

# Student activity fee assessed

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of the University budget. Because of decreased University funding in areas such as student services, several Commonwealth Campuses have to turn to the activity fee for help, Murphy said.

"It's important for campuses to help students with their personal counseling issues," he said. "The best way to do it is through the availability of the student activity fee money."

J. Thomas Eakin, assistant vice president for student affairs, said from seven to nine campuses are below the counseling standards set by student affairs personnel for the campuses. There is a low allocation

for counseling services at many campuses, but the allocation varies among campuses, he said.

Because of the lack of funds, campuses often have faculty and staff playing dual roles, said Dennis Heitzmann, psychologist and director of the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services at University Park.

"More commonly at the Commonwealth Campuses, someone is playing various counselor roles -- personal counseling, career counseling and adviser," he said.

Heitzmann said this duality can take away from the quality of

counseling. "Some students may have trouble viewing their academic adviser as someone who can help them with a more serious psychological problem," he said.

Eakin said that although the guidelines of the activity fee allow for counseling services to be supported by those dollars, the question of who is responsible for funding psychological services is a fair one.

"There is lots of concern that these are things the University ought to provide as one of the basic services," he said. John Mills, director of counseling and student development at Indiana University

of Pennsylvania, said the University's two satellite campuses have comparable psychological services to those at the main campus, but the campuses are not big enough to support a full-time counselor. Services at the main campus of IUP are similar to those at University Park.

The services at IUP are partially supported by student health service fees, which are added on to the tuition bill, he said.

At Lock Haven University, one psychologist and three counselors make up the psychological services staff, which is paid for largely by university funds and supplemented by grants, said Dan Tess, psychologist and director of counseling at the university.

The school offers individual counseling, psychological testing, couples work, presentations for dorms and a counseling center that is available for the more than 3,400 students, Tess said.

Murphy said he is hoping for an increase in the budget at Penn State's Wilkes-Barre Campus next year. The budget figures for each of the

Commonwealth Campuses are based on enrollment numbers during a three-year period. Enrollment at the Wilkes-Barre Campus has increased during the past two years, and with increased enrollment this year, he said, the budget for the campus should increase.

But with the Plan for the Commonwealth on the horizon for 1997, Eakin does not anticipate an increase in funding. The plan is predicting minimal enrollment increases at the campuses, and

# Friday Fiesta



**Gettin' down:** This dancin' girl seems to be enjoying herself at last weekend's Friday Fiesta which was a great success.

# Lesbians having children

By Molly K. Fellin  
Collegian Staff Writer

In the past few years, a "gayby boom" has swept the nation.

With high-profile personalities such as singer Melissa Etheridge and her same-sex partner announcing the impending births of children, more and more lesbians have been realizing the possibility of having children does exist, said Mary McClanahan, staff psychologist at the Center for Counseling and Psychological Services.

"A few years ago, people felt if they came out they were forfeiting the possibility of being a parent," she said. "The biggest difference in the past four to five years is they have been realizing that it's much more of an option for them."

Gay and Lesbian Parents Coalition International Women are typically the primary care-givers for their children. But when two women live together as partners and raise a child, some controversy can arise.

Susan Byrne, political co-director for the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Student Alliance, said there is a particular challenge for same-sex partners who decide to become parents.

"When your kids come home and don't understand why they have two moms -- that can be really difficult for them," she said.

Many gay people often feel they should not be parents because they fear the social repercussions their children might face, McClanahan said.

"More lesbian couples feel their children would have trouble finding friends," she said. "There might be hostility and rejection, and sometimes, the children might feel confused about their own sexual orientation."

Byrne expressed concern for the future if she decides to become a parent.

"It's like anything else, people

can get upset -- they think that we're breeding queer children. But children are what they are," she said.

"What I have to say to them is that we had straight parents."

Byrne believes that as long as a person is a good parent, his or her sexual orientation should not matter.

others is helpful for all gay people, particularly when it comes to having children. The increasing visibility of lesbian and gay couples who are opting to have children also helps, she added.

