell was announcing a new round of proposed budget cuts that included an additional 13 percent reduction in support for state-related universities Pitt, Penn State, Temple and Lincoln University.

His revised proposal would appropriate $140 million for Pitt -- nearly $20.5 million less for fiscal year 2010 than he originally proposed in February. Rendell also announced that the retention and tax credit initiatives would not be part of Pennsylvania's application for federal stimulus funds; State System of Higher Education funds, according to a release last month from the chancellor, "are not the only avenue for state aid to higher education in this economic environment, some of the involved officers, including the chancellor and the provost, have chosen to use their retention payments to make new commitments to the University's ongoing capital campaign. They have done so with a focus on student support, which is a priority of that campaign."

The retention plan, overseen by the trustees' compensation committee, was established after a consultants' 2002 review found Pitt officers' compensation low in comparison to a group of research university peers. Rather than implement a salary increase, said Hill, "The committee decided that it was in Pitt's best interest to make the adjustment through deferred retention incentive payments tied to continued service. That decision was validated in the belief that a board priority should be the retention of the University's already experienced and accomplished leadership team."

Absent an action from the Board of Trustees, plans to phase out the compensation program continues indefinitely. Officers' compensation is not set at the same time the salary pool for other Pitt employees is set. Typically, the salary pool increase is announced after a state budget has passed and the trustees, in turn, set the University budget.

However, last March, on the recommendation of the University Planning and Budgeting Committee, Nordenberg announced there would be no salary pool increase for fiscal year 2010, which began July 1. (See March 5 University Times.)"The trustees' compensation committee typically sets officers' compensation in December, retroactive to the start of the fiscal year. Last December, on Nordenberg's recommendation, the committee froze officers' FY09 pay at FY08 levels. (See Dec. 5, 2008, University Times.)"The officers and compensation committee are moving forward with the shared expectation that the salaries will continue to be frozen in FY 2010," Hill said.

Hill noted that the officers' FY09 pay was frozen at FY08 levels, while other employees' pay was frozen at FY09 levels, adding, "The committee took no action with respect to its retention incentive program, recognizing that those payments have not been increased since the inception in 2002, meaning that the retention component of officer salaries already had been frozen for several years."

Some retention bonuses donated. Although he stated in a prepared release that the application "can be amended when the final state budget is enacted." (Of Pennsylvania's 2009-10 allocation of $5.93 million in stimulus funds, as an agreement to release from the governor's office, the June 26 application sought $1.73 million in general budget relief, $418 million for the second year of Pennsylvania's school funding formula; $77 million to restore proposed cuts to the State System of Higher Education, community colleges and the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's University of Technology, and $285 million in one-time grants to school districts.)

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For those veterans eligible for the full benefit, Pitt, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), has agreed to make up the difference between the in-state undergraduate tuition and fees, estimated at $9,418, and the out-of-state tuition and fees for out-of-state students and veterans enrolled in graduate programs. The university will waive its $45 application fee for all veterans.

To administer the new GI Bill, to the fully implemented in August, are prorated according to length of active duty service. Veterans with three or more years on active duty after Sept. 11, 2001, as well as vet-

The university’s Office of Veterans Services and camps, will be a one-stop resource to assist veterans in receiving their military benefits, according to Kelly Oter, director of the GI Bill program. “For the GI Bill, what we are doing is creating a one-stop resource to assist veterans in receiving their military benefits,” Oter said. “Our comprehensive service-oriented program will meet the needs of veterans and their families and help them take advantage of all Pitt has to offer, including academic advising, counseling, on-campus support and career services. Our goal is to develop a more cohesive veterans community on campus.”

Pitt staff member Delia Kreil, who formerly handled the University’s veterans services in the Registrar’s office, will con-

The university’s Office of Veterans Services, to be housed in the Col-

Under the Yellow Ribbon program, the university will accept up to 100 new students (counting all five campuses) on a first come, first served basis, Oter said. “That’s the number for the coming year, at this time we have no plans to expand,” Oter said.

