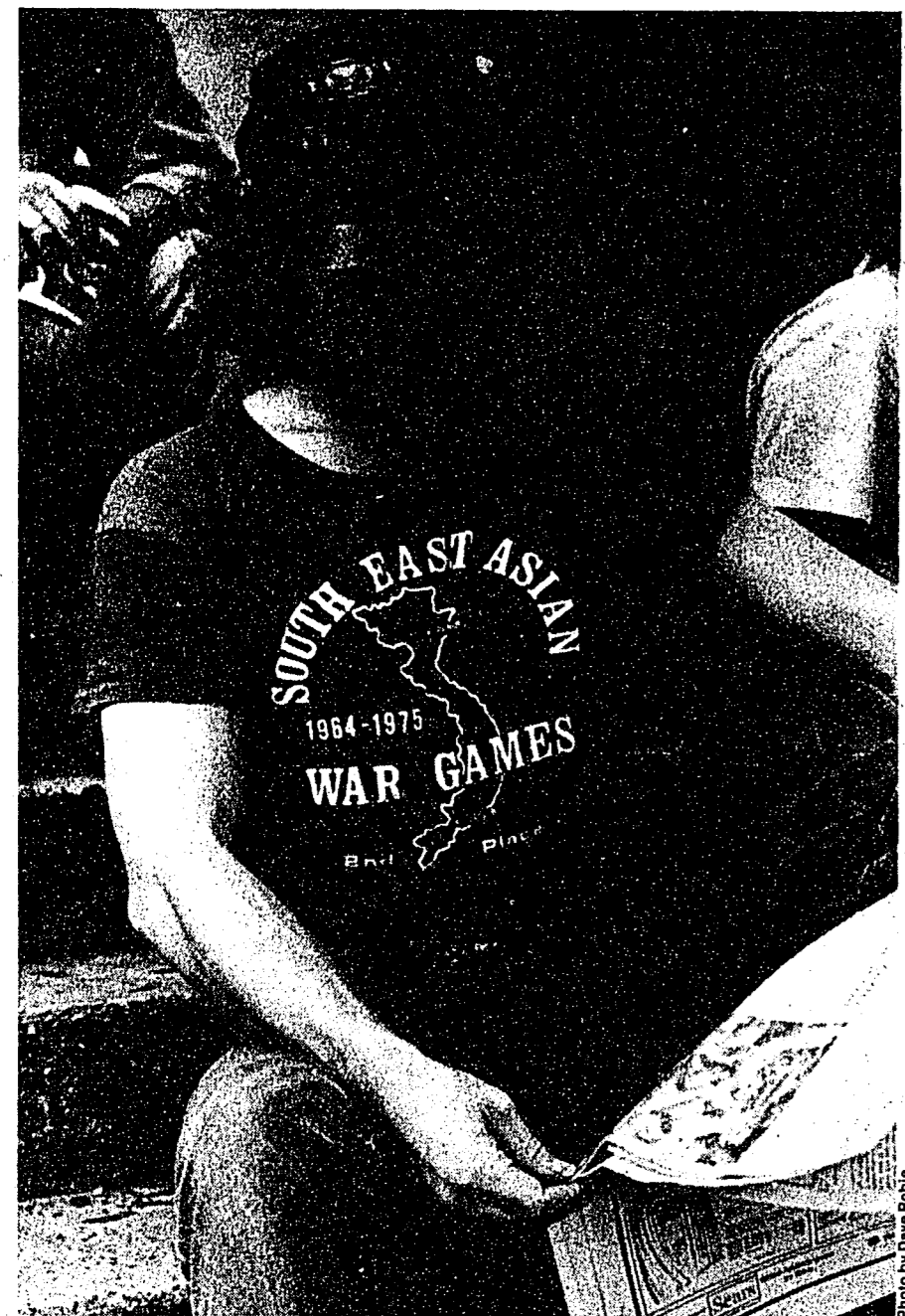


the daily living

a weekly look at life in the University community

Thursday, Sept. 20 '79



Mike "Red-Eye" Schirra reads the day's headlines while he sits outside the Vets' House.

