

USG health insurance to be delayed

By BILL HUMPHREYS
Collegian Staff Writer

Despite a decision by Clearfield County Judge John Cherry, the implementation of a student health insurance plan sponsored by the Undergraduate Student Government has been delayed further by the continuation of a two-month-old court battle.

A suit was filed in June by the Philadelphia insurance brokerage of Frank B. Hall and Co., Inc., against USG. USG President George Cernusca and the Wayne, Pa., brokerage firm of Higham, Neilson, Whitridge and Reid, Inc. (HNW&R).

The University and former USG president Mark Jinks were dropped as defendants in the initial hearing.

The suit claims that Cernusca signed a contract on May 1 with Hall and Co. to give the firm the right to implement the insurance plan, then broke the agreement and awarded rights to HNW&R on May 23.

Cernusca claims he was told by Arthur Williams, head of the Department of Insurance and Real Estate, that the document was not binding and testified to that effect in the second hearing July 8.

Williams testified in the first hearing July 3 that he had told Cernusca that the document was a contract.

However, Cherry rejected that argument in deciding in favor of the plaintiff firm in a written opinion. He wrote that the document was a contract and that Cernusca knew what he was signing.

Cherry admitted that a great deal of importance was attached to the credibility of the witnesses and said that "the whole weight of credible evidence lies with the plaintiff's witnesses."

Cherry replaced Centre County Judge R. Paul Campbell, who presided over the first two hearings. John F. Gough, attorney for HNW&R, filed to have Campbell removed because the latter had said that he was more inclined to

believe Williams than Cernusca.

Cherry heard testimony from Cernusca and Williams in a hearing Aug. 23.

Because the decision had been favored of Hall and Co., the firm started to arrange to put the plan into effect, according to Bryan C. Hondru, who negotiated with Cernusca on behalf of his company.

Hondru called Cernusca and arranged to meet with the USG president this morning he said, but cancelled when he received word that the attorney for HNW&R planned to appeal the decision.

He said Cernusca planned to implement the plan while the decision was being appealed, but Hondru said this is impossible under the conditions under which the University was dropped as a defendant in the case.

These state that the University will provide the use of its mailing facilities only to the winner of the court case, according to Hondru.

An insurance program would be impractical without this, Hondru said.

Mervin Sneath, who negotiated on behalf of HNW&R and also testified, could not implement the plan yet because Cherry's decision was only a preliminary one.

He said that his attorney has the right to file exception to the judge's ruling within 20 days, after which Cherry's decision would be considered final and an appeal could be made to the State Supreme Court.

Sneath said he would be meeting with his attorney this morning to discuss these options, stating that he was not sure what his company will do.

John Miller, attorney for Hall and Co., said that Gough had called him and said that it was his (Gough's) opinion that no action could be taken on the plan until the exception process was completed.

University's attorney Delbert McQuaide said he was not sure whether the University was unable to take action until the exception process was completed. He said he planned to study the matter today.



Photo by Ed Golomb

Turning left?

THAT'S WHAT THIS DRIVER was trying to do—turn left to Bigler Road from Pollock Road driving toward East Halls. But yesterday's massive traffic jam, caused by heavy rains and lost parents, delayed his turn.

Trustees open meetings, up costs

By STEVE OSTROSKY
Collegian Managing Editor

Higher tuition and housing rates and opening meetings were the two major items approved by the University Board of Trustees during the summer.

At their July meeting the trustees opened their meetings, beginning with this month's meeting.

The board took its action just days after the state legislature gave final approval to the "Sunshine Bill," which would have forced the trustees to open their meetings anyway.

Left unresolved, however, was the question of just how "open" open meetings would be.

A committee of various trustee and University officials was formed to recommend regulations governing the conduct of such public meetings to be

considered by the Board including, but not necessarily limited to, the following:

— "The conduct of the meetings of the standing committees and the manner of presentation of matters to the full Board by the standing committees and the president.

— "The means of giving public notice of meetings.

— "The nature and extent of the use of tape recorders, cameras, television or other electronic devices.

— "The nature and extent of public participation in the public meetings."

— "The location of the meetings."

The committee will present its recommendation "for the first action for the Board to consider and adopt in September."

The meetings of the Board's four standing committees—physical plant,

educational policy, finance and executive—will be open to the public.

As everyone who has paid his Fall Term bill probably realizes, tuition costs have jumped \$20 a term, while room and board fees were increased \$18 per term for University Park students.

Tuition at the University for Pennsylvania students is now \$960 a year, compared to \$1,050 a year at Temple University and \$1,012 a year at the University of Pittsburgh.

The increases came as no surprise. The tuition increase was included in the University's budget request for this year and had been seen as a foregone conclusion.

According to Otto Mueller, assistant vice president for housing and food services, the room and board increase was necessitated by the increased costs

of various items including food, gasoline, labor and electricity.

Mueller said the choice was either to raise the rates or to reduce some of the services such as housekeeping.

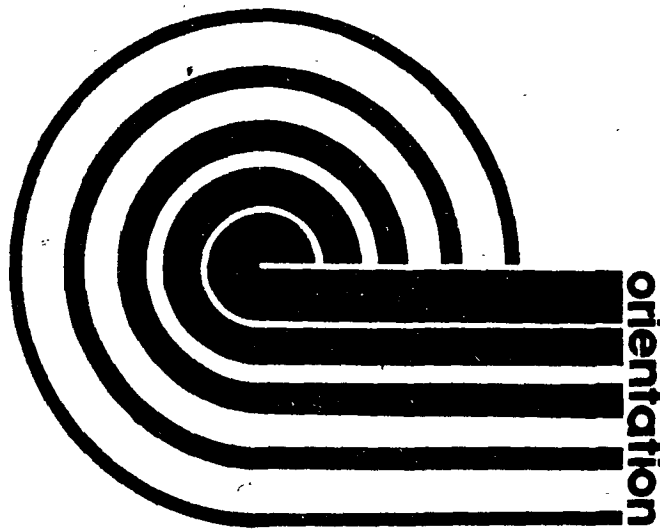
Because of the increased charges, no reduction in services is planned.

