

# STS explores scientist-humanist interrelationships

By STEVE AUERWECK  
Collegian Staff Writer

A University program is trying to resolve the differences between "scientists" and "humanists." Commonly known as STS, Science, Technology and Society is designed to help students in all majors explore interrelationships between scientific and technical fields and the social sciences and humanities.

Its courses use interdisciplinary team teaching, outside speakers and audio-visual aids to provide a wide range of viewpoints.

According to Arthur O. Lewis, assistant dean for resident instruction in the College of the Liberal Arts and the committee's chairman, STS was designed for students who lack interest in standard science courses.

But, he said, science and engineering students wishing to avoid the accusation that engineers "just go ahead and build things without realizing the impact" also are welcome.

"We're trying to show how technology does relate, and we're shirking our responsibilities as faculty if we don't,"

Lewis said. "We all make technical decisions by voting, or by buying or not buying, and the more we know about what's involved the better off we're going to be," he said.

"Some people say, for example, that it's wrong to put money into the space program if we still have people who are hungry," Lewis said.

"But the situation is such that the money going to put a man on the moon may not save one guy who's hungry today, but it may save 10 tomorrow. It's not an easy decision to make, but I hope this kind of program will make it a little more possible to divide our resources."

On this basis, the Committee has developed 10 courses it hopes will be offered at least once a year. Included are topics like technological changes, science, philosophy and religion, food and man, science and public policy, and technology assessment as indicators of the quality of life.

The unique material in these courses is augmented by its method of presentation. At least two, and in some cases several, senior faculty members teach each course.

One example of this method is STS 471, Reactors, Radiation and Society, offered this term by the nuclear engineering

department. Faculty members participating include Mortimer Schultz and Edward Klevans of nuclear engineering, William Lochstet of physics and Steven Goldman of philosophy.

The class also has hosted several outside speakers in areas such as biology, economics, nuclear engineering and geography.

"We're trying to offer different points of view, and sometimes we get into some real shouting matches," Schultz said. "It's an educational experience. We try to show the students that there is no absolute authority, that this stuff isn't carved in stone somewhere."

Commenting on current talk about reactors, Schultz said, "These are complicated social-technical programs. You can't come in like a Nader with a five-minute report on reactors. We spend five hours talking about safety."

Schultz said this course only deals with the problem on a relatively simple factual level but could go much deeper.

Students in the course said although the course involves a good deal of work, it is stimulating and has increased their understanding of the advantages and problems connected with nuclear reactors.

At one recent class meeting, Forest Remick, associate professor of nuclear engineering and a member of the Atomic Safety Licensing Board, spoke on the structure of the Atomic Energy Commission, reactor regulatory and safety laws, and the licensing and challenge process.

A discussion which followed touched on such topics as political pressure on the AEC, how commissioners are appointed and the degree of regulation necessary to assure adequate safety.

Plans for STS expansion are underway. Lewis said funds are being sought for the development of "teaching modules" which will be given to Commonwealth campuses and other

colleges.

Lewis also outlined plans to extend the program to Continuing Education and to produce several programs for WPSX-TV to be broadcast Winter Term. "The idea is to get some of these problems out to the people as a whole and to see if we can raise the consciousness a little," he said.

Lewis said the College of Arts and Architecture soon may join the STS steering committee to bring additional emphasis on technology's effect on the humanities and values. He suggested examining the connections between those engaged in creative art and creative science.

All STS courses are taught at the 400 level, although they have no prerequisites. But plans to extend the program to a 100-level introductory course are being spurred by new degree requirements passed last year by the University Senate. They require all new students to have three credits in "technological concepts."

Lewis said although the STS courses were developed separately, all have been approved for the new requirement. He said a 100-level course would meet the needs of interested students not wishing to specialize.

STS courses to be offered during Winter and Spring Terms include:

- STS or Engineering 410, Technology; Its Character, Role and Function, Winter Term;
- STS or Earth and Mineral Sciences 420 and 421, Energy and Modern Society and Materials and Modern Society, Spring Term;
- STS or Philosophy 435, The Interrelation of Science, Philosophy and Religion, Spring Term;
- and STS 471, Reactors, Radiation and Society, Spring Term.

Students wishing more information should contact the dean of resident instruction in their college.

## PIVOT: for PSU poetry

By BILL SPANGLER  
Collegian Staff Writer

A poetry magazine on a college campus might sound like an impossible dream to most people; a poetry magazine that could support itself might be even more fantastic. But Pivot, Penn State's poetry magazine, has entered its 24th year as a self-supporting journal.

Pivot is published annually by the Poetry Workshop, English 118 under the direction of Joseph Grucci, associate professor of English.

According to Grucci, the purpose of Pivot is to provide an outlet for and to improve student writing.

"We don't make poets, because poets need imagination and insight and these cannot be taught. But we do succeed in improving the quality of their writing," Grucci said.

All poems written in class in the previous year are considered for Pivot. In addition, contributions are solicited from the University community.

No priority is given to poems written in class, but Grucci said people in the workshop would naturally be "a little more knowledgeable and their work more sophisticated."

All poetry is judged by Grucci, Jack McManis, assistant professor of English and Paulyne Fisher, of State College.

Pivot also includes poetry from outside the University. The present issue includes works by Senator Eugene McCarthy and Chilean poet Pablo Neruda.

The magazine is supported by sales money and patron donations. Like other publications, Pivot is facing increased printing expenses, but Grucci said he plans to look for a grant to offset them.

The "Friends of Pivot" also supplied the seven \$25 prizes awarded this year.

This year's winners were Mary Ellen Moll (9th-English); Alison Moll (6th-pre-medicine); Gregory Bolten (graduate-education); Stephanie Bugen (graduate-secondary education); Ralph Smith (11th-English); Glenn Cunningham (10th-psychology) and Gloria Dixon, an alumna.

Among the Pivot contributors who have continued to write are Donald Newlove, a novelist, and Matthew Robinson, who writes and acts for television's "Sesame Street."

Grucci plans to retire next year, but will continue to publish Pivot.

"Publishing poetry is a risky business," he said, "but when I brought up the idea of Pivot in 1951, no one thought it would get off the ground."

## YSA urges fight for education

By BARB WHITE  
Collegian Staff Writer

Students can support their right to an education by fighting for the Young Socialists' right to stay on campus, a YS spokesman said last night.

YS spokesman David Keller said the University must cut back on student facilities and increase tuition this Spring unless they get a \$1,500 increase over last year's budget.

Teachers are unionizing and the teamsters are up for a

new contract in the Spring, he added.

The University does not want any opposition during this time, so they are trying to "kick us off campus by not letting us have a table in East Halls," Keller said.

"The closing down of universities in this country is related to the workers' problems. It is caused by the same economic crisis. The students and workers should unite to build a labor party to defend their democratic rights to get jobs and an

education," Keller said.

YS will fight to stay on campus by asking the support of other student organizations, forming a committee of East Halls residents to regain the YS table there and asking the support of local unions.

The YS will also hold a rally the third or fourth week of Winter Term in front of Old Main.

Bill Donovan, a local lawyer and member of the Young Alliance, will

represent the YS in the legal action.

Keller said YS must do everything it can to regain the table in East Halls before it can start legal action because of what he called "right wing forces" in the Centre County court. "We definitely can win the case. We have a very good case," he quoted Donovan as saying.

YS should be permitted to have the table because they do not make a profit from their literature sales, Keller said.

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