

Chocolate prices not so sweet

By ANDY RATNER
Collegian Staff Writer

It was inevitable, chocolate lovers. After the boost in coffee prices, you should have realized that you would be next to feel the crunch.

Most domestic candy bars have risen in price from 15 cents to 20 cents, while the size of the bars has not increased substantially. Much of the imported chocolate also has gone up in price.

An employee of a local candy store who wished to remain unnamed, said the price boost is a result of the South American countries taking advantage of the cocoa and chocolate demand, both here and abroad.

Billy Vanneman, of the Candy Shop, said the price of cocoa products has swelled 430 per cent in the last five years. "In the past, we've been notified of price changes in advance," Vanneman said, "but lately many of our shipments have been stamped 'subject to change without notice.'"

Vanneman predicts that people will continue to buy chocolate, but they will be much more selective with their purchases.

The price of chocolate per pound has almost paralleled the increase in candy bar prices. "Those manufacturers who haven't increased their prices yet are doing so now," said Vanneman.

The price boost, according to Vanneman, also is due to the fact that many countries who previously did not import chocolate products, such as Russia, are doing so.

Bill Pettit, of Graham's candy store, said the bars have increased a little in size, but not a nickel's worth. "In November," Pettit said, "we were warned by the salesmen that prices would go up. But they also told us that the bar sizes would increase substantially, which hasn't been the case."

"Sales have remained pretty much the same though," Pettit said. "People usually have a chocolate habit or a favorite brand that they enjoy, and they're willing to pay the price — to an extent."

Pettit doesn't foresee any increase in the price of other candies, such as gum or Life Savers, but added "you never can tell."

Many candy freaks will be appalled to learn that some manufacturers are now using synthetic chocolate.

A few other local merchants had quite different views on the rise in chocolate prices.

Phil Lucas, of McLanahan's Drug Store, said the bars have definitely increased a nickel's worth in size, and that chocolate bars are still a very popular item. He also said the price hike has had no effect on the Valentine candies, which have stayed the same in price as last year's Valentine gift boxes.

Joe Williams, manager at Weis Market, said he didn't think that the increase in the cost of chocolate products had any connection with the recent skyrocketing of coffee prices. "With coffee," Williams said, "only the prices have increased, but chocolate products have increased in size as well as price."

Mixed reactions offered

Extra judge debate focus

By PAUL CORBAN
Collegian Staff Writer

The need for a second common pleas court judge in Centre County is a hot topic in current political circles.

State College attorney Alan Ellis, a possible candidate for the judicial election this year, said, "We definitely need two judges in there (Centre County); there's no question in my mind." Ellis said if retiring judge R. Paul Campbell goes on to former judge status, which would allow Campbell to continue hearing cases, he doesn't see a need for a third judge.

Judge Campbell said he didn't think an additional judge was needed in the county. "The big thing is the willingness of the judge to work," he said, "and his productivity." Campbell said if the judge doesn't want to work, there will be a need for a second judge.

Centre County District Attorney Charles C. Brown, Jr., a Republican candidate for judge, said he did not want to comment on the question of an additional judge at present. "I'm running for the job that's available," he said, adding that he doesn't want to "ask for help before I get into office."

Brown said there was legislation proposed in the state Senate last year that would have added judges to a

number of counties in Pennsylvania, including Centre County. According to Brown, the legislation was killed in committee by the Democratic leadership.

U.S. Congressman Joseph S. Ammerman, a state senator for the 34th district when the legislation was proposed, said the bill died while the fight was still going on. The bill would have provided for a second judge to be elected in Centre County in 1977, he said, but the bill was opposed by Democratic leader Thomas M. Nolan.

According to Sen. Louis G. Hill (D-36 Dist.), chairman of the state Senate judiciary committee, Nolan opposed the section of the bill allowing the election of some of the judges. Nolan wanted all of the judges to be appointed by the governor, Hill said. The bill was sent back to the judiciary committee in November and died when the senate session ended.

Hill said legislation such as additional judges tends to "Christmas tree" and fails to run through the houses. In order to gain support for the bill, unnecessary judges are added to the legislation, Hill said, adding that many senators won't vote for the bill unless their county is included in the legislation.