Coming home: Like an eighth grader squeezing back into his first-grade seat

By KAREN ROLLER
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Two months before Mike Powell arrived at the University he was in the combat zone of Vietnam. The year was 1972, and veterans were starting to trickle into the universities. But "we were treated like average, incoming freshmen," said Powell (7th-industrial arts and art education).

Now the University has first-year programs, counseling and organizations available for vets. However, the switch from military life to university life is still far from easy for most of the nearly 1,000 Vietnam vets (those who fought in the war) and Vietnam-era vets (people who were enlisted during the war years) on campus.

"The totalitarian environment in the military has a lot of impact on you. The readjustment to a college environment is hard to imagine if you've never experienced it," Brian Clark, University veterans counselor, said.

"Suddenly you're in an open environment and if you don't want to go to class, you don't have to; it's up to you. Before, you were told what to do, maybe forced to do something, and these decisions just weren't up to you."

Just getting through all the bureaucratic red tape at the University can be a frustrating experience for vets coming back to school. Often people in the military are fed up with being told to "hurry up and wait," Clark, also a Vietnam-era vet, said. Going through registration can be more of the same treatment—and that has to put up with it even though he is now out of the military.

"It took me three days to register because when I got there they said my cards were on hold. I needed a physical, they said, which ended up getting me back \$25," Mike "Red-Eye" Schirra, another Vietnam vet, said. "I was grade A when I got here. Did I somehow change grade B?"

"Then they told me I couldn't go to my classes yet," said Schirra, who was wearing a Southeast Asia Olympic War Games T-shirt. "Well, I said I was going to sit in the classes. I signed up for even if I needed to take a baseball bat with me."

The University bureaucracy, however, does seem to have improved since Powell and Schirra first landed at the university. Mark Snyder, a Vietnam-era vet who just began classes this term, said he had no problems getting through all the red tape.

"They set up the interviews, testing and everything. We had a little paperwork to do, but it was pretty easy," he said. "Orientation Week was helpful, and as far as registration—I walked in, walked through and it was simple."

Snyder, formerly a welder, said it's hard to get back into the academic swing of things.

"I'm knocking down and using my mind," he said. "I haven't had to use it for seven years because welding involved your hands mostly. Now they're asking me to write stuff, and it's hard."

Nearly all of the vets have the same problem. "You're out of school for four or five years, and it's hard to sit down and hit the books again," Mark Kusmir, president of the Penn State University Veterans Organization, said. "Everything's spelled out for you in the military, and here it's just the opposite. You're in a wholly different environment."

Being older than most University students can present some problems for vets, too. In fact, this academic adjustment is as big a problem as the financial difficulty vets face, Clark said.

"Say you're sitting in Psychology 2, and you're eight years older than the other students in the class. What they're talking about isn't what you're interested in. You feel pretty much out of place," he said.

"The classroom situation can be a pretty scary thing for the vets, too. You're entering an environment that's a little alien, and you've forgotten some stuff. You look at your classmates, and they're all younger, and they've all had calculus," Clark said.

Kusmir also said many vets feel uneasy around a younger student population and a sometimes younger teacher population.

"Say you go into a lab and the grad student is two or three years younger than you, but he treats you like a little kid," he said. "It's the tone that's projected."

Although most of the vets are glad to go through beginning freshman courses for refresher purposes, sometimes the classes are geared toward students with high-school perspectives.

"Sometimes the early classes produce a kind of culture shock," Clark said. "It's like being in the eighth grade and going back to first grade and trying to squeeze back into the seats."

When students find out the older guys in their classes are Vietnam or Vietnam-era vets, the image of a soldier freaking out after hearing a car backfire sometimes springs to mind. This can add to a veteran's adjustment problems.

Jack Swords, coordinator of Veterans Affairs, said he has counseled about 20 vets with emotional problems and relapses, including nightmares, but "the great majority of vets don't have these problems."

The whole movie image of vets helps promote a negative picture of them, too, Powell said.

