

THE CAPITOLIST

"All The News That Fits . . . We Print"

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CAPITOL CAMPUS - MIDDLETOWN, PA.

Monday, September 18, 1972

WELCOME TO CAPITOL

Upon your entrance to the only senior level branch of the Penn State System, you become a part of a unique institution. Capitol Campus has no other counterpart in the state of Pennsylvania and there are only 25 senior level institutions of higher learning in the nation.

The many academic, cultural, social and athletic activities on campus have been and continue to be planned and developed by all the member constituencies of the campus community. Your activism, participation and involvement in these affairs can come to be one of the most eventful and rewarding experiences of your life.

As you must know, the Harrisburg area was one of the areas of our state to be ravaged

by Hurricane Agnes (the Flood of '72) in June of this year. Capitol Campus, through the initiative of students, faculty and administration alike, ran a Flood Evacuation Center on campus during the flood emergency.

Whether you are an incoming Junior or a returning Senior, I am sure you noticed the more than 75 mobile homes sitting on what was once a part of our campus. This land was leased to the state for the sheltering of flood victims. The complex, situated adjacent to the Administration Building, is now known as "Capitol Campus Village".

Capitol and the surrounding communities have united in an

effort to help alleviate the hardships caused by the recent flood disaster to the populace of our immediate area. This feeling of community spirit and a sense of caring is what Capitol is all about.

Your Student Government Association and all its associated student organizations call upon you to join us in a spirit of friendship and unity in our pursuit at making and keeping our campus "student oriented."

Feel free to stop by anytime at your Student Government Association and student organization offices as our doors are always open. We'll look forward to seeing you.

Mike Dini, President
Student Government Asso.

Housing Problem

by R. W. Bonaker

For fifty students, some of whom are seniors, the first week of the new academic year will be much less than enjoyable. It will be a difficult time for them because they will be living in the residence halls when they fully expected to be living in Meade Heights.

The entire issue is a very complicated problem, but I will attempt to explain, as accurately as possible, the origination of the problem, what the current situation is, and what can be done to alleviate the problem.

As of September 13, forty-four men and eight women, who paid a \$45 deposit for a house in the Heights, and were supposedly guaranteed a spot when they received a bill from University Park which wanted the balance of the total \$180 for fees for the remainder of the fall term, have been "bumped" as tenants. However, these people have been assigned to places in the residence halls, so they aren't exactly out in the cold.

But to be able to live in the dorms, a student must pay the complete package of room and board, which totals \$335 - a fee which many of the people, especially veterans, cannot afford. THE CAPITOLIST has contacted the various authorities involved - Housing and Food Services, the residence living coordinator, who is based in the Office of Student Affairs, and the Finance Office - to see what can be done to help these people.

The problem began with a mix-up in the Meade Heights Housing Office. The staff in the office, in order to guarantee housing to all returning students, set up a huge chart, identifying all available space in the Heights. But to be GUARANTEED a spot in Meade for the fall term, the \$45 deposit had to be paid by March 31, 1972. After that date, housing was ensured only on a first-come, first-serve basis. mark on the yellow card the dorms as second preference.

If the residence halls were a designated second preference, the contract cannot be broken. At this point, if a student still decides not to live in the dorms, he does not have to, but there is no chance that the deposit will be refunded. The student would not have to pay any more money, but he will be out \$45. The second alternative is to stick it out in the dorms and wait for vacancies as they open in the Heights. The housing authorities expect that through drop-outs and natural attrition, vacancies for most of the students will occur by the end of the term.

Possibly a dozen people will have been moved to the Heights in the third week to fill openings created during the opening weeks of the term. People will continue to be moved as vacancies are created.

For the unfortunate people who must live in the dorms and

If a student wanted Meade Heights as so specified on the housing contract which is presented with the deposit, and paid the fee by June 9, he then is living in Meade Heights.

To help these students who paid after June 9 and now must live in the dorms to be able to live on campus, there are a few alternatives.

