

Program helps cut vandalism

Experiment to expand to more residence halls

By PAUL MARTIN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

An experimental damage reduction program instituted in five Pollock-Nittany-Centre residence halls last year has helped save \$6,978.47 and cut damage almost in half, according to an assistant coordinator.

Because of that success, Max McGee, assistant coordinator in Pollock-Nittany-Centre Halls and the designer of the program, said the Damage Reduction Model will be expanded this year to include all campus residence halls.

The Association of Residence Hall Students has taken over control of the program, creating the Residential Damage Reduction Committee which will work closely with Housing,

Comparing this year's figures to last year's, damages to the five buildings decreased from \$15,683.36 to \$8,704.89. McGee said damages to other University buildings increased from \$1,942.24 to \$2,631.49 during the same period.

McGee said the savings from the targeted buildings offset the damage increases in the other buildings, allowing the Pollock-Nittany-Centre area to record an overall 36 percent damage reduction.

McGee said the damage reduction plan was well received by students in the target buildings.

"There was great cooperation between the administration and the students, and because of the program, relationships between the students and residential life have improved dramatically," he said.

McGee said another positive aspect of the program is that there now is a better working relationship between Housing, Residential Life and Maintenance and Operations.

The damage reduction model was developed by McGee after a review of several of his basic assumptions concerning students and vandalism. McGee said one of those assumptions is that many students are frustrated and dissatisfied with their living environment and this results in increased vandalism in the dorms.

McGee also said many students believe the administration (Residential Life and Housing) is unaware or moves too slowly on issues that concern students. Also, a concerned student's fear of retaliation and ostracism usually prevents the identity of the known vandal from reaching proper authorities, McGee said.

Becker said implementation of the damage reduction plan involves the combined efforts of an overall chairman, appointed ARHS representatives in each dorm area, Resident Assistants and recruited student leaders on targeted dorm floors.

"The Residential Damage Reduction Committee is an important step towards greater interaction with the administration, and the overall effects of this program will hopefully not be felt by the residence halls alone," Becker said. "A decrease in damages should be found throughout the entire campus as a result of improved student attitudes induced by this model plan, Becker said.

McGee said ARHS took control of the program because it would require too much of Residential Life's time to implement campuswide. Also, ARHS is student-oriented and as such it sees this program as a potential way of servicing students, McGee said.



High dive! This photo was shot from a plane, not from a new high board at the outdoor pool.

Photo by Betsy Overly



Residential Life and Maintenance and Operations, McGee said.

Todd Becker (4th-computer science), chairman of the new committee, said vandalism to the residence halls is a very serious problem, with damages of more than \$170,000 last year. Becker said many students fail to realize they are the ones who eventually must pay for those damages.