"It's that image, that volatile, hostile, violent film image in 'The Deerhunter' that people are seeing," he said. "Then they ask 'Was it really like that? Do they really play roulette in the camp?' I think the element the director was trying to portray was the living in constant fear, but you'd have to have been there to know what that was like," Powell said. "The general populace wants to know about it, but you can't relate to something like that if you didn't experience it."

"So, the movies were good in the sense that they brought that stuff to the public eye, but to a minimal degree, really."

The unpopularity of the Vietnam war is sometimes transferred to the vets who were part of the military at that time, too.

"For the first time in a war, the veterans were thought fools, or worse," Clark said. "The people who did serve were never recognized. They received no support from society at large."

Powell said the vets who actually fought in the war, but who didn't necessarily believe in the war, came back and nobody understood what they'd been through.

"People just associated them with that uniform," he said. "And as far as I'm concerned, everyone who went over there was a hero—a hero just for being there."

Wives stretch dollars and hours

By KAREN ROLLER
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Ann McLaren, who works for the University's Veterans Affairs, probably has a good handle on her line of work. She's married to a veteran himself.

"Sometimes it's hard for veterans' wives, with the University life being a whole new lifestyle and not having a livable income," said veterans certification secretary McLaren, whose husband, Rhett (10th-pre-dental), plans to go on to graduate school.

"But I had been a student and know what it's like. I'm used to being poor," she said.

Finances are probably the biggest concern for the nearly 500 veterans' wives at the University. Most of the wives have to work outside of the home to supplement their monthly military income.

"We're going to scrounge," said Susan Snyder, who moved to State College about three weeks ago with her veteran husband, Mark, and their 5-month-old baby, Daniel.

"We were used to two paychecks, then Danny came along. We've managed, but it's going to be rougher with the \$222 monthly check only covering the rent and car, barely," she said.

"Still, the sacrifice will be worth it in the long run," she said.

Although one veteran said he thought wives probably resented working and thought their husbands were off at school having a good time, this just doesn't seem to be so.

"I went through college and as far as studying goes, I know it's not easy," said Pat Kusmir, whose husband, Mark, will be graduating in May with a degree in accounting. "He's in school all day then he pitches in at home. It's not an easy time."

The only small concession to envy of their husbands' studies lies in the fact that some of the wives would like to get or finish their degrees, too, after their husbands graduate.

"I don't have my BS and I'd like to get it someday," said Joanne Stultz, who works 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at a local hospital. "I'd like to get into hospital administration, or a higher level of nursing."

The working shifts of some husbands and wives can create problems, too. Sometimes she'll be working while he's home and he'll be in school when she's home. Snyder, who said she will be looking for a job soon, said it's important to make time for getting together and getting out once in a while.

"We schedule time for each other in order to talk and think things out," she said. "And at least once a week we hire a babysitter and go out. Or, often, we'll go out and take Danny with us."

Stultz was one of the wives who ran into the different shift problem, but she landed the 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. shift instead of the night shift she had been working previously so that her husband, Jim (5th-business administration), and their 3-year-old daughter, Erin, could see each other more. The day hours are working out well, and putting us in a more normal position," she said.

The wives, like their husbands, are older than most of the students, but most said they feel comfortable in the community.

