

CAMPUS

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what the foreign-born instructor wants or what he is saying."

Though they support Fumo's bill, Penn State Harrisburg administrators say the college already takes steps to ensure that faculty members speak English effectively, even going so far as to fire faculty whose language ability does not improve.

James D. South, associate provost for administrative operations, said students and faculty have occasionally complained about teachers who could not speak English fluently. However, South said something was done "on the spot."

For example, South said, a faculty member might be referred to a tutor. Each division is responsible for assuring its teachers' language facility, South said.

William A. Welsh, head of the division of science, engineering and technology, said, "Penn State does have its own policy for both hiring and firing those faculty members who cannot communicate in effective English."

In an instance several years ago, Welsh said, a faculty member in his division was sent to a tutor. After his English did not improve over time, he was fired, Welsh said.

Melvin Blumberg, director of the

school of business administration, said the school evaluates prospective faculty for fluency in reading and speaking.

Faculty members being considered for jobs are required to give two lectures, one to the students and a second to the faculty on their research.

Harris Imadojemu, a Nigerian and assistant professor of science, engineering and technology, said he does not feel that ineffective communication is a problem on this campus. But if a problem does exist, he said, "it is the institution's inadequacy if they are hiring faculty members who cannot communicate in fluent English."

The number of foreign-born college

instructors has risen, particularly in science and business, as U.S.-born college graduates have increasingly abandoned teaching for better paying jobs in industry.

"It is a national concern that not enough American-born students are going on to pursue their Ph.D.s in these fields," Welsh said. "Nationally, 50% of graduate students in the field of engineering are foreign born."

Welsh said that students majoring in engineering earn close to \$30,000 per year with a B.S. degree. Those who get their Ph.D.s make \$40,000 per year, but must make up four or five years of schooling when they earn very little.

Senate Bill 539 passed the senate 48-1 on December 4. The bill is expected to be released from the house education committee, said Jill Kraus, higher education research analyst for Rep. Ron Cowell. Kraus said that students and institutions of higher learning, who might be sources of opposition, favor the legislation.

"It is not a controversial issue," said Sabo, Fumo's budget analyst.

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necessary to start over justifying our need for a building," according to the committee minutes.

Penn State Harrisburg needs a new library. The existing library can currently seat less than two percent of the student body, said Charles Townley, library division head. The standard is 25 percent.

Townley said that the library shelving is designed to hold 165,000 books. The shelves are currently crowded with over 200,000 volumes. Half the periodicals are in storage.

"Most importantly, we cannot adapt new technologies," said Townley. "We are limited in power and space, and are unable to take advantage of our software."

The proposed library learning center would provide seating for 1,050 students and shelving for 312,000 volumes, according to the program statement. 10,150 square feet would be reserved for a computer center and 7,120 feet for instructional services.

The proposed facility would contain a 500-seat auditorium. Also, expansion was taken into consideration. More than 30,000 square feet are currently unassigned. The additional facilities were expected to ease the classroom crunch in Olmsted.

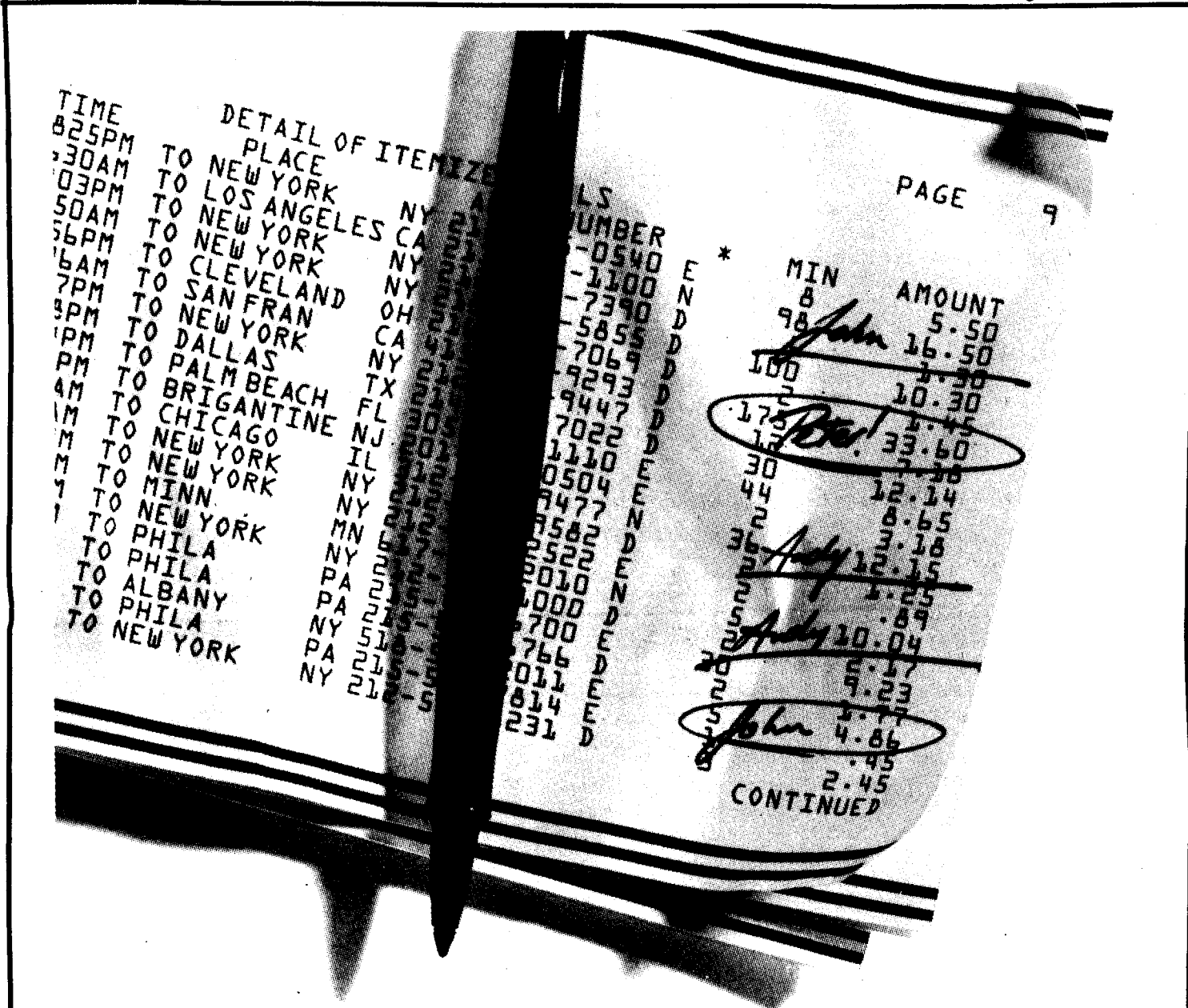
If the library learning center is eventually built, it would form a quadrangle with the Olmsted Building, the Science and Technology Building and Book Store.

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