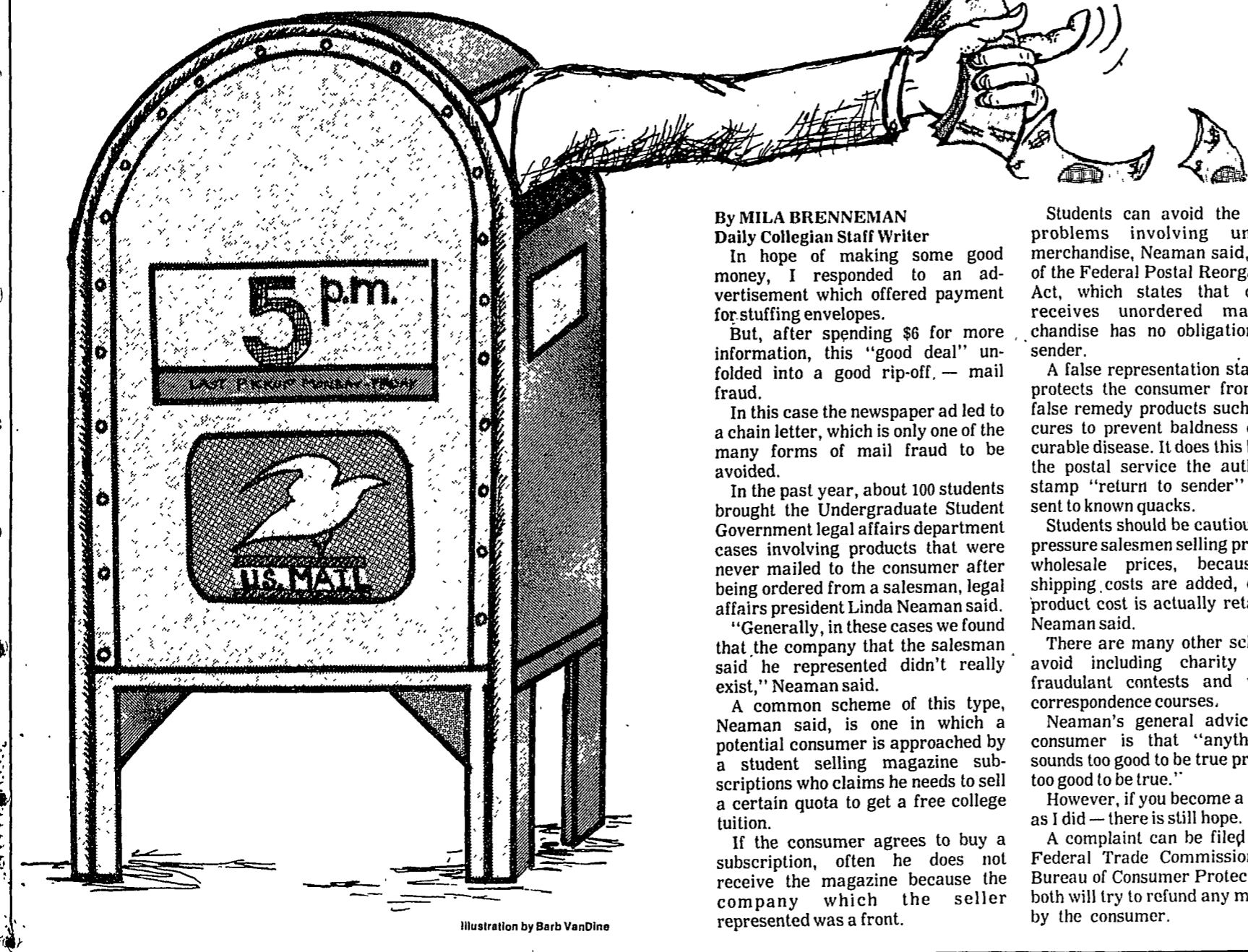


Victims address mail fraud as big rip-off



By MILA BRENNEMAN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

In hope of making some good money, I responded to an advertisement which offered payment for stuffing envelopes.

But, after spending \$6 for more information, this "good deal" unfolded into a good rip-off. — mail fraud.

In this case the newspaper ad led to a chain letter, which is only one of the many forms of mail fraud to be avoided.

In the past year, about 100 students brought the Undergraduate Student Government legal affairs department cases involving products that were never mailed to the consumer after being ordered from a salesman, legal affairs president Linda Neaman said. "Generally, in these cases we found that the company that the salesman said he represented didn't really exist," Neaman said.

