

Smoke detectors expected soon

By BILL JOHNSON
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Apartment owners are fuming over a proposal by the State College Borough Council that would make them install smoke detectors four months sooner than expected.

January 1 is the date all apartments and multi-family dwellings have to be equipped with a smoke detector. But, because of several recent fires in houses converted into multi-family dwellings, the council is trying to move the date up to September 1.

Borough Manager Carl Fairbanks said that members of council thought Jan. 1 gave apartment owners too much time. He said smoke detector installation was a simple operation.

Daniel Kinley, chairman of the State College Apartment Owners Association, said the proposed Sept. 1 date doesn't give owners a fair amount of time.

"We're not against smoke detectors; we're against the time," Kinley said. "We were going to buy them as a group, but now there's not enough time."

Kinley said there was no mention of smoke detectors in this fall's leases which have already been signed. He said that since they are not mentioned in the lease, the owners have no way to protect their investment in case of thefts.

Kinley also said the initial cost for the smoke detectors hasn't been budgeted by many owners. He said 1000 smoke detectors would cost \$16,000 to buy and install. "I don't have that lying around," he added.

The cost of the smoke detectors would certainly be passed on to future tenants in the form of minor rent increases, Kinley said.

Kinley questioned the value of the smoke detectors because many residents would disconnect them when cooking or smoking and neglect to turn them on again. "They're just like seat belts," he said.

Council President Ingrid Holtzman said the Sept. 1 date should give the owners enough time to install the detectors, but allowances could be made if there were problems.

Holtzman said some of the owners are just concerned about the money aspect of installing smoke detectors, whereas the council is more concerned about safety.

The smoke detectors will be easier to install in the summer, she said, because there are not so many apartments occupied.

Council will hold a public hearing July 2, when it will vote on whether to move the compliance date or not.

Governor blamed for state budget delays

HARRISBURG (AP) — The chairman of the legislative conference committee working on the new state budget complained yesterday that the governor's office is needlessly delaying the committee's work.

Sen. Joseph Smith, D-Philadelphia, said the governor's budget office told his aide it will be several days before revenue figures will be available.

"This delay will cost a serious loss of valuable time," Smith said. "I am amazed that the budget office isn't prepared at this critical stage to provide the fiscal information we must have to arrive at responsible spending plan for the next fiscal year."

In past years, Smith said, the figures were available by May 31.

At the conference committee's first meeting Wednesday, Smith said he must have the figures before the panel can begin serious deliberations.

The committee is considering a \$6.3 billion budget passed by the House but rejected by the Senate.

Senate Democrats have called on the House to enact the taxes necessary to pay for the spending plan. Gov. Dick Thornburgh has proposed extending the current 2.2 percent personal income tax and the 10.5 percent corporate net income tax past their Dec. 31 expiration date.

Robert Bittenbender, deputy to Budget Secretary Robert Wilburn, said it takes a few days for the Revenue Department to develop the latest figures.

"We felt it would be best just to take a couple of days to pull the figures together rather than pull them off the top of our heads..." he said.

Gas cuts real to stations, but ...



This is becoming a common scene across the nation as United States drivers realize there is a real gas shortage. Here one girl combats the problem as she roller skates to the nearest station.

By GLENN KAUP
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Low gas supplies, long lines, limits and no weekend hours are becoming hallmarks of service stations not only across the country, but also in State College.

"I'm running short on gasoline," manager John Snare of Ed's Sunoco said. "Unless I get some gasoline somewhere else, I'll run out by the end of the month."

The manager of Michael's Exxon, who refused to be identified, has the same problem. "Right now I have no limit on the amount of gas that I'm selling, but toward the end of the month, I have to decide whether I want to put a limit on the amount of gasoline bought or just let it run out at the end of the month and close until I get more."

Walk's Arco is one of the few stations that has put a limit on the amount of gas bought.

"The only problem that I am having is delivery," Wester Walk said. "I didn't get my order in on time so I might have problems getting some gas. I won't get a load in until after tomorrow."

"I feel the prices for gas are ridiculously high," ARCO attendant Brian Tucker said. "The oil company sets their price from how much they pay for the barrels. We are expecting \$1 a gallon by the end of the month with the new program that Jimmy Carter is trying to enact."

New prices are staring consumers in the face. Prices ranged for regular gas from 82.9 cents a gallon to 84.9 cents. For unleaded gas the prices are slightly steeper, hovering around the 88 cents a gallon mark.

The owners and managers of the service stations are getting hit hard with low supply levels in the middle of the shortage.

