

# OTIS: Consumers' Guardian Angel

By Susan M. Siciliano

Looking for a place to stay this coming fall? Most kids are -- if they haven't already found one. For those who are still looking, OTIS can help.

OTIS is "Organization for Town Independent Students." OTIS includes:

1. handling Branch Campus' information
2. publishing "Housing List" and "Foundations" \*
3. advertising for the Collegion
4. is the most active consumer activist on campus
5. offers legal help with landlords
6. furnished bail less than \$1,000 if not past fines--expects no pay in return
7. has a Food Co-op -- 5% over the cost of food

\*Housing List -- explains who the complexes will rent to and necessary information on the complexes

Foundations -- is the "Bible of State College. . . what to look for, what to do . . ." (Both can be found in the typing area of the Student Affairs Building)

## A GENERAL RUN THROUGH . . .

Apartments cover 5 categories:

1. Highrise -- generally nice
2. Garden Type -- usually 3 stories high, less money because located further from campus.
3. Conversion Units -- house with partitions -- sometimes small and some have sanitation problems but is cheapest to rent
4. Trailors -- nice, cheap, but too far from campus-- costs run \$4,000 or \$5,000 for trailer, \$100 to \$150 a month to rent
5. Houses -- utilities not included, include hidden costs such as garbage collection, etc.

NCTE: Most important question concerning any type of housing is: "What is or is not included in the rent?"

The location of the apartment has much to do with its price. The further from campus, the cheaper. Some complexes have free parking, others charge \$10 a term. For those without a car, several complexes have a free bus service where you obtain passes to ride. Others are close to where a bus stops. For those who have neither included in rent, bus passes can be bought for \$7.50 a term, \$15 a term or \$60 a year. The Student Government runs a free bus for almost anywhere on campus after 6:00 p.m.

NOTE: Freshmen under 21 years are not allowed to have cars on campus.

Bills can run around \$10 a week per person for food and general expenses. A furnished apartment will be about \$20 more

per month than an unfurnished apartment. An unfurnished apartment is completely bare. The price of hauling, and renting furniture should be taken into consideration. However, no one can say whether the furniture in a furnished apartment is going to be that good. For those considering Conversion Units, find out if cooking is allowed in the room or not. Meal tickets can be purchased to eat in the dining halls for those stuck in the latter situation or unsure of taking their lives in their hands with cooking.

Anyone with complaints about a landlord can contact:

Chamber of Commerce  
129 W. Beaver Ave.

OTIS compiles a list, files and processes all complaints along with logging them for



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Welcome back from break and into our last term at Delco before summer -- and for us lucky devils, the last before . . . (dum te de dum) . . . The Park! George has been running through here like it's final time and she has two pages done of a 30-page paper that's due tomorrow. I wonder if we can slow her down long enough to find out what it's about.

ME: Hey, George! ¿Que Pasa?

GEORGE: Hey, do you really think so? I mean, did Kay actually say she was interested in doing it? In what area? I mean, does she want to write, or type, or report --

ME: I didn't say Kay Passa, I said Que Pasa. It means What's happening?

GEORGE: Plenty. Do you realize we have only two months left? TWO MONTHS! And we have yet to get Freshmen interested enough to actually do anything for this campus! Sure so far they complain and they've got some Sophomore willing to help out.

ME: So? If there has always been someone who's willing to help, why worry now?

GEORGE: That's just it. There always has been, but what about next year?

ME: Well, how did the Soph's get where they are today?

GEORGE: Work, and alot of it.

ME: Then you're saying the Freshmen are lazy? (boo, hiss -- background noises)

GEORGE: No, but if they at least knew, or were at least interested enough to help out a little, they'd move so much farther than the Soph's did. It's just like a broken record, never advancing.

ME: Then you're not saying the Freshmen are lazy.

future reference for anyone inquiring about a specific apartment. They also talk to the landlord, help get a legal advisor, and handle housing violations that eventually result in fines.

As far as living goes, a companion is something to look into. It would be nice to live with someone you get along with.

HINTS: It is never too early to look. When you do, ask the landlord to let you see the apartment you want to rent. Check out the appliances, paint on walls, windows, plumbing, and locks on doors and windows.

Talk to people you know who rented in the same complex.

Some landlords have a "model apartment" set-up to lure people to buy, with furniture in perfect condition, running water, hot and cold showers. . . Look into what you're going to get. (Continued on Page 4)

GEORGE: No, not lazy -- (yea! -- background cheers). Just apathetic. (? -- background confusion). Look, next year there won't be a Lion's Eye. No news release from the Park that's important for anyone going to Penn State no editorials that prove the kids actually have a tongue in their heads and a thought in their minds, no sports news to let them know how good 'old Delco is doing from the kids who represent us, and no feature news to tell of the activities, reviews, or me.

ME: No "Hey, George!"?

GEORGE: No "Hey, George!", no Lion's Eye, no nothing. It took us one and a half years to get from nowhere to end up nowhere. Gee, if we knew that, look at all the time we could have saved. I could have raided more tastycake machines . . . It's funny to see your own end coming.

ME: You'll still be here, won't you?

GEORGE: Sure. But with my luck I'll go back to being called Hey, Doggie! or -- yeach! -- here pooch! How'd you like to be called old whatsherface or Hey, Broad!

ME: So we need writers.

GEORGE: Among other things, yea. And you'd think those Journ students would grab a good thing when they saw it. God knows if YOU can write a column --

ME: Hey, wait! I'm on YOUR side, remember?

GEORGE: Sometimes I wonder.

ME: Before you run us off this page, do you have any parting words?

GEORGE: Life is like a puppy. It takes time and patience to raise and train one. But neglect her, forget her and she'll wander to find food and love, or die from lack of it.

Delco needs the Lion's Eye, and the Lion's Eye needs YOU! Please write, or even print, better yet, bring your body to the U.S.A. office. Maybe you can run for Prez while you're there. See ya!  
(!!!!!! -- wild, tremendous applause.)