Agency for foreign med schools prays on paranoia

By NANCY BOYD Dálly Collegian Staff Writer

Agencies that guarantee placement in foreign schools to medical students are "preying on the paranoia and frustrations of those who cannot get into American medical colleges," according to Stephen Wright, head of the General Arts and Sciences program.

Wright, who advises students in rhealth-related fields, said that such placement services appeal to students who have been rejected by American medical schools one or more times.

Recently, such a service placed an advertisement in The Daily Collegian guaranteeing placement in Mexican schools. The Student Placement Service, operating out of Hebron, Indiana, offers to place students in several schools in Mexico City and Tampico.

Wright said no University students chave inquired at his office about the

advertisement.

The service promises admittance to Méxican schools because of relaxed academic requirements, said Debbie Sands, secretary for the service and wife of the president and founder, Robert

Wright said the lowered standards appeal to those students failing to gain admittance the United States medical schools because of low grade point

averages or low scores on the Medical College Admittance Test. He said a "competitive" grade point average is a 3.6, but that because there are so few openings in medical schools, even students with a 3.8 are turned away.

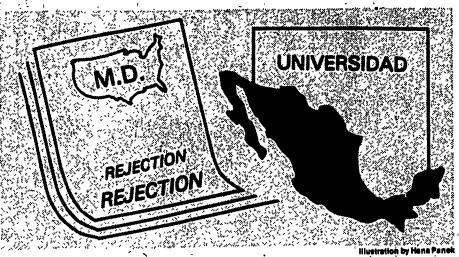
"More and more students are chosen on the basis of their interview," Wright said. "If they can't articulate a real commitment or motivation to their field. they may well not get in — even if the student has money or prestigious parents."

Money is a necessity, however, to pay for the services of Sands' placement service. Sands said they charge \$1,500 per student. The fee covers air fare and a week-long stay in Mexico, where Sands shows the student around five or six colleges. Sands said they deal with 10 to: 15 students yearly. The package also includes a month of studies in the Spanish language.

Wright says he doesn't advise his students to apply to foreign schools: because of the difficulty of studying under a foreign language and because of deficiencies in their programs.

Larry Shrager (10th-pre-medicine) said he would consider changing his field of study rather than receiving a foreign degree in medicine.

"I have a second major to fall back on," he said: "I'd rather do that than



learn a new language and worry about not being able to practice in the United States.'

Wright also said living conditions in Mexico are similar to "immigrant ghettos" for the student who has little money to spend. He said American students tend to stay to themselves.

Sands said they deal with about 10 schools, each of which are recognized by the World Health Organization and accredited in its own country. The program does not place students at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara, which is the only Mexican school whose

curriculum compares with that of American schools, according to Wright. American schools are accredited by the American Medical Association, said

Joyce McKenna, administrative assistant to the AMA's director of evaluations. McKenna said the AMA neither approves nor accredits foreign medical schools. They also do not endorse placement services, she said. The AMA and the American Association of American Medical Colleges offer the same information and applications as these services at no cost.

The AAMC also condemns such ser-

vices, but recognizes that "under current legal statutes, placement services are permitted to operate as long as all services are actually provided."

In addition to the \$1,500 fee paid to the service, an American student pays high tuition costs in Mexican schools. Wright said over a four-year period, an American student will spend \$19,600 in tuition, while the same education for a Mexican will cost about \$4,000. A medical student in the United States pays even less than that; tuition for a four-year program at Temple University costs \$3,000 per year.

Sands said their service can place only American students. The medical schools in Mexico specified they will not give places to persons of other nationalities. Sands said they had to turn away two Arab students last year because of this restriction.

A student who obtains his degree from a foreign school must pass a competency exam sponsored by the Educational Committee for, Foreign Medical Graduates and enter an American college for a supplementary year of clinical study called the "Fifth Pathway," as well as study for several years as an intern or resident in an American hospital.

The student must also take the usual national test to obtain his license to practice. The AAMC said that of 852 students completing their studies in foreign medical colleges in 1975, only 373 of them are practicing today.

