"ABLED," Residential Life adapting PSU to needs of handicapped

By JOANNE DILLER
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

University Park is a big place. Encompassing 540 acres, the campus appears large at first glance, but its size is not fully realized until one embarks on the 30 minute walk from Shields to Walker Building.

The Campus Loop alleviates the frustration for some of us, but students with physical handicaps must wage their wars against physical distance and barriers largely on their own devices, although the federal government has mandated assistance.

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 requires universities and colleges to make all programs accessible to all students and be in full compliance by 1980.

Penn State is "pretty much up to date as far as universities and colleges go," according to Phil Grosnick, interim coordinator for Residential Life. The University is still in a process of self-evaluation, having completed a survey of buildings and achieved compliance with federal regulations for accessibility by handicapped students this summer, he said.

The University works with each student in an attempt to meet individual needs, Grosnick said. Discrimination policies forbid the University to inquire on entrance applications whether a person is handicapped, leaving the disabled student to contact and obtain assistance through Residential Life.

Grosnick said that, once contacted, Residential Life conducts interviews with the handicapped student discussing majors and making arrangements with the specific college to alleviate any academic problems the student might encounter.

Oral exams are given to blind students and arrangements made for fellow students to make carbons of their notes to be translated for them later. Textbooks are recorded in advance and classes are held in buildings that are more accessible to the handicapped.

Approximately 400 handicapped students attend the University, but only six to 10 use wheelchairs, Grosnick said. Other disabilities include heart disease, deafness, blindness and related visual problems.

"Now we're concentrating on making little changes, such as lowering drinking fountains for accessibility," Grosnick said. "The most important thing is increasing awareness of the needs of the handicapped, to get people to think before parking in front of sidewalk ramps and to get faculty to consider their teaching methods in case they have a handicapped student in class."

For example, speaking when writing on the blackboard creates a problem for deaf students who read lips, Grosnick said.

Work-study students are hired to assist handicapped students in labs by reading instruments and in other ways. Adaptive physical education classes are offered to handicapped students, wherein abilities are estimated and classes are arranged to meet those abilities. Keys for elevators are given to handicapped students and lavatories have been equipped with grab bars and special stalls. Special parking permits are issued to handicapped students to enable them to park in the lot closest to their classroom building.

Problems still exist for handicapped students, said Robert Carlson, president of the Penn State Association for the Handicapped, also named "ABLED" — Association for Barrier-Free Lives, Environment & Design.

Carlson said ABLED was established in 1977 and serves as a communications center between students, faculty and administration. The organization's major task is making all sidewalks available to handicapped students.

Stadium vendors: Giving the customers a choice

By SUSAN EPSTEIN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

A familiar scene: Saturday afternoon at a Penn State football game. You feel a void that only a hotdog and soda could fill. But there's a problem — who should you buy it from? The frogman, the red baron (more commonly known as Baron von Coke) or the guy in the tux? It's basically a matter of personal preference.

Each of the above is a member of a diverse and unique group — the stadium vendors.

"A good vendor is one who interacts with people he's selling to," Bruce Rush (10th-economics and general science) said. "You should show them you care."

Many vendors have a gimmick. Rush, a third year coke man, sometimes wears a T-shirt of the opposing team. Students notice him and he attracts more business that way.

Most students say they become vendors for two reasons — fun and money.

"I do it for both reasons," Craig Brody (10th-marketing) said. "I really enjoy it. You get to meet a lot of people and also have a good time."

Besides having fun, the prosperous vendor can make good money. They are paid on commission, with income ranging from $14 to $40 per game. This depends on how hard the person works.

"More aggressive people tend to make more money," Brody said.

All vendors are University students.

"At every game there are high school students who want to work but usually we don't let them. It's the Penn State students first," Vance McCullough, an assistant professor, said.

According to McCullough, the students do a good job, and in general he doesn't have any problems with them.

But do the vendors ever have problems with the students in the stands?

"I had to stop a few fights and reprimand a few students for stealing," Rush said. But he said he usually doesn't encounter any problems.