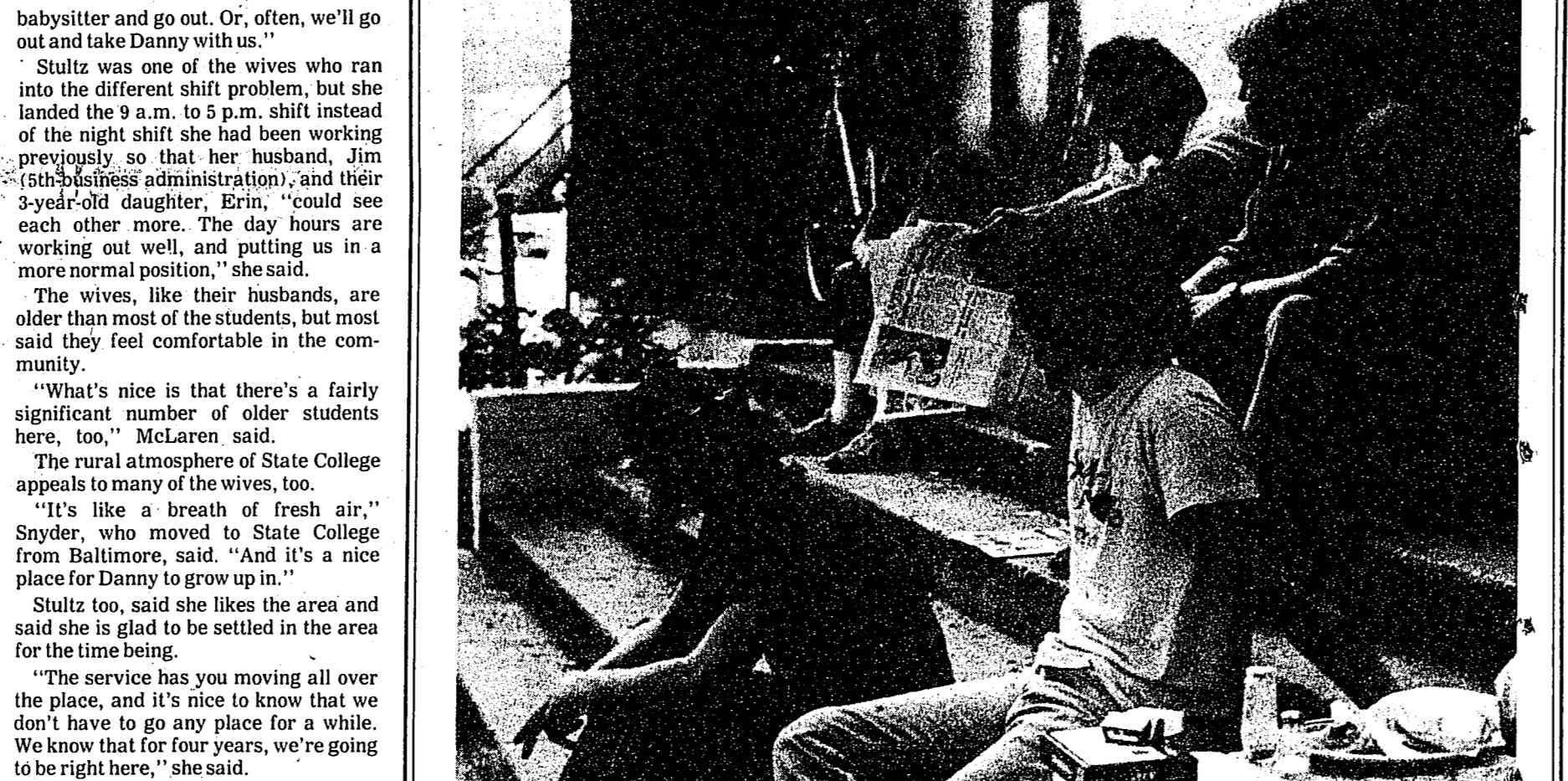
"What's nice is that there's a fairly significant number of older students here, too," McLaren said.

The rural atmosphere of State College appeals to many of the wives, too.

"It's like a breath of fresh air," Snyder, who moved to State College from Baltimore, said. "And it's a nice place for Danny to grow up in."

Stultz too, said she likes the area and said she is glad to be settled in the area for the time being.

"The service has you moving all over the place, and it's nice to know that we don't have to go any place for a while. We know that for four years, we're going to be right here," she said.



Taking it easy on the steps of the Vets' House is a way for these five veterans to relax. The house is a place for returning vets to meet and adjust to college life after being away for a long period of time. Although the maximum number of boarders is 27, the entire veterans community is encouraged to visit the house and think of it as their own.

Groups help, from happy hours to a job

If studies, home life, social life and general day-to-day coping do not take up enough of the veteran's time, he might look into some University resources open to him.

