

Last Chance

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS can take advantage of a free ride to Bellefonte today to register to vote. It's their last opportunity to be registered by the Centre County commissioners, who have been taking students for a ride all year.

So far, the commissioners have done their best to discourage students from registering. With the backing of state officials, students registered in Centre County Fall Term only to be deprived completely in many cases of their due franchise. Some made it onto the voting rolls by court order, while others surrendered in a feeling of utter frustration.

Again this term students are turning out to register, but find the board throwing up considerable roadblocks. Proof of residency lies with the student. Accepted as proof are marriage licenses, Pennsylvania drivers licenses with local addresses, local credit cards, county or school tax receipts or forms, Bell Telephone credit cards with local addresses, or a combination of a twelve month lease with local savings and checking accounts.

STUDENTS WHO lacked such "proof" were turned down this term.

When the chance to appeal the decisions in Bellefonte came up, only a small portion of rejected students managed to make the trip. Simply by wearing down the patience of perspective student voters, the commissioners succeeded in keeping students off the voting rolls.

If students are going to overcome man-handling by the commissioners, they will have to play the commissioners' game from the start. Register for the vote with whatever proof of residency you may have. If you must appeal, don't stay away because the game has become monotonous. Between the time of possible rejection by the board and the time of the appeal, some acceptable form of proof may be obtained.

Registrants have until April 10 to appeal the decision on their cases. Even if the appeal fails, possible court action could place a rejected name back on the list. Last year's decision to place names back on the rolls came only days before the election.

STUDENTS SEEKING a ride to Bellefonte today may go to the Hertz Union Building between 9:30 and 11 a.m. or 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Register to vote in Bellefonte today; don't allow the commissioners to take you for a ride.



Letters to the Editor

Time to get settled

TO THE EDITOR: I feel that there is an immediate urgency to clarify the misconceptions of Central Penn PIRG that were set forth in Doug Struck's recent editorial.

Struck seems to have lumped PIRG together with other unsuccessful student interest groups, and accordingly, doomed us to fail also. However, contrary to Struck's opinion, we are well organized and do have goals which we are aiming for. In addition, PIRGs in Minnesota and Oregon are presently functioning smoothly and efficiently with enthusiastic support of students and community leaders. Moreover, a vast amount of new PIRGs are continually being formed on campuses across the country.

PIRG's four main proposed goals, consumer protection, environmental quality, racial and sexual discrimination, and occupational health and safety are, admittedly, not specifically defined. However, there is a purpose behind this reasoning.

The students can certainly see the areas which we plan to explore, and from these, can pick for themselves which they would like to investigate extensively. PIRG is not a bureaucracy, but rather, an organization designed to utilize the aid and experience of competent professionals to probe into areas which no one has previously ventured, simply because they have not had the organization, massiveness, and student assistance that PIRG has.

Numerous organizations are eager to see PIRG formed, a few of them being GSA, Panhel, and OTIS. PIRG would have the power, numbers, and professionals to aid these organizations. PIRG in no way would stifle them, but rather, would offer its staff and work together when similar problems arose.

PIRG, like any other organization, must have time to get settled. Although it might be nice, Mr. Struck, even we cannot produce results before we are funded and staffed with professionals. We are presently proceeding on this course of action through a massive petitioning drive. It might be interesting to note that the students thus far have not had a

skeptical attitude towards PIRG, this being conclusively demonstrated by the fact that 90 per cent of the students approached thus far have been willing to sign our petition.

As our numbers continue to swell each day with student volunteers, it will become quite apparent to the few remaining skeptics that PIRG will soon become a reality at Penn State.

Stephen Straley
(2nd-pre-law-State College)

Sad state of affairs

TO THE EDITOR: I noticed that on page two of the March 1 issue of your newspaper, you put Port Allegany, Pa. in New York State. When you get a chance would you please move Philadelphia to Colorado, put Pittsburgh in Utah, and slip Erie into the lake. Thank you.

David Kahlly
(5th-French-Port Allegany)

Individual rights

TO THE EDITOR: In the past few months I have been following the situation that Wells Keddie has come to face. I admire, respect and support Keddie's fight because he is also fighting for the rights of students.

In this fight many issues essential to both faculty and students have been raised. Those issues concerning students are recognition of rights and the intimidation these students must suffer because of the fight for this recognition. The issue facing faculty is simply said; how secure is your position if you are politically concerned?

Silence on the part of both students and faculty has caused a setback in the advancement of individual rights. The individual's voice is his only protection against a similar incident occurring in the future.