In addition to the vending veterans, there are many aspiring neophyte food vendors.

"I just want to be out in the crowd," Rita Seybert (4th-liberal arts) said.

In the crowd is where they like to be and that is where the spectators like to have them. The vendors add flavor to the games, and at times there are a few who stand out. Many still remember Dale Dockus, with his famous "Heeeeeeey Hotdog!" Brody described him as "a legend in his own time."

Photo by Bob Gumaer

Chip Vicary, a student vendor at Beaver Stadium, is shown selling "mixers" to a damp crowd. Vendors often employ unique techniques to be successful in peddling their wares on football Saturdays.

Sen. Byrd's plea fails in attempt to obtain agreement on gas bill

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd failed Thursday in a bid to reach a gentlemen's agreement barring a "lowblow" attack against the bitterly disputed natural gas bill.

But Byrd warned foes of the legislation not to take his abortive plea for a carefully orchestrated natural gas showdown in the Senate as a sign of weakness.

Objections by Sens. James Abourezk, D-S.D., and Clifford Hansen, R-Wyo., blocked Byrd's request for a specific showdown time and a prohibition against surprise motions to table the bill.

"It's not that I am afraid to call the bill up," Byrd shouted, slapping a tally sheet of supporters and opponents against his thigh.

He said backers of the measure could turn town a tabling attempt if ready for it, but a "surprise, low-blow motion" might catch them with key voters out of town.

Abourezk said many of the bill's supporters would leave town if Byrd's proposal was accepted, leaving the opposition without "a shot at them."

Byrd finally postponed bringing the bill to the Senate floor.

The bitterly disputed legislation, which a conference committee worked out from widely differing House and Senate versions, would phase out price controls on newly produced natural gas by 1985, with a steeply increasing price scale until then.

Byrd said Wednesday he and opponents of the bill came near agreement to have a vote next Wednesday on a motion to send the bill back to the conference panel with instructions to substitute an innocuous emergency measure.

But Thursday, when Byrd asked the Senate for unanimous consent to set a time, Abourezk objected.

Abourezk also objected to an agreement that would bar a motion to lay the bill aside — a move Byrd termed a "sneak attack" because it is not debatable and could come with few senators present.

Byrd tried various ways for an agreement, asking first that a vote be set for 4 p.m. Wednesday.

Abourezk objected and his staff said he was speaking also for Sen. Russell Long, D-La., a powerful spokesman for natural gas production states.

Byrd tried for 3 p.m. Wednesday, and Sen. Howard Metzenbaum, D-Ohio, objected on grounds many senators could not be back by then after voting in Tuesday primaries back home.

Byrd tried other combinations, then called off the effort for the time being and turned to other legislation.

"There has been all kinds of back-room lobbying, on both sides," Abourezk said. "I think we all know that. But there has been very little light shed on this issue."

Abourezk said he could not agree to limit debate. But on that point, he and Metzenbaum diverged. A spokesman for Metzenbaum said the senator is ready for a vote, but wants it set at a time when the full Senate can take part.

Abourezk and Metzenbaum lead a coalition against the bill and in favor of a substitute that would merely allow emergency allocation of gas supplies.

They gained a new ally Thursday, Metzenbaum's spokesman said: Sen. Floyd Haskell, D-Colo., who decided to support the substitution move.

Budget head choice to be completed soon

Selection of a new budget director should be complete within the next few weeks, according to Robert A. Patterson, senior vice president for finance and operation.

"The Board of Trustees meets in two weeks. We hope to have a consideration before them at that meeting," he said.

During the past few weeks the University has reviewed several hundred applications. With the review completed, finalizing steps are now being taken, Patterson said. "Final selection involves a broad spectrum of considerations," he said.

Steve Garban, University controller, has held the position of acting budget director since the resignation of C. Gail Norris last April.

"Mr. Garban has had no real problems in the capacity of acting budget director," Patterson said. "He is just overloaded with work."

The selected budget director will be responsible for all phases of development of the University budget. He will also act as the principle planning and development director.

—by Amy Endlich

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