First, a student may not want to live in the dorms because he may not be able to afford it. He has the option of cancelling the contract, thus regaining the \$45 deposit. This can be done by going to the Heights housing office and presenting your case. But a contract can be cancelled only if the student, when he paid the deposit, specified Meade Heights only, and did not

pay the \$335 package (there can be no reduction, as specified by university law) and may not have the available funds, there is a deferred payment program. Forms are available in the Financial Office. The student is given five weeks to pay the dorm fee, at no interest. After that

time period, there is a charge of 6% per annum.

In the event that a student is able to move into the Heights, the cost difference between the dorms and the Heights will be pro-rated, giving the student a nominal advantage.

But another factor has contributed to the graveness of this situation. The housing office created temporary staging in the dorms where some rooms would have three people in a room utilizing bunk beds. There are at least 25 of these rooms. The office reasons that at least that number of people would withdraw from college in a few weeks, creating spots for those who were in staging.

The 52 people who paid a deposit for Meade but were "bumped", have priority over those two dozen who are in staging. So, it looks like a sticky situation, one which will take quite a while to solve. And the three-people-in-a-room concept has become a reality, no matter how temporary. It is hoped that more alternatives will pop up. The entire problem was nearly unavoidable. And Hurricane Agnes only added to the problem as it created confusion in the housing of flood evacuees, upsetting the entire residence program over the summer.

Voter Registration

Students may register to vote in Dauphin County on October 3 at Harrisburg Area Community College from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration will also take place at Capitol Campus on October 4 at the same times. Students who reside in Middletown at the Municipal Building from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Absentee ballots must be received by the individual County Board of Elections Office no later than the Friday preceding Election Day.

CAPITOLIST

Orientation Week Activities

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

4:00-7:00 p.m. Informal Reception and Picnic Student Center
(An opportunity for all students to meet informally with faculty, the administrative staff and community leaders. Bring your family along.)

9:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social- Student Center
Nostalgia Night

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

9:00 p.m. Concert - THE LEGENDS Student Center

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

7:00 p.m. Student Organization Fair Student Center
(Leaders of campus student organizations will be present to familiarize old students as well as new ones with the clubs and the various social and service opportunities characteristic of Capitol Campus.)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

1:00-5:00 p.m. Sports and Watermelon Party Student Center

10:00 p.m. All Night Film Festival Student Center
featuring Laurel and Hardy, Roadrunner cartoons and other films.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

7:00 p.m. Pizza and Beverage Party People's Park
Meade Heights

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

8:00 p.m. Casino Night Student Center

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

8:00 p.m. Movie-of-the-Week Student Center
"Zembriske Point"

All returning students who wish to help coordinate these activities and assist with their operation may contact a Student Government representative or the Orientation Committee chaired by Miss Mary E. Gundel, E-106.

Housing For Victims Of Hurricane Agnes

Capitol Campus Village, a temporary housing community which is being used to accommodate flood victims from the area, has been established in the parking lot in front of the Main Building.

Dr. Robert E. McDermott, provost of Capitol Campus, and Philip J. Spagnolo, Executive Director of the Housing Authority of the County of Dauphin, issued the announcement on July 13.

Land for the project has been leased to the Housing Authority by the University for one year for the sum of \$1. It is anticipated that the project will be phased out gradually over the coming year as families are able to return to their homes or find new ones. Many of these families presently are residing in Capitol Campus facilities.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has taken the responsibility of acquiring 75 two and three bedroom mobile homes which have been situated on the campus just off First Street near the athletic center and placement offices.

The utility grade mobile homes have been provided those

who have applied and been certified as eligible. All assignments are made by the local Housing Authority.

The housing is rent free through funds made available by the Federal Disaster Relief Act of 1970. Residents are responsible for utilities and Lower Swatara Township furnishes police and fire protection.

The U. S. Corps of Engineers, through an agreement with the Department of Community Affairs, is responsible for developing the site on Capitol Campus. Berger Associates, Inc., of Camp Hill, has been assigned by the Corps to serve as architectural consultants.

The consultants have laid out the eight-acre plot in order to accommodate the 75 mobile homes in the most advantageous way. Play areas for children, parking areas, paved driveways, garbage disposal facilities and mail boxes are included in the plans.

According to the lease signed, the Housing Authority agrees to restore the Campus property to its existing condition upon termination of the contract.