

Rep. Wise to sponsor lower drinking age bill

State Representative Helen Wise will co-sponsor a bill next month to lower the drinking age in Pennsylvania, provided the bill is carefully researched first, according to W.T. Williams, president of the Undergraduate Student Government.

Wise, representative for the 77th state legislative district, hopes to work with USG on the bill, Williams said. USG is doing research on the constitutionality of the law, he said.

Marilyn Hoderny, (10th-social welfare) who is serving an internship at Wise's Harrisburg office, said she will be working with staff members of the State Liquor Control committee.

"I'll be the liaison between the committee and USG," she said.

Although Hoderny has not contacted USG yet, she said she will meet tomorrow with members of the Liquor Control com-

mittee.

USG Vice President Dave Hickton said the committee probably would hold at least one day of hearings in late March or early April, at which he and Williams will testify at Wise's request.

Supporters of the bill are hoping to lower the drinking age to 18 for all alcoholic beverages, Hickton said. But a bill that would lower the age to 19 for beer and wine is more realistic, he added.

Prof. spoke on faculty union

Provost denies funding speech

By MATT BENSON
Collegian Staff Writer

Provost James B. Bartoo yesterday denied charges from the Penn State University Professional Association (PSUPA) that the University funded an anti-union guest speaker who spoke to the chemistry department faculty.

In a letter to Bartoo Robert Olsen, PSUPA co-chairman, questioned the appearance of E.M. Arnett, a chemistry professor at the University of Pittsburgh. Arnett spoke on what led to the no-union vote at Pittsburgh.

The faculty votes March 30 and 31 on faculty union representation. Choices are PSUPA, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) and no representative.

"Contrary to Olsen's charges, Arnett was invited last summer by the chemistry department to present two chemistry papers on Feb. 2 and 3," Bartoo said. "His lectures were announced in the Colloquium schedule, published and issued by the department in August."

In his letter, Olsen said, "We were apprised by members of the chemistry department that Professor E.M. Arnett was funded with University money and that his purpose was to deliver a professional lecture to the Department of Chemistry."

Gerald M. Phillips, chairman of public relations for PSUPA, said Arnett spoke on how the University of Pittsburgh succeeded in defeating collective bargaining.

"The meeting was held on university premises in a room for which no rental fee was paid," Phillips said. "Our concern is that the individual speaking and engaging in opposition to collective bargaining was paid for with state funds, since he had been engaged by the chemistry department to present a professional colloquium to that body."

"Whether this is a violation of fair labor practices under Act 195 (the public employees bargaining act) is not clear, but in the letter to Dean Bartoo, we question at least the ethicality of such practices," Phillips said.

In his response to Olsen's letter, Bartoo said the meeting to discuss the implications of collective bargaining was held in response to Arnett's initiative and was organized by interested faculty in the chemistry department and elsewhere.

Olsen wrote that PSUPA questions the propriety and intends to investigate the legality of "such tactics."

"It appears unjust to permit administrators, who control funds for visiting scholars, to have the power to invite professionals to do double duty," Olsen said.

"There is certainly no way that the situation can be equalized," Olsen said, "since the members of our organization do not have funds available for them for this purpose."

Olsen said PSUPA reserves "the right to utilize appropriate legal channels if we cannot work out a satisfactory rapprochement."

G. Edward Phillips, president of AAUP, said evidence that a violation existed with Arnett's speech "was not sufficient to justify an official protest."

Nuclear limitation outlined

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter said yesterday Peking's chief Washington envoy had told him the Chinese government would like to be able to give up the nuclear arms race completely.

Carter said at his news conference that during his 90-

minute introductory meeting with the representative of the Peoples' Republic of China, Huang Chen, "told me very clearly that the goal of the Chinese government was to reduce dependence on nuclear weapons to zero."

Earlier, Carter had said he wants U.S.-Chinese relations "strengthened very much in the next few years."

Huang said during the meeting relations should "continue to improve" if Washington honors the 1972 Shanghai Communiqué guidelines signed by President Nixon and the late Premier Chou En-lai.

Centre Crest union contract conditionally ratified

By BILL REBER
Collegian Staff Writer

The Centre County Commissioners yesterday voted to conditionally ratify the agreement reached Friday between the county and union members, thereby effectively ending the 28-day strike at the Centre Crest nursing facility.