"When you have that enhanced visibility, it tends to work for the greater good," she said. "The

*"More lesbian couples feel their children would have trouble finding friends. There might be hostility and confusion and sometimes the children might feel confused about their own sexual orientation."*

"Motherhood in general is not really easy," she said. "(Being a lesbian and a mother) just adds another facet to it."

Prudence Johnson, adviser for Student Parents of Penn State, said being a single parent and a student at the same time is an overwhelming experience. Student parents have many issues to deal with outside the classroom, she said.

"As a student parent, you have things you cannot possibly schedule," she said. "Problems happen day in and day out -- the only time they have for studies is during the day. Once they get home, they have to help (their children)."

Support networks are necessary for student parents no matter what their sexual orientation, she said.

"Every one of them needs support from their own parents and other student parents -- no matter if they're gay, lesbian, bisexual," Johnson added.

McClanahan said support from

ingenuity and creativity in the lesbian community with respect to having children has been amazing in the past few years."

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## Amnesty International

"Freedom is fought for..."

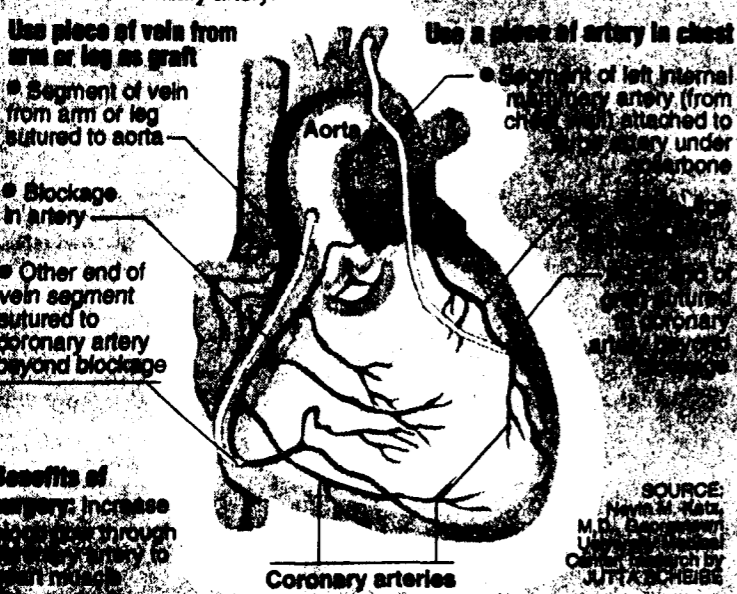
Amnesty International now has a chapter at Behrend. With approval by the Student Government Association, the group held its first meeting Tuesday, Nov. 19. Meetings for next semester will be posted.

The focus of Amnesty International's campaign is to free prisoners of conscience. Prisoners of conscience are people detained anywhere throughout the world for their beliefs, origin, sex, color or language. They have not used or advocated violence.

Amnesty International seeks to ensure fair and prompt trials for political prisoners, abolish the death penalty, and oppose all cruel inhuman or degrading treatment of prisoners.

## How bypass surgery is performed

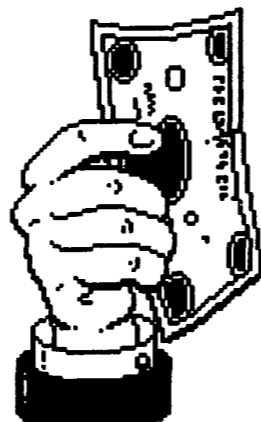
Two methods of grafting a blood vessel onto the heart to bypass obstructed coronary artery:



Benefits of surgery: Increase blood flow to heart muscle

SOURCE: Heart M. H. Schwartz, M.D. Copyright by J.P. SCHUBERT

# Christmas/January Break Work



**\$9 - \$15 start**  
**Flexible schedule**  
**Full training**  
**Credit can be earned**  
**Possibilities to secure summer position**

Will be accepting applications on campus  
Thursday, December 5  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
Reed Building  
in front of the Radio Station



**Charlie Brown Christmas:** It's that time of the year again. This little tree is bringing bad memories of high credit card bills and good memories of presents and family.