Matched by the VA, Pitt will also offer benefits to out-of-state undergraduate student veteran per year, and $7,800 per eligible undergraduate student per year.

Currently, 250 veterans are attending Pitt who are eligible for the Yellow Ribbon program. While Pitt does not have a down-

For additional information on the Yellow Ribbon program, visit www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/ about the Yellow Ribbon program.

Pitt is also offering aid to veterans who are not eligible for the Yellow Ribbon program due to completing fewer than three years of active service. For out-

The university will issue the applicant the amount allowed by the VA as full payment. For those out-of-state students who receive 70 percent or more of the full educational benefit from the VA, the University will accept

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A s sure as the summer months bring warmer weather, they also bring the University's newest academic calendar, the 8.5 x 11-inch tri-fold brochure delivered to all employee campus addresses that lays out important dates over the next four academic terms.

This year's version, already posted online (www.provost.pitt. edu/information-on-calendar. html), will cover July 2009- December 2011, plus the start dates of spring term in January 2012.

On the face of it, producing the academic calendar might appear to be a relatively easy task of updating dates from year to year.

Not so, said Patricia Beeson, vice provost for graduate studies and undergraduate studies, who chairs the provost's academic calendar committee, a group of 10 faculty, staff and administrators.

That committee is charged with ensuring that the University meets its mandated legal requirements, as well as those educational goals and university practices that Pitt sets for itself, said Beeson, who has chaired the committee for five years.

“The calendar is somewhat controversial in the sense that a lot of people think they have better ways to do it. When I first started this, I remember sitting in my office thinking I had a better way of doing it until I began realizing the ramifications,” she said. “It’s a difficult puzzle to put together. So, people will often come with a suggestion that they think will improve the calendar, then upon review something pops out from here and that affects something over there.”

For example, recently the committee considered the suggestion that Pitt standardize the length of its winter break for students.

“This year, we had two different terms, one of five weeks and one of seven weeks. The committee decided that’s what we would do — to standardize the winter break, but it’s not once Barbara [Repski Heron] and I sit down with members of the committee and look at all ramifications of moving dates.”

Heron is a long-time Regent who has been the office’s liaison to the calendar committee for some 17 years. While time is a continual couple a times a year in the spring term to discuss potential changes to the calendar, Heron, as the driving force behind coordinating affected parties across the University, starts her work each year in October, Beeson said.

“This is not just an afternoon in Barbara’s life. To put together the calendar given the number of constraints we have — the number of days that we have to have classes meet, the timing of holidays, the standard accepted practices of the University — takes a lot of time just to put together one version,” Beeson said. “We spend a lot of time going through drafts of what would happen, because it’s not just what will happen next year, it’s also what’s going to happen if we change our current practices with 14 different possible years [configurations], for all those variants of different calendars.”

Heron begins the fall in the work on each year’s calendar, she said. Her starting points is Pitt’s extended calendar, tentative dates that became fixed as the next calendar approved. We do make all those different versions in draft form. This is what will happen in future years if you do change this,” Heron said. Then the committee discusses the variations, she said.

Beeson added, “If there are no modifications, and we decide to go with the same basic rules that we’ve followed, then Barbara, before the end of fall break, sends off the extended calendar committee for final endorsement, will circulate the draft to any number of different people for comment…

In preparing for approval, posting and printing the 2009-2010 calendar, Heron in January sent out the settled-on draft to more than 100 University community representatives for comment, along with the proposed extended calendar draft for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

“The calendar draft, along with the draft of the extended calendar, go to all the provosts and the deans, regional campus presidents, the Senate Student Government Board, the Student Association Council, Human Resources, all the vice chancellors and all the senior administrative officers,” Heron said.

“I also have a few other ‘concerned persons’ on the list,” such as Housing and Residence Life and food services personnel, she said.

