

Hearings on drinking age set for early Spring Term

By KATHY O'TOOLE
Collegian Staff Writer

Committee hearings on a bill to lower the drinking age in Pennsylvania to 19 will begin early Spring Term, Helen Wise, representative for the 77th state legislative district, said last night.

"We think there's a good chance it will be passed," she said. "Both houses did work on the bill last year and it came close to passage then."

The Senate last year passed a bill that would have lowered the drinking age to 19 for beer and wine, Wise said.

The House last year turned down the

same bill that will be introduced in early March, which would lower the drinking age to 19 for everything, she said.

"Many of the people who voted for it last year feel it has a really good chance this time," Wise said. "But the final vote will be on the bill that has the best chance of passing."

The unknown factor in predicting the bill's outcome, Wise said, is how the newcomers to the legislature will vote.

"There are still 42 people we'll have to talk to and find out how they feel," she said.

It isn't likely that the drinking age will be lowered to 18, Wise said, because of its possible effect on high school students.

"People have a psychological thing about lowering it to 18," she said.

Wise said both the Undergraduate Student Government and the Association of Residence Hall Students are currently doing research on the bill. ARHS is researching the effects of the present law on residence hall students, she said, and USG is talking to other colleges and universities to prepare to

testify before the Liquor Control Committee.

Good testimony at the hearings is the most important factor, Wise said.

A student lobby can also be effective, she said, provided students are well informed and able to answer any questions.

Wise, one of six or seven sponsors of the bill, said that she herself is unable to testify at the hearings.

"I'll be working with other committees and trying to get people to vote for it," she said.

Buying service lawsuit considered

By JUDY MESKO
Collegian Staff Writer

The Organization of Town Independent Students will assist a lawyer in Philadelphia who is preparing a lawsuit against The Buying Service, which promises to save its members money on products bought through the service.

Representatives of Keyton Inc. were in State College last week soliciting memberships to The Buying Service. According to Cathy Poole, chairman of the OTIS consumer committee, companies with different names were in State College in the past few years selling memberships to a buying service with the same contract.

Two of these companies are the Interstate Consumers Service and the Modern Guide to Buying Inc. Both charged an 18 per cent interest rate, Poole said.

The literature from Keyton Inc. stated that The Buying Service is located in Cranbury, N.J. The literature also stated that membership contracts are processed in Kansas City, Mo. The contracts from the different companies whose representatives were in State College all had the same Kansas City address and phone number on them, Poole said.

OTIS is collecting information from

students about the companies, Poole said.

Anyone who has ordered products through The Buying Service recently or a few years ago can file a complaint, she said. OTIS is making affidavits of all the complaints and sending them to the lawyer who may use them in court. The students who make these affidavits won't have to appear in court themselves, Poole said.

The Buying Service claims to be a member of The Better Business Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce. "This is ironic since both these organizations have complaints filed against The Buying Service," Poole said.

The Kansas City Better Business Bureau and the State College Chamber of Commerce have complaints against the Buying Service, she said. Although these organizations don't open their files to the public, they will tell a consumer if complaints are filed against a business, she added.

The Chicago Regional Office of the Federal Trade Commission is also investigating what they believe to be misleading sales presentations of representatives who sell memberships to buying clubs.

Anyone with information should contact OTIS in the ground floor of the HUB.

Exec Council passes concert resolution

By JERRY MICCO
Collegian Staff Writer

The Undergraduate Student Government Executive Council yesterday unanimously passed a resolution allowing student organizations to spend up to \$5,000 for concerts and other forms of entertainment.

The resolution now goes to Raymond O. Murphy, vice president for student affairs, for final approval.

Currently, student organizations can spend up to \$2,000 for entertainment or concerts. The resolution which was originally passed eight to one by the University Concert Committee, was co-sponsored by Tim Kavanagh, representative for the Association of Residence Hall Students to the UCC and Andy Cohen, USG representative to the UCC.

USG President W.T. Williams, commenting on the resolution said, "The student sentiment is definitely in favor of raising the price to \$5,000, but Dr. Murphy has the final say because this will be a revision in the Student Handbook."

"It is quite obvious that the students want the ceiling on concerts raised, not only the Executive Council. I certainly hope Dr. Murphy will approve this resolution," Williams added.

Bill Ferris also reported to the Executive Council on the status of Gentle Thursday. Ferris was representing Dave Gubernick, this year's president for the Free U-sponsored event.

In his report, Ferris said that Gentle Thursday could be running into some money problems. He said this year a total of \$1,800 will be needed to finance the event. Most of the money will go for sound, staging and lighting. Gentle Thursday will be April 28 at the HUB lawn.

