



These doors lead to the buildings in Ag Hill Complex, four agricultural buildings better known as Armsby, Patterson, Weaver and the Respiration-Calorimeter buildings. The complex has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places for its importance to the history of the University's agricultural pro-



gram and campus architecture. On the left, the window in the arched doorway of the Respiration-Calorimeter Building reflect the brick structure of the Armsby Building. On the right, the pillars tower above the entrance to the Patterson (Dairy Husbandry and Creamery) Building.

Interest group plan may face referendum

By AMY SMITH
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The method for funding the Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group may be put to a student referendum, Jeff Goldsmith, coordinator of the Students for PennPIRG, said.

The Undergraduate Student Government Supreme Court must approve PennPIRG's request for a referendum before a vote can be held. If approved, Goldsmith said the referendum would be held March 27 and 28.

The PennPIRG group proposes funding by a reusable-refundable system where students will have the option of adding \$2 to their tuition to fund the organization. The \$2 would be refunded if the student changes his mind at the beginning of the term.

The new petition drive, started Oct. 19 for the reusable-refundable system, "has not been very successful," Goldsmith said.

The group set a goal of 23,000 signatures and has only 3,000 to date. In order to get a referendum, only 1,500 signatures are needed.

"We want to use the 3,000 signatures we already have to get the referendum," Goldsmith said, "but the USG Supreme Court decides if they are valid or not."

If the Supreme Court does not find them valid, the USG Senate can call for a referendum.

"There is not enough time to go out and get 1,500 signatures in favor of the referendum if we want it by March," Goldsmith said.

"We want the referendum to come at the same time as the USG elections," he said.

"We already have commitments from two candidates to put the issue on their platforms," he said.

Endorsement of the PennPIRG organization "has come from many sources, both on and off campus," he said. Lt. Governor William Scranton has endorsed it.

"Action from the PennPIRG will be intense this Spring Term," Goldsmith said.

"We will need quick and effective fund raising for publicity and a lot of one-to-one communication with the students," he said.

The attempt to organize a PennPIRG at the University began in 1971. Other attempts were made in 1975 and 1976, but the funding issues were never approved.

"There have been three tuition increases and inflation since the last attempt. President Oswald has not been able to recommend funding of any organization not directly part of the University," Goldsmith said.

The PIRG system is a Ralph Nader sponsored idea to organize college students into a student-funded consumer-oriented organization.

Once a PIRG is set up, a professional staff is hired to aid investigations and to provide year-to-year continuity in the organization.

Other PIRG organizations have investigated human rights, consumer problems, government responsibility and public issues.

"The issues we will tackle will be decided by the students funding the organization," Goldsmith said.

"It would be inappropriate for me at this time to decided the issues."

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