For the American student many loans are available, especially for the student attending a school in his own state, Wright said. However, although the Student Placement Service's advertisement said that loans are available, the foreign medical student stands little chance of aid, except from his parents. He said there is no available federal financial assistance and few banks will risk advancing loans to a student studying outside the United

Sands said the loans were available from the Department of Health. Education and Welfare, but the placement service does not involve itself in helping the student obtain a loan.

Sands also said she knows of several other such placement services in New York and New Jersey. Their service has been operating for four years. She and her husband placed ads in about 30 other college newspapers, none of which has contacted the service.

The placement service is not the couples only source of income, Sands said. Her husband also paints and prints literature for the Christian Media Association.

Trustees plan PennPIRG parley; Ritenour health board to meet

University trustees Helen Wise and David Hickton will meet with Students for PennPIRG at 7 tonight in 307 Boucke.

The Graduate Student Association will hold its final meeting of Spring Term at 7:15 p.m. today in 101 Kern.

Returning Adult Students will hold a re-organizational meeting for Fall Term tonight at 8 in Walnut Building. The regular Monday meeting is canceled.

The Biological Society is electing officers for 1978-79 at 7 tonight in 8 Life Sciences Building. A guest speaker will discuss medical school admissions.

Free U courses for today include: Volleyball at 6:30 p.m. in the Intramural Building gym; Introduction to Aikido at and Bisexual Men's Support Group at 8 p.m. in 304 Williard.

The Student Nurses Association will hold registration for the nursing seminar, "Nursing Comes Alive!" today through Friday, 4th period, in 16 Human Development Building.

Meeting of the Students for Wayne Kelly Committee will be held at 9 tonight in 227 HUB.

Gamma Sigma Sigma will hold a business meeting with installation of officers afterward at 7 tonight in 319 HUB. All sisters are asked to attend.

The Student Advisory committee of the Biological Society will be operating

7:30 p.m. in the IM wrestling room; Gay from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. today in 216 Life Sciences.

> Full board meeting of the Student Advisory Board to University Health Services will be held at 7 tonight in the patient waiting area of Ritenour Health Center. Election of officers will be held.

> Drs. Jim and Gay Dunne will speak on "Medicine and the Family," at the Premed Society meeting tonight at 7:30 in

> The Human Development Student Council is holding its last meeting for the term at 6:45 tonight in the Living Center of the Human Development Building. at 7:30 p.m. Doug Ford will discuss, "An Orientation to the Human Services System in Centre County.'

All is quiet in Beirut civil war

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — The crackle of sniper fire sounded in the outskirts of Beirut Sunday but a rightwing spokesman reported no new fighting in the neighborhood between Christian militiamen and Syrian peacekeeping troops.

"There is nothing like fighting. It is, for all practical purposes calm," said

an official of the National Liberal Party of former President Camille Chamoun.

He said the sniper fire was occasional and scattered.

The clash Saturday on the southeast edge of the city was the third confrontation in three months between the rightists and soldiers of

the Syrian-dominated Arab peacekeeping force that ended the Lebanese civil war in late 1976.

The peacekeeping force said it intervened in the battle started by unidentified "agitators" and that one civilian was killed and another in-

Soviets deny part in Afghanistan coup

MOSCOW (UPI) - The Soviet Union Sunday rejected suggestions it had a hand in the left-wing coup in neighboring Afghanistan and said it was actually the United States that

most often meddled in the affairs of other countries. Official Tass news agency commentator Yuri Kornilov said Western reactionary circles had wrongly linked the bloody April 27 seizure of power in Afghanistan to Moscow.

"All these are deliberate lies intended on the one hand to discredit the democratic Republic of Afghanistan and its leadership and on the other hand to cast aspersions on Soviet; policy," Kornilov said.

"If some people in Washington are really worried by instances of rude interference in the affairs of other states, they could discover numerous such facts in the policy of the United States itself.'

Kornilov charged the United States has "implanted and maintained the anti-popular puppet regimes in South Korea and several Latin American countries.'

The prominent Soviet commentator noted that the new government in Afghanistan, which took power after a coup two weeks ago, has denied Western charges the Soviet Union

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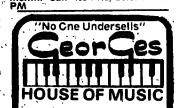
LARGE ROOM in house \$55 & elec. 244 S. Burrowes St. Available end of May 234-3293.

