

Families moved off campus

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notice as possible and . . . do everything possible from here to help those affected."

While plans had been drawn up for the family housing, Coleman said that the single-student housing and family housing represent two separate phases of construction with single-student housing as Phase I. Bids for each phase were issued separately, and contractors submitted independent bids on each phase. According to Coleman, bids for the Phase II family housing project came in "significantly over budget," temporarily halting the project.

Dr. Donald Holtzman, senior director of Student Affairs and Enrollment Services at PSH, says there is no way to predict when the family housing project may be reinitiated, in part because HFS essentially operates independently of the university under its own budget. Holtzman said the possibility remains for the project to eventually be revived.

That possibility does little to assuage the dismay of current family tenants of Meade Heights whose reaction to news of their displacement ranges from disillusionment to anger.

Andre Nelson, a PSH sophomore who

is undecided what major he will pursue, is also a father awaiting the birth of his sixth child. Nelson said rumors about Meade Heights closing were not only rampant, but varied "depending on who you asked," and that "three different faculty members gave him three different stories" regarding what was happening.

The commitment made by Seong Ju

Kang and Nora Carreras, both doctoral candidates in public administration

and graduate assistants in PSH's school of public affairs, not only involved selecting Penn State, but traveling hundreds of miles to pursue their educational goals. For Carreras and Kang, family housing was a key element in deciding where to pursue their doctorate.

Nora Carreras, a single mother, left a job working for the federal government in Puerto Rico to attend Penn State. When she was recruited, Carreras says "PSH advertised family housing." Carreras visited Meade Heights three times before mak-

ing her final decision because "housing and community" were vitally important to her.

Carreras confesses "I'm using my whole life's savings to come here to pursue my Ph.D."

Carreras' Puerto Rican citizenship confers United States citizenship on her so she can work locally.

For Carreras and Kang, family housing was a key element in deciding where to pursue their doctorate

INS restrictions limit Kang to working 20 hours a week at

PSH. in addition to the \$1,000 monthly stipend he receives.

Kang started his studies at PSH last semester after earning his masters degree at Syracuse University. Although Kang admits he strongly considered attending SUNY-Albany, the school offered no housing, which is a problem for a man with a wife and two children.

After attending two classes at PSH last summer and talking to several Korean students on campus, Kang decided to enroll at PSH. Kang, a runner, admits he was

pleased to be able to run every morning, play racquetball at the CUB during the weekend, and walk everywhere he needed to go in a secure environment. Kang regrets that it "looks like I'll now lose" all those conveniences.

Another advantage Kang fears losing is the furnishings in his Meade Heights home; all the properties included on the university's apartment comparison list are unfurnished.

Kang says that "last year, I thought [PSH] was good," but he admits that he was "very concerned" by Coleman's letter that indicated "that single students are the greatest need" at PSH.

"If I knew this information when I was debating going here last year," Kang says, "I would've considered SUNY-Albany or Syracuse" Kang said his worse-case scenario "is having to go back to my country."

Jon Smith, current chair of judiciary and incoming vice president of GSA, said the lack of family housing at PSH will "push a lot of families away and it will be difficult to [lure] them back." Smith feels that "the [people] impacted the hardest are the ones who received the least consideration," and he points out that the March 20 meeting is scheduled at 6:30 p.m., when many students have classes.



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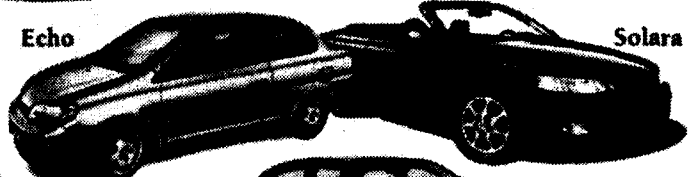
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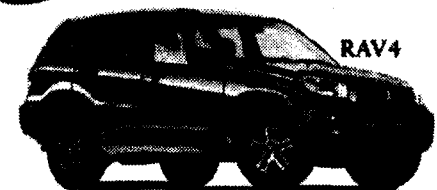
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