

Checks Are Big Business

One Store Has Cashed \$2000 Daily

By DON SHOEMAKER

Cashing student checks is a big business for State College merchants.

So big, in fact, that the manager of one store said he has handled as much as \$2000 a day in student checks.

Another said he handled 1500 checks a week, averaging from \$5 to \$10 each. A third claimed he received an average of \$500 to \$600 a day in checks.

Despite the large amount of checks that pass over the counters of borough stores each day, few merchants complained of receiving an excessive amount of "bad" checks. One merchant, who said he handled an average of 500 \$5 or \$10 checks a week, reported only one per cent were "bad."

The person who said he had handled \$2000 a day in checks, said that in the 50 years he has been in business, he has not received more than \$50 in bad checks. Merchants said most of the checks returned by the banks were written by students who simply made a mistake and overdrew their accounts. These are promptly made good, they said.

Only one of the merchants interviewed said he had been overloaded with worthless checks. Because of this, he no longer cashes checks. Although he had no idea of the amount of money he had lost, he said most of the checks were for small amounts. "It wasn't worth our time and expense to track these people down," he said, "so we just stopped cashing checks."

The biggest complaint of the merchants was that students are reluctant to produce identification when they cash a check.

Most merchants said they were glad to cash checks as part of their service to students. But, as one put it: "We're taking a risk everytime we cash a check, and we have to ask for identification."

Eugene Fulmer, secretary of the State College Area Chamber of Commerce, compared it to buying a suit.

"When some one goes in to buy a suit, he doesn't tell the clerk to pick him a suit off the rack and wrap it up. He tries it on, has it fitted, checks the quality of the seams and the fabric. By the same token, when he hands the merchant a check to pay for the suit, he can not expect the merchant to take it without checking its quality. This is the reason merchants ask for identification."

A pamphlet, issued by the public relations department of American Stores, has this to say:

"When a manager cashes a check for a customer, in reality he is advancing money in the form of a 'loan,' until such time as the check pays off in the ordinary course of business."

"And since our managers are not bankers, nor professional check cashers, they have every right to insist upon proof, satisfactory to themselves."

"... Unless and until the manager is wholly satisfied of the identity and good faith of the person presenting a check, he is entirely justified in declining to go through with the transaction."

One local merchant pointed out that when a student produces identification, he is establishing his identity and good faith with the store.

"In this way he protects himself against the very few people that will take advantage of a storekeeper," he said.

For these reasons, merchants ask that students put their addresses and phone numbers on checks. All checks should be endorsed and the student should identify himself by presenting a matriculation card.

The tradition of the junior class editing and publishing "LaVie" was broken by the class of 1931, when the seniors took over the project.

Work on Chapel Expected to Start Within 2 Weeks

Bids are expected to be received and a contract let for the construction of the Helen Eaken Eisenhower Memorial Chapel within approximately two weeks, according to Walter H. Wiegand, director of physical plant.

The target date for the cornerstone laying is June 11, Commencement Day, Wiegand said. The chapel will be located in Hort Woods near Pattee library.

The chapel will include a small meditation chapel with seats for 150 people; a connecting unit which will house program and administration facilities; and the main chapel with seats for 2200 persons.

The three units will be arranged in a U-shape around a large reflecting pool.

Hat Societies Applications Due at HUB

Applications for membership into Androcles and Blue Key, junior men's hat societies, and Parminous and Skull and Bones, senior men's hat societies, are due at the Hetzel Union desk.

The deadline for the junior societies is 5 p.m. today. The letters should include the applicant's semester, All-University average, and activities. They are to be addressed to Vernon Sones, president of Androcles, or Robert McMillan, president of Blue Key.

Applications for membership into the senior societies will be accepted until 5 p.m. Tuesday. The letters are to include the All-University average of the applicant which must be at least a 1.0, his extra-curricular activities, and his reasons for wanting to join the society. Applications should be addressed to William Wismer, president of Parminous, or Robert Smoot, president of Skull and Bones.

Seely Appoints 4 To Traffic Court

Four additional appointments to Traffic Court were announced yesterday by Earl Seely, All-University president.

They are Richard Kurtz, Samuel Kahn, and Stephen Jordan, all sophomores. Thomas Cross was named freshman representative.

