

Student Service Series

Branigan Enjoys Job

By Susan M. Snell

Cultural events, leadership conferences, exhibits, schedules, and students. These are just a few highlights in the typical day of Student Activities Director, Kathy Branigan. She has been at Capitol Campus since last July; and with her arrival, the campus has seen a fresh outlook on student programs.

Kathy completed her undergraduate degree at Millersville State College and her graduate degree at Johns Hopkins University. At the university Kathy worked in student activities. She also met her husband there, and they are currently living in Lancaster County.

She is very happy at Capitol Campus and finds working in Student Activities here quite different from Johns Hopkins. "It's like comparing apples and oranges. Johns Hopkins has a more captive audience and a more homogeneous group; therefore, it was easier for student activities to flourish."

"At Capitol Campus the number of commuter students causes special problems. Friday and Saturday activities are difficult to plan. Things need to be planned through the week."

Kathy said she believed that the renovation of Vendorville, which is now underway, will help the commuter student feel more comfortable at the campus.

One of her first official acts as the Campus Activities Director was coordinating the Student Leadership Conference in the Poconos during September. Kathy said, "It was an exhausting and intense two days. I really got to know these people. I was very excited about the whole thing."

Kathy also helped coordinate the first annual follow-up to the Leadership Conference held Jan. 17 at the campus.

When asked if she felt the Reagan administration would have a significant effect on campus activities, she explained that the effect would be one that encompassed all college programs. This she felt would happen because of possible government funding cutbacks.

"I think that higher education will suffer as a result of the new government. Schools will start to lose students at both public and private colleges. More students will have to start taking jobs. And activities staffs will have to rethink program ideas."

She continued to explain that some funding for student activities comes from grants through special interest groups, such as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. An example of a program sponsored by grants was the mini-concert by the Audobon String Quartet presented Nov. 13, 1980.

Kathy said she feels quite confident with the programs she has scheduled since becoming director. "Students have mentioned that there are more things to do. I feel students are impressed with the amount of activities at the campus this school year."

She said her job is a multifaceted position. And she explained that, in essence, she is a resource person for both students and administration. "I feel that I am one of the closest staff persons to the students. I want to be able to voice student concerns and problems to the administration."

Kathy finds the administration at Capitol extremely supportive of new ideas. Then she added, "Change takes time. Small changes build up to become big changes. The future has to be taken into account."

Kathy never seems to be at a loss for suggestions, changes, or ideas. She said that the Novemberfest and "World Series Night" were both successful activities and she hopes to plan many more like them.

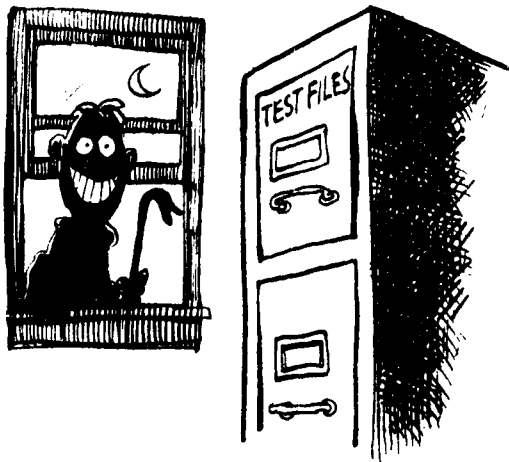
When reflecting once again on her position at the campus, Kathy said, "There is really a philosophy in this profession toward enhancing student growth both personally and professionally. I find students very enjoyable because, for the most part, they have taken time out to be creative and idealistic."

Kathy said she welcomes students who have suggestions or questions to stop in the Student Activities Office at their leisure.



Hillel President Jackie Lear takes a break from talking with Kathy Branigan, Coordinator of Student Activities.

READER Photo by Mark W. Clauser



CAREER INFORMATION MEETING
WEDNESDAY - JANUARY 28, 1981
8:00 - 9:00 PM

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STUDENT COURT needs two juniors, one from Wrisberg Hall and one from the University Apartments. Those interested should contact Harry H. Moyer at 944-7859, 948-6016, (717) 272-4728, or leave a message in W-110 mailbox.

STUDENTS ARE URGED to vote -- yes or no -- on the SGA's Constitution. 10% of student body must vote. Date TBA.

PERSONAL

EI--ONLY 185 days and counting 'til our LOVE becomes both official and public. "Another one bites the dust."--Bad

W.N. and D.C.--You are fine and pedantic gentlemen--P.B.

Boob--Just a little hello and thanks for being around--Bird Brain

R.C.--Drinking can be hazardous to your health--E.M.

MOUNTAIN WOMAN -- They know who we are, but they do not really know us. When are you going to give me a back-rub? I hope soon. HLB

Amazon Woman -- my roommate thinks that you have hair on your chest. Is this true? Let me know. -- Tarzan

LONELY -- I forgot what you wanted to say. Please remember to write. 54

P.B.--Checkers is not your game.

--P.E.