

## Students Disgruntled Over Problems With Advisors

By Cristine Phillips

Penn State Delco proclaims a great concern for the welfare and academic progress of its students. With an intricate system for academic advising, one would conclude that Delco students are well taken care of. However, interviews with many students have revealed otherwise. So what's the problem?

A review of the advising system reveals seemingly fool-proof organization. Students who have decided about their major area of study are assigned to faculty members advising in this specific college. Students see assigned advisors in order to obtain accurate and timely advising information required for their major area of study.

Students seeking to change their major see the assigned college representative. (A list of current college representatives is available in 106 Main). Students are also invited to attend semester college meetings in order to obtain current and accurate information.

Also, students who are undecided about their major are enrolled in DUS, and students who are enrolled as provisional are assigned to the Division of Undergraduate Staff (DUS). The DUS advising staff includes: Linda Campitelli, Robert Purdy, and Flynn Bortnicker. These advisors are available for general advising and guidance.

The divisions mentioned seem to cover all necessary areas. Yet 29 of 40 students questioned for this article had major complaints about the advising system. Of the remaining 11 students, 5 claimed to

have no opinion, leaving only 6 who spoke of positive experiences with the advising system.

The biggest complaint offered by the 29 unsatisfied students was that their personal advisors "have no idea what they're talking about." The consensus is that these advisors are failing to provide essential information or are providing inaccurate information.

Several students were never told about classes they needed to take in order to fulfill major requirements. When students sought outside help by way of DUS advisors, they received conflicting information. The result is many frustrated students taking the wrong classes.

Another complaint made by those interviewed was that advisors are showing up late to scheduled appointments. Most students are operating on very tight schedules, having to rework study time to meet with advisors.

This situation was brought to the attention of Linda Campitelli during a recent interview. Her response was one of genuine concern. Her advice is to make complaints known by contacting the DUS advising staff in 106 Main.

Those students wanting a new advisor assignment can fill out a request form from DUS Advising Secretary, Mrs. Johnson in 106 Main. Alicia Johnson is a new addition to the advisory staff whose responsibilities include setting up appointments.

The essential point is communication between students and advisors. Students are paying high tuition that include responsible advising services. The DUS staff is eager to help in any way possible.



Linda Campitelli and Alicia Johnson are part of the Division of Undergraduate Advising Staff located in 106 Main.

Photo by: DIANA MICERI

## — Update On Campus Clubs —

By Diana Miceri

Shull in the Lion's Den.

**Adult Student Organization** - is sponsoring a Food Drive for the Homeless during the month of November. Canned goods and non-perishables can be donated in the box outside 101 Main or in Room 128 LC until November 25.

**Black Student League** - is organizing a trip to see the movie *Malcolm X*. Also, they are in the process of putting together a talent show.

**Global Awareness** - is having a letter writing party to elected officials on November 23. Topics will include: the Endangered Species Act and the Mining Reform Law. Free food will be provided. Also, Global Awareness is sponsoring the Operation Santa Claus Toy Drive; they will be collecting new toys for poor children. For more details, see Karen

**Karate Club** - has relocated to the Commons Lounge. They are currently working toward their orange belts.

**Keystone Society** - is sponsoring a Food Festival on November 18 in the Main Lounge. Admission is \$2.

**Lion's Guard** - is having a parade for Color Guard on November 11 and 22.

**Rangers Club** - is preparing an Introduction to Patrolling FTX on November 13-15. Also, they are organizing Weapons Weekend on December 4-6. Anyone interested in attending, see Lou Mandich in the Lion's Den.

**Student Athletic Association** - is sponsoring a 3 on 3 Tournament on November 21. Sign up outside the SAA office in 138 Commons.

### Age Diversity

## Adult Students Add Variety and Insight To Class Discussions

By Caroline Kalafut

Did you know that one third of the students at Penn State Delco are age 22 or older? This fact may surprise some people.

There are several factors that determine the student body demographics at this campus. First and foremost, this is a commuter

campus with many part-time students. They often keep full-time work schedules, attending classes when time and money permit.

Some of these students are women who have raised their children and are now seeking employment. They may be seeking new work skill or supplementary training. The competition for advancement drives many men and

women back to school for the degree that didn't seem so important after high school graduation. The majority of evening students fall into this category.

In addition, the Go-60 program has brought a new group into the student body. They attend classes for the pure love of learning. Surprisingly, the 60 year old student assimilates well with the 18 year old

student. In fact, they have a positive effect on each other.

For example, in Dr. Phyllis Cole's English 3 class, the students are a composite of the entire campus. Dr. Cole said, "I enjoy the mix. Returning students are a great asset."

In this class is Carl Joyeau-Charles, 18, who is attending Penn State Delco until he moves to main campus. He hopes to obtain a science degree. He said, "I learn more in this class. The life experience of the older student makes our discussions more interesting."

Also in Dr. Cole's class is Joan Kirby, 32, who is studying for an associate degree in liberal arts. In evaluating her time at Penn State, she stated, "I love it here. It keeps me touch with my youth."

Another English 3 student, Lucile Paulson proudly claims her 77 years. "I am listening and observing," she said. "This keeps my mind working."

With all this diversity, the Penn State Delco student body reflects a clear trend in the future of higher education.