“This year I asked for comments on the drafts by Feb. 6,” Heron said, noting that only a couple of stragglers needed a nudge after the deadline.

Heron has received a lot of feedback, including the batch of responses, and brings suggested changes to the academic calendar to the first one, I sent an email out to the deans and relevant groups asking if there were any problems. I asked for their feedback and there were some positives and negatives that the committee discussed,” she said.

Negative comments included that the shift in class scheduling affected some students’ work schedules, she said. But in balance the support outweighed the dis-enchancement, “and we decided to recommend having the fall break and the chancellor and the provost approved it,” Heron said.

She noted that a proposal to add a one-time holiday for employees in lieu of an increase in the salary pool for this year, now being floated by a Staff Association Council Committee, would not immediately come under the purview of the calendar committee.

“That recommendation would go to Human Resources because that’s an employee contract issue more than a calendar issue. We set the dates, but we don’t say how many holidays people have. That’s determined through their contract,” Beeson said.

Other dates included that the calendar committee follows include a dictum against adjusting the calendar after Labor Day.

“We have a policy that we do not consider religious holidays when making the calendar because there are too many and they move,” Beeson said.

“We have had an unfortunate coincidence of having graduation being on the final day of Passover, if the calendar is such that graduation is late and Passover is early. When that happened, the students were very concerned. So there was a separate reception for the Jewish students who wanted to have something of a graduation reception with their families. We could not move graduation, but instead we did that. The same will happen occasionally with Greek Orthodox Easter. The biggest potential conflict is Easter, because the Easter holy day is with graduation.”

She noted that a letter goes out every year about accommodating students who have religious obligations at the University’s Registrar’s office, which controls exam sched-uling, is prepared to handle such situations on an individual basis.

Heron said a recurring issue that merits attention in the calendar, the long weekend following those holiday that shift.

“In 2010 the summer term will have a long weekend after Labor Day and of course Memorial Day, that will be celebrated on a Monday, which drops the count of Mondays in the term to under anything that’s acceptable. So we decided we had to end the term on the Monday after the Friday when the summer term usually ends to make up that count.”

Beeson said, “There are quirks like that and we just work around why we’re ending a term on a Monday. It is interesting the things you see in the calendar.”

It’s easy to say, let’s just start the summer term one day earlier. What then do you do with the dorm rooms and that one day is important. There are a lot of things like that that aren’t obvious.”

Heron recalled the most publicized change in the calendar during her long tenure as Registrar’s liaison.

“We’ve always followed the national holiday schedule, except in the case of what used to be called Columbus Day, which is now called Great Americans Day,” Continued on Page 4

“The calendar is somewhat controversial in the sense that a lot of people think they have better ways to do it.”

— Vice Provost Patricia Beeson, who chairs the provost’s academic calendar committee
Ahmet found patients, professor of the following grants to faculty members: the School of Medicine, described the temporary "extinc- tion" of the H1N1 influenza virus for humans in 1957 and its subsequent re-emergence 30 years later. They note a small 210-person outbreak of H1N1 in 1976 among soldiers in Fort Dix, New Jersey, did not cause the same major scale. H1N1 influenza re-emerged in 1977 among people in the former Soviet Union, in Korea and northeastern China.

Study of its genetic origin showed that the 1977 H1N1 strain, related closely to the Dix strain, but was related closely to a 1950 human strain. T sang noted that concerns about the Fort Dix outbreak stimulated a flurry of research on the virus in 1976, which led to an accidental release during laboratory studies of the 1930 strain that had been preserved as a "freezer" virus, resulting in the re-emergence of the previously extinct virus a year later.

That 1977 H1N1 strain has circulated among humans as seasonal flu for the past 32 years. Analysis of the 2009 H1N1 strain shows shares common ancestry with other influenza strains, some people may have partial immunity to the new pandemic virus.