In other action, the Executive Council unanimously agreed to set up a committee for the selection and format of a University race relations board.

Appointed to the committee were, Butch Randolph, Black Caucus president, Tom Conroy, former Interfraternity Council president, Dave Robbins, ARHS

president, Eva Whitely, former Association of Women Students president and Dave Hickton, USG vice president.

Williams summed up the feeling of the Executive Council when he said, "If the board is structured properly it can benefit all students, especially those in the dormitories."

Williams also reported that the Executive Council expressed favorable sentiment towards opening its meetings to the press. Currently, the meetings are closed and a press conference is held afterward.

"The present procedure that is followed we feel is not the correct one," Williams said. Williams added that the matter would be brought up for more discussion at the next meeting.

The council tabled the motion to admit the Homophiles of Penn State as a council member. Williams said this action was taken when HOPS President Drew Larson failed to attend the meeting.

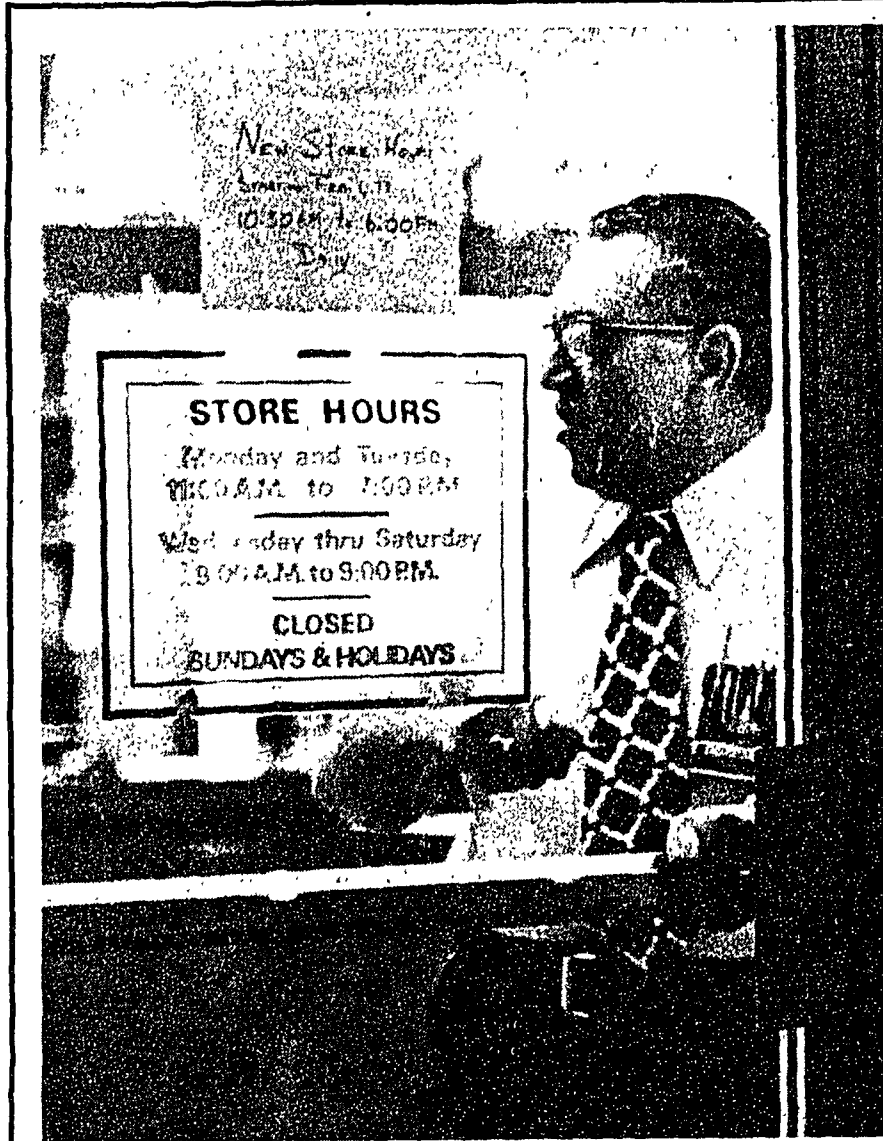


Photo by Lynn Dudinsky

Candy may still be dandy, but you have to be quicker to get liquor as a result of the energy crisis. Pennsylvania State Liquor Stores, like this one in University Park Plaza, have been closing their doors a few hours earlier during the past weeks.

