

Future drop may hurt programs

By TOM DeMEO
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The expected decline in undergraduate enrollment at the University during the 1980s may also have a serious effect on graduate programs.

Susan Friedman (graduate-higher education), speaking at a meeting of the Graduate Student Association last night, said the decline would persist throughout the decade but would be more serious in its latter half. This projection is based on a declining birth rate, she said.

Rising costs due to inflation, the level of appropriations received from the legislature and tuition monies must be considered, she said. "You're trying to balance these things so you can survive," she said.

The Final Reports of the Task Force for the Plan for the '80s, released last month, recommended the level of financial support for graduate students at the University be at least equal to that of comparable universities, she said.

There are relatively few graduate students in proportion to the number of undergraduates at the University,

Friedman said. At other universities graduate students comprise 25 to 30 percent of the total student population; at Penn State the figure is 11.5 percent, she said.

"There are serious problems (involved). The University budget has already taken a beating for several years," she said.

In other business, GSA Vice President Bob Tripepi announced a teaching assistant assessment package is available from GSA. The purpose of the package is to allow student assessment of a teaching assistant who is not evaluated by standard course evaluations.

"If people are teaching a lab section, the instructor is evaluated, not the teaching assistant, even though the teaching assistant may be an important part of the course," he said.

The Association also approved a charter for the Turkish Student Organization. Bill Berti (graduate-environmental pollution control) said there "appears to be no overlap" of the organization with the International Student Association.

'Turning Point' changes planned

The monthly newspaper Turning Point will continue to provide readers an alternative to other local papers, new editor Hal Saville (9th-English) said last night some changes in the paper's content are being planned.

While past issues have featured extensive coverage of environmental concerns, for instance, "In the future we hope to get into other areas which perhaps would be of more interest to the general community and the students as a whole," Saville said.

Turning Point's articles are "not as much newsworthy as they are in-depth," he said.

"Because of the way they are written, the articles don't lose their immediacy; the paper is something many people keep around instead of getting it in the morning and then throwing it out in the afternoon," he said.

"We are really interested in making the articles more educational than

persuasive — which has been one criticism in the past," Saville said.

The paper, which was started two years ago as a project for a graduate journalism class, now has a circulation of about 10,000. It is distributed free, mostly on campus, Saville said, "but we are working to get more issues to apartment areas and to stores that advertise with us."

Although Turning Point is now supported entirely by advertising revenues, Saville said he hopes to get funding from Associated Student Activities beginning next fall.

In addition to material written by staff members, Saville said, poetry and fiction submissions from readers also are welcomed.

—by Paula Froke

Begin outlines position on Palestinians

JERUSALEM (UPI) — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has outlined a hard-line negotiating position on Palestinian self-rule, vowing to keep the West Bank and Gaza strip and never permit the birth of a Palestinian state, government sources said yesterday.

Details of the secret negotiating plan on Palestinian autonomy, the next step in the Camp David accords, emerged from a meeting yesterday between Begin and 11 of his Cabinet ministers working on the opening position in the

autonomy talks with Egypt.

The talks are to begin May 25 in Beersheba and last for a year, alternating between Beersheba in southern Israel and the Egyptian city of El Arish in the Sinai.

Government sources said Begin presented a 30-point, five-page document, with two policy statements emphasized.

In the first statement, Begin said Israel plans to claim its "inalienable right" to sovereignty over the West

Bank and Gaza after the five-year Palestinian autonomy period, required by the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty signed March 26.

Justice Minister Shmuel Tamir told the meeting certain parts of Begin's proposals might prove to be illegal and Begin could make changes in the plan, the Armed Forces radio said.

The report gave no details of the points Tamir questioned, but Interior Minister Yosef Burg refused comment after the meeting.

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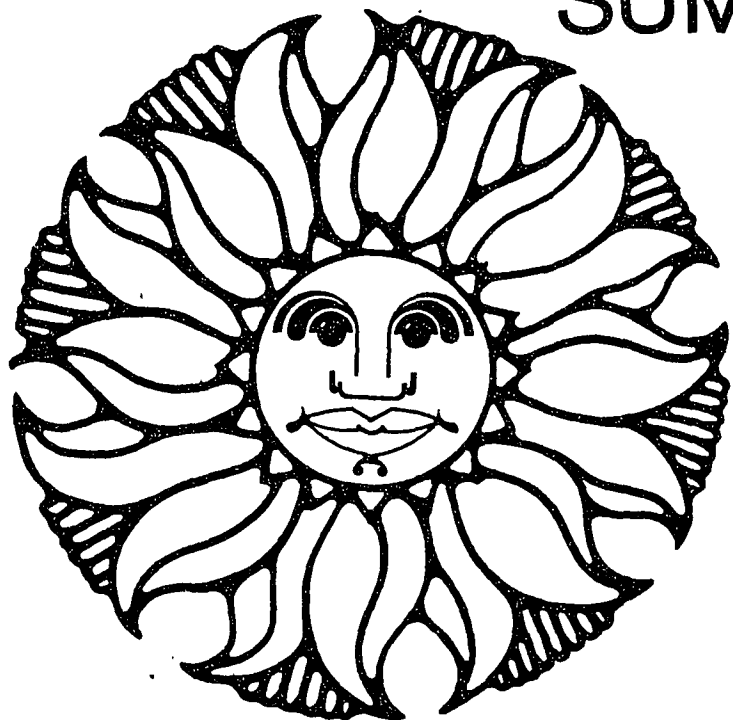
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