The authors also go on to explain that the danger posed by a virus isn't solely on its lethality, but also on its ability to jump species. Researchers have been trying to understand why viruses haven't spread more commonly to other animals, or humans, since they first emerged in 1918.

Brain activity linked to PTSD, anxiety, depression symptoms

With the July 21 issue of the 167-year-old journal, DeWitt Burke, the sleeping patterns of military veterans suffering from PTSD and anxiety.

Sleep research presented

New flu, old flu

The current H1N1 flu virus is an in- ability to adapt to its new environment, the more severe the symptoms of PTSD, anxiety and depression. The authors also go on to explain that the danger posed by a virus isn't solely on its lethality, but also on its ability to jump species. Researchers have been trying to understand why viruses haven't spread more commonly to other animals, or humans, since they first emerged in 1918. The July 16 print issue, describes "Learning to Sleep" and visits to the doctor's office, could indicate an overuse of some medications and services by this population to better control symptoms. Their paper, entitled "Manufacturing the Tissue Bioreactors."

Membrane protein linked to a key signaling pathway has broad implications for improving wound healing. Researchers have identified and described proteins that are essential in embryonic development.

Pitt team learns how to make hearts big

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Membrane protein linked to a key signaling pathway has broad implications for improving wound healing. Researchers have identified and described proteins that are essential in embryonic development.
Elevators in Chevron Science Center and Craig Hall were dam-
aged and significant flooding was reported in Thackeray Hall, where more than 3,000 dorms were closed to any de-
ceiving delivery to recent graduates were ruined. Flooring and walls were damaged in Thackeray Hall, with losses estimated at $20,000. The cost of storm damage to a variable frequency drive that controls one of the McGowan Institute’s HVAC rooftop units was estimated at $17,000. Practice rooms and the library elevator lobby were flooded in the Music Building, electronic equipment was damaged in Old Engineering and a window was broken by water pressure in a Clapp Hall window well. The engineer’s office and mechanical room in Clapp Hall also were flooded, damaging a radio and a television. Some flooding on the 7th-12th floors of Benezette Hall, which is undergoing a multi-million dollar renovation, was attributed to leaking associated with contractors’ work on the building. Hillman Library sustained damage to its electrical system, carpeting and ceiling tiles. Pitt’s baseball field was damaged when a sewer manhole cover blew off, eroding the field and allowing debris to wash onto the home plate area.

Clean-up is continuing follow-
ing heavy June storms that caused up to $3 million in damage or were against the University’s best interests and, therefore, the best interests of the region.”

In addition to the options above, the Amended Recovery Plan directs the city to obtain contributions at or below $6 million from public and non-profit community, beginning in fiscal year 2011. According to the Act 47 plan, “This may be achieved through increased voluntary contributions in lieu of damages. The University, with the [Pittsburgh] Public Service Fund, ... pursuing [Pennsylvania] Act 47.” The Pittsburgh Planning and Assessment Department will present amendments to the payroll prepa-
taxation to include non-profit institutions, and any legally enforceable fees applicable to services rendered to tax-exempt institutions,” such as a tax on the city-provided water supply.

Pitt is a charter member of the Pittsburgh Public Service Fund, a consortium of more than 100 local universities, hospitals, foundations and other non-profit organizations that voluntarily agreed to help the cash strapped city. Based on a 2007 study, the group gave a total of $13.98 million to the city over three years, according to city records. Under the service fund’s bylaws, Pitt’s contribution would not be made public.

Attempts to negotiate a new agreement after the public service fund contract ran out at the res-
manship of the University’s best interests and actions any decisions that result in the University losing its non-profit status and any actions put us at a disadvantage. As the University Times went to press, SAC President Gwen Fedele, vice chancellor of Planning and Assessment. Fedele said Pitt, which did not specify the amount public except to confirm nor city officials have made that proposal, but neither fund has proposed an amount it would be less than the nearly north of “Doubt” to move rehearsals to the Heymann Theatre, located on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh, for the run.

