

Divestment Expected by 1988

By Jan Travers

The university has announced it will divest all securities in U.S. operated corporations doing business in South Africa, effective December 31, 1988.

The resolution, passed by the Penn State Board of Trustees on September 19, provides for a plan to withdraw \$6.3 million invested in U.S. companies unless they voluntarily withdraw from South Africa by June 30, 1988. If they do not meet the deadline, Penn State will sell the investments by December 31, 1988.

In addition to divesting, the September 24 issue of *Intercom*, a PSU publication for faculty and staff, reported several educational initiatives that were also authorized. Known as the Penn State-South Africa SHARE Program, the following will be established:

****Scholarships for black South African students to attend Penn State.

****Help in those areas where Penn State expertise can assist South African blacks, in, for example, teacher preparation and continuing education.

****Academic exchanges bringing black South African faculty members and administrators to Penn State.

****Review of equity holdings in order to divest from all American companies in South Africa that do not provide nonsegregation and equality of opportunity.

****Educational efforts aimed at enlarging and expanding knowledge of southern Africa within the Penn State community.

(Information for this article quoted from *Intercom*.)

Students-- New Market for Credit Cards

PSSSTTT...How'd you like to own this \$600 pair of genuine snakeskin boots? Want to know how to buy these "Bruce Willis shades? Need some quick cash?

Although they're not selling these products, banks and major credit card companies are using similar sales pitches in hopes of turning college students into customers.

While it was once nearly impossible for a student to qualify for a credit card, visit any college union or bookstore these days and you'll see MasterCard, VISA, or American Express posters inviting everyone to take home an application. According to one bank official, some 14,000 financial institutions across the country issue credit cards, and many of them are now looking for a younger clientele.

Why are they in such hot pursuit of students?

"Because students graduate and become real people," says Noel Capon, director of Columbia University's Center for Research in the Marketing of Financial Services. "They're attempting to make people loyal to them early on in their lives and hope they'll hold on to the cards over time."

With the exception of American Express, the credit card companies aren't doing the actual soliciting: That's the work of individual banks, credit unions, and savings and loans, say Dan Brigham, a VISA spokesman. The MasterCard and VISA companies electronically link institutions and handle settlement and billing guidelines, he says, "but we don't market to anyone, it's the individual banks that decide who gets a credit card."

But aren't college students generally considered credit risks?

Opinion varies among credit officials.

"Not really, we think it's a market with a lot of growth potential," said one Citibank spokesman, who

abruptly refused further comment on college students' creditworthiness.

But John Snodgrass, vice president of First Federal Savings and Loan in Norman, Oklahoma, doesn't agree. "Students are considered risks because most have an unstable employment history and no established track record of handling credit," he says. "However, this a highly competitive business and the credit card companies are driven by pressure (to increase sales). Any risks they take will be made up by increased business and the high interest rates they charge."

According to Capon, credit card companies fully expect to have some amount of monetary loss. "If there isn't any, that means they're too conservative in their practices," he says. "They have to accept some degree of loss for the benefit of getting a broader group of customers."

In general, banks aren't changing their criteria just to get students as credit card customers, Capon says, but some require a parent to co-sign the application form. "That would eliminate the bank's risk, but now there's pressure on the parents if the bills don't get paid."

Students who have credit cards should avoid overextending themselves, says Capon, because a bad credit rating may never be remedied. "The cards are a convenience; people should use this feature and avoid building up big balances."

((National On-Campus Report))

Election Results Announced

By Cindi Greenawalt

The Student Government Association election for secretaries, junior senators, and senators-at-large were held September 29 and 30.

Carol Kilko was elected Board Secretary and Michael Pauzo, Committee Secretary.

The Junior Senators elected are Jodie Kelley, representing the Public Affairs division; Jacqueline Curley, Science, Engineering and Technology; Brenda Marchegiani, Humanities; and John Nagengast, Business Administration.

