Daily Collegian Staff Writer Age is the most universal of concepts. Day by day, year by year, each of us is changed by the passing of time. And one day, signaled perhaps by the wrinkling of skin, the graying of hair or the stiffness of gait, we will come to be known as

Yet few people realize what it means to be elderly. Few know what it means to live on a fixed income when inflation makes every dollar worth less and less. Few know the frustration of having chronic health problems and being unable to meet rising health care costs. Few know the exasperation of needing to get somewhere and being unable to drive a caror find public transportation.

But for many of our elderly, both in Centre County and throughout the United States, this is an accurate picture. Sunny pictures of retirement communities filled with lazy hours on front porch swings have lulled us into believing that old age is a time of rest and leisurely reflection -- when, in reality, many of our elderly are involved in a

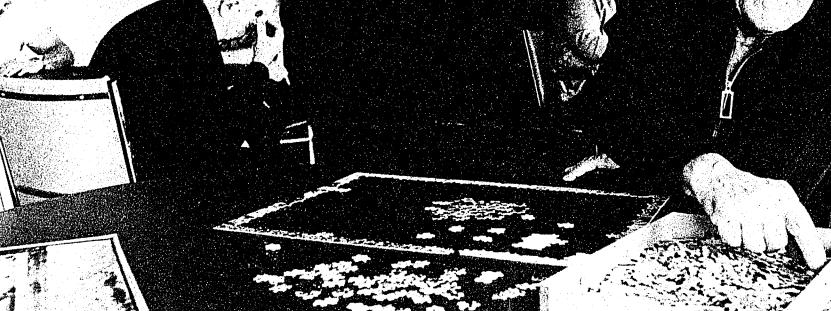
daily battle to survive. About 11,000 elderly people — defined as anyone older than 60 — live in Centre County. That figure represents approximately 11' percent of the county's

According to Joseph Britton, a University professor of human develpment and the chairman of the State College Senior Citizens Commission, Centre County is "farther along than many others in its

care of the elderly.' petter the conditions of living.

need to be reached," she said. "As long because many of the county's elderly called "the lifeline" for many of the

mation about various services available, Bellefonte areas. ent who was appointed by Gov. Dick remploys counselors and caseworkers. Thornburgh to a state regional council and provides a friendly visitor service to budget is funding for the five senior nutritious meal, various activities and, allocation comes from the federal



These elderly men at Mt. Nittany Residences in State College spend an afternoon building Jigsaw puzzles, playing cards or talking.

services provided by the AAA — either tranportation."

Husted said a lack of funds for care of transportation, and slightly more than 14 Unionville and Centre Hall.

In addition, the AAA operates five the Centre Cab Co., operated by the of the Snow Shoe center.

Edvar said one of the biggest pro- Bellefonte, Philipsburg, Snow Shoe and elderly. blems of the elderly in Centre County is Millheim, and the two meal sites in he elderly makes it difficult to provide percent of the AAA's \$500,000 budget in More than 26 percent of the AAA's yearly allotment in 1979 was spent on the

county's senior citizens. Cynthia Edyar, the director of Centre can't get to them," Edyar said, "State loneliness and isolation are very serious For those elderly who cannot attend dividuals as well as the agencies that life cycle.

County's Area Agency on Aging, said the College and now . . . Bellefonte are the problems for the elderly, and that the the centers, meals are delivered to their ple are neglecting their highth because agency's main goal is to serve the elder- only areas that have bus service; they're centers are an important chance for the homes. In State College, Meals on they fear they'll get the selves into ly with the greatest need. Among the the only areas that have any public elderly to socialize and get out of the Wheels provides a hot meal daily for something for which they an't pay -

tion Authority last spring. In addition, myself," said Jennett Wertz, director centers. senior citizens centers and two meal State College Borough, provides public The centers, which operate five days a blems of their own — mainly a budget education. She also said children and to center, which is open on Monday, ing need and cost of services. But the biggest item on the AAA's Wednesday and Friday), provide a hot,

"The meals are very important," said 10 percent of the AAA's funds — comes helped in its battle by inflator, inade-Jenny Conway, director of the Bellefonte from the county and from donations by quate health care, sparse ransportacenter, "especially for men who are the elderly who use the agency's widowed and can't cook." Edvar said tranportation is a problem centers and meal sites, which Edvar The centers also provide different pro- Edvar said the AAA's funding in 1980 Many of the elderly's need are being grams for the elderly, ranging from lec- has equaled past levels, but she was not met, but many still exist. Until those tures and games to field trips and even a optimistic about increases in the future. needs are met, aging willstill be an

directly or through sub-contracts — are Edvar was referring to the State "So many people have said to me, 'I Elsewhere around the county, meals are away from them." transportation to and from community College-to-Bellefonte bus route, in- wonder what it was like before we had prepared and delivered by the AAA to facilities, home-delivered meals and stituted by the Centre Area Transportathe centers; I wonder what I did with elderly who are unable to make it to the visory council for the Centre County

pensions worth it a fraction of what they were in the ist. Many elderly are forced to live only on Social Security benefits, which, delite frequent cost-ofliving increases, we not designed to be a sole source of inche.

