

# Provost sees progress here

By Tony Perry and Neil Myers

In an interview Tuesday, Provost Ruth Leventhal favorably evaluated her first six months at Capitol Campus.

Addressing her three short term goals of beautification, academic strength and community outreach, Leventhal gave the campus high marks in all three categories.

"I think the results of [campus beautification] are evident. The seniors are now putting together a class gift. I think that says something.

"I think students should be

seeing a lot more attention [to their needs]," she added.

Leventhal said the administration is trying ease bureaucratic tensions for students.

In community outreach, Leventhal said the campus has "gotten a lot more visibility and recognition, and that will continue."

Leventhal said she was "really delighted" about the increase in black enrollment here this semester. She said black enrollment stands at 76 students, compared with 51 last year.

Commuters, she said, are "a most difficult challenge," but that she is trying to "get some sense of what's relevant."

Asked about campus security, Leventhal said, "Our security gives really good coverage. I'm really comfortable with the way things are."

## Improvements planned

The provost also gave a progress report on some campus improvements. She said the move of the student club offices from W-110 Olmsted to 216 Olmsted might be completed over the semester break.

"I do want to accommodate

students' needs, she noted, saying that the move will be postponed if it cannot be finished over the winter holiday.

Finally, Leventhal said she was "sad to see" that someone had damaged the new lighted entrance sign, but that the campus has ordered a "sturdier" plexiglass front.

## PSU tries to retain more black students

(continued from pg. 1) would allow the schools additional time to continue progress in any deficient areas.

- If the legislature feels that a sufficient effort was not made, the school in question will receive a "show-cause notice" in which the legislature requires an acceptable reason to continue government funding.

This action is now pending in Alabama.

The success of Penn State's recruiting program raises questions regarding another of the Title VI requirements -- retention. Currently, 32 percent of the black undergraduates at Penn State graduate, Asbury said. The university must raise this figure to 48 percent by August, 1988 and, as Asbury concluded, "if Penn State did, [the school] would have no problem."

problems in the Penn State system:

- Blacks along with other minorities suffer from a "lack of numbers."

- "Not all in the system are sensitive and responsive to the needs" of minorities.

- On the other hand, some display "an over-reaction and a backlash to these needs." Some try so hard to make minorities feel comfortable, that the result is still discomfort.

**"If Penn State [meets Title VI, we] would have no problem."**

**William Asbury  
exec. asst. for administration**

There are several ways in which the black population can be kept within the Penn State system. Humanities Division Head William Mahar suggested that academic divisions should play a key role in retaining minority students. Efforts should be made to make minority students feel involved by offering services, such as tutoring, to these students, he said.

Offering cultural programs, such as Black History Month, is another way to keep minorities in the system according to Jennifer Krohn, coordinator of student activities. Krohn said that minority students must be given the opportunity to be comfortable because, with the current low enrollment, minorities are often in the spotlight.

The current status of minority relations is being observed and discussed by a special committee working on human relations of commonwealth campuses. Representing Capitol Campus, Ed Beck, a campus counselor, said that the committee is researching "how to make the Penn State system a more attractive and hospitable institute."

Beck also suggested that minorities face four distinct

- Blacks and other minorities are treated as a homogeneous, monolithic group rather than a group of individuals.

Most college students and faculty members continue to harbor racial stereotypes, said Carolyn Spatta, author of a recent study on black relations for the Association of American Colleges and vice president for administration and business at Cal State-Hayward.

"And the best thing we can do is to first acknowledge that these stereotypes do exist. Whites have them of blacks, and blacks have them of whites," Spatta said. Such stereotypes, she added, particularly hurt black students on the predominantly white campuses.

For the black student surrounded by a sea of white faces, the stereotype can harm his or her schooling, Spatta said.

The continuing effort by Penn State to achieve the criteria of Title VI will be closely watched by university officials during the next few years. It will be a long struggle, but according to James South, assistant provost for student affairs, Penn State is "headed in the right direction."

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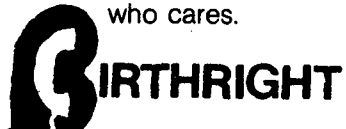
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