"My gas supply is lousy and this has to be the worst month that I have had here," Joseph Zamrik, manager of Plaza Gulf said.

"Even though I am scheduled for two more loads this month, my gas supply has been cut down to 71 percent," Ed Gibson of Gibson Sunoco said.

Besides low gas supplies and delivery problems, most of the



Guzzle, guzzle, toil and trouble as Fred Sweeley pumps gas at the Gulf station on the corner of North Atherton and College Avenue. Gas is still available, for the price: 83.9 for regular, 86.9 for unleaded and 90.9 for "nonox."

managers don't believe a shortage exists.

"I don't think that there is a shortage," Don Benner, owner of Benner Gulf, said. "Its mostly governmental control to cutback consumption in the public."

Snare added, "Right now, I don't think there is a shortage. If the prices are raised to \$1.50 a gallon and there still is a shortage, then I will believe it."

Tucker believes there isn't a gasoline shortage. "The oil companies have barges sitting on the coast full of oil and railroad tankers

full of oil near the refineries. The problem is that the government is telling them to convert all the oil to diesel and heating oil.

"Half the problem is that the people don't have any respect for the prices. In 1973, the people looked at the prices and stayed home. Now they are willing to pay any price for the gas," Tucker said.

"If there is a shortage, it stands to reason," Walk said. "There are a lot more customers out on the road today. There is a tendency to just get in the car for everything. An actual shortage is inevitable."



What's inside

Basketball controversy..... p.6
Weekend p.10
"Cruel Shoes" review p.11

Hot stuff

Head to the nearest pool this weekend as a summer heat wave builds. It will be hazy with a few thundershowers and a high of 82 today, and mild with a low of 70 tonight. It will be uncomfortably humid tomorrow and Sunday.

... Students say shortages are a fable

By GLENN KAUP
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

If there is a gas shortage across the country, many University students don't believe it.

"I don't believe that there is a shortage," Carl Heigel (10th-mineral economics) said. "They just want to jack up the prices of gasoline... If you want the gas, you've got to pay the price."

"The whole hoax of the shortage came about when someone finally realized that people have become too dependent on gas," he said. "Nowadays, people would rather pay the price than suffer."

Many said they feel that the manufacturers and refineries are to blame for the crisis.

"It's all contrived by the oil companies to jack up the price of oil," Tom Mulherin (12th-business management) said. "During break, I drove around Pittsburgh and Philadelphia and I had no problems getting gas."

"The refineries are holding off the gas to raise the prices to \$1.50 a gallon," Maureen Breckenridge (7th-health and physical education) said. "As soon as they raise the prices, there will be plenty of gas."

"Right now, the whole incident is contrived," Mike Flynn (10th-history) said. "But there is a definite real shortage coming in the near future."

State College had quite a bit of trouble with a shortage of fuel over graduation and term break, according to parents who came up during that time.

"There is a gas shortage up here because of the people coming and leaving over the term," Dan Schultz (11th-computer science) said. "During graduation, the parents were coming up, filling up their cars, taking the gas and leaving. All it did was help jack up the price. I was down in Virginia Beach and the gas there was 74.9... when I came back, the prices here were 84.9."

One person interviewed did believe there was a gasoline shortage:

"We have been consuming too much fuel for too many years," Michele Owen (13th-accounting) said. "I spent six months in Germany and the gas was almost \$2 a gallon on the open market. Even if there is not a shortage, we are obviously wasting it."

Bill limiting accident insurance benefits controversial

HARRISBURG (AP) — The state insurance commissioner said yesterday he would fight a bill that would prevent car accident victims from collecting more than \$100,000 in insurance medical benefits.

The pending House legislation would provide a premium savings of only \$4 a year for each motorist, while severely

limiting protection for victims of serious accidents, Commissioner Harvey Bartle said.

Bartle gave an example of an 18-year-old youth who was paralyzed in a car accident.

"His first year's expenses alone were \$75,000, with an additional reserve of some \$947,000 required for his future

expenses," Bartle told the House Insurance Committee. "A \$100,000 cap would have been a drop in the bucket."

The insurance industry is seeking the \$100,000 limit as a way to hold down insurance costs for both itself and consumers.

"Why insist that everyone pay for unlimited medical benefits, when fewer

than 1 percent of our state's drivers will ever require such coverage (over \$100,000)," said Douglas Arthur, a regional manager of Nationwide Insurance Co.