Liquor stores close to save energy

If you are planning a party this weekend, you will have to buy your liquor before 6 p.m.

In an effort to conserve energy, state stores throughout Pennsylvania have been locking their doors early for almost two weeks.

Prior to the conservation program, local stores were open for eight hours on Monday and Tuesday and 12 hours Wednesday through Saturday. Since the beginning of the month, stores have been open daily from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Arthur Houck, manager of the University Park Plaza store, said a recent inventory showed his sales were down by more than 700 bottles

compared to sales for the same period last year.

However, Houck said, there is a noticeable rush of people making purchases during the time the store is open.

"Most people who plan to buy a bottle on a certain day," he said, regulate their time schedules to get to the store before it closes.

Joseph Delahaut, manager of the N. Atherton Street store, said his sales also were down slightly as a result of the program.

Stores probably will resume regular hours after the end of the month as the weather starts warming up, Delahaut said.

Energy official says gas shortage may last through October

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's natural gas shortage may continue until October and could become even worse in winters to come, a key federal energy official said yesterday.

"We're not going to get out of today's crisis possibly until next October" because of the need to refill depleted storage supplies of natural gas in preparation for next winter, said John F. O'Leary, new head of the Federal Energy Administration.

"And indeed," O'Leary told the

Consumer Federation of America, "next winter, and the next winter, and the next winter it's going to be worse."

At the same time, government reports indicated the current mild weather had sent back to the job thousands of workers laid off due to natural gas shortages but that many more were still out of work.

Meanwhile, President Carter announced that Vice President Walter Mondale and former President Gerald R. Ford will head a new energy con-

servation group to minimize the waste of fuel resources in the United States.

And Carter's chief energy advisor, James R. Schlesinger, said energy conservation will be the cornerstone of the administration's comprehensive policy to be unveiled by April 20. He hinted that much of the conservation may be imposed by the government and may involve some kind of price regulation as well.

"The free market is not necessarily the ideal mechanism to make large

adjustments over a short period of time," Schlesinger told the consumer federation. He added it may be necessary to take "mandated" measures which might involve price levels and employment in addition to conservation.

He declined to comment further.

In another development, government reports indicated the current mild weather has temporarily eased the natural gas shortage and allowed an estimated 330,000 workers to go back to

their jobs.

The Commerce Department, which had reported some 1.2 million people out of work a week ago because of the gas shortages, reduced the number yesterday to 870,000. The department said improved employment in New York, New Jersey and Ohio accounted for much of the reduction.

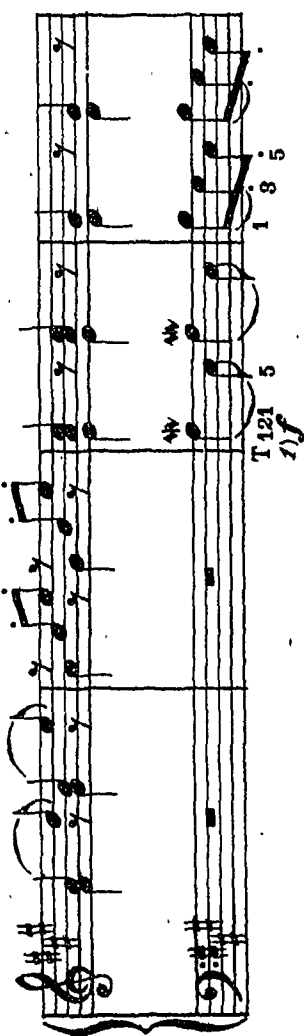
The unemployment figures are admittedly inexact, coming from a variety of sources which differ in both their methods and in their timing.

For the first time in weeks, the weather forecast, through Feb. 13, predicts temperatures above normal for this time of year throughout the entire nation.

The best news, perhaps, was for the Northern Plains and Great Lakes areas, where temperatures of 10 degrees and nine degrees above normal, on the average, were forecast.

New England and the mid-Atlantic area temperatures were expected to be five and six degrees above normal.

IN EDITION



and God bless Mis-ter Spock, ears and all!

Contests: Getting that singing feeling

Have you ever thought that you could do better when you heard "Amazing Grace?" Does "Onward Christian Soldiers" leave you cold? Do you yearn for a hymn that includes references to "Star Trek?"

The Office of Religious Affairs may have the answer. As part of a week devoted to religion and art, that office is sponsoring a hymn-writing contest. Yes, you too can pen an immortal tune for church-goers. The contest is open to all undergraduates; participants can write both words and music, or can write words to an old tune.

