

Almost half of students have changed majors

By DENISE RYAN
Collegian Staff Writer

The odds are high that in any group of 10 Penn State students, about half of them have changed their major at least once during their college career.

Student Affairs Research studied an incoming freshman class 10 years ago and conducted followup studies five years ago on the freshmen. They discovered that a little less than 50 per cent of the class changed their majors at least one time.

Jefferson D. Ashby, counselor for the Division of Undergraduate Studies, said that "since then, we've not seen a dramatic change in styles."

Ashby said that 10 to 20 per cent of the freshman students who changed majors did so before taking their first class at Penn State. That means that they changed their major sometime between their admission to the University and their first day class.

The most consistent trend, Ashby said, is a shift from a heavy science program to a social science emphasis.

Former pre-med student Mark E. Zimmerman (7th-psychology) changed his major to psychology for two reasons:



"First of all," he said, "I didn't like chemistry any more. And second, I had the worst prof for two courses in my major. He turned me completely against chemistry. He didn't teach; he played games."

In 1976, 3,074 freshmen were polled at University Park. Out of that class, 20.1 per cent, or 618 students, changed their majors between the time they were admitted and the time they registered for Fall Term.

Fifty-three per cent of those who changed their major did so because of a

definite change in educational goals, Ashby said. Many students in this category were concerned about employment possibilities.

James F. Robinson (11th-business) originally majored in physics, but

A summer job often changes a student's mind, Ashby said. Students frequently find a chance to investigate their field, only to discover it's really not for them.

A student's commitment to his studies,

when confusion exists over the school in which a certain program is located.

For example, some pre-vet students could mistakenly enroll in a science program instead of the College of Agriculture, he said.

A small group of students change their minds because they are very uncertain about their first choice of major, said Ashby. A substantial number of students in this category switch to DUS until they make a definite decision.

During her freshman year at Penn State, Leslie Tweed (10th-chemical engineering) was a pre-med major.

"But I was pretty sure I wasn't going to get into med school anyway," she said.

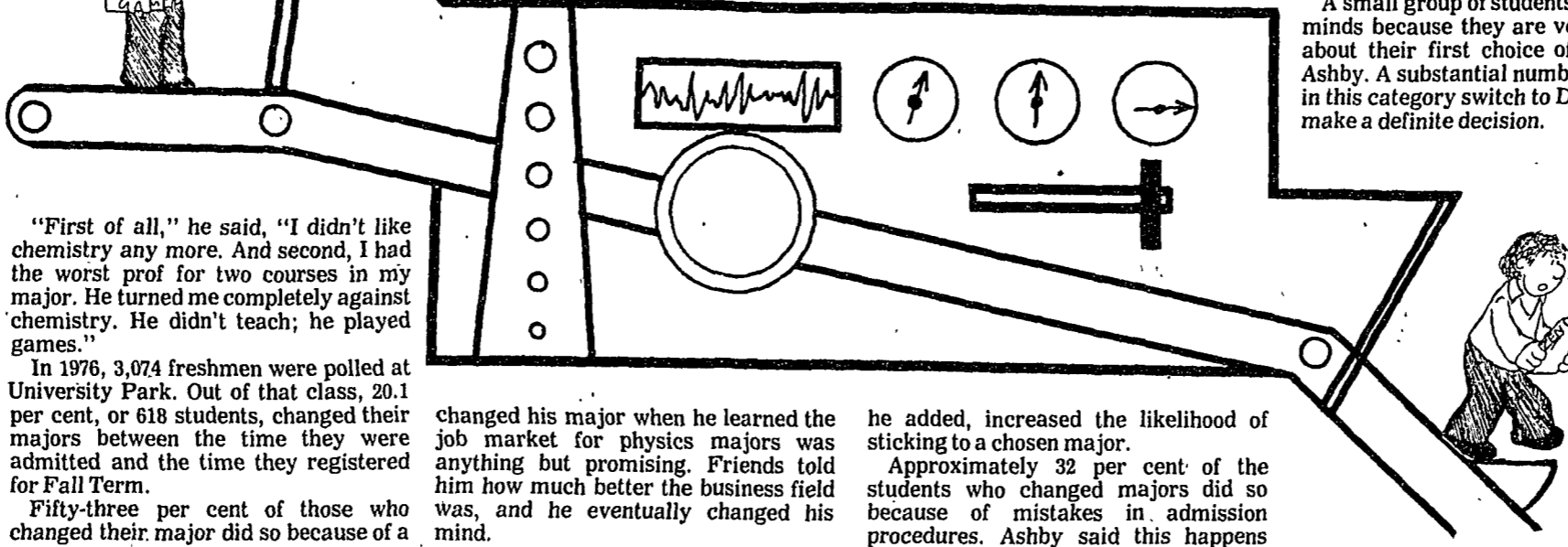
She said she looked into other majors and decided that chemical engineering was what she wanted. She has one more year of studies to complete before she graduates, and says she can still get into med school with her degree if her grades are good enough and she really decides that's what she wants.