Bartle and insurance officials told the committee that legislation is needed to:

— Eliminate state-mandated insurance benefits for motorists who are

injured in an accident but who don't carry automobile insurance, which is required by state law.

— Eliminate double insurance payments. Currently, an accident victim can collect benefits both from his auto insurance and his health insurance policies.

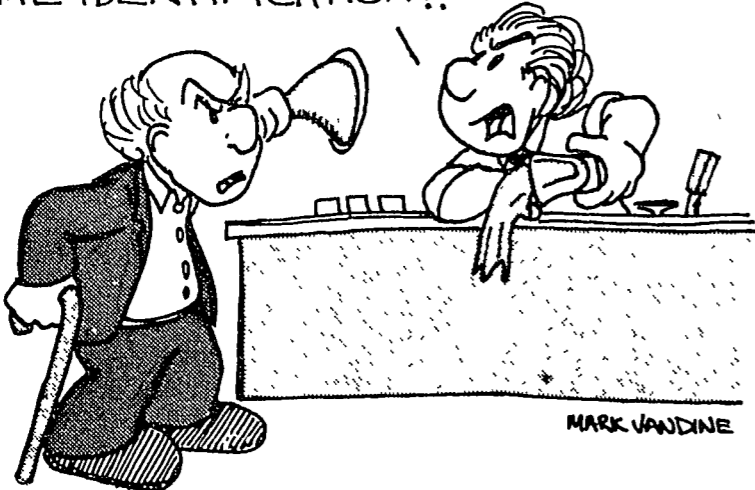
Bartle added that, while uninsured

motorists should not get insurance benefits from a special fund, "we question whether dependent children should be penalized by denying them medical benefits because of their parents' misconduct."

He said that the special Assigned Claims Plan paid \$2 million in benefits to uninsured motorists who were injured.

IN EDITION

I SAID, DO YOU HAVE SOME IDENTIFICATION?!



It's a long, long wait just for a drink

If you have a fondness for alcohol, and if you are age 19, then I wouldn't suggest visiting Alabama for another 31 years or so.

That is, I wouldn't suggest a visit

there if the Alabama state Senate votes to approve a bill, passed by the House, to raise the legal drinking age from 19 to 21.

"Gray Power" singles bars?

The vote in the House came on an amendment to another bill that would have raised the age limit for the consumption of alcoholic beverages to 21, the United Press International reported last week.

But apparently the House did not think the raise to 21 was sufficient to curb the use of alcohol in that state, and so, it voted 46-22 to raise the age to 21.

And it seems temperance may be alive and well, brought to you by the same people who produced George Wallace.

Conservative swing warned and worn

People who spend their time digesting such things as "national political trends" and the like have been suggesting that the United States is taking a more conservative swing recently. And T-shirts, of all things, may be some indication of this.

Clarification: T-shirts and reactions to T-shirts.

Cases in point: A police department in Jacksonville, Fla. is currently "besieged by orders" for pro-death penalty T-shirts that are being sold to finance a police softball team's trip to a "super cop" tournament in New Orleans. The T-shirts read: "One down... 133 to go," referring to the execution of John A. Spenkelink and the remaining 133 Death Row inmates in Florida. Conservative, to say the least.

But in Bonita, Calif., a Vietnam veteran's T-shirted comment, "Participant — Southeast Asian War Games... Second Place," has been ripped off the backs of wearers. Along with the public reactions, the vet, Bruce Browne, routinely receives hate mail and even an occasional death threat.

According to Browne, quoted in a press release advertising the T-shirts, "It's an odd thing about the hate mail; I've never gotten any from a Vietnam veteran, only from those who were never there."

In China, you read the writing on the wall. In America...

It's not another front page story

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Follow the rugged road with Stormer

In Wednesday's Centre Daily Times, Director of University Safety David Stormer announced he is looking for a scout master. But no, it's not for a position on the University police staff. Stormer, an assistant scout master

from the Troop #83 Committee from Our Lady of Victory, is looking for a scout master for that troop. Interested parties may contact him.

It is assumed that police services need slightly different qualifications from applicants, however.

—compiled and written by Bob "Suds" Carville

Wire Story Of The Week

SARATOGA, Calif. (UPI) — Bids are now open for aspiring astronauts wishing to plot the first amateur rocket ship, built by the man who designed Evel Knievel's ill-fated "Skycycle."

Thus far, leading the field of astronaut hopefuls is Dan Correa, a once-penniless Peru native who became fairly well off after he invented a machine that makes tortillas hot and moist, instead of dry and cracked.