



Photo by Joe Rudick

Center raises funds for peace

On 249 S. Pugh St. there is a house with a sign on it reading "Cambodia Bombing"; it is the Peace Center. Peace Center activities have included raising \$400 for Medical Aid for the Bach Mai Hospital Emergency Relief Fund through benefit concerts, placing collection

boxes in local stores and holding button sales. The Peace Center also sent a contingent to counter the Nixon inaugural march in 1972, has distributed hundreds of impeach Nixon stickers, has put up 50 or more overnight crashers since January and brought the

Indochina Mobil Education Project to State College and the Nittany Mall. The Peace Center continues to maintain its draft counseling facilities since it reports in its most recent memo the "draft is not dead, only sleeping."

The Peace Center plans to do research on the Military Industrial Complex, the Local Power Structure and the civilianization of the war in Southeast Asia, according to the memo. The Peace Center also plans to petition in support of the impeachment of President Nixon, prison reform, and the Gainesville Eight and other political prisoners. The Peace Center reports it would appreciate useful ideas and suggestions. It will hold an orientation meeting 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 10, at 249 S. Pugh St.

Origins of 'Nittany' name uncertain Mystery clouds legends

By ED DINGER
Collegian Staff Writer

Before taking that long trek up Mount Nittany or watching the first home football game, there are a few things new students should know — namely, the legends of the Nittany Valley and the famed Nittany Lion mascot.

When a word such as "Nittany" is used in connection with everything from a gymnastics school to a dirty movie theater, the meaning is somehow obscured. Some explanation is necessary.

The central Pennsylvania area was known as Nittany Ridge as early as the 1770's, according to maps of the period. Many logical people surmise that the word came from two Indian words, "nekti," meaning single, and "attin," meaning hill or mountain. Others say it came from the Indian word "Nita-nee," which means a protective barrier against the elements.

But two popular legends provide more interesting explanations.

The first deals with a pure Indian maid named Nita-nee, daughter of Chief O-Ko-Cho, who lived near the mouth of Penn's Cave.

One day Malachi Boyer, a vagabond trader, wandered into the valley in hopes of finding treasure. Instead he found Nita-nee and fell hopelessly in love. Unfortunately, her seven brothers were not amused; they imprisoned Boyer in Penn's Cave and left him to die.

He could be heard calling from the cave, "Nita-nee, Nita-nee."

The second legend takes place in the early days of the Earth, when the world could be changed over night by Gitchie Manitto, the Great Spirit. A war was being waged over the Juniata Valley by the aggressive Southern Indians and the Northern Indians, who lived in the valley.

One of the Northern tribe was Nita-nee, daughter of the powerful Chief Chun-Eh-Hoe, whose tribe was driven northward to where State College now stands.

When Chun-Eh-Hoe died, Nita-nee assumed leadership. She was peace-loving and wanted her people to become the most cultured and prosperous in the Indian world.

But the Southern Indians became violent again, and war was inevitable. Nita-nee led an army, which had been recruited only the night before, and destroyed the enemy.

Uninterested in acquiring more territory, Nita-nee marched her people back to their permanent encampment. She was a kind and just queen and, after a century of life, asked that her body be placed to rest in the center of the valley that she loved so well.

On the night she was buried in a mound covered with cedar boughs, a great storm arose and raged through the night. When the sun rose the next day, a towering mound-

like mountain stood where Nita-nee had been buried the night before.

So much for the origin of the name "Nittany." It would seem logical and appropriate for Penn State to choose a mountain lion as its mascot. After all, mountain lions flourished in the valley during the 1860's while Old Main was being constructed, they continued to live in the valley until 1890. During snow storms they were known to roam on campus, quieting all howling dogs in the area.

Despite the prominence of mountain lions in the area, the originators had an African lion in mind.

It all began with a Penn State-Princeton baseball game in 1904. Princeton, virtually unbeatable in those years, acquired two Bengal tigers to symbolize their powerful team.

Penn State third baseman H.D. "Joe" Mason immediately replied, "Well, up at Penn State we have Mount Nittany right on campus, where rules the Nittany Mountain Lion, who has never been beaten in a fair fight, so Princeton tiger, look out!" The Penn State team went on to beat Princeton that day and the next few seasons.

Mason did not let the issue rest at that. Also the editor of Penn State's first publication "The Lemon," he editorialized his position continuously. At this point in time, colleges had begun to choose mascots. Pittsburgh already had chosen the panther and Mason wanted to be certain that State was the first to get the lion as its mascot.

In the March 7, 1907 issue of "The Lemon," Mason wrote: "Every college the world over has a college emblem of some kind — all but the Pennsylvania State College. Our institution, we think, is of some consequence, and from present prospects 10 years hence will occupy a place of importance in the educational world."

"What do you say? Why not get for State College, our college, the best in all the menagerie of college pets? Our college is the best of all. Then why not select for ours, the king of beasts — the lion?"

Mason's endless writing on the subject finally paid off, when the La Vie for the class 1908, his senior year, featured a poem and the first drawings of the lion. The term mountain lion was used liberally, since the picture inside showed him with a thick mane.

Penn State became the first of 15 colleges to choose the lion as their school mascot. The word "Nittany" soon was added to the lion, creating the Penn State variety of mountain lion, complete with mane.

So if you climb that famed mountain, listen for a faint voice calling, "Nita-nee, Nita-nee." And when you see the Lion doing dozens of pushups this fall, be kind and offer him a drink.

Russians denounce Sakharov

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet press has begun publishing letters from "indignant" citizens denouncing Andrei D. Sakharov, a clear sign that a nationwide campaign has been ordered against the father of the Soviet H-bomb for his criticism of the regime.

Stung by Sakharov's warning to the West not to accept detente with Russia unless Soviet society was liberalized, authorities have been dragging workers away from their lathes, miners out of their pits and technicians out of their labs to write letters attacking him.

The campaign could be a prelude to some move to expel Sakharov from the prestigious academy of Sciences and put

him on trial for "anti-Soviet activity." The letters from such distant places as Perm, Dnepropetrovsk and Voroshilovograd spun the same theme: that the man who helped give the Soviets the ultimate weapon of destruction was a disloyal citizen.

A woman identified as a computer specialist at the Civil Aviation Ministry suggested that Sakharov had contradicted "the will of all our people." In Stalin's days the charge was "enemy of the people."

A man identified as an Estonian scientist wrote to the Communist youth organization's newspaper complaining that Sakharov's "activities inflict

harm not only on us, the Soviet peoples, but on all peoples of the earth."

With unintended humor, a Ukrainian mill worker said that "only a person who is obviously inclined to inventions could decide to make statements defying the Soviet country."

For his invention of the H-bomb, Sakharov was one of the youngest men ever to be raised to full membership in the Academy of Sciences.

A miner declared that Sakharov's behavior "is shameful and unpatriotic."

In recent years, Sakharov has been working quietly to prod the leadership into accepting democratic reforms.

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