

# Ceramics center popular place

By THERESA CALAFUT  
Collegian Staff Writer

Intricate designs line the shelves, a black dog wanders aimlessly around, students mold clay over a typically messy workshop floor — this is the new ceramics center located beside the Visual Arts Building.

In order to use the center, a student must be part of a ceramics class, explained David Dontigny, associate professor of art. He said that beginning, intermediate and advanced students work at the same time. In this way, the advanced students can

help the beginners and learn from them.

The center is limited in space, he added, and ceramics is in demand at the University.

"We accepted 105 students this term and turned away twice that amount," he said.

Until this year the ceramics center was located near the information booth. When the new art building was built, it was moved to its present location so that the two buildings would be together as one unit, said Rich Lipscher (11th-ceramics).

When the center was situated near the information

booth, students were able to go there to work on their pottery any time there was no class in progress, in addition to their regular class period. Since the center moved near the center of campus, it is no longer open 24 hours a day, Lipscher said.

In the summer, he explained, some plastics, clay and sand that were stored outside were stolen, so it became necessary to lock the building at night. "It's a hindrance," he added, "because sometimes at noon you feel like coming down here but the place is locked. You won't feel like it in the

morning." The center contains many types of materials, Dontigny said, such as porcelain, stoneware, earthenware, silica, glass and clay. It also has salt kilns, which were built over the summer, electric kilns and kilns for Raku, a Japanese art form.

Besides these, students are building more kilns under the supervision of Dontigny and James Stephenson, assistant professor of art, Lipscher said.

The students using the center, Lipscher added, pay a \$15 or \$20 fee and have access to as many materials as they want. Students can do whatever they wish with the clay, which is "very demanding," explained Dontigny. "It won't work if the dryings are too slow or too fast," he said.

Lipscher further explained that a technique must be developed, which takes years to achieve. He emphasized that pottery is an art, not a craft, saying that there are two kinds of vessels, structural and functional.

Most of the people in the class, he said, are not art majors and come only to learn how to use the potter's wheel. They make functional vessels and learn form and shape. The others, he added, are more creative and more interested in the artistic aspects of ceramics, trying to express themselves in their work.

There is a lot of variety in ceramics, Lipscher said. There are many different kinds of molds and firings, and all the equipment is available. He explained further that there are various glazes and decals and many combinations of materials that can be used.

He said that it is possible to "get funky effects" with special glazes or lusters, in which the object is plated with gold or silver. Lipscher explained "funky" by saying that "clay feels organic. You can make forms with it."

The ceramic center will have a ceramic conference later this year, in which three national ceramic artists will show their work.



Spruce Creek road

## Concern expressed

By RICK NELSON  
Collegian Junior Reporter

SPRUCE CREEK — More than 80 people met here yesterday to discuss a Pennsylvania Department of Transportation proposal to build a road through this village possibly displacing homes or causing environmental damage.

The citizens of Spruce Creek filled the United Methodist Church to standing room only and heard Marty Abromavage, temporary chairman of the citizens' ad hoc committee to study the proposal, tell them that PennDOT had ignored them in planning three possible routes through the village.

The need for a new road through Spruce Creek, located about 26 miles southwest of State College on Route 45, arose when rain from Tropical Storm Agnes washed out a nearby section of Route 45 in June.

Two of the three proposed routes would pass through Spruce Creek displacing homes. A third route could possibly cause contamination to the water supply.

Abromavage pointed out at the meeting that in other states, citizens have successfully fought government planned highway projects. He mentioned as an example that residents of Arlington, Va., prevented the construction of an interstate highway in their county.

He said highway departments in some states prepare booklets explaining the necessity for and effects of a proposed project and release them to the public. He added that so far all PennDOT has done is prepare an environmental impact statement in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

According to the act, an impact statement draft must be written and made available to the public. A final statement, including information on environmental effects and public reaction if any, must then be prepared

before construction can begin.

He said citizens have thirty days in which to respond to an environmental impact statement, but that he was told it would take three to five weeks to obtain 20 copies for the residents of Spruce Creek. He said that according to the law, "it's already too late for us."

Some confusion exists, however, concerning the present stage of PennDOT's plans. A PennDOT spokesman indicated in a WFBG-TV newscast Friday that plans are still in the preliminary stages and, therefore, no public reaction has been sought.

Abromavage said, however, if planning is still in the early stages, an environmental impact statement would not yet have been prepared.

He said the federal government prepared guidelines in 1971 explaining the procedure that should be used by a state highway department in planning a new road. The guidelines said that more than one governmental department should review the plans and that the plans should be made available to the public through newspaper ads.

He said while it is possible that the plans were reviewed by other agencies, the proposal has never been advertised.

Another concern was what would happen to traffic when it returned to the old road after traveling over the approximately three-mile long proposed new route. Concern was expressed that the comparatively poor condition of the old road would cause an increase in accidents.

One citizen supporting the road, however, said "progress is priceless."

The next step of Abromavage, is to submit a petition to PennDOT asking that the citizens group be included in the decision making process and that they have a say in what plan is finally accepted.

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## Peale calls Nixon 'great peacemaker'

NEW YORK (AP) — President Nixon wound up a nostalgic holiday weekend with his family here yesterday and heard himself called "one of the great peacemakers in history" at a church service.

Nixon climaxed a trip that began with a visit to his old Wall Street law firm on Friday by attending church services yesterday conducted by long-time family friend,

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Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. The President and his party flew to Camp David, Md., later in the day.

Before attending church, Nixon met for a second time with special adviser Henry Kissinger, who returned from the Paris peace talks Saturday night.

Nixon, accompanied by his wife Pat, Julie Eisenhower, Tricia and Edward Cox and Charles "Bebe" Rebozo, then went to church.

There were about 1,400 persons in the church and the overflow watched on closed circuit color television in another church hall.

In prayer, Dr. Peale said, "Nixon has become one of the great peacemakers in history" and expressed the hope that he "may evolve indeed a generation of peace."

On Saturday, Nixon drove past the upper East Side apartment where he lived before taking the oath for his first term and waded through crowds at Rockefeller Center. Pat and daughter Julie went Christmas shopping while the Coxes spent part of the day apartment hunting.

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