Low incomes ine ably lead to other problems for the elerly, namely housing and health care lat Casher, Centre County Housing codinator, said 423 low-income housing units are now available to county eerly. But Casher said that number is ly about half of

Mt. Nittany Residence which opened Obtaining adequate halth care is

College Senior Citizens Clb, said many elderly people neglect heir health "Fear is the elderly's biggest problem," Neyhart said. "The don't know

AAA, believes the key to halth care is But the centers and the AAA have propreductive medicine through nutrition

citizens centers in State College, most important, companionship for the government. The state matches 20 per-oldis not a crime. But for min senior cent of the federal share, and the rest - citizens, age has become an elemy -

Neyhart

As president of the State College taxi service...The transportation telephone and ask them how they are," Senior Citizens Club, 82-year-old Amos system (in State College) is very he said. "Every opportunity weget, we E. Neyhart has a close-up view of senior reliable. Ladies tell me they only have to must get them out. As long as they put in itizens and their most pressing walk half a block or a block to get a bus. long periods alone, they will be lonely."

"One of the big problems is limited income," Neyhart said. "The health proolem, the cost of medication and representatives in Washington. Reagan

ion in the United States and consultant to the American Automobile Association for 44 years, cited transportation as

Setting to the doctor, going to the area,"said Neyhart, director emeritus grocery store and getting to church all of the University's Institute of Public



State College Senior Citizens Club President Amos Neyhart checks the winning card at a Tuesday afternoon bingo game.

Club president fights problems of aging

Neyhart said, "but we cannot provide a one of us to call someone on the "The Secretary of the Department of Aging in Harrisburg is aware of the problem," Neyhart said, "so are our has promised to do more in the transpor-

In addition to having transportation difficulties, senior citizens are also affected by boredom and loneliness, he

getting people involved doing these developed any particular interest The club has had a very beneficial effect on the elderly, Neyhart said. He has had members come and tell him the meetings are "the biggest thing in my

> Neyhart said he believes the club has promoted fellowship among the "During refreshment period, there they are with people their own age, talking, laughing, and joking," he said. "The

life; it is a social affair."

Tuesday afternoon meetings.

"And Kay Rossi comes every Tuesday

have to get the people involved, get the

people active," he said. "It's difficult

sad thing is it's only Tuesday afternoons.' Neyhart suggested some other ways of improving the plight of the elderly. "Better communications. We have to

do a better job of communicating through the radio, newspapers and elevision," he said. "We should make things more convenient for the elderly," he said. "Practically everything on campus is at night. They are afraid to go out at night." In response to an election year, Neyhart said the club tried to urge the elderly to vote.

At their Election Day meeting, Neyhart said, "We had a big cake and on it, it said, 'Did you vote today?' When I asked, every hand in that room went Neyhart, whose most noticeable characteristic is his unflagging op-

imism, said he has high hopes for the earth," he said. "We should not discard. destroy, kick out all that we have; we should take what we have and make it

"I'm very optimistic," Neyhart said. "My wife will tell you, "In 57 years of marriage, never have I found him down





"About three or fo years ago we identified the need fo about 700 lowincome elderly unit countywide,' Casher said. "We're about halfway

In State College, Belire, Court provides 18 low-income hising units to senior citizens, and the Mt. Nittany Residence complex nea Hills Department Store contains 10 low-income units for the elderly. late last summer, has o vacancies; Bellaire Court has five uts open. another major problem it the elderly Amos Neyhart, presidentof the State

because they can't afford toper care.

sites around the county, provides infor- transportation to the State College and week (except for the State College that has failed to keep pace with the ris- grandchildren of the elderly-hould take

"You can't receive services if you The five center directors agreed that swimming class at the Bellefonte center. Finances are a problem for in- enemy - instead of a nature part of the

busy college town, easily navgated

people in their daily efforts b get

from place to place.

young college students, often poses many obstacles for ederly

Student opinions on calendar gathered

Daily Collegian Staff Writer A final report on student opinions of

Student Government project said. students about the proposed switch to a semester system, said Mark Berg, Council's Committee for Credible

It will also contain information from a telephone survey of 400 University Park students and 250 Commonwealth campus students, as well as a section listing the problems unique to each student organization, Berg said.

The committee ran into several minor problems in the course of its investigation, including difficulties getting the survey printed and getting

at noon today in the HUB Ballroom.

Neighbor," at 8 tonight in 112 Kern.

in 111 Animal Industries Building.

or less. 10° each

concert of Bob Sobol doing a memorial to John Lennon White Building.

Men's basketball coach Dick Harter will be the

• The Office of International Student Affairs will

present a lecture by James Bostain titled, "Read your

• Students interested in becoming student

sounselors, who did not attend last night's meeting

• The Block and Bridle Club will meet at 7:30 tonigh

should go to 135 Boucke to schedule an interview.

guest on Sportstalk at 8 tonight on WDFM, 91 FM.