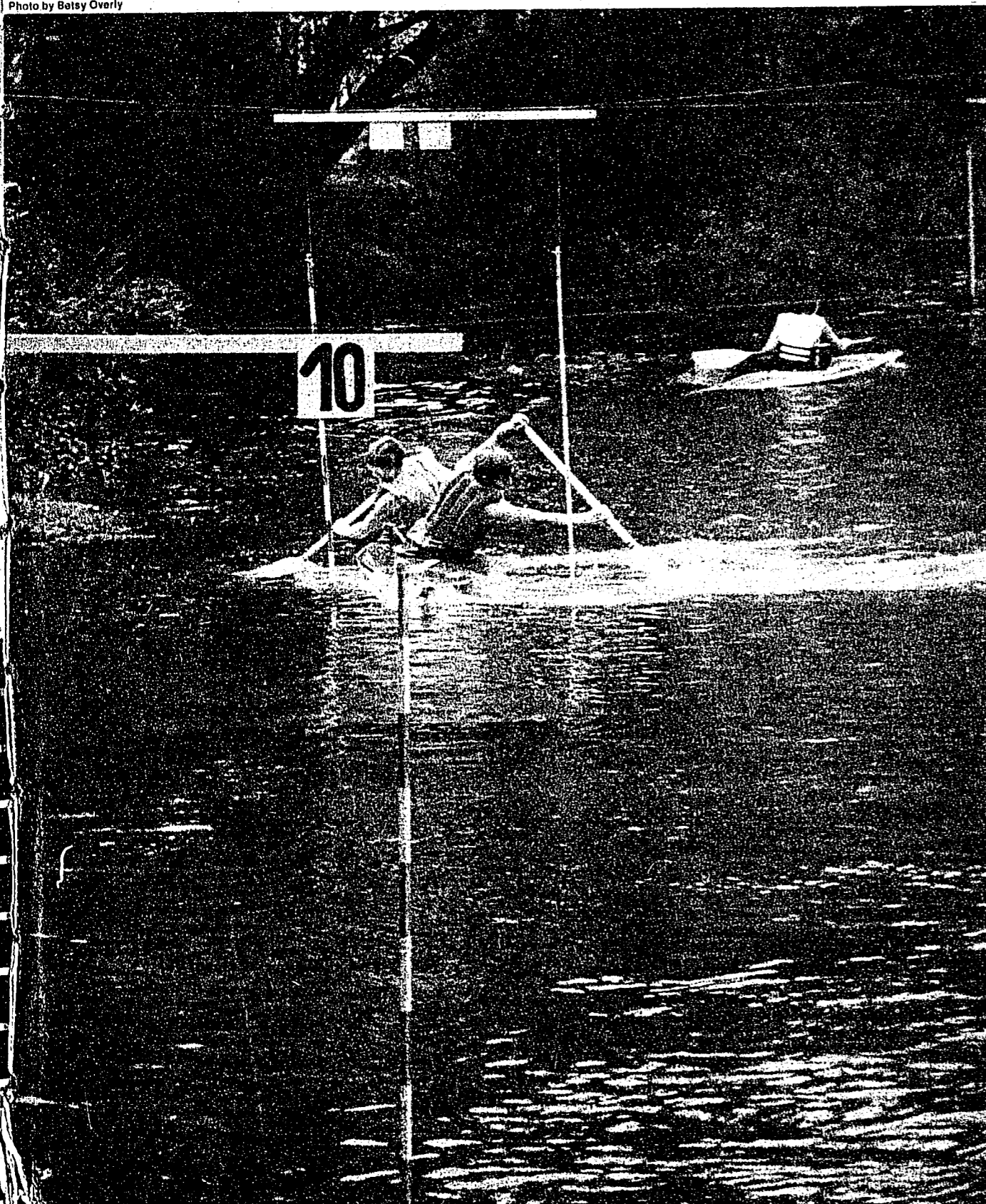
The damage reduction program — focusing exclusively on men's residence halls because of their past record of high damages — will require some time to show results, Becker said. Student reaction to the plan has been positive and he said he expects substantial reduction in damages by the end of this academic year.

McGee said he will act as a consultant this year, helping ARHS with any problems it may encounter implementing the program campuswide.

"I really would like to see if it works," McGee said. "I really would like to see if it works."

Last year in the Pollock-Nittany-Centre experiment five dormitories — Junk, Hartranft, Porter, Mifflin and Nittany) were chosen as target buildings because of their high damage totals during the previous year. McGee said the Residential Life staff and Housing office worked closely with students in those dorms to redirect negative and destructive behavior in residence halls.

Photo by Betsy Overly



Kyaking was one of the ways students cooled off this summer. This race was sponsored by the Kyaking Club and was held in Bellefonte.

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Appointment must be confirmed by Senate

Thornburgh names Bell new student trustee

By KATHY HOKE
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Paul D. Bell (7th-marketing) has been named to the University Board of Trustees by Gov. Dick Thornburgh, but his three-year term will not begin until the state Senate confirms his appointment.

Bell, who will replace student trustee David Hickton, was appointed to the

board Aug. 1, a spokesman from the governor's press office said yesterday.

The appointment was based on a recommendation from state Secretary of Education Robert Scanlon, who interviewed Bell and two other student candidates for the vacancy. The Senate will vote on the appointment after reconvening Sept. 15.

The board is scheduled to meet Sept.

18 and 19.