Seely said another sophomore and another freshman would be appointed at a later date. All-University Cabinet must approve the appointments before they become official.

Chess Instruction

The Chess Club will offer a new program for free chess instruction. All interested students may also sign up at the HUB this week.

A match will be held on May 30 with the newly formed chess club of Altoona Center.

It Grows and Grows . . .

'Week' Adds to Fund

Four years ago, Ralph Ego, a member of All-University Cabinet, contacted Herbert R. Kinley, administrative assistant, to work out an idea of what could be done with \$1000 profit from the Spring Week carnival.

Together they worked out a plan which was to become the Penn State Student Scholarship Fund, the only fellowship controlled by the University that is supported by funds donated by students for other students.

Today the fund has grown from the initial \$1000 to \$11,300, and at least three scholarships of \$100 each are awarded yearly.

Scholarship Purpose The purpose of the scholarship, as set down by Ego and Kinley and approved by All-University Cabinet and the Board of Trustees, is to aid "needy students of

WH Council Conducts Nominations

John Carlson, sixth semester pre-medical major, and Frank Simokat, sixth semester electrical engineering major, were nominated for the presidency of West Halls Council Monday night in the first round of nominations.

President James Kennedy, eighth semester chemistry major, announced that nominations would be reopened at next week's meeting. Elections will be held at that time.

Only the president will be elected. The other officers will be appointed by the new president to serve until elections can be held in the fall.

James Anderson, social chairman, announced a tentative program for the remainder of the semester. The program includes a mixed dinner followed by a record dance from 8:30 to 9 p.m. May 5 in Waring lounge, a record dance from 8 to 12 p.m. May 14 in Waring lounge, another record dance from 8:30 to 11:30 May 20 in Waring lounge, and a dance with an orchestra or combo from 9 to 12 p.m. May 21 in the ballroom of the Hetzel Union Building.

Council decided to donate \$50 toward the Association of Independent Men-Leonides fish-fry picnic May 7 at Holmes Field. The picnic is open to independent students. No admission price has been set yet.

On a motion to have teas on Mother's Day in the area's four small lounges, Kennedy cast a tie-breaking vote in favor of the motion. The council had voted at last week's meeting to hold an area tea in Waring lounge. The dormitories will be open for parents and guests on Mother's Day.

AIM Elections Set for Tonight

The Board of Governors of the Association of Independent Men will elect officers at 7:30 tonight in 203 Hetzel Union. Candidates for the four offices will also deliver their nomination speeches.

Nominations were made last week, but nominees for the posts of secretary and treasurer will be accepted tonight since only one person was nominated for each office.

Nominated for the presidency are Robert Cole, a town independent, and Bruce Lieske, treasurer of AIM. Seeking the position of vice president are Raymond Rubner, a town independent, and Nelson Sidel, Pollock representative-at-large. Leonard Richards, present secretary of AIM, has no opposition for his return to office, and Harry Martini, president of Pollock Council, is the only nominee for the post of treasurer.

31 Groups Enter Ugly Man Contest

Thirty one groups have entered "ugly men" in the annual Ugly Man contest to be held May 4-6.

John Brunner, contest chairman, announced yesterday that the parade will take place May 3 and start at 6:15 p.m. at Foster avenue and Locust lane. It will proceed to Beaver, west to Allen, south to College, west to Burrows, north to

Pollock, east to Shortlidge, and will disband at the corner of Grange and McElwain Halls. Each entrant may have a maximum of four cars representing him.

The voting will be conducted with a penny-a-vote system at a booth on the Mall. Five judges will select the winner from a list of seven finalists who have compiled the most votes.

According to Brunner, the judges will base their scoring on the amount of effort the candidates put into their campaigning. The committee has suggested that the candidates work up a skit or other means of publicity that will be presented during the voting period.

The following points will be given toward Spring Week: 20 for the entry, 25 for a finalist, and 100 for the winner.

This year, \$100 from the fund will be set aside for Christmas baskets and other relief projects of Alpha Phi Omega, national service fraternity. After expenses are subtracted from the proceeds, the remainder will go to Campus Chest.

