

CITY GOVERNMENT



## PAY-AS-YOU-THROWN OUT

KIMI FISHER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A local resident voices her opinion on pay-as-you-throw to Mayor John Dennis and City Attorney Eric Burns during the West Lafayette City Council Meeting on Monday.

### City Council supports ordinance, mayor promises veto

BY JONATHAN OSKVAREK  
City Editor

In a four-to-three vote Monday, the West Lafayette City Council supported the pay-as-you-throw trash ordinance, only to be met by a promise of a veto from Mayor John Dennis.

As Dennis explained during the meeting, he has the ability to veto any legislation that is passed by the City Council. For the pay-as-you-throw trash ordinance, Dennis said he would use this veto power.

"We are here to represent our constituents," Dennis said. "There is an overwhelming majority that are not for it."

With the mayor's veto, the ordinance can be reconsidered by the council but, as dictated by West Lafayette city code, five votes will be

required to override the veto. In Monday's vote, the council's three republican members all voted against the ordinance while the four democrats voted in favor of it.

After the City Council meeting, Councilor Peter Bunder, D-District 2, remarked that he could not remember the last veto.

"I guess the mayor is running for re-election and this is a good way to get started," Bunder said.

If passed, the ordinance would have changed the \$9 monthly garbage removal fee to a \$9 fee for a 50-gallon or smaller container and a \$13 fee for a 96-gallon container. Also, stickers for additional bags would have cost \$2 each and a \$10 fee would have been placed on bulk rubbish, such as a small couch or other furniture.

Mary Cook, owner of Harry's

Chocolate Shop and member of the work group for the ordinance, requested that changes still be made to the current ordinance. She then handed Councilor Gerry Keen, R-District 5 and member of the Public Safety and Ordinance Committee, a version of the ordinance with no fee increases for the council to consider.

"There's no doubt in my mind that the existing ordinance is in need of a cleanup," Dennis said of the regulations currently governing trash pickup.

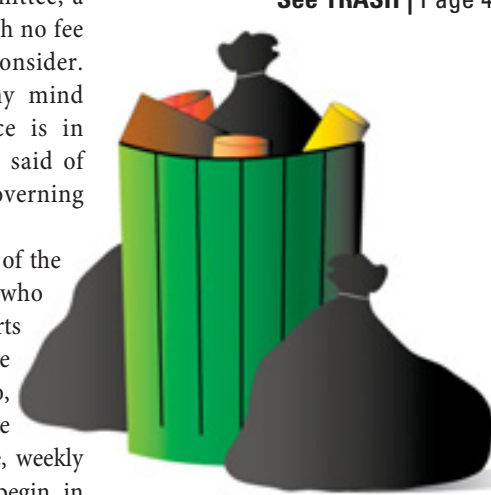
Regardless of his rejection of the new ordinance, Dennis, who praised the work group's efforts to craft a suitable ordinance before he promised his veto, said changes will still be made to trash pickup. For example, weekly commingled recycling will begin in

May or June.

Street Commissioner David Downey of the Street, Sanitation and Recycling Department said his directive is to increase recycling.

"As far as I'm concerned, this vote

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KAYLEE SIGG | GRAPHIC ARTIST

BUSINESS

## Corporate experience aids entrepreneur

BY KELLI FORD  
Assistant Features Editor

Taking the leap from the corporate world into an entrepreneurship can be a difficult one – just ask Purdue graduate Mike Scherenberg.

Scherenberg, who graduated from Purdue in 2001 with a degree in computer engineering, launched his company, Fixit99.com, about a year ago. Fixit99.com is a technical support Web site which allows computers to be remotely repaired.

This is a new road for Scherenberg, who has been part of the corporate world

since his graduation. He worked in corporate consulting for companies such as Sears Holdings Corporation and Computer Sciences Corporation, where he said he felt dissatisfied.

"I love helping people, but was focused on businesses. I wanted to move away from that and have a sense of ownership, so this past year I decided to start this company," Scherenberg said.

He said this was a scary transition, since he would be leaving a steady paycheck, among other stabilities.

"It was one of the most difficult choices I had to make," Scherenberg said. "But in the long run it's where I wanted to be."

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PHOTO PROVIDED BY MIKE SCHERENBURG

Mike Scherenberg works along side one of his technicians.