The Penn State University Veterans Organization, open to all student veterans, rents a house at 227 E. Nittany Ave. that is a social gathering place as well as "home" to 27 single veterans. The politically and socially active organization holds meetings at the house every other Wednesday and Happy Hours every Friday.

Veterans Affairs, 135 Boucke, handles all student veterans' concerns, from maintaining Veterans Administration Educational Benefits to hints on making the most of fall football weekends. Counseling, tutoring information and assistance in locating part-time jobs, as well as many other services, are available here.

Developmental Year, a program designed to strengthen the background of students who do not meet regular admission criteria, is another option for the vet.

—by Karen Roller

A difficult job Balancing the budget

By CHUCK TORISKY
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

While soaring education costs have pared down the budget of most students, they have sliced veteran's finances to the bone.

Although the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency pays 80 percent of a veteran's tuition, the veteran still pays the remaining 20 percent as well as other expenses.

Often those expenses include supporting a wife and family.

The GI benefits for a full-time single student are \$111 per month. Veterans counselor Brian Clark said the rate has not risen in three years although inflation has cut into the spending power of the dollar more than 20 percent.

"As a single guy I can get by, but the married guy with kids (would have difficulties)," said Jack Goodwin, former president of the Penn State Veterans Organization, as he shook his head.

Approximately one-half of the veterans attending the University are married and receive \$370 every month. Benefits for veterans with children include the base married rate plus \$52 for



The Penn State Vets' House insignia marks the door of the place many veterans call home.

Medical, moral aspects slated Abortion discussion to be held

- Penn State Students for Life will sponsor an open discussion on the medical and moral aspects of abortion at 7 tonight in the HUB Assembly Room.
- The North Halls Residence Staff will sponsor a panel discussion on rape at 8 tonight in Warnock Union Building.
- The Society of Physics Students will meet at 7 tonight in 339 Davey.
- The herb club will meet at 7 tonight in 323 and 324 HUB.
- Homophiles of Penn State will meet at 8 tonight in 212 HUB.
- The Undergraduate Political Science Association will meet at 7:30 tonight in 311 Boucke.
- The Penn State Model Railroad Club will meet at 7:30 tonight in 307 Boucke.
- The Association for Childhood Education International will meet at 7 tonight in 111 Chambers.
- The Graduate Student Association will sponsor Juggling, Des and Don'ts at 7:30 tonight in 101 Kern.
- The Student Dietetic Association will meet at 7 tonight in S-131 Human Development.
- Public Relations Committee of Individual Family Studies Undergraduate Student Organization will meet at 7 tonight in S-103 Human Development.
- Phi Mu Alpha will hold German Band practice at 8 tonight followed by a brotherhood meeting at 9:30 in 115 Music Building.
- Delta Sigma Pi will hold a rush meeting at 7:30 tonight in 320 HUB.
- Triangle Fraternity will meet at 8:30 tonight at their house.
- Food Service Housing Administration will present 17th Century Holland at 6:15 tonight in the Maple Room in Human Development Building.
- The Association of Student Health Planners and Administrators will meet at 7:30 tonight in the Human Development Living Center.
- Penn State Outing Club's Bike Committee will hold a mandatory pre-trip meeting for members going to the Tuscarora Mountains at 7:30 tonight in 8 Intramural Building.
- Free University will sponsor a poetry and prose workshop at 7:30 tonight in 319 Boucke.
- The Office of Religious Affairs will sponsor a film entitled "The Renaissance" at 7:30 tonight in Memorial Lounge of Eisenhower Chapel.
- The Student Nurses Association is having sign-ups for its Sept. 29 Hershey trip now through Sept. 29 in 515 Nursing Education Building.
- The Free U course Basic Concepts of Islam will meet at 7 tonight in 219 Willard.
- Appointments to fill out applications for food stamps and more information on the program are available by calling the Centre County Board of Assistance at 355-5531.
- Eco-Action will meet at 7 tonight in 225 HUB.

Man injured in one-car accident

A Spring Mills man was seriously injured yesterday in a one-car crash on Route 322, two and one-half miles east of Baulsburg.