Entrants are: Jerry Donovan, Kappa Sigma; Karl Schwensiefer, Beta Theta Pi; Howard Guenther, Sigma Chi and Zeta Tau Alpha; John McMahon, Theta Kappa Phi; William Banfield, Sigma Pi; William Dels, Delta Chi; Edward Fleming, Pi Kappa Phi; Albert Hall, Tau Epsilon Phi; Allen Schneider, Phi Epsilon Pi; Randall Washburn, Phi Gamma Delta and Kappa Alpha Theta.

Harold Astrich, Beta Sigma Rho and Thompson Hall; Francis Riese, Lambda Chi Alpha; Lamont Smith, Theta Chi and Phi Mu; Haas Simp, Association of Independent Men; Richard Gordon, Phi Sigma Delta and Alpha Tau Omega.

George Crouse, Phi Kappa Sigma; Angela Coltura, Theta Chi; William Wismer, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Delta Gamma; John Greiner, Delta Sigma Phi and Delta Delta Delta; Robert Kitchin, Pi Kappa Phi and Aetherton Hall; Tiawer Fother, Phi Delta Theta and Kappa Kappa Gamma; David Leatham, Alpha Gamma Rho; Ronald Weidenhammer, Alpha Chi Rho and Theta Delta Chi.

James Garrity, Delta Upsilon and Chi Omega; John Goodrich, Sigma Phi Epsilon; Alec Bellasov, Phi Kappa Psi; William Hamilton, College Co-operative; Donald Bell, Sigma Nu; Eugene Danner, Alpha Epsilon Phi and Delta Tau Delta; Norman Melvin, Phi Sigma Sigma and Acacia; Ellsworth Smith, Kappa Delta Rho and Alpha Gamma Delta; Frederic and Lawrence Cohen, Alpha Epsilon Pi and Sigma Delta Tau.

4 Traffic Violators Arrested by Police

Three students were arrested by Pleasant Gap State Police for auto violations from March 16 to 31. One student was arrested by Bellefonte police for speeding during March.

The three are: John Ifft, sixth semester forestry major, speeding; Marcus Herrold, graduate student in agricultural education, speeding; and Arlyne Oberier, fourth semester arts and letters major, no current operator's license.

William Eggers, eighth semester business administration major, was arrested for speeding by Bellefonte police.

Ag Hill League Starts Second Softball Season

The Ag Hill softball league, a unique project among student councils at the University, started its second year last night.

The league is composed of 12 teams from Ag Hill clubs, each having a separate team. It is the only athletic organization of its type formed by a student council at the University.

William Barkley, league commissioner, said the league has two divisions. The tournament is played by single elimination with one loss eliminating a team.

The teams will play every night for about three weeks, Barkley said. League champion is determined by a three-game playoff and the winner receives a trophy.

No fee is charged for entering a team, Barkley said, but the schedule for this year has been filled.

Hort Club and Forestry B members of division A will play tonight. The time will be set by the team captains.

Draft Deferment Forms Are Due

Applications for the Selective Service System College Qualification Test must be in the mail by midnight, May 9, according to Sara E. Case, secretary in the dean of men's office.

To be eligible to take the test, an applicant must

1. Be a Selective Service registrant who intends to request occupational deferment as a student.
2. Be satisfactorily pursuing a full time college course, graduate or undergraduate, leading to a degree.
3. Not have previously taken the test.

The Selective Service test, last for this academic year, will be given May 19. Application blanks are available in the dean of men's office.

Skies to Clear; Mercury to Rise

The damp spring weather is expected to leave this afternoon, according to the University weather station. This morning is forecast to be cloudy, and slightly warmer temperatures are foreseen.

Today's high mercury reading is expected to be around 52, while a low of 44 degrees is forecast. Yesterday's high was 47, and the low was 45.

Data for today's forecast was compiled by James Anderson, eighth semester meteorology major, student forecaster for the station.

WDFM Engineer Wins 1st Place in Competition

James Raleigh, director of engineering for campus radio station WDFM, recently won first place in a competition sponsored by the Pittsburgh sub-section of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers.

Each contestant submitted and gave an oral presentation. Three other colleges participated in the competition.

Raleigh received a prize of \$50.

Cobalt was used by the ancient Egyptians to tint pottery blue.

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