

Politics Meets Education

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bills that come through that may impact us [Penn State]. We try to keep up with all of them," said Shuckers.

Forni said that they regularly deal with such issues as hazardous waste, drinking, campus violence, and student aid.

Shuckers and Forni have set up a system of what Forni termed "appropriate people to contact who would know what impact [a bill] will have on the university," to aid them in their lobbying. They sometimes bring those people to Harrisburg to discuss the impact with the legislators.

Forni said that they also bring legislators to University Park "to get a better understanding of Penn State." He said that these people are given tickets to sporting events, but their visits are not limited to the events. In an article in the March 23 Weekly Collegian, Forni said the seats the legislators are given to football games are not available to the public.

Forni and Shuckers are not the only lobbyists on the university payroll. Thomas Etten and Richard DiEugenio represent Penn State's interests in Washington D.C.

Etten and DiEugenio lobby for appropriations money, tax issues, higher education, and financial aid. They also work with other university's lobbyists on issues of common interest for students.

The Washington and Harrisburg lobbyists work with limited resources, Etten said.

"We make contacts through

friendships," he said. "When you represent a non-profit institution that's what you have to do."

DiEugenio and Etten also try to bring legislators to the university, and professors to Washington.

Forni said that in the state legislature there are 24 graduates of Penn State who are the "hard-core" Penn State supporters. There is also a Penn State caucus made up of democratic legislators who support the university, he said.

He and Shuckers work to build and maintain strong relationships with these people, Forni said.

"Our job is to press upon them the importance of higher education and the importance of Penn State within the commonwealth," he added.

Shuckers, who had lobbied for the university in Washington before coming to Harrisburg, said that lobbying for education is a "white hat issue" and "we always sleep at night."

Republican State House Whip Sam Hayes said the Penn State state lobbyists are the most active of the educational lobbyists.

"The competition for dollars is very keen and Penn State has competed effectively. The story of Penn State has to be continually told," he said.

"Penn State probably has the best lobbyists up here [Capitol Hill]," said Nicholas Colafella, House sub committee of higher education chairman.

Since there are so many factions trying to get money from the state, Colafella said it is very important for Penn State to be represented.

Showing Off Pays Off for Student

By Andrea Abolins

One day, riding the bus to his job at the Department of State in Harrisburg, Andrew Bacha was discovered.

Bacha, a Penn State Harrisburg junior, had been talking to a girl on the bus and she suggested he apply for a modeling job at Boscov's. He went to Boscov's in the Colonial Park Mall and was hired on the spot.

Bacha was always interested in modeling. He liked dressing well and expressing his individuality through his clothes. The job at Boscov's gave him a chance to pursue one of his favorite interests.

Since September 1987, Bacha has participated in twelve shows for Boscov's. The department store puts on shows for shopping malls, clubs and organizations. He enjoys working with the crowd and presenting an image to them.

"It's important to present yourself well, flow with the crowd and smile," said Bacha.

He is currently a freelance model and can work for any agency interested in using him. This summer, he plans on going to Philadelphia and pursuing a contract with a professional modeling agency. But, even though he enjoys what he's doing, modeling is just his hobby.

"After graduation I want to get a commission with the Air Force Reserve and then work at the Department of Defense in international logistics," said Bacha, a criminal justice major.

The blue-eyed blonde feels concentration is very important in the modeling business. When walking down the runway, you have to know what you're doing with your body and how you're showing the clothes. Between walks down the runway a model often doesn't have much time to change outfits. The clothes are laid out for you, but you have to know how to put a jacket on the right way and to make a perfect knot in a tie in a matter of seconds.

Nancy Stone, director of public relations at Boscov's, organizes the shows that Boscov's sponsors. Three times a week, buyers from Boscov's go to New York and pick out new clothes to show. Fourteen other models, male and female, work for Boscov's. Stone picks clothes for them by using sizes from their applications and asking them what colors and styles they like.

Bacha uses some of the money he makes from modeling to buy clothes for his everyday wear. His favorite brands include Liz Claiborne, Bugle Boy, OP and Street Scenes.

Sometimes, people recognize Bacha from shows they've seen him in. He also has a part-time job at a restaurant, and customers will approach him and comment on his modeling.

Bacha and his family are very pleased that he got into something that had always interested him. Looking good on the bus ride to work proved to be the start of an exciting hobby--one that many people only dream about.

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