City Council is expected to determine which revenue-gener-
ating options it will pursue by the end of the city’s fiscal year, Sept. 10. —Peter Hart

As the University Times went to press, SAC President Gwen Fedele was unavailable for comment. —Peter Hart

City plans could be costly for Pitt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

City Council’s proposal is that the senior administration offer non-monetary compensation alternatives for staff in lieu of salary raises for fiscal year 2010 has been rejected. In March, Chancellor Mark Nordenberg announced there would be no increase in the salary pool in FY10, which began July 1. Last month, SAC’s salary and job classification committee wrote to Provost James V. Maher, who chairs the University Planning and Budgeting Committee, UPBC, which is composed of administrators, faculty, staff and students, annually makes recommendations to the chancellor on salary and other budget issues.

The letter, endorsed by SAC’s membership, called for non-monetary compensation in alternatives for staff, such as providing additional personal days or adding to the number of holidays. The request stipulated that any non-monetary incentive would be for FY10 only.

In response to a query by the University Times, Maher this week provided a written response to SAC’s proposal. Maher stated, in part, “UPBC includes representation from SAC and always has been willing to consider the advice it receives from SAC members. As a result of these discussions, our schools and support units have been rethinking their budgets and reallocating their staff and resources. The budget’s compressionwide planning done at the level of the UPBC has been grounded in the belief that the University’s staffing is lean and that preserving its core operations, to the extent that is financially possible, should be a priority. “The possibility that non-monetary incentives might be offered in a year when salaries have been frozen has a certain surface appeal. However, it also can be seen as suggesting that the University does not need the full effort of its existing staff. Not only is that the wrong message to be delivering at a time when so many people have lost their jobs, but it is inconsistent with the reality that all of us probably will need to work even harder during these extraordinarily difficult times.” As the University Times went to press, SAC President Gwen Watkins was unavailable for comment. —Peter Hart

Provost nixes SAC proposal

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The People of the Times column features recent news on faculty and staff, including awards and other honors, accomplishments, and administrative changes. We welcome submissions from all areas of the University. Send information via email to: utimes@pitt.edu, by fax at 412-644-4859, or by campus mail.

For submission guidelines, visit www.ump.cmu.edu/utimes/deadlines.

The Pew Charitable Trusts announced recently that Jon P. Boyle, associate professor of molecular and mathematical geneticists at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, has been selected as a 2009 Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences. Boyle is among the forefront of career scientists nationally to receive an award for show promising research relative to the advancement of human health.

Pew Scholar Boyle will receive a $200,000 award over four years to support his research.

Boyle investigates how viruses, specifically hepatitis C virus, are transmitted and maintained in their host environment. Boyle’s research concentrates on therapy-resistant drug-resistant variants of the virus and the replication and treatment of infections with isolated hepatocytes (liver cells).

Three faculty members from the School of Nursing will be inducted as fellows into the American Academy of Nursing (AAN) this month.

Catherine M. Bender, associate professor, Department of Health Promotion and Nutrition, and Robert H. Bunn, professor, have been selected by the Academy for their contributions to nursing.”

The AAN is a national organization dedicated to finding practical, effective and safe strategies to prevent the spread of the HIV/AIDS virus, particularly in resource-limited settings. The award is the highest award the PSD can bestow on its members who have worked in the field of public health and community service.

The award is named for syphilis and leprosy reverse transcriptase inhibitors as complementary two-stage treatments for their commitment to liver disease and health disease prevention.

Kuller is nationally recognized for his contributions of cardiovascular disease and the use of non-invasive techniques, such as trans-echocardiogram, to detect early heart disease in people without symptoms. He has spent 30 years studying risk factors for heart disease and women going through menopause.

In addition, as the director of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer and Cancer Institute’s cancer control and prevention program since 1996, he has spent many years studying prevention of cancer and cancer risk.