"I'd rather have too many than not enough (judges),"

Hill said, adding that it was very important to have an adequate amount of judges in the state.

Hill said certain counties "really needed" additional judges. He said his committee received a number of reports on the need for judges in different counties during hearings on the legislation, adding that Centre County was rated high in need. "We had them (Centre County) number two on one list, number four on another list and number two, again, on another list," Hill said.

Clifford Kirsch, Asst. Pennsylvania Supreme Court Administrator, said a study done last year by his office was based on the number of filings, number of dispositions of cases and the trial base per judge, adding that population was also taken into consideration. He said counties were ranked according to need and Centre County was ranked high on the list.

The Centre County Bar Association last year filed a report on the establishment of a second judge in the county. The report shows that in 1974, Centre County had more criminal and civil cases disposed per judge than any other county in the state. In that year, Centre County disposed 674 cases. The average caseload per judge in the state was 281. The report also shows that

Centre County has the lowest number of judges per 50,000 population than any other judicial district in the state with over 50,000 population. Centre County has .52 judges per 50,000 residents while the average is 1.04.

The majority of the committee that filed the report concluded that a second judgeship should be recommended to take effect in January, 1978.

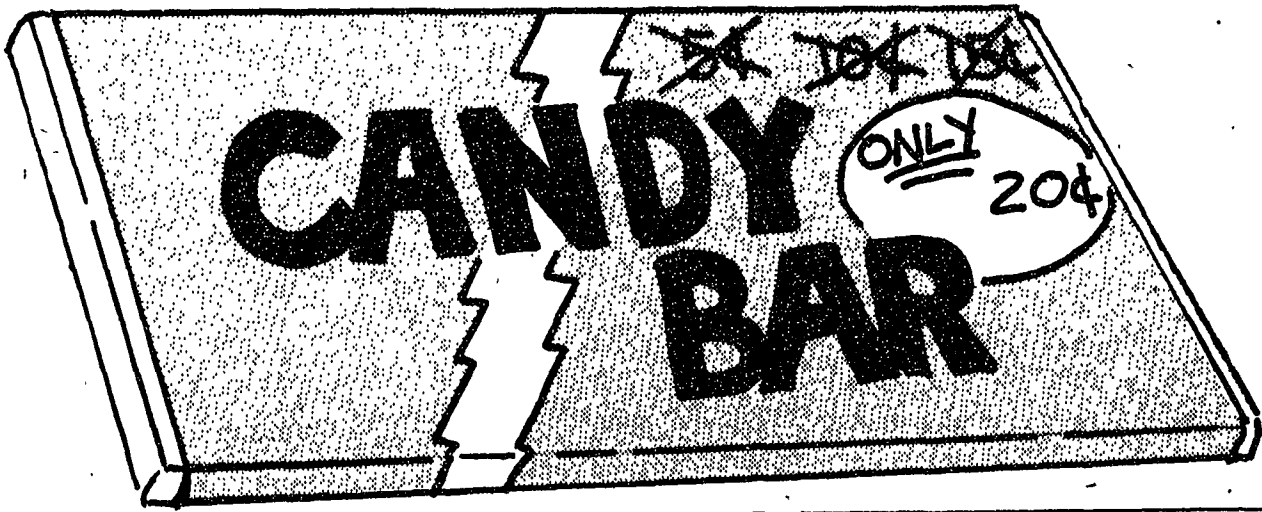
Kirsch said his office has not received any requests for an updated report this year. He added that statistics for 1976 won't be ready for another month.

Attorney Delbert J. McQuaide, a member of the committee that reported to the bar association, said, to his knowledge, there have been no requests for an update of that report.

According to Sen. Hill, legislation involving additional judges probably will be proposed in the house this year. "I'm sure it will," he said.

Correction

It was incorrectly reported in yesterday's Daily Collegian that Stephen Diorio, newly-elected president of the Interfraternity Council, was a member of Phi Kappa Phi fraternity. Diorio is a member of Pi Kappa Phi.



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