Wells Keddie's fight is not only personal. He is fighting for the overall review of his case, the similar cases that others must face in the future, and the rights of students to determine who shall teach them.

Keddie's case, in my opinion, has much bearing on future decisions concerning tenure, as well as individual rights; not only is the concern and struggle for securing those rights, but a fight also to be able to exercise those rights.

Eric Walker
associate justice, USG Supreme Court

Student negativism

TO THE EDITOR: It is disheartening to witness the degeneration of student idealism, so hopefully strong a few years ago. It has degenerated not only into apathy but into a negativism.

In attacking the Central Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group in The Daily Collegian's Wednesday issue Doug Struck epitomized this negativism, bound in suspicion of organizations which make "an emotional pitch for public consciousness." He was generally correct in stating that an organization is being set up before specific goals are selected, that people are to be hired before their jobs are specifically defined, and that students are being asked for money before being told how it will be used specifically.

But these apparent shortcomings do not indicate disorganization; rather, they indicate the vital openness of the whole idea of a group of dedicated (who else would work for \$5000 yearly?) and powerful professionals controlled by and integrating the energy of interested students. And Doug, consult Max Weber on the meaning of "bureaucracy."

PIRG demands no monetary commitment, as refunds will be made upon request. But I pity those of you who cannot accept "an emotional pitch for public consciousness."

Craig Slater
(5th-sociology-Pittsburgh)

The Daily Collegian

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Theft scare conning students on visitation

By ROD NORDLAND
Collegian Senior Reporter

You people out there have been conned by the University with the unwitting cooperation of this newspaper.

The delegated con-man is Charles C. Spence, director of residence hall programs at the University. The victim is you, the student — especially if you live on campus. And the name of the con game is: take-the-visitiation-away-but-make-the-kids-think-it's-for-their-own-good.

But don't worry, that's not all that the scheming higher-up bureaucrats who pull Spence's strings have in store for you. The plan, it is becoming quite clear, is to make you into puppet-people, the only kind of entities a bureaucrat is capable of understanding.

The plan includes taking away your fought-for visitation rights, instilling fear and paranoia in your numbers to induce conformity, and in general devolving the student community into the paternally-ruled, yessuh-nosir; button-down nursery school it was five years ago.

The pattern has been emerging more and more since President Oswald quietly phased out his "fireside raps" with students, probably having realized students were astute enough to see through his big ears (remember how Oswald was going to listen?) into a head filled with obfuscating, procrastinating and people-manipulating intentions.

First, a former undercover informer (narc) was put in, charge of the "drug education" program. This drug education has taken its toll: witness violations of the University's previously stated policy of not calling police on campus; witness increased drug raids (three, two weeks ago) in the dormitories; and witness reports of students being urged to dime on their roommates. Now, since the beginning of this term, the

heat has been on for visitation. For the past several months, policies forcing residents to stand guard duty in their lobbies have been shoved down students' throats by administrators — with the complicity of eager-to-please-the-mahstuh dorm councils and resident assistants.

These were volunteer programs — but few knew that, and outright attempts were made to hide that fact. In South Halls, for instance, an authoritarian area coordinator, Art Constantino, had the lack of decorum to admit, "We had planned to try before the Student Standards Boards anybody who refused to sit" and watch the doors. In other words, if you didn't "volunteer," you'd get shot, figuratively speaking. There were similar coercive attempts in other halls.

Now we get back to Mr. Spence. In the Feb. 28 Collegian, he announced that extra "security receptionists" will be placed in all women's dorms and men's dorms in East Halls and Beaver. Reason: to curtail what has been called in this newspaper "the recent wave of thefts."

I have called Spence a con man, because I do not believe he is a dumb man. Yet the reasoning behind this further escalation of visitation curtailment is decidedly stupid.

In asserting that increased dormitory thefts justify the gestapo door watching programme, the University is arguing from what it knows — or should know — to be false premises.

First of all, this so-called wave of thefts is largely the creation of The Daily Collegian. The University's figures show a 250 per cent increase in reported personal property thefts from dorms for Fall, 1971 as compared to Spring, 1971 — hardly a very valid comparative base. It is no coincidence that The Collegian's coverage of campus thefts has increased similarly: there are twice as many reporters on police beat this year than there were last year, and they are writing twice as

much copy. Last year, because of the importance of the large scale off-campus arrests, on-campus petty thievery often was not covered in our news columns. But to the reader who is not privy to this information, he is misled by a false appearance of increased campus crime.

