A face he'll never forget University student mingles with pope and president

Ŷ

The President and Mrs. Carter

request the pleasure of your company

at a reception to be held at

The White House

on Laturday afternoon, October 6, 1979

at two-thirty o'clock

By KATY KOONTZ **Daily Collegian Staff Writer**

Checking the mailbox can be the highlight of any student's afternoon if there's at least a card waiting for him, but after getting a letter and personal invitation from the White House, it's just

never the same again. That's what happened to Mike DeMarco (4th-political science) on the afternoon of the Texas A&M game. After the Lions' loss, he went back to Alpha Chi Rho, where he is a pledge, and a letter from President and Mrs. Carter was waiting for him. The envelope contained an invitation to see Pope John Paul II at the White House Oct. 6.

"I opened it up and flipped out," DeMarco says. "The whole fraternity went wild." DeMarco is the national president of the Catholic Youth Organization, and so

he wasn't as surprised as one might think at getting the invitation. As the president of CYO, DeMarco says he has traveled "pretty much all - over the country — and out of it, too." Among other places, he's been to the

Dominican Republic, Italy, France, Switzerland and Ireland since his election in November 1977. Because of his CYO affiliation. DeMarco says, "I knew I could get to see

the Pope, but I was thinking of going to New York to see him there at first." So although he was planning on seeing the Pope, he didn't really expect the White House invitation. After he got it, he switched his plans to Washington instead.

The reaction of most of his fraternity brothers was surprise, he comments. "A lot of them," he remembers, "said,

'You're going to see the Pope?' ' The invitation allowed DeMarco to take only one guest, and his immediate dilemma was which of his parents to ask. Following protocol, he finally decided to take his mother, who, he says, was thrilled at getting the chance to see the religious leader in person.

"I come from a real Italian neigh-

conegian a

everyone there was really excited, too," had to wait in line at the White House DeMarco says. "There was an article in from 2 to 2:30 before he was allowed ir my hometown paper about it with a the gates picture," he adds, "and they even taped a copy of the picture to the cash register knew.

South Lawn

The morning he was to meet the Pope, DeMarco took the bus to Philadelphia to meet his mother. The two of them then Pope as a poet and quoted some of his took the metroliner into the capitol city. "The train was coming out of New York, and there were a lot of foreign- words, he was dealing with people on a speaking people on it. They were all one to one basis and not just leading a from the embasies in New York and they great mass of people." were going to see the Pope, too." When he got to Washington, DeMarco should stop nuclear warfare and stop the program was to be held. "I didn't know remembers. what to expect," he says. "The place

was big --- it was humongous."

borhood in South Philadelphia, and Penn State were close at hand. DeMarco "Someone told me there were about

1,400 people there," he says. "They were at the local meat market. Everyone all the president's friends, prominent democrats and Catholic leaders. "First the president gave a speech,"

DeMarco explains. "He spoke of the poems. He also said that the Pope's visit_ emphasized his pastoral role. In other Then the Pope spoke. "He said we

went to the South Lawn where the production of nuclear arms," DeMarco After the speeches, a reception line

"I was so engrossed in meeting the Pope while I was standing in line that I actually forgot that the president was standing next to him," DeMarco says. "I was at a loss for words when I got to Carter so I just said hello, shook his

hand, and walked on by." DeMarco then kissed the Pope's ring and the man blessed him. The Pope also blessed some rosary beads, a cross DeMarco brought with him from friends, and his own medalian as well.

Next, the Pope walked through the crowd to see the people who could not meet him in the reception line. "People were shouting 'Poland!' and waving papal and Polish flags," DeMarco notes. "People were even holding up babies, and some of them had presents wrapped up for him, too," he continues.

DeMarco says what he will remember most about about the visit will be the Pope's face. "I was looking at him so intently for an hour and a half," he says. "It was overwhelming because I was only ten rows from the front — about 45 to 50 feet."

The scene of the Pope standing next to Carter with the White House in the background was moving, DeMarco says. "And there were sharp shooters on the White House roof with binoculars, as well." he adds

Security was tight, he says, but none in the crowd got out of line. "I think there was a demonstration going on outside the gates during the ceremony, though," he notes

"It was kind of touching," DeMarco says. "It seemed like no one wanted to leave and he didn't want to leave either. "I think the older people feel more privileged in being able to meet the Pope," DeMarco says. "Just being in his presence is an honor for them. "Younger people haven't experienced enough of their religion to feel the same

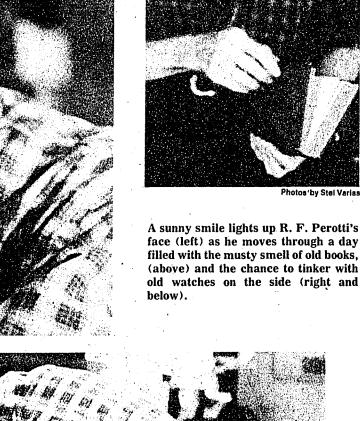
way. I feel it, but in a different way than my grandmother would have." "I'm not really a religious person," he notes, "But I am if I look at it in per-

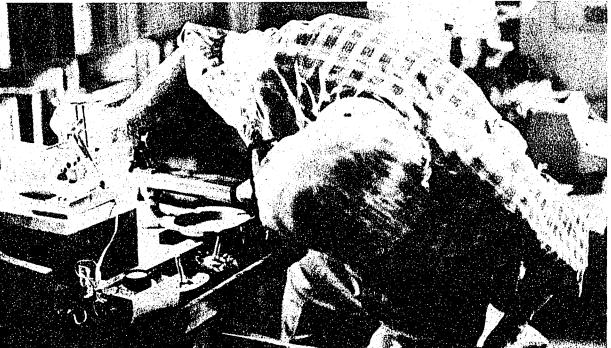
formed and some of the audience, in-But even though he was in cluding DeMarco, filed up to see the Washington, D.C., remnants of life at Pope and the president. spective.'

a weekly look at life in the University community









The one-room shop nestles inconspicuously one flight above laundry on Beaver Ave. Its yellowed, peeling paint and wooden floors go well with the collection of old books that fill the ceiling-high shelves. And the old pictures and memorabilia on the walls complete its antique image R. F. Perotti, owner of the tiny rare book store, is a part of the old world atmosphere as he hustles about the shop pointing

out special books and prized editions Most of Perotti's books are first editions or collectors' items including works of American fiction, history, art and music. For example, he owns a copy of the first American-compile A copy of Webster's Grammer from 1807 was Perotti's oldest book, but he recently sold it. Now, the oldest work in his collection is an 1965 edition of Joe Miller's Jests, a joke book 'irst printed in England. Perotti's copy is of the first American

First editions can be unusually interesting, Perotti notes. In his copy of The Life and Times of Edgar Allen Poe, for example, a picture of Henry Longfellow with a wine glass appears. Perotti explains that some people were upset because ngfellow did not drink, and so from the second edition on the wine glass has been removed

Its printing date is only 1967, and its author is Perotti, himself. Titled, Important Firsts in Missouri Imprints, the book deals with works published in Missouri from 1808 to 1850 and is the only book Perotti has written Perotti has been collecting and selling books as a hobby since 1929, when he worked in New York City. He spent his

lunch breaks and vacations buying books from dealers and then trying to sell them Perotti has lived in New Orleans and Kansas City as well,

although he was born in Atlas, Pa. "I've been all over, but now I'm back in Pennsylvania because I liked it here and I wanted to get back." the former Freasury Department clerk says Perotti has sold over 10,000 books in the last half-century and he has had some of his books for 25 or 30 years. "I don'