Ashby said his department in DUS is sensitive to the circumstances surrounding a student's change of major.

"There is a lot of flexibility built into the system," he said, noting that the University structure is not designed to force students into a major.

Those unsure of a major may enroll in DUS or major in liberal arts before making a permanent decision, he said.

A handful of students change majors late in their college career, Ashby said, but on the whole, they have no problems as long as their academic performance is adequate.



changed his major when he learned the job market for physics majors was anything but promising. Friends told him how much better the business field was, and he eventually changed his mind.

he added, increased the likelihood of sticking to a chosen major.

Approximately 32 per cent of the students who changed majors did so because of mistakes in admission procedures. Ashby said this happens

Canvassing case appeal sought

Three former University students will petition the State Supreme Court to hear an appeal of a political canvassing case involving the University, according to their attorney.

Virginia B. Eisenstein, who represents Steven H. Brush, Michael J. Mullen and Kimberly Getz, said yesterday that her clients were encouraged by a recent 3-3 draw in the State Superior Court of an appeal of a case that was dismissed in Centre County Court in February, 1976.

The draw, with one judge abstaining, upheld the lower court ruling.

The students had brought the suit against the University in 1975 in an attempt to change a University

policy which allows students living in residence halls to close their buildings, by majority vote, to door-to-door canvassers.

In the Centre County Court decision, Judge R. Paul Campbell ruled that a dorm's upper floors were not the same as a public street and that the right of privacy was as important as the right to canvass.

Eisenstein said that the three judges who voted against the lower court ruling felt that Campbell's decision was too broad and might infringe on the right of free speech.

The other three judges agreed with Campbell's ruling that a dorm is not covered under the First Amendment right to canvass.

Military questions Korea withdrawal

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Military officials are suggesting President Carter made up his mind to withdraw U.S. troops from Korea while his advisors were still reviewing the issue — and casting doubt on the wisdom of a withdrawal.

That impression emerged from detailed congressional testimony given last week by Gen. Bernard Rogers, the Army chief of staff, and witnesses at a House Armed Services Committee hearing.

Carter told a May 26 news conference he issued his withdrawal decision May 5 only after completion of expert consultations that concluded with a formal National Security Council meeting.

He said Rogers himself explained the new policy to U.S. and South Korean

officials during a visit to Seoul. But the general, who was already en route to Korea when the NSC met April 26, left a different impression in his congressional testimony.

He said the purpose of his trip was to visit U.S. troops, not to discuss withdrawal proposals. But he said the issue was raised with him by Maj. Gen. John Singlaub, then a high ranking officer in the U.S. Korean command.

Rogers said he told Singlaub it was his opinion Carter had already decided on his withdrawal plan, and Singlaub asked, "What rationale have you been given for the withdrawal?"

"And I said 'None,'" Rogers testified.

Carter later relieved Singlaub of his Korean duties after the officer told a

reporter the withdrawal plan would lead to war.

Rogers said Carter had first raised the withdrawal question with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at a Washington briefing Jan. 13, when he was still President-elect.

Six days after Carter took office, Rogers said, the President formally asked various agencies to "examine possible courses of action for dealing with reductions in U.S. conventional ground forces on the peninsula."

Rock breaks dorm window

University police reported that an unknown person threw a rock through a window on the fourth floor of Geary Hall Saturday. Estimated damage was \$40.

Police log

Steve Brooke of North Carolina reported the theft of his folding chair from his booth at the Arts Festival Saturday, University police said. Estimated value was \$35.

—by Wayne Johnson

Bomb threat evacuates Pattee Library

Several hundred people were evacuated from Pattee Library after a bomb threat was received there Friday afternoon.

Shortly before 3 p.m., according to dean of libraries Stuart Forth, Judy Good, a clerk at the reference room desk received a phone call. A man's voice was at the other end.

"There's a fucking bomb going off at 3:30," the voice said. Good was unavailable for comment last night.

A similar call was made to the University Police Services, Forth said.

Campus police rushed to the library and had the building cleared in 20 minutes.

Police kept people out of the building for an hour and fifteen minutes.

No bomb was found.

This is the second bomb threat received by Pattee in the last seven months. Forth said last week's bombing at Graduate Circle was probably the reason behind the extensive evacuation.

"It's just more childish damn nonsense we have to live with," he said.

Forth said he was "astonished" at the police services' direction of the evacuation.

"The police did a first-rate job in getting the people out," he said.

University police were still searching for the caller last night.

They declined to issue any information concerning possible leads.

—by Curt Smith

'Services for aged' speech set

John Smith of the Berks campus of Penn State will speak on "Social Services Through Media Delivery Systems for Older Adults" at a luncheon symposium noon-1:15 p.m. tomorrow in the Maple Room of Human Development Building.

The following Free U courses meet tonight:

"Introduction to Marxism — Penn State Young Socialists," 7:30 in 307 Boucke.

"Academic Barriers," 6:30 in 116 Boucke.

The Color Slide Club will hold its monthly meeting 7:30 tonight in 112 Kern.

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