



Send in the clown

This lonely clown gives the dogs in her act last minute coaching as they wait to enter the ring at the Great American Circus held Saturday on Waupelani Drive in State College.

Scanlon says public schools lack equality

By SUSAN FOLEY
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

If quality in public schools is to be achieved, educators must collaborate, State Secretary of Education Robert G. Scanlon said recently. Both levels — basic education and higher education — must work together to guarantee citizens equality in public education.

"The quality of life in Pennsylvania schools is very unequal," Scanlon said Thursday at a lecture sponsored by the College of Education Alumni Society and Phi Delta Kappa Honorary Society. Scanlon's planned school improvement program for the 1980s deals with this problem.

Scanlon said the school improvement program has two fundamental themes. The first is to increase the confidence of the public to send children to public schools.

The second theme is to reconsider the training of professionals. Scanlon said higher education today may not be "up to the times," and if changes are not made, public schools may become obsolete by the year 2000.

Scanlon said there are three goals of the school improvement plan. The primary goal is student growth.

"We must never lose sight of the fact that if our school improvement efforts don't make any difference in how well kids learn, they won't make any difference at all," he said.

Another goal is a "systematic and ongoing improvement effort" for school districts. "Events are changing too fast

for us to assume that schools can continue to operate as they have in the past," Scanlon said.

The final goal, he said, is the improvement of technical assistance to public schools.

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—Robert Scanlon

But although public schools need help, they are doing a better job than they are given credit for, Scanlon said.

"For too long we've asked our public schools to solve the problems of our children and then have been quick to criticize when performance didn't meet our expectations," he said.

Scanlon was the first speaker in a four-lecture series sponsored by the Alumni Society and Phi Delta Kappa. The series commemorates the University's 125th anniversary.

House grants renovation aid for handicaps

The main campus of the University received approximately \$800,000 to fund building renovations for increased accessibility for handicapped persons, said state Rep. Gregg Cunningham, R-Centre County.

On Thursday, the House of Representatives granted final approval, 158-0, to legislation supplying the campus with money to fund federally required renovations to buildings on campus, he said.

The Senate passed the legislation

Wednesday and Gov. Dick Thornburgh is expected to sign it this week, Cunningham said.

Other University campuses will also receive funding, but not until the legislature reconvenes after a summer vacation, he said.

"It is far better to go for three-quarters of a million for the main campus than run the risk of waiting all summer," Cunningham said.

Cunningham's legislation proposed

about \$2 million for the renovations, but "technical obstacles" caused funding delays for the Commonwealth campuses, he said.

A bill was introduced in the House several months ago supplying the state-owned institutions with the funding for renovations.

State-related institutions were excluded from the legislation even though buildings on campuses of state-related institutions, like those of state-owned

institutions, are owned by the General State Authority.

Cunningham then introduced legislation allocating University with \$2 million, and the University of Pittsburgh, Temple University and Lincoln University with lesser amounts.

He stressed the importance of state funding for the renovations and said, "... these costs (should) not be imposed exclusively on the universities who must comply with the federal legislation."

—By Philip Gutis



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