

The Highacres Collegian



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Traffic Light Right Around the Corner

By Phoenix Wissemann

Last week you may have noticed at the entrance to campus several people huddled up in blankets trying to keep warm. They stood, paced, and sat on the side-walk. No, they were not homeless work study students. They were counting cars entering and exiting campus. This was done as part of the process of getting a traffic light.

The Student Government Association has been lobbying for a traffic light at the exit from campus. Several accidents have taken place since the Fall Semester began at the end of August. There has been four major accidents and several minor fender benders since that time. The SGA recognized the need for a traffic light and decided to take immediate action.

The day after the committee was formed, the members were already busy. Chairing this committee was Phoenix Wissemann. Other members included Dayne McAfee and Joe Spado. Action began by calling Pennsylvania Department of Transportation in Wilkes-Barre.

Penn DOT gave the SGA the needed information to get a traffic light installed. Sugarloaf township would have to request that Penn DOT perform a traffic study of the intersection. If it met one of the thirteen requirements, a light would have to be installed. The cost would be charged to Sugarloaf. Sugarloaf, however, did not want to bear the burden of the cost. If the study was conducted, and a need for the light was found but not installed, then Sugarloaf could be held civilly responsible for the next accident that took place. For this reason the township did not want a traffic study.

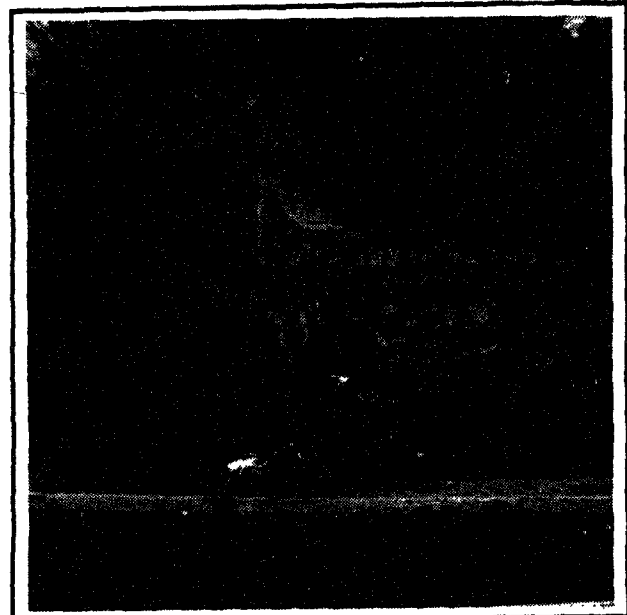
The next step was to get in touch with

the Sugarloaf Police Department. Chief Crawford of the West Hazleton Police Department said that a traffic light "would be very beneficial." The committee asked for the reports of the accidents that had taken place at the intersection. Response was slow and missing information such as medical reports. Information received was limited to the accidents that only the Chief responded to. None of the records of his men were included in his report.

Chief Crawford, Penn DOT was again called and it was determined that the State Police could not request that a study be done of the intersection. Another road to get a traffic light had turned into a dead end.

The next step included speaking to the administration. Karl Krone, Director of Business Services, was contacted and helped in the SGA's effort. He photocopied a letter from Dr. James J. Staudenmeier to the Sugarloaf Solicitor. The letter requested Sugarloaf to ask for a traffic study of the intersection be done. The Sugarloaf attorney, James A. Schneider, had replied in the negative, saying that they would not request a study unless Penn State agreed to pay for the light. He had over-estimated the cost of the light at \$100,000. Later he was quoted saying that in his experiences with these situations, that the cost of the light could be as high as \$115,000. It was at this time the issue was taken to higher government offices.

The SGA called State Senator Raphael Musto. Musto's office set up a meeting between Penn DOT, the Sugarloaf Attorney, Penn State Hazleton's SGA and the Senator. The SGA received only two days notice, and



Students count cars as part of a traffic survey last week.

thus had only one day to notify the administration of the meeting date and time. Dr. Staudenmeier was unfortunately unable to attend this meeting but sent Mr. Krone in his spot as the faculty advisor. With only one working day left before the meeting, the SGA was short on preparation time.

Mrs. Paula Callery made the time to meet with McAfee and Wissemann before the meeting. They expressed their expectations and concerns. Paula offered suggestions for positive publicity, how to express our views on the issue, and how to get them across to our audience. Dan Darrow supplied several useful photos of one of the accidents. These were utilized to show the severity of the accidents at this intersection.

All of this help brought about positive results. The meeting was attended by Mr.

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Safety at Penn State Hazleton Under Attack

By Janice D. Hayes

Penn State Hazleton is thought of as one of the safest campuses in the Penn State system, but last week the students' safety was almost violated when there was an attempted attack on a student at the campus. Safety is very important to Penn State University, it has 24 hour Police Services and tries to insure the safety of its students whenever possible.

When talking with students about the attempted attack several students stated that they felt they were safe here except the campus needs more lighting in some areas. Phoenix Wissemann, a student at Penn State

Hazleton said, "The campus police do a fantastic job for the campus, if anything goes wrong I know that they will be right there to give a hand."

There are no facts concerning the attack. The University does stress to exercise caution and try to walk with a buddy or group of friends in the later evening hours. Joe Spado, president of Student Government Association said, "Right now there are no facts. Everyone in the administration building has a deep concern. All parties are working to find out exactly what happened." Everyone

from residence life to the administration is doing their best to make sure that they get to the bottom of what occurred this past week on the campus.

Heather Freeland, was released after being treated at the Hazleton General Hospital, said hospital personnel. Students are encouraged to use the University marked paths to ensure their protection. Some students feel that the one way to improve safety conditions would be to provide an escort service and a self-defense class as an ESACT requirement. These requests are being discussed.