

USG insurance hearings continue

Mientus claims bribe ignorance

By JIM KUNHENN and SHEILA MCCAULEY
Collegian Staff Writers
Undergraduate Student Government Vice President Marian Mientus last night denied having knowledge of the student health insurance program before May 18 or 19. Mientus told the USG insurance hearings she was on "bad terms" with USG President George Cernusca in the Spring and as a result he did not keep her informed of the insurance situation. She said a bad illness and personal problems prevented her from being active in USG. Doctors at Ritenour Health Center could not find any incapacitating illness. That discrepancy created the hostility between Cernusca and herself, she said.

Mientus said the hostility between the two USG executives was such that when she asked Cernusca about the plans he did not answer and at times left the room. Mientus also said her inaction in the insurance matter was not nonfeasance, since it was caused by her ill health. She said she would have considered it insubordination to ignore Cernusca's wishes that she remain uninformed of the insurance plan. The committee also questioned Mientus about Cernusca's statement Thursday night that he had told her about Byron C. Hondru's alleged bribe. Hondru is the representative for the Hall and Co. insurance firm. Mientus said Cernusca's statement, first heard in court

this summer, was inaccurate. She said Cernusca told her nothing about insurance until May 18 or 19, when he mentioned he was under pressure to award the insurance contract. The alleged bribe attempt occurred May 1, according to Cernusca. Cernusca said in court testimony that he told Mientus immediately of Hondru's alleged bribe. Cernusca said Thursday he had not sworn any of those people to secrecy about the incident. But Mientus said last night Cernusca did not inform her about the incident until May 18 or 19, and requested the matter be kept secret. James Newton, Cernusca's executive assistant, claimed

the court testimony showed Cernusca said in his next statement he told 40 people about the bribe a month and a half before the court hearing. That would place the date in question at around May 18 since the court hearings were held July 3. Gary Potter, Cernusca's campaign manager, was also questioned by the committee. Committee member Joan McCarthy asked Potter if he was aware of a friendship between Eric Richardson, Cernusca's former executive assistant, and Franco Harris, former Penn State football player. Harris is reportedly a stockholder in the insurance firm of Higham, Nielson, Whitridge & Reid, to whom

Cernusca awarded the insurance contract on May 23. Potter said he was aware of the friendship. McCarthy asked if Harris was in State College at any time during Cernusca's deliberations on the insurance situation. Potter said he knew Harris had been in State College during the USG elections Spring Term, but did not know whether Harris had been present at any other time. Controversy arose over the date on which Cernusca discussed Hondru's bribe offer with Potter. According to Potter, he spoke with Cernusca on Sunday, May 19. But according to court testimony, Cernusca was in Philadelphia at that time.


Israel expects Soviet influx

HAIFA, Israel (UPI) — Israel expects an influx of 5,000 Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union monthly once the Soviet Union relaxes emigration rights in exchange for U.S. trade benefits, the director-general of the Jewish Agency said yesterday. "We are standing before a great immigration wave from the Soviet Union and the assessment is that more than 5,000 souls will reach Israel from the Soviet Union," Moshe Rivlin, the director-

general, told newsmen. "It is possible the number will be even greater and that we will reach the level of 100,000 from throughout the world each year," he said. His remarks coincided with the current U.S.-Soviet talks in Washington on expanding detente. Reports from Washington said the Soviet Union has agreed to lift certain restrictions on Jewish emigration in exchange for U.S. Favored Nation trade status.

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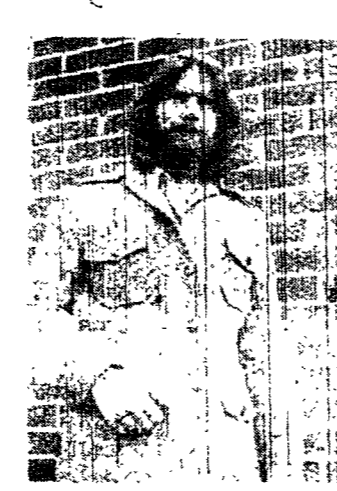


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UNIVERSITY CALENDAR
Monday, September 23
SPECIAL EVENT
Coed Flag Football tournament, 8:30 p.m., East Halls Field.
SEMINARS
Genetics, 3:55 p.m., Room 111 Tyson. Paul Grun, professor of cytology and cytogenetics, on "The Cytoplasmic Genetics of Vertebrate Cancers."
Biochemistry, 11 a.m., Room 101 Althouse. Dr. Elliott S. Vesell, Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, on "Isozymes."
Plant Pathology, 9:45 a.m., Room 213 Buckhout. Eric Fritz on "The Use of Satellite Data to Detect Altered and Damaged Vegetation Caused by Pollutants."
LECTURE
Lecture on Ancient Rhetoric, 12:45 p.m., Room 124 Sparks. Professor Eric A. Havelock will present a lecture dealing with Plato's view of justice and right in relation to rhetoric.
MEETINGS
OTIS, 6:30 p.m., Room 203 HUB.
Education Student Council, 7 p.m., Room 111 Chambers.
Future Farmers of America, 7 p.m., Room 112 Armsby. Talk on Peace Corps and Vista.
OFFICIAL
Preregistration for Winter Term.
File for Repeat Course.
EXHIBITS
Museum of Art — Manayunk and Other Places: Francis Speight's paintings and drawings, Galleries A and C. Selections from the permanent collection, Gallery B.
Sackett Gallery — "Light," a show of architecture student work.
Chambers Gallery — Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen, crafts.
Kern Gallery — Ralph Kaleshewski, sculpture, and Mary Martha Proud, paintings.
Peggie Lawson, pottery.
Hammond Gallery — Architectural Engineering Student Projects Exhibition.
Pattee Library — Central foyer, memorabilia of George Gilbert Pond.

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