The School of Medicine’s Sharon Hillier this month received the Thomas Parran Award from the American Sexually Transmitted Diseases Association.

Kuller received the AAN’s Distinguished Service Award and the highest award the PSD can bestow on its members who have worked in the field of public health and community service.

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Pennsylvania's state-related universities have reacted strongly to Gov. Edward G. Rendell's decision to exclude Pitt from Pennsylvania's share of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's Stabilization Fund. According to federal Department of Education guidelines, states receiving funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) SFSG program must maintain support for public HEIs in FY09, FY10 and FY11 equal to or greater than the percentage provided for that purpose in the preceding fiscal year.

The act also stipulates that governors use 81.8 percent of their HEIs' federal allocation for the support of elementary, secondary and postsecondary education and to include their high school class — up from 74 percent last year and 64 percent in 2008 — for that budget include a larger-than-normal increase to our own current year, the presidential election year.

The board approved changes in Pitt's tuition structure for the fall term to $32 per term for part-time students.

The board also approved an endowed scholarship fund in the School of Law has been established in Pitt's memory. It is the first endowed scholarship fund in Pitt programs and services and possibly some layoffs. (See Senate Matters, page 2.)

The administration is maintaining its stance of no layoffs and that staff reductions mostly are reassigning potential students. It also is consistent with the growing recognition that the economy of this region has been rebuffed on a wide scale by the current financial crisis and higher education and health care. Pitt's chancellor, Mark A. Nordenberg, said applications for admission to the Pittsburgh campus's incoming freshman class were up from 74 percent last year and 39 percent in 1995.

Nordenberg said applications for admission to the Pittsburgh campus have also risen from 7,823 in 1995 to 20,639 in 2008 and 20,637 for 2009. "In less than two months, we fully expect to enroll the best and brightest class in our history," he said. We also will insist on the hiring of new academic talent for that purpose in the preceding fiscal year.

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Vision center gets $3 million donation from alums

UPMC's Center for Vision Restoration and Pitt announced a $3 million gift from alumnus Louis J. Fox. UPMC has pledged to match Fox's donation. Fox was diagnosed 10 years ago with central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO), an incurable condition caused by blood vessel obstruction. To honor him the center is being renamed the Louis J. Fox Center for Vision Restoration. The center is a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary research and clinical program dedicated to ocular regenerative medicine and improving quality of life for the visually impaired. Its main focus includes improving quality of life for the vision-impaired due to cataracts, corneal scarring, glaucoma, macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy and other conditions.

Visual impairment is a significant problem. More than one in 10 Americans have low vision, while 1 in 40 has blindness. Pitt researchers seeking subjects 24-35 yrs. to participate in studies for human parathyroid hormone-related protein (PTHrP 1-36). Requires wearing a monitoring device in your home. Call: 412/864-3266 or email: bruca@pitt.edu.

Therapeutic massage.
Massage. Every 3rd Friday, 412/420-1918. Introduction to Swedish massage, includes 1 massage. Each additional only $39!

** More information, call Barbara Dellussi, 412/624-6444.**

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True TripAdvisor property! Lovely house, totally renovated; includes niture & artwork; room/music studio (22x24), charming LR with FP, 2 BRs. Total square, 1,300 sq ft. $195,000. DelRaso, 412/624-4644.

**Squirrel hill**

Spacious spacious 4-5 BR 1 1/2 BA plus floor plan floor plan floor plan floor plan floor plan floor plan floor plan floor plan floor plan floor plan floor plan floor plan floor plan floor plan floor plan. Total square, 3200 sq ft. $595,000. DelRaso, 412/624-4644.

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**Deadlines**

The next issue of the University Times will include events of July 22. Information for events during that period must be received by 5 pm July 16 at 108 Belfield Hall. Information may be sent by fax to 412-624-5759 or email to uctimes@pitt.edu.