SCIENCES

## Blind chemist alumni encourages students



SAMANTHA DE SOLLAR | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER  
Cary Supalo, a blind chemist who graduated from Purdue, spoke about his company that helps blind students in chemistry majors Monday.

BY ASHLEY MIKUTIS  
Assistant Campus Editor

Chemistry can be a difficult subject for many students as it is, but for a blind student, there are many more challenges.

When Cary Supalo, a Purdue alumnus, decided to take a physics course at Purdue, it was suggested he take a waiver for safety reasons. After all, Supalo has been blind since the age of 7. Supalo not only refused to take the waiver, but he was also one of the top students in the class. In the spring of 1999, Supalo graduated Purdue with a Bachelor

of Science and a Bachelor of Arts.

Since then, Supalo has spent his efforts educating and promoting the active participation of individuals with disabilities in the chemical sciences.

"The can-do mindset is a key element," Supalo said. "The moment you say you can't, you admit defeat."

Monday night, Alpha Chi Sigma and the American Chemical Society committee for Chemists with Disabilities hosted a forum sponsoring a talk by Supalo. Supalo, who is also the founder of Independence

Science LLC, a company based out of Purdue Research Park, addressed a small gathering of the Purdue science community to put emphasis on the need to encourage students with disabilities to contribute to the sciences. His company has been working to create technology that helps assist blind or low-vision students in the laboratory sciences.

Supalo uses a software interface called Logger Pro, which allows students to use a one-stop shop that would allow them to obtain access to real-time readings and

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COST-SAVINGS COMMITTEE

## Administrators discuss ways to cut IT expenses

BY MIKEL LIVINGSTON  
Executive Reporter

Information technology administrators have already begun several cost-effective pilot programs as they continue discussions on ways to trim \$15 million in IT expenses from the general fund at the behest of Purdue president France Córdoba.

At a forum Monday afternoon to update IT staff on the committee's progress, cost-savings committee co-chair Chris Martin, director of financial affairs for the College of Engineering, mentioned several of the pilot programs that will examine possible cost savings initiatives.

In one initiative, data centers in two colleges were combined to save money including energy costs. The project will continue to be monitored to determine how much money can be saved and whether the concept should be applied to other campus areas. Martin declined to specify which colleges were involved.

A second initiative under way is the repurposing of a yet-to-be-determined general purpose computer lab on campus to enable more group collaboration for users. Julie Kercher-Updike, co-chair of the cost savings committee, said the committee will be meeting with representatives of several campus groups later this week to select the lab.

The forum was one of the three scheduled this week to keep staff updated. Kercher-Updike said in the current fiscal climate, the committees have made an effort to remain as transparent as possible.

"Having been involved in initiatives like this in the past, people knowing and being up front about it helps reduce some of the fears," she said. "It doesn't eliminate them, but it reduces them."

Administrators used the forum to address several staff concerns, including how cost cuts might affect the salary and wages of IT employees.

"It's true that part of what we spend on IT – a significant part – is for IT salary and wages," Martin said. "I



JULIE KERCHER-UPDIKE  
Co-chair of cost-savings committee

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NONDISCRIMINATION

## Graduate student government passes resolution

BY ASHLEY MIKUTIS  
Assistant Campus Editor

The Purdue Graduate Student Government passed a new resolution Monday night which adds gender identity, gender expression, genetic information and political affiliation to the list of prohibited forms of discrimination on Purdue's campus.

Richard Severe, president of the Graduate Student Government, said the resolution was presented to the council and was passed.

"There were some abstentions but there were no 'no' votes," Severe said.

Gender identity refers to a person's self-identification of gender, based on psychological identification rather than biological sex, and gender expression is the outward way of "acting" gender for an individual, such as wearing clothes that are feminine, masculine or androgynous. Genetic information concerns the genetic makeup of an individual and the disposition for physical conditions that have been tested for. Political affiliation refers to individuals' rights to choose and express their political beliefs and ideals.

Out of the Big Ten universities, Purdue is the only one that has not added these provisions to its non-discrimination policy.

Nicholas Goldsmith, a junior in the College of Agriculture, said the new resolution is important and that

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### CORRECTION

In the story "Church sends hope, food to Haiti" published Monday, the name of the spokeswoman for the group was spelled incorrectly. Her name is Jonell Smith. The Exponent regrets this error.

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