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Answers (Puzzle on page 4)

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On campus interview May 12th
Sign up at Student Employment
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10:40 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Specialists
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LOST: ONE Set of Keys on I.M. Fields last Friday, If found call 238-8489. REWARD: ARMY knapsack containing Pentax Camera missing on Gentle Thursday If not returned I won't graduate.

lease! Lance 237-0087 Reward. PLEASE RETURN SR50 II Calculator lost May 3, 1978, in dining hall C in Pollock Cafeteria, No. Questions Asked, Earnest Rivers Nittany 32 Room 19,865, 2485

KEYS ON Ring with black teather tag, says "Loffredo's," Please call 234-8830

FOUND

CALCULATOR FOUND in Forum after 5th Tues., Call Dale: 238-0745 to identify. CALCULATOR in second floor girl's room in Willard, Wednesday. Call 234-3718

TEXAS instruments calculator in Davey Lab. Claim: by identifying model number and engraved initials. 238-7606 1 PR. OF General Motors car keys in parking lot Green F. Contact F. Musser in 274 Chambers Bidg.

PERSONAL

TO THE Typesetters of the Collegian personal classifieds: get your --- together. Signed, the Animal of the Month Award Committee.

Committee.

DEAR JEFF JONES, 236 S.
Fraser I haven't got a ...
Nor do I particularly wish to get one together. If, rather than wasteone together. If, rather than waste your assets on unclear complaints of ambiguous nature, you would simply tell us the nature of our mistakes, the results would be profitable for both of us. As it stands though, I appreciate your peculiar interest on behalf of my..., without really understanding it. T. T. of the C. P. C. ANIMAL OF THE Month Comm.

My goof and the humblest...

Thank for your 1.60 con-

tribution—your patronage is appreciated—C. TO THE werewolves of Miffling You're all excitable boys, especially when you catch a Night Fever because the Night belongs to Lovers. E.C., T.R., M., Hope they're happy Signed, Dial a significant of the control of th

RANDY REYNOLDS—Feliz cumpleanosi Tu Hermanito Alancito, tambien Tony, Elba, Patti; Alex, Elbitta, Poupee, Gorda y Teresa. Viva el Perullii MY ROOMMATE'S name is Gina Carpenter. She pounds all day on her typewriter. She yaks and yaks until you can't stand her, but she's my roommate Gina Car-

penter.
ANN. (I THINK) young man with solar cigarrette lighter, on Creamery Lawn. Wed. May 3rd at 4:00 wishes to introduce himself. possible please call 238-2682 early - late evening. SWEET RESCUER, please return my pink, blue and brown rug. to McElwain mailroom. Cold Feet. OGONTZ - many thanks for a fine co-ed softball season. We'll get 'em next year! Love, Juniata

CONGRATULATIONS to G. Davidson winner of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Little Sister Raffle

ANIMAL of the month for May is Sven Svenson (alias Steve Furkay) for sleeping with Valkyrie (a real dog). Prizes: one way trip to viscensin, bat decals

for laser and drugs, man MUFF DIVERS: Beware the Bonzo Blast, signed The Delco

A MON AMANT, Jet'aimel - F.T. NOISY PARROT (Nanday Conure) best offer cage in-cluded call Dave or Benjy at 238-

THETA - YOU are the greatest TO THE Better Half of "Half and Half". Thanks for making our season as great as it was. Shall we do it again next year? Let's end the season the right way on Mother's Day. The other half.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Mark! Two great things happened in 1956. Don Larsen pitched the only perfect world series game and the Phillies never made the series have a Wonder'til 2004!

Phillies never made the series Have a Wonderful 22nd i Laurie TO BLUE Eyes from His Foxy
Lady: The immovable object
met the irresistible force and now
things will never be the same.
Thank You.

TIMMY, PSU is losing someone
special when you graduate. But,
then, so am I. With Love, Lynda.

SUPPORT YOUR Local Dirty, watch the Delco Dirtys' May 9th 6:30 p.m. at the Beaver Stadium

"AND THEY Didn't invite me!!!" Great Party -- R emember you're not rid of me yet!! Susan

DON:-WHAT a honey of a soccer champ! Clue No. 6 - same as clock Love Linda

· people sold through classifieds, then surely they would find, that quick sales come much easier. with resultant

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mind.

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