

SS benefits, Medicare aid popular here

By JAN MASCIOLI
Collegian Staff Writer

Social Security and Medicare assistance are widely used in the State College area, according to James Cochran, manager of the Social Security Administration office, 346 E. College Ave.

In the State College postal zone, which includes parts of Harris, Ferguson and College Townships and the borough of State College, 2,613 citizens are covered by Medicare, he said.

To be eligible for Medicare, a federal program, one must be 65 years of age or older, disabled for 24 months or longer in accordance with the Federal Social Security Act, or have a chronic renal disease and undergoing kidney dialysis or transplant.

Those who qualify for Medicare also qualify for Medicaid, a state assistance program under the Department of Public Assistance, Cochran said. According to Social Security figures of December 1975, 10,750 people are eligible for Medicare in all of Centre County's postal zones.

Cochran said the eligibility requirements for those needing supplementary security income, the adult welfare category, are "extremely confusing."

To receive this type of assistance a person must be 65 years of age or older, blind or disabled and have limited income and limited resources.

A senior citizen living in his own household can receive up to \$220.20 per month. For someone living in another household, the figure is \$144.70 and for an eligible husband and wife, \$300.50, Cochran said.

Anyone who doesn't qualify for supplementary security income or regular Social Security can purchase Medicare if he or she is over 65 and meets alien admission requirements.

Part A, which is similar to Blue Cross and pays for hospital bills, can be purchased for \$45 per month. Part B, which is similar to Blue Shield and pays for surgeons' bills, costs \$7.20 per month, Cochran said.

But, he said, anyone that can afford the full Medicare plan probably isn't eligible for supplementary security income and need not purchase them.

"Few people are buying Medicare because of the premiums' cost," he said.

Exact figures of those using Medicare and Social Security aren't available, Cochran said. "Some use it constantly, some seldom," he said.

Borish favors senior citizen housing

By JIM LIGHT
Collegian Staff Writer

Paul D. Borish, a Democratic candidate for State College Borough Council, said yesterday he is fully in favor of housing for senior citizens and other low- and middle-income groups, but he described the approved site for the project on Bellaire Avenue as "disgusting."

"They decided to put the senior citizens out in the middle of a sewer," Borish said. He explained that he used to live in an apartment across University Drive from the sewage treatment plant.

"The odor there was sickening, and I didn't live there in the summer," he said. "The senior citizens housing is closer to it than I was."

Borish also said the project is a token move to make it look as though State College is making advances in this area. He said it could be justified if they were building a high-rise with hundreds of units, but he said with such a small number of units he sees it as "just palming off land which you can't sell to anybody else."

Commenting on the human rights ordinance, Borish said, "I was rather disgusted when I found we didn't have one here. Discrimination, racism and sexism I find run

rampant in this town."

He said that if the matter were put on a referendum at the May 17 primary an "overwhelming number of residents of State College would favor a human rights ordinance."

He said that there is a problem because there are realtors who will not rent to homosexuals. He also said he is in favor of hiring women policemen, minority policemen and gay policemen as long as they are as qualified as any other applicant. Borish added, however, that hiring a member of a minority group just because he is a member of such a group cannot be justified.

Borish is a sixth-term student in extended letters, arts and sciences, which is a two-year program, he said.

As a councilman, Borish said he would like to create a government in State College that is truly representative of the majority. He said he would like to open the council up to input from the citizens of State College and make it more responsive to their needs.

Borish said he would like to see at least one voice on the council representative of the large number of student residents. He said the students make up 25 per cent



Paul Borish

Photo by Michael Glass

of the population in the county and are a much larger bloc of votes in State College.

Borish said he was not just concerned with students. He explained that in many cases what is good for the students

is good for the other residents as well.

In stating that the council is not accessible, Borish said that if he is elected he would be against making decisions in executive session.

Borish said the council should make more of an effort to keep the public informed. He said he would like to see the council meetings broadcast by a local radio station, "maybe WDFM could do it if nobody else," he said.

Borish said the agenda for meetings should be published, not just made available at the municipal building. He also suggested the council publish periodic newsletters and that council members appear publicly, on occasion, to talk about what is going on in State College.

On the question of decriminalization of marijuana, Borish said he has done a lot of work on the issue on a state-wide basis. He said, "I don't feel it is something that we can do in State College; if we can, I am overwhelmingly in favor of it."

Borish said that if there is anything that he could do as a council member to promote more lenient enforcement of the marijuana laws he would do it.

As far as transportation is concerned, Borish said bus service is adequate but not good. He said the buses run mostly during the week days, "but late nights and weekends it is impossible to get anywhere."

Borish said that he would

like to conduct a test of expanded service and see what the response is. He suggested 24-hour service for one week "to see when the peak usage hours are, see if there is a peak at 2:30 in the morning when the bars close."

Borish said he would not expect the bus companies to lose money on extra service. He said that if it was a borderline case the local government could kick in some money.

Cut-backs in spending are something Borish said he did not see a great need for. "I would like to see an analysis. I can't cite specifics. There are things, a little bit here, a little bit there," he said.

A residency tax is just another word for a poll tax, he said, and he is not in favor of it. He also said he cannot foresee any tax increases in the near future.

Borish said he does not believe that the downtown district is deteriorating or that businesses are moving out. In fact, he said, the new Calder Alley construction shows the reverse to be true. He also said that a mall on Allen Street would be a good idea and would be good for State College. He said, however, that the businesses on Allen Street should have a lot to say about the idea.

Carter discontinues plutonium as energy source

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Carter abandoned plutonium as a U.S. energy source yesterday, saying nuclear fuel benefits offered by the deadly material are far outweighed by the danger that it might cause the spread of atomic weapons.

Carter, reversing the

decisions of previous presidents, suspended commercial development of the fast breeder nuclear reactor and said the United States will not extract plutonium from spent nuclear fuel.

Both the breeder and fuel reprocessing were once con-

sidered vital by U.S. energy planners.

Carter said he found plutonium as a source of energy poses unacceptable risks because it can be easily turned into nuclear weapons.

He also urged other advanced nuclear nations to join the United States in halting

export of plutonium production facilities to non-nuclear nations.

In return for the restraint he seeks, Carter said, the United States will try to become the enriched uranium fuel supplier for the world with safeguards to keep peaceful atomic energy from

leading to nuclear weapons proliferation.

The President's decision cast serious doubts over the future of a \$2 billion federal breeder reactor project at Oak Ridge, Tenn., and a private atomic fuel recycling plant at Barnwell, S.C. Environmentalists claimed

it did not go far enough while the utility industry and the nuclear industry said Carter's plans would create energy problems in the future.

Plutonium is one of the deadliest poisons known to man. It is produced as a byproduct of the recycling of spent uranium fuel.

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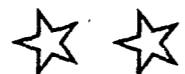
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