The University also submitted its 1975-76 budget request to the state. It calls for no tuition increase.

No budget figure was released, but it will be higher than \$94 million the University will receive in state funds this year. A request for more than \$100 million seems likely because of inflation and planned salary increases.

Weather

Today cloudy and cool, chance of showers. High in the mid to upper 60's.



By PAULA RUTH
Collegian Layout Editor

Armed with maps and orientation booklets, 7,000 new students invaded the Penn State campus yesterday to tackle the academic and social activities of this year's Orientation Week.

4,500 transfers and 2,500 freshmen were scheduled to arrive on campus yesterday.

"This year Orientation is offering 96 programs—the most ever offered, plus each dorm area will have its own programs giving new students an opportunity to participate in over 100 activities," said Orientation coordinator Don Mains.

Mains added that this year the actual Orientation period will last two weeks instead of just the one offered in previous years.

Explaining that this week would emphasize mainly social activities and testing, Mains said that after classes start next week, the Orientation programs would emphasize the academics with more workshops and discussions.

Mains said that because Orientation is conducted every term, it is often taken for granted and the budget of the Orientation committee is completely stretched. He pointed out that Penn State has so much to offer a student that it is up to the individual to decide what type of life style he will choose.

Mains warned students against getting themselves in a rut by just "hanging around." He said there are so many things to get involved in that a student should take advantage of them.

This year's Orientation program is slightly different from those of previous years in that there will be three basic groups of student programs: freshmen, commuters and off-campus transfers.

According to Mains, commuter students have been ignored in previous Orientation programs. Therefore, this year a group of past commuters will run the workshops. Veteran commuters will explain what it is like to live at home as a student, especially in getting one's family to realize he has school work to do. They also will tell

students how to get involved in campus activities even though they live at home.

Freshmen on campus for the first time, will receive information about testing, registration, workshops, meetings and programs at Orientation meetings.

Transfer off-campus student programs, however, are being geared towards academics and the possibilities in a student's major because transfers already know what college adjustment is like. Past transfer students, the Undergraduate Student Government, Department of Branch Campus Affairs and the Organization of Town Independent Students will sponsor continuing workshops for this group of students.

Today most freshmen will be engaged in a battery of examinations.

Beginning at 8 a.m. in 262 Willard will be the deferred preregistration tests in English, math and chemistry. At the same time the chemistry advanced placement tests will be given in 105 Forum. From 10 to 11:15 a.m. Math 20 and 61 advanced placement tests will be given in 105 Forum. The advanced placement tests for Math 21 and 62 will be given in 105 Forum 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Transfer and advanced standing students will meet with the deans of their respective colleges between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. today at locations designated in the Orientation schedule. Freshmen will be able to meet with the deans between 1:30 and 3 this afternoon.

Foreign language placement tests will begin at 3:30 p.m. and should last until 5 this afternoon. The French exam will be in 102 Forum, German in 105 Forum and Spanish in 108 Forum.

Students not taking tests at these times may meet with their advisers between 1 and 5 p.m.

Following the alphabetical schedule, new students will be introduced to the physical education program and its requirements and will register for proficiency tests in archery, basketball, bowling, field hockey, folk and square dance, gymnastics, swimming, tennis and volleyball. The exemption tests for these sports require both a written and a performance test. Freshmen and transfers will be required to take a swimming proficiency test if they have not completed the swimming requirement.

Orientation

Expanded programs introduce

new students to life in Happy Valley

said. He added that the liberal arts meeting is an experiment and will only be continued if students show enough interest.

Assorted workshops will be held tonight on almost every topic from legal rights to exercise to sororities and fraternities to women's programs to jammies and dances.

Tomorrow's programs will include bike registration at 1 p.m., campus tours from Pollock and self-improvement programs at night. Tomorrow night's workshops will cover student employment, room decoration and self defense, plus introductions to sororities and the Organization of Town Independent Students.

Friday night's entertainment will be topped off by the Tamburitzans, a professional folk dance group which will perform in the University Auditorium Friday and Saturday evening. This is one of the few Orientation programs for which there is a charge, \$1 and \$2 according to seat location—except for first-term freshmen who will be admitted free.

Other weekend programs will include a concert on the HUB lawn sponsored by the Intrafraternity Council and a Splash Party at the Natatorium sponsored by the Black Caucus.

Religious services have been scheduled for all faiths at different times in the Eisenhower Chapel and at the Hillel Foundation on Locust Lane in State College.

The Orientation program will continue next week with Gov. Shapp speaking at the University Auditorium Monday night at 8. Shapp is expected to discuss present university- and college problems.

"The whole orientation program is designed to make a new student feel at home at Penn State," Mains said. "Many students are afraid of admitting that they are new."

Mains suggested that students ask for help when they need it.

"An orientation leader or resident assistant can eliminate problems if listened to," he said. He added that this year the "OLs" will be wearing T-shirts to better identify them for the students.

See the Collegian's Orientation section, pages 25-34.