The condition stipulated by the commissioners was that the 74-member Local 1731 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) notify them that they had ratified

the two-year contract.

Shirley Gehret, president of Local 1731, said later that the union members had voted to accept the pact.

John Blasko, the county solicitor, said letters were going out yesterday to union members notifying them that work recall would begin at 7 this morning and that all full-time and regular part-time workers would be back on the job within 10 days.

According to the terms of the agreement secured by the

striking employees, the 167 workers affected will receive a 25 cent wage increase effective today, five cents on July 1, 1977, and another 25 cents on Jan. 1, 1978.

Also effective today, the county will pay 25 per cent of the dependency coverage and medical insurance for all employees who elect dependency coverage under the county's group plan.

The new contract provides for paid 30-minute lunch breaks for employees. That concession was won at the

cost of the free lunches that the county will no longer provide.

The language of AFSCME's basic contract with the county was changed slightly. A dismissal procedure for employees who abuse sick-leave was included and the funeral-leave rights were extended.

As a condition of settlement, both sides agreed not to file any labor relations complaints or grievances for incidents occurring between Jan. 11, 1977 and Feb. 9, 1977,

the duration of the strike. The move is not part of the new contract.

Blasko told the commissioners that the nursing home's recall schedule should have all the striking employees back on the job by Sunday, well within the specified time limit.

Cost to the county of the month-long strike is difficult to pinpoint, but Blasko said the two-and-a-half cents per hour by which the union persuaded the county to increase its original offer each

year will result in a two-year total payroll increase of approximately \$17,000.

Based on the \$1.20 the county calculates it spends on institutional meals and the \$3.53 average hourly wage for employees, Blasko said the county will lose about 50 cents for each person compensated for their lunch hour with wages rather than free food.

At least one union member said that in light of the quality of the foregone meals, they found the new contract a marked improvement.

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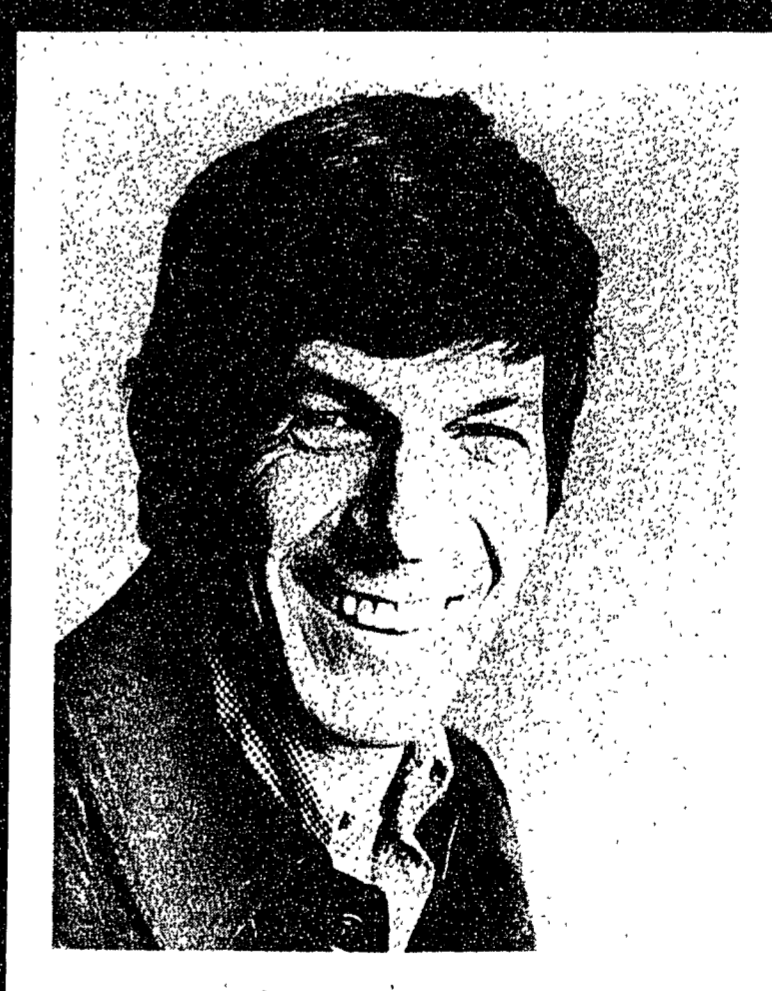
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