September, had been scheduled for worked through term break it could the new system for student groups to completion on Dec. 1, but an exten- have met the original deadline. sion was granted by the administra- "Had the deadline been kept at tion until Dec. 19. Berg said his com- Dec. 1, we would have had it in by the

first," he said. Committee member Andrea Sola process at the onset," Berg said, "but the organizations to turn in their we didn't go in with the knowledge specific concerns and for the results that it would take longer than the of the telephone survey to be run Fran Kenawell, president of the

Association of Residence Halls Ellie Sternberg, a student Students, said the committee started representative on the University slowly because of confusion over the Council, said that after the committee's final report is presented, the what University President John W. vestigations into one major report on

if now we can give a good input either report to Oswald before the new Feb. Berg agreed, "That's a big problem 1 deadline, Sternberg said. — they don't have the specifics." James Dungan, special assistant to the director of planning and budget, most people surveyed had an opinion said if Oswald decides to change to a

HUB presents John Lennon tribute today

meet at 7 tonight in 307 Boucke.

• The Student Health Resource Organization will

The Individual and Family Studies Undergraduate

Student Organization will hold a counseling skills

workshop at 7 tonight in the Living Center of Human

• The Agronomy Club will meet at 7:30 tonight in 111

The sailing division of the Penn State Outing Club

will meet at 7:30 tonight in 112 Buckhout.

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Season's Greetings

Classified Section on

"I think we hit the major concerns and a lot that no one even thought of,''

Berg was optimistic about the report's effect on the administra-

The committee will present the "If the students do come out strongy one way or the other, we hope the University will look seriously at it " he said. Still, Berg said he doubts the committee will ever know how much the University relied on the report in

aid in the planning of the new

Berg refused to comment on whether the report will indicate that the students are in favor of the change or not. He said it would be unfair to the administration if it was not

• The Student Christian Involvement Program will

• Persons interested in working with the morale

committee at the Interfraternity Dance Marathon will

• The Student Assistance Center will hold a study

skills workshop at 3:45 this afternoon in 317 HUB.

Study habits and test-taking skills will be featured.

meet at 7 tonight in 102 Forum.

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01 Chambers

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62 Willard

The results of the telephone survey will be made public at Thursday's meeting of the University Student Adthe rugs at \$2,000.

spokesman said.

hold an Advent Communion Breakfast at 7 this morning at the Faith United Church of Christ, 300 E. College • Robert D. Weaver, 711 W. Foster • The Undergraduate Student Government depart- Sunday. Police said the original cost of

Audio-visual devices stolen, police report

3939 S. Atherton St., was burglarized technician, told University Police Ser-Tuesday, state police from the State Corvices that his car was broken into while rectional Institute at Rockview said. Of- parked in lot Orange E on Tuesday. fice and audio-visual equipment valued Police estimated damage to the rear at \$16,088 was stolen, police said.

 Scott Fogelsanger told the State Col Bill Tomoschuk (8th-social welfare) lege Police Department four oriental told University police his car window rugs were stolen from Balfurd Fabric was broken in to and two coats were Care Services, 320 W. Beaver Ave., bet-stolen when it was parked in lot Red E on ween early September and early Tuesday. Police estimated the total December. Police estimated the value of damage and loss at \$180.

• A car driven by Janice Mayes, 17, Boalsburg, was forced off the road into a fire hydrant in an accident by an unknown vehicle on Main Street in Boalsburg on Tuesday, state police at Rockview said. Mayes was accompanied by Sharon told University police his bicycle was

released for minor injuries, a hospital found the bicycle in a picnic area along Police estimated the damage to the damage and loss at \$150. Mayes car to be moderate.

Ave., told State College police two pine justice) told State College police tape trees were stolen from his property on player and an FM converter were stolen ment of women's services will meet at 7 tonight in 306 the trees was \$160, but replacement

slips. Police said the case is still under value of the tree was \$20.

hatch at \$200.

 Mark Hamstra (2nd-liberal arts Mayes, who was taken to Centre County stolen from a bicycle rack at Snyder Hall Park Avenue. Police estimated the

 Evelyn Hensel, 445 Waupelani • Martha Wrye, Milesburg, told state Drive, told State College police four hubpolice at Rockview two rings were stolen caps were taken from her vehicle from her home sometime in the past two sometime before Saturday. Police months. Police estimated the value of estimated the value of the hubcaps at

> Craig Hutzell (8th-administration of from his car on either Monday or Tuesday. Police estimated damage to the car and loss of the items at \$110.

• Robert Elison, 20, South • State College police said approx- Williamsport, was arrested for stealing McAn shoe store at the Nittany Mall on Institute at Rockview on Tuesday, state Nov. 26 by falsifying monetary return police at Rockview said. Police said the

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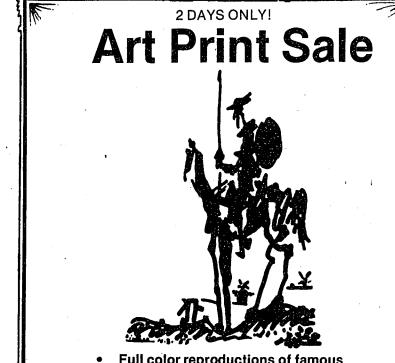
> Goodbye, John! May you live forever

> > You were the Walrus. . .

weren't you.

Christopher J. Cefaly

Ralf P. Southard



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