Another important thing to consider is that the 250 per cent statistic reflects reported thefts. There could well be just as many or even fewer thefts this year than last, but various factors could have made more people report the thefts. One such factor is news coverage: more people read about other people reporting thefts to campus patrol, and they start reporting thefts more often. The result, again, is the false appearance of increased crime.

But more important than this is the university's obscurantist attempt to link thefts and visitation policy. The only evidence of a causal relationship between the two comes from the unfounded assertions of administrators — the same administrators who vigorously opposed open visitation a few years back.

Nevertheless, administrators themselves must realize visitation is not to blame — the facts are all against it. In Spence's lobby guard program, the guards are being put in all women's dorms from 9 p.m. on and also in East Halls, mens dorms from 11 p.m. on. Using the University's statistics, the only significant increase in thefts was in East — so why the guards in women's dorms all over campus?

Besides, the amount of thievery in women's dorms in East is negligible: Fall Term there were only seven reported thefts from women's halls compared with 105 thefts from men's halls. Yet the University puts its heaviest "security" in the women's areas, the ones which least need it!

That fact in itself pretty well lays bare Spence's intentions. But there is more. There

are two main kinds of dormitory thefts — coat rack rip-offs and bedroom rip-offs — and lobby guards will not abate either type.

The coat racks will still be equally unguarded — and besides, anyone who leaves valuables in his coat is a damn fool. As for thefts in rooms, let's face it: your fellow residents are the culpable ones. Who else? Picture a thief walking onto a floor and trying doors until he finds an empty room, and you have pictured a thief with no brains and a short career.

But to further insult our intelligence, Spence has paraded out an opinion poll, citing that "80 per cent" of the students favor "security receptionists." Spence made an abysmal "mistake" when he said 80 per cent: the real figure, based on his poll results, is 28 per cent!

Respondents were asked which security measure out of a list of five they would prefer — the greatest amount was 28 per cent in favor of the option of security receptionists. But that question was outright dishonest, slanted and loaded: the other options would have hampered student freedom to a much larger degree. With that kind of unscientific, bastardized polling you could prove popular support for repeal of the Bill of Rights.

But just for the hell of it, let us grant the validity of Spence's poll (forgive me, Dr. Gallup). As we have already seen, before the poll was taken people had been misled by newspaper coverage, crime reporting, and administrative chicanery — so the most such a poll can offer is a measure of how extensive this misleading has been.

We see, then, that using such a poll to justify stern security measures is unwarranted a priori reasoning reductio ad absurdum. We must conclude either that administrators are very stupid, or that they are trying to put one over on us — the latter conclusion is by far the more valid one.

Now: You ... have ... been ... conned. Are you going to take it?



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University Calendar

Monday, March 6, 1972

SPECIAL EVENTS

Lecture by Dr. Louis Dupree, American Universities Field Staff associate and adjunct professor of anthropology at Penn State, on "Bangla Desh: The Reasons Why," 8 p.m., Kern Graduate Building auditorium, sponsored by Middle East Studies sub-committee of the College of the Liberal Arts.

AWS "Focus on Women" program, 8 p.m., HUB reading room. "Employment Opportunities for Women after Graduation," with Mrs. Elizabeth Nuss, Placement Service; Mrs. Katie Byrd, EOP and DOC counselor; and Mrs. Jeanne Driscoll, student aid and placement.

Film, "I Am Pablo Neruda," readings from the works of Neruda, and musical settings for his poems, 7:30 p.m., Simmons Lounge, sponsored by Circulo Iberico.

INTEREST GROUPS

Eco-Action Division, PSOC, 8:30 p.m., Room 303 Boucke.
Archery Club, 7 p.m., White Building range.
Squash Club, 7 p.m., White Building courts.
Free University, 7:30 p.m., HUB lounge.

MEETINGS

Interfraternity Council, 7:30 p.m., Delta Phi fraternity.

SEMINARS

Management Science and Organizational Behavior, 1:30 p.m., Room 105 Boucke. Dr. Lawrence Hrebiniak, on "A Comparative Organizational Study of Effectiveness and Efficiency in Psychiatric Inpatient Department."
Organic Chemistry, 8 p.m., Room 310 Whitmore. Dr. Gordon Hamilton, on "Models for Some Enzymic Redox Reactions."
Statistics, 4 p.m., Room 217 Willard. W.L. Hall, University of Rochester, on "Martingales and Statistics."
Environmental Pollution and Plant Pathology, 11 a.m., Room 213 Buckhout.

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