Marvin Igen, RD 1, Spring Mills, was admitted in critical condition to the intensive care unit of the Mountainview Hospital. He was taken to the hospital by a passing motorist and treated for head and internal chest injuries. State Police at Rockview said.

Police reported Igen was traveling east in his car on Route 322 when he fell asleep at the wheel. The vehicle crossed the road, traveled on the berm approximately 400 feet, then hit a tree head-on, police said.

Persons were cited for cruelty to animals Tuesday when their car was stopped at Parking Lot Blue A by University police. Police said the occupants of the car had a groundhog tied to the rear of the car and were dragging it.

Samuel Garland (11th-advertising), Penn Tower Apartments, reported to the State College Police Department his Honeywell camera was taken from his apartment sometime last Friday. The camera was valued at \$225, police said.

John McCormick and Daniel Zulkanyecz, both of 130 E. Prospect Ave., told State College police thirty to thirty-five of their albums were taken from their home Tuesday. The albums were valued at \$150, police said.

—by Lynne Reese

SAS says: Get ready to ski

Come & save with our pre-season ski sale.

Sale will be Tonite, Thursday eve., 6-11 p.m. 25-40%

Head, Olin & Rossignol equipment

Mon-Fri 9:30 - 9
Sat 9:30 - 5:30

SAS 115 S. Allen St. 237-8190

Wilson's

Wilson's — Jeans King Center of State College
Always with the Lowest Prices — Shop and Compare
Huge Selection of Jeans by Lee — Wrangler — Levi

Lee Pre-Washed Denim Jeans — Straight Leg and Boot Flare sold elsewhere 21.95 at Wilson's just \$17.95	Huge Selection of Flannel Shirts \$5.99 and up
Lee Corduroy Jeans Str. Leg & Boot Flare sold elsewhere 16.95 — at Wilson's just \$14.95	Levi's Pre-Wash Denim Str. Leg Jeans reg. 21.95 \$17.95
Lee Flannel Shirts reg. 21.95 SAVE \$7.00	Levi Original Straight Leg Non-Wash Jean sold elsewhere 19.95 \$15.50
Lee Western Flannel Shirts reg. 22.95 now just SAVE \$6.00	Pre-Wash Levi Saddleman Bootcut Jean reg. 21.95 \$17.95
Lee Corduroy Shirts reg. 21.95 SAVE \$6.00	Levi Short Sleeve Western Shirt Reg. 13.95 \$9.95
Rod Laver Warmup Suits—1/2 off Reg. 40.00 \$20.00	Sundowner Knit Sweaters By Erica Strasborg Reg. 21.95 \$14.95
Signal Fashion Sweaters variety of styles, colors \$8.99 up	Wrangler Wrangler Cords 14 oz. Denim Straight & Flare Jeans Pre-Wash Reg. 16.95 \$13.95

When's the last time you wrote to mom?



Coming Tomorrow: The Daily Collegian's Trivia Challenge Sweepstakes

First prize is a 10-speed Motobecane bicycle from Pedals Bicycle Shop. So get involved. And win.

Other prizes include:

- A 10-speed Motobecane bicycle
- A Texas Instruments calculator
- A bronze Nittany Lion plaque
- A PSU pewter mug
- Three bestselling books on running
- A PSU designer sweatshirt
- A PSU marble base desk set and Parker pen
- A 16-ounce glass bottom pewter tankard

Here's how to enter and win:

- Answer the ten trivia questions in the September 21, 1979 Football Tabloid to become eligible.
- Deposit your answer form at The Daily Collegian in 126 Carnegie Building.
- Deadline for entry is Wednesday, September 26, 10:30 a.m.
- Winners will be notified shortly afterward, and announced in the Homecoming Tabloid.

Remember to look for the Football Tabloid in the September 21, 1979 issue of The Daily Collegian. And enter the Trivia Challenge Sweepstakes. (Note: One entry per person. Collegian, Inc. employees are exempt.)

TRIVIA CHALLENGE SWEEPSTAKES

Pedals
SBS
The Trophy Room