

Highacres campus receives \$18,511 for reading lab

This fall 40 Associate Degree students are participating in a reading lab to improve their reading skills. The program is being offered at Highacres for the first time this fall under the direction of Mrs. Norma Moyer.

The laboratory is designed to help improve a student's reading rate, vocabulary, understanding of content, and general reading and study efficiency. Mrs. Moyer stated, "Any college student can improve his reading skills through a reading development program." The program is self-paced and self-instructional. Each student keeps his own record of progress by testing reading rate and comprehension and checking his work with keys found in the books used. There are a required textbook for the program and supplementary textbooks which help a student tailor the program to his own specific problems and needs. Each person participates in the lab one class period a week.

The program was begun as the result of a general discussion by the Highacres faculty, who expressed their belief that many students have reading problems that prevent them from comprehending reading materials assigned by professors. This was particularly evident in the science and social studies courses. As a result, Mr. White, Dr. Staudenmeier, and the English faculty of Highacres wrote a proposal for a vocational grant to begin a reading laboratory at Highacres. A grant of \$18,591 was approved. Mrs. Moyer is currently conducting the lab. Six work-study students are assisting her by reviewing the reading and study skills books used in the program and by working with individual students.

The associate degree students

currently enrolled in the program are fulfilling a requirement of English 4 or English 10. During the final exam period this fall, additional freshmen will be tested for reading skills. In the future a reading skills test may be incorporated as part of the placement testing that all incoming freshmen take each year. Placement testing, however, will not be the only way a student will become involved in the reading laboratory. Anyone interested in reading improvement will be able to enroll.

In the middle of October, Penn State approved an additional grant of \$6,967 for the continuance and expansion of the program to include Baccalaureate degree students of the reading laboratory. This came about because of a proposal written by Mr. White, Dr. Staudenmeier, and Mrs. Moyer. This additional money will aid in the improvement of the lab. Mrs. Moyer hopes to utilize filmstrips and cassettes to aid the readers. She also hopes to use a tachistoscope which flashes a phrase on a screen and helps to train readers for a faster reading rate. Highacres is also presently advertising for a part-time reading specialist to join the program in the Winter term. Books on reading skills reviewed by the work-study students are being ordered for the Library so all students and faculty will have access to them.

Colleges are now attempting to meet the needs of students who probably have not had a reading course beyond the elementary school level. The reading laboratory at Highacres is the beginning of a long-range, larger reading skills project similar to those offered by universities across the country.

HEC caters to campus needs

By George Yanoshik, Jr.

Although students may be unaware of its function, the Hazleton Educational Council (HEC) is an independent organization which caters to the needs of higher education facilities in the Hazleton area. The HEC is not financially dependent on the University and, therefore, its projects should not be confused with its University-funded counterparts.

Some students have been complaining that Highacres needs another parking area on campus and they are irritated at the fact that a new front entrance instead of another parking lot is being put in by the University. In actuality, the HEC is the sponsor of the new entrance project, not the University.

Projects such as the 1949 acquisition of the property on which Highacres is now located, the 1959 funding for construction of the "Commons" building, and the 1966 drive for funds to construct the classroom building are all services the HEC has provided to the University through donations from private community sources. These funds were matched both on the state and federal levels, and the building was erected.

"Although no funds were actually contributed towards the library and physical education building by the HEC, it encouraged the state of Pennsylvania to include these buildings in its capital budget," said Paul Cerula, HEC secretary and campus business manager, "and through the state's Department of General Services, these buildings were constructed."

The HEC, which has been functioning since before World War II, was actually organized in 1937. Today, 30 directors from the community continue the tradition of the HEC is originating, contributing to, and carrying out many campus improvement projects. All facets of the community, including representatives

from labor, industry, business, education, professional, etc. careers, are represented and united to provide services to the campus. Members to the council are elected for three-year terms, with 10 members being rotated each year.

This chartered, non-profit organization has a new project in the study stage at this time. In the future, the HEC may make the expansion of the Commons building a reality.

The threat of decreasing enrollment in both secondary and post-secondary educational institutions could hinder the HEC in obtaining as much community funding as it once had. But, faculty and staff members, students and the HEC advisory board in conjunction with one another are still actively improving the campus and encouraging higher education. The Frank C. Kostos award, which is presented to the highest ranking Baccalaureate and

Associate degree students with a cash award each year, is one such example of the educational encouragement of the HEC.

Although not all projects are funded in their entirety by the HEC, this organization strongly encourages and invites the state and federal governments to subsidize funding for educational buildings, etc. on campus. The HEC and state and federal governments do not provide financial aid for projects that are of an income-producing nature at the Penn State campuses. This same situation prevails for dormitories and dining halls.

In the final analysis, a new parking lot will have to be built by the University with University funds, since parking lots are income-producing projects. Students must pay a fee for parking permits and these fees collectively go towards construction and maintenance of these parking lots.

Remember our servicemen

For almost a year, American diplomatic personnel, civilian as well as military, have been held hostage in a foreign land. Some of these military personnel are young people away from home for the first time. In 1979 we saw the American people respond to the plight of these hostages, with each receiving many thousands of pieces of Christmas mail.

On the other hand, the U.S. had many thousands of young military people on duty in the U.S. and around the world who received little or no mail during the Christmas season.

That's what Armed Forces Mail Call is all about. The sixth annual Christmas Mail Call is now being conducted for our young military personnel who will be away from home during the Holiday Season, many for the first time, thus unable to be with families and friends. Mail Call distributes the mail it receives through facilities of the Department of Defense as well as various private organizations (hospitals, chaplains, Armed Services, YMCAs, USOs, ser-

vicemen's centers, etc.) across the U.S. and around the world, reminding our young service people that the American public has not forgotten them. Whether or not one agrees with the Administration's foreign and domestic policies, these young people do not make those policies. Rather, they go wherever they are sent, in the U.S. or overseas, serving our great country.

This is an ideal project for families, school classes, and organizations, as well as individuals. For complete information on how you or your group may have an active part in this very worthwhile program, please write to Armed Forces Mail Call, 2170 West Broadway #514, Anaheim, California 92804. Thank you!

P.S. If you have a friend or relative in military service who would appreciate extra mail at Christmas, please send their name and address to Mail Call, and some mail will be sent to them.

Northeast water crisis affects campus

The effects of the critical water shortage in the Hazleton area have now reached the Highacres Campus. The Campus received a request from the Hazleton City Authority Water Department (HCA) to restrict water usage in general and, also, curtail swimming pool operation. The Campus complied with the HCA request by closing the swimming pool in the Physical Education Building on October 21. The pool will remain closed until further notice. The pool closing has led to the cancellation of winter term swimming and water safety courses.

In normal pool operation, a considerable amount of makeup

water is required to compensate for evaporative losses and losses involved in the backwashing of the filtering system.

The critical water shortage has developed due to an extremely small amount of rainfall during the summer and early fall months. Rainfall since May has been the lowest amount for a five-month period in 11 years. Thus, water supplies in local reservoirs have dwindled to nearly ¼ of

their capacity. Local communities, such as Hazleton and West Hazleton, have adopted ordinances restricting any non-essential use of water such as car washing and lawn watering.

Highacres, along with all the schools in the Hazleton Area School District, was requested to close its swimming pool as part of a total community effort to conserve water.

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