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DEMONSTRATION COLLEGE PA DISCRIMINATION HOMOSEXUAL
PENN STATE PROTESTERS TARGET COACH
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Gay-rights activists temporarily occupied the rotunda of Pennsylvania State University's administration building yesterday and jammed telephone lines of key officials to protest alleged discrimination by a basketball coach.

Wearing pink triangles and chanting slogans, about three dozen protesters joined hands and encircled the rotunda on a second-floor mezzanine as a handful of university police officers watched. There were no arrests.

The protesters, many of them members of the school's Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Student Alliance, believe women's basketball coach Rene Portland discriminates against lesbians. They cited a recent article in The Inquirer that quoted colleagues and former players as saying Portland did not allow lesbians on her team.

Portland declines to speak about anything she considers training rules.

Last week, the university's athletic department said it was investigating Portland, and the school's Faculty Senate approved a resolution asking that lesbians and gays be protected under the Penn State anti-discrimination policy. They currently are not.

Before the students entered the Old Main administration building for a 10- minute demonstration, about 60 marched or stood outside, carrying pink or green placards with messages that spoke to both discrimination and athletics.

The group asked its members and others to jam Penn State telephone lines by reading a one-paragraph statement to four of the university's top administrators.

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