

Vets Voice

Pending Legislation

Recently, several bills of possible interest to veterans have been introduced either into the U.S. Congress or the Pennsylvania Legislature.

There have also been some recent changes in the requirements for eligibility for VA home loans.

In the United States Senate, two bills have been introduced. Bill S 109 deals with the draft, and would require the reinstatement of procedures for the registration of certain persons under the Military Selective Service Act. Recently, all branches of the military have reported difficulty in meeting their quotas under the all-volunteer program. There has also been discussion that, if the draft is resumed, both men and women in certain age categories would be required to register with the Selective Service Board.

Another bill, S 330, would allow veterans to challenge in court the decisions of the Veterans Administration. The bill is entitled: "The Veterans Administration Adjudication Procedure and Judicial Review Act." Currently, the VA, unlike other federal agencies, is immune from court review of its rulings on claims for benefits. The only way the veteran can currently challenge the VA rulings is on the basis of Constitutional arguments. Other provisions of the bill would

allow the veteran to pay the lawyers for their legal services, and would require the Veterans Administration to simplify its rulemaking procedures.

HB 336 and HB 337 deal with state veterans homes. Bill 336 would place the employees of the homes under civil service rather than the Department of Military Affairs, and Bill 337 would provide for restricted accounts for the fees collected from residents of the state veterans homes.

Another bill, HB 339, would set up a memorial commission to provide a suitable state memorial at the veterans cemetery planned at Fort Indian-town Gap. The Pennsylvania National Guard has not been forgotten by the state legislature. One bill would provide for an increase in the minimum pay of privates who go on active duty for the state from \$25. to \$35. per day. Another would exempt members of the Guard and the Reserve from state income tax payment for money received for military duty.

Along with the above bills under consideration, the Veterans Administration has recently announced changes in the eligibility requirements for use of VA home loans. The maximum VA loan guaranty has been increased from \$17,500. to \$25,000.. The length of active

duty service required for eligibility has also been reduced from 181 days to 90 days, with at least one of the 90 days active duty service occurring between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

In determining the amount of a loan for which the veteran may qualify, the spouse's income may also be counted. According to Max Cleland, Administrator of the Veteran's Administration, "We consider the combined income of the couple in cases where the veteran's income alone would not qualify him or her for the loan in question."

Veterans who may be considering a VA home loan for the future should apply for a Certificate of Eligibility. Applications for this certificate and additional information on VA home loans may be obtained from the Veterans Affairs Office.

Note: In the Vet's Voice column in the March 2 issue of the C.C. Reader, a key word was omitted from a sentence. What read as a reminder to veterans who have been certified for the Spring Term should have read: As spring registration occurs, we would like to remind all veterans who have not been certified for the term to contact the Veterans Affairs Office as to the number of credits they will be taking.

Club News

Tuesday, February 27, marked the fourth Fraternity meeting of the winter term. Richard Denny was accepted as the newest member of the XGI's, and our new officers were also installed. The lucky leaders for next year are: Jack Place-President, Doug Cook Vice-President, Paul Merrill-Treasurer, and Keith Yundt-Secretary.

Sports wise, the volleyball team came out on top against the Nittany Kittens on Tuesday March 6. This gives the team a 5-4 over-all record. And for the baseball fans, team practice is starting on Wednesday, March 14. Stop by the lounge for details. And if the campus team is bland, the trip to the Vet is on for April 24. **DODGERS WILL BE IN FOR A NIGHT DOUBLEHEADER AND 40 TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE.** Prices and details will be posted in the lounge.

Since spring term is just around the corner, the fraternity would like to spark interest into some new members. Any student interested is invited to drop by W-114 and talk to some members. And to stimulate interest, a few of the goodies coming in the spring will be briefly mentioned. Our spring blood drive is on the board for the third week of April. That means the funny guy in the hall is green again. Also on Saturday, April 7, a kegger at the student center is planned. All you engineers that need to blow off steam after the EIT's are welcome to attend. The band is mellow rock, and a good time is planned for all. Meetings of the fraternity are held at the American Legion Hall in Middletown, alternate Tuesday nights from 9 p.m. till the keg goes and the business finishes. Any interested bodies are invited to attend.

The Accounting Club has elected new officers. They are: Bob Heitzman, President; Karen Cornell, Vice President; Linda Hightneir, Secretary-Treasurer. The club will hold a meeting on May 26th to discuss plans for its future kegger.

News.....

.....briefs

Metropolitan Edison insurance claims are being accepted only from persons with pre-school aged children and/or pregnant women, and families in which the wife is pregnant and/or includes pre-school aged children. Persons placing claims must present birth certificates of children, proof of pregnancy, if applicable, and proof of identification and residency within a five-mile radius of the plant. If evacuated to a friend's or family member's home, a letter from the host telling of the length of the visit is required by claimants. A determination on whether claims will be accepted from those who lost wages is pending. For further information call 233-321.

The Penn State, Capitol Campus Fund for Research has awarded a \$500. grant to Dr. Elaine Ader Frederick, assistant professor of social science and political science.

According to Provost Theodore L. Gross, her research will focus on the circumstances that cause changes in Congress and the effect those changes have on public policy.

Dr. Friedrich, who recently joined the faculty at Capitol Campus, received her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Michigan.

Applications for the Resident Assistant positions are due no later than 5 p.m., April

25. For further info contact your R.A., Pat Murphy at 787-1665 or Greg Holmes at 787-7770.

Meade Heights Board of Governors is planning the Rites of Spring for the 30th of May thru the 3rd of June. This unfortunately means that there will probably be a lesser amount of outdoor programming during the middle of May, when people have been accustomed to having the "Rites" occur. If you wish to plan an outdoor event in People's Park, contact the Residence Living Program Office for permission and assistance.

On Friday, April 27, the Resident Student Council will present the 1979 Spring Semi-Formal at Atanasoff's The Towne and Country Restaurant in Hummelstown.

Tickets are \$25 per couple. Tickets will be limited to just 80 couples and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis in Wrisberg Dorm, room 109, during the hours posted.

Featured at the Semi-Formal will be "Down to Earth" and a hot/cold buffet from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. and dancing from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.. An optional cocktails (cash bar) will be open from 7 p.m. to 8p.m..

Residents of Lower Swatara Township, Londonderry Township, Middletown, Toyalton and Falmouth are eligible for free radioactive tests. The tests are being conducted until further notice at the Middletown, Community Service Building, Catherine and Emaus Streets. The procedure is being done to determine whether the normal radioactive content of the people in the area has been changed as a result of the 3 Mile Island accident. Persons interested should call 944-5921 for an appointment. Proof of residency is required. The Student I.D. can be used for this purpose.

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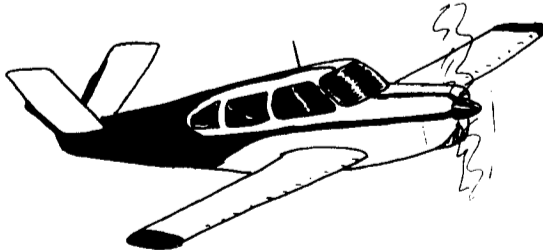
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