And if you have a mercenary spirit to go along with your spiritual impulses, you'll be glad to hear that the first place hymn will earn a \$15 prize, the second place hymn garnering \$10.

Robert Boyer, a staff member of the Office of Religious Affairs, said entries should be turned in to Eisenhower Chapel by noon, March 21. The contest is just part of a week of activities, March 20-27, which will include a performance by the folk singer Odette, a dance worship service and other events.

How about "Play that Sainly Music White Boy?"

Proceeding from the sublime to the ridiculous, another contest is in the works. The Penn State Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (PSORML) has planned a joint rolling contest.

The contest is planned as part of a dance Feb. 19 to benefit PSORML's lobbying efforts. PSORML president Bill Cluck announced the contest at Monday's USG meeting.

In case you were wondering, they're not planning to use anything illegal to roll in the joints. Cluck said the stuffing will include tobacco or pencil shavings gathered at University Safety, Old Main and The Daily Collegian Office.

And don't forget flourinated water

The University Faculty Senate's Commission to Study Remedial Education issued its report last week. Their conclusion is simple: a lot of prospective students are illiterate.

The Commission, in its august wisdom, refused to point the finger at the cause of this problem. Nonetheless, they did provide a list of "candidates": "television, permissiveness, the telephone, drugs, 'creative writing,' mass education, Vietnam, poor teaching in the schools, popular music, popular writers or computers."

Not to mention Earl Butz, venereal diseases and Big Macs.

Correction

The Pennsylvania Republican Party Chairman was incorrectly identified in yesterday's Daily Collegian. His name is Richard Frame. The Daily Collegian apologizes for any inconvenience the error may have caused.

Move over Smith Brothers

Artists Series concerts are nothing to cough at, and the people at the Artists Series are trying to do something about it.

The answer: Cough drops.

Earlier this year, there were a number of complaints after the play "Equus" was presented. Coughs and sneezes had drowned out parts of the dialogue, reducing the famed psychological drama to a confusing play about horses.

Gloria Newton, Artists Series publicist, says that at most performances since then, cough drops have been available for patrons who can't repress their hacking. A high-class operation, the series offers two varieties: Hall's Mentholypts and Luden's.

The cough drops will probably be the extent of the anti-cough crusade. "We can't walk around and say, 'please sir, could you cover your mouth,'" Newton said.

Now, new proof that Penn State is rank

They say that rank hath its privileges, but we're hard pressed to think of any privileges resulting from some rankings the University released yesterday.

First, the Engineering Manpower Commission of the Engineers' Joint Council says that Penn State is first among U.S. schools in the number of

students enrolled in associate degree and pre-engineering programs, with 2,139. That was almost 550 ahead of our nearest competitor, Wentworth Institute and College of Boston.

Second, a study by two professors at Auburn University placed Penn State's Department of Speech Communications third among U.S. schools graduate departments overall, behind the Universities of Iowa and Wisconsin-Madison.

In specific areas, the Department of Speech Communication was rated fifth in study of group discussion; fourth in general speech communication; fourth in historical-critical studies of public address; and 17th in mass communication (probably just a bad recruiting year).

Interviews really do a job on you

Job interviewing story number 1,287, or, "so that's what they mean by a personal interview."

Collegian business manager Nadine Kinsey signed up recently for an interview at the Career Placement and Development Center. The interviewer was Gimbel Bros., the department store, and the position was assistant buyer.

Two days before the interview, Kinsey decided she really didn't want to be an assistant buyer. She went to the center and cancelled her interview.

A week and a half later, Kinsey got a letter from Gimbel's. They had enjoyed talking to her, the letter said,

but unfortunately, after studying her qualifications, they had found that there was no place for her in their organization at the present time. Just imagine what would have happened if they had actually interviewed her.

Goodbye, or 30 ways to graduate

Tuesday's the last issue of The Daily Collegian this term. It's also the last issue in Sheila McCauley's reign.

It's also the last issue — forever — for a group of hard-working staffers who are graduating. The ad staff is losing Bob Grasty, Cindy Morgan, Nancy Todd, Nancy Extein, and Bob Edelstein. Pam Reasner, Jim Lockhart, Barb Shelly, Chris Simeoni and Jan Seaman desert the news staff for real life. We'll miss them all.

Quote of the week: And nuts to you

Centre County Republican Chairman Eugene Fulmer, to those who accused him of stacking the deck in his own favor for the GOP nomination for state senate after Fulmer chose all 21 voters from Centre County: "Nuts."

Weather

Mostly sunny and continued unseasonably mild today, with the temperature reaching a springlike 50. Tonight will be clear and cool. Low 35.