Patricia Rosdil, associate secretary to the Board of Trustees, said Bell will not begin serving as trustee until the Senate confirms his appointment because the board's by-laws require that trustees appointed by the governor serve until a successor is appointed and confirmed. Hickton's term was to expire July 1.

The board's charter permits the governor to appoint six of the 32 trustees.

Although a student appointment is not required, it has been a tradition for about 10 years for governors to reserve one of the six appointments for a student.

Bell could not be reached for comment on his appointment.

University officials need not file financial forms with commission

By TOM BOYER
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The State Ethics Commission recently ruled by a 3-2 vote that the University is not covered by state ethics legislation, and as a result University officials will not have to file financial disclosure forms with the commission.

The law, adopted in 1978, prohibits conflicts of interest and requires all elected and appointed officials of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to file the disclosure forms, which indicate the sources of income over \$500, but not the exact amounts.

However, the law does not say whether quasi-governmental institutions such as the state-related universities and the Turnpike Commission are included in the definition of "Commonwealth of Pennsylvania." State-owned colleges are covered by the law.

Attorney Delbert J. McQuaide, who represented the University in submitting the request for the commission's ruling, argued that the law applies only to executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government, and that the University is not part of any of these.

Ethics Commission Chairman Paul Smith, who voted to include the University in the legislation, said that because the University receives a large part of its operating expenses and building funds from the state, and because University employees are covered by the state retirement plan, University officials should be covered by the act.

"There seems to be some unfairness that the president of Shippensburg (State College) has to file while the president of Penn State doesn't," Smith said.

Sandy Christiansen, general counsel to the commission, said the case was difficult to decide, as indicated by the time it took the commission to reach a decision and by the closeness of the vote.

"They had a tough one on their hands," she said.

Bill Cluck, an Undergraduate Student Government senator, said the original ethics bill was drafted with several "glaring errors" and some vagueness because it was written during a busy legislative session in 1978.

Rep. Allen Kukovich (D-Westmoreland), who sponsored the ethics legislation when it passed in 1978, said, "When we drafted it I didn't think about the universities. With hindsight I would really love to see them included."

Smith said the legislation called for a "liberal interpretation," which meant that the commission should include any state agency under the legislation in unclear cases.

"Given a choice when it was even-steven the legislature felt we (the ethics commission) should vote them in," he said.

Mary Dunkel of the University's Office of Public Information said University officials could not comment on the Ethics Commission decision at this time because the University has not yet received official word of the decision.

Dunkel added that the University's decision to request the commission's opinion was the work of many administrators, and that no one person is responsible for formulating the University's position on the issue.

McQuaide was not available for comment.

Cluck said University administrators might feel their privacy is violated by the legislation's requirements.

However, Cluck also said University administrators could be in favor of disclosure, but don't want to set a precedent that might change the University's independent status.

Cluck and Smith both cited University President John W. Oswald's position on the board of directors of General Public Utilities as an example of potential conflict of interest that would be covered by the law if it applied to the University.

Smith said the University's action to avoid the ethics legislation may have hurt its standing among legislators who vote on the University's funding.

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—Paul Smith, Chairman, State Ethics Commission

"I don't think they want to jeopardize their grant, and they may have done just that," Smith said.

"Here's the leading educational institution in the state leading the way away from the ethics act," he said. "It's kind of out of character."

Smith said some state agencies have volunteered to be covered by the act, because some federal grants are tied to an agency's compliance with ethics legislation.

Kukovich said he will probably introduce an amendment to the ethics legislation early next year that would include educational institutions such as Penn State and the Philadelphia School Board.

However, he said his amendment might be used by opponents of ethics legislation to weaken the ethics law.

"I will try to balance the value of including Penn State and the Philadelphia School Board against the possibility that the ethics legislation might be gutted," he said.

Lookin' good

There should be some sunshine today, especially in the afternoon, but a brief thundershower could cloud the skies and soak the ground. The high will be 85. Mostly clear and a bit cooler tonight, with a low of 58. Tomorrow's football opener with Colgate should be a great day, with plenty of sunshine and the high a pleasant 81.