A common scheme of this type, Neaman said, is one in which a potential consumer is approached by a student selling magazine subscriptions who claims he needs to sell a certain quota to get a free college tuition.

If the consumer agrees to buy a subscription, often he does not receive the magazine because the company which the seller represented was a front.

Students can avoid the common problems involving unordered merchandise, Neaman said, because of the Federal Postal Reorganization Act, which states that one who receives unordered mail merchandise has no obligation to the sender.

A false representation statute also protects the consumer from known false remedy products such as false cures to prevent baldness or an incurable disease. It does this by giving the postal service the authority to stamp "return to sender" on mail sent to known quacks.

Students should be cautious of high pressure salesmen selling products at wholesale prices, because after shipping costs are added, often the product cost is actually retail price, Neaman said.

There are many other schemes to avoid including charity rackets, fraudulent contests and valueless correspondence courses.

Neaman's general advice to the consumer is that "anything that sounds too good to be true probably is too good to be true."

However, if you become a victim — as I did — there is still hope.

A complaint can be filed with the Federal Trade Commission or the Bureau of Consumer Protection, who both will try to refund any money lost by the consumer.

Illustration by Barb VanDine

Faculty Senate plans drop policy change

Plans to change the drop policy for unsatisfactory scholarship will be recommended to the University Faculty Senate by the Committee on Academic and Athletic Standards, at 2:10 p.m. Tuesday in 112 Kern.

The new policy will change criteria for drop action from term classification to completed credits.

The proposal calls for the establishment of a maximum grade point deficiency allowed for defined ranges of total credits.

The proposal will cost about \$3,000 and can be implemented within one month of Senate approval, the committee said.

Now, a student can be dropped from the University if he has more grade point deficiencies than his term standing allows.

The new proposal would allow baccalaureate degree students with 24-39 cumulative credits to have a grade

deficiency of 21 points before drop action occurs; 40-69 credits would allow a grade point deficiency of 18; 70-99 credits would allow a grade point deficiency of 15 and cumulative credits of 100 or more would allow a deficiency of 12 points.

The proposed action would not apply to baccalaureate candidates who have earned a 2.00 cumulative average or better during the term in question.

The Senate Committee on Admissions, Records and Scheduling will present the Senate with a report on admissions policies and will request a strategy be planned to attract academically superior students to the University.

According to the committee, the University is losing many of its best applicants to other schools.

The committee will also present data on enrollment and present University admissions policies.

—by Amy Smith

Corman's experience gets him top post on committee

Sen. J. Doyle Corman, R-Centre, has been appointed Republican chairman of the state senate's local government committee for the 1979-80 legislative session.

Minority Leader Henry G. Hager said Corman's nine-and-a-half years on the Centre County Board of Commissioners was a major factor for the assignment, according to a statement from Corman.

Corman, the board's president for four years, was re-elected in November to a full four-year term in the senate.

The local government committee, one of the most important standing committees in the state senate, deals with legislation for county, city, borough and township codes. Corman said he hopes to look at state tax methods in this committee, particularly property taxes

for schools and the occupational assessment taxes. These two taxes will be his top priorities this session, he said.

Corman said that he sees no problem with the confirmations of Governor-elect Thornburgh's recent cabinet nominees. He said he knows two of the candidates personally and has had favorable reports about the others.

The new state ethics law may be discussed in the local government committee, Corman said, but only minor revisions need be made. He said that all persons covered by the bill should conform to its provisions, but the implementation of the bill should be delayed six months until a reporting committee can be formed.

—by Rand Stewart

CATA bus service in Ferguson running smoothly

"After servicing Ferguson Township for more than a month, Centre Line bus routes "H" and "W" are working great," township manager Donald Bachman said Thursday.

Service to the township began Dec. 1 after the Centre Area Transportation Authority unanimously accepted

it into membership Nov. 21, Carl Shaffer, CATA operations supervisor, said. In a Dec. 1 article, Collegian sources incorrectly reported that the township had not yet joined the authority.

Initially, the service has meant putting up "H" and "W" bus stop signs in the township, authority Chair-

man Paul Rigby said. Those buses travel through the township along North Atherton Street for approximately one mile.

CATA has not provided additional bus routes in the township, Shaffer said, because it does not have enough buses to do so.

—by Elliot Grossman

The Brothers and Little Sisters of Alpha Chi Rho wish to congratulate our newest initiates:

Edward Burke	Joseph Hartnett
Michael Gazda	Robert Wardell

And our new Little Sisters:

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Maureen Melvin	Elizabeth Young

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