The Behavioral Science and Education division elected Senior Senator Darvin Geyer to fill a position vacated in the spring election. No junior ran for this position.

Elected Senators-at-Large, representing the general student body, are Maria Rusnyk, Bernie Mixon, Gene Albano, Scott Squeglla and John D'Ambrosia.

Mike McClure, candidate for Board Secretary, withdrew from the election to pursue employment.

Over 300 students turned out Tuesday and Wednesday to vote.

Has Anyone Seen My CCSG?

By Todd M. Hammaker

I've got a problem. My CCSG was gone.

First, I was told, "Todd. You've got CCSG, let's make something of it." Great, I thought, but just what is a CCSG? I had very little to go on. I did know that it had something to do with University Park. Well, at least that it "happened" at University Park.

I asked some of the administrators. Some didn't know. Some didn't want to talk about it. Others said, "It's what you want it to be." As unusual as it may seem, this didn't help me. So I tried another approach. I searched the SGA files. If you think thermodynamics is scary, try going through the SGA files.

After a long and exhausting search, I found a constitution for CCSG. In fact, I found two constitutions (different years). I was overcome with joy. Finally I would know what CCSG is all about.

Starting into the constitution, I first found the "NAME." "This organization shall be known as the Council of Commonwealth Student Governments of the Pennsylvania State University, and shall constitute the official rep-

resentative voice of students attending the Commonwealth Campuses."

Wow, sounds impressive. But what exactly is this organization supposed to do? Lucky me found Article II, "PURPOSE." That should explain it. I read that the purpose of CCSG was, "A. To represent the concerns of students attending the Commonwealth Campuses in matters of a Universitywide nature as well as those issues impacting on the combined interests of the Commonwealth Campuses."

"Everyone talks about University Park. It's so big. But the commonwealth campuses are big [too]. Each one may be small. But together, they make up the majority of Penn State." Todd Hammaker, SGA President.

(Grab a quick breath.) "B. To provide a forum for the exchange and development of ideas in the various areas of student concern." (Now for the big finish.) "C. To represent the interests of the Student Government Agencies (SGAs) of the Commonwealth Campuses." That clears it all up, doesn't it? If you're anything like me, then you're more confused than ever. Sounds like mumbo-jumbo.

The CCSG constitution helped a little, very little. So, what next? I was

informed that the CCSG would meet Sept. 26. Finally.

I traveled up the road to State College, parked off campus, and searched for the HUB. Luck was with me, and I found it quickly. I entered the room and there, throughout the room, were approximately 45 smartly dressed people. I was glad I wore my clean pair of jeans. I found the seat and sign for Capital (they spelled it C-a-p-i-t-o-l) and sat down. The meeting began.

After many announcements and introductions, the history of CCSG was reviewed. Dr. J. Thomas Eakin, assistant vice president for Student Programs, explained why CCSG came about. He said the administration felt out of touch with the commonwealth campuses. The students at the campuses also felt they were not properly represented at University Park. Therefore, the organization came about to serve both groups. The discussion included the ups and downs of

the organization. The organization did not operate effectively last year, and the hope was to make CCSG a viable group this year.

Dr. Eakin's presentation was interesting and informative. But it was Dr. Robert Scannell, vice president and dean for the Commonwealth Education System, who really caught my attention. He talked about the various types of people who were represented--commuters, nontraditional students, married couples, continuing education students, and others. But what came across was the numbers. Big numbers. Everyone talks about University Park. It's so big. It's the place to be. It is Penn State.

But, the commonwealth campuses are big. They may be spread out across the state. Each one may be small. But together, they make up the majority of Penn State. And that is where CCSG comes in. If CCSG can get its act together, work together, and keep it together, the commonwealth campuses will have a large voice in what happens at Penn State. Then, each and every campus will have a say in what happens at Penn State. Each and every student will have a say in Penn State.

Thanks, I found my CCSG.