



Photo by Suzanne Tyrrell

Towering tulips

Though May has not yet arrived, these tulips are in full bloom in front of Rittenour Health Center. April must have already brought enough showers to encourage the springing up of these blossoms.

Product helps women fight rape

By SUZANNE M. CASSIDY
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Even Happy Valley is not immune to the tragedy of rape, and many female University students are looking for a way to defend themselves against this violent crime.

Chem-Shield, a product manufactured by a company that calls itself "We Care America," is a chemical spray that can be carried at all times by women to protect themselves in case a threatening situation should arise. Mike Berger (12th-nutrition science), a local distributor for Chem-Shield, says this product is not made but a non-lethal chemical repellent that can be sprayed on an assailant to induce temporary blindness, tremendous pain, a feeling of suffocation, dizziness and nausea.

Berger said the spray is most effective when it is directed at the facial area because it can strongly irritate the eyes and the mucous membranes of the attacker to produce an immediate feeling of choking.

The Chem-Shield spray comes in a small case that is attached to a key chain for convenient carrying, Berger said.

"The idea is that you always have your keys with you, so you'll always have Chem-Shield with you," he said. "It's not something you have to fumble in your pocket. You just take it out and you can just keep it in your hand in case a threatening situation comes up."

Berger said that the reason he decided to sell Chem-Shield was because many University students are convinced that State College does not have a crime

problem. As a result, he said, most students believe that it is not necessary to protect themselves against the possibility of attack.

Chem-Shield has not been a high priority item because so many students here think Happy Valley is a fantasyland," he said. "But crime is here—and it takes place during the daytime and the nighttime."

The legality of spray repellents like Chem-Shield varies in different communities, but State College Police Officer Brian Clouser, crime prevention specialist, said Chem-Shield is legal in this municipality.

Other municipalities in Pennsylvania recognize its legality, but some have passed ordinances regarding the usage and carrying of this product as a self-defense weapon.

Clouser said the State College police neither recommend nor discourage the carrying of chemical spray repellents, but he warns against dependence on them as a sole means of self-protection.

"The biggest danger in relying too heavily on a product such as this is that it may give you a false sense of security," he said. Several students who have purchased Chem-Shield agreed that it can not be regarded as an absolute solution.

"Especially on campus, I'm often out alone at night and I figured it gives me a little more security," said Heidi Smith (12th-nutrition science).

Perry Stambaugh (9th-broadcast journalism) said he purchased Chem-Shield for his girlfriend because she travels in the Harrisburg area which he said is considered to be a risk area.

"I felt it would give her a little bit of added security," he said. "Our society is getting worse all the time—we need some protection. I'd recommend it for a guy for that matter—a one never knows."

Nudine Baba (7th-administration of justice) said, "I just felt like I needed some protection. I'd definitely use it if I had to." Clouser said that the effectiveness of spray repellents depends on variables like the wind conditions and the ability of the potential victim to employ the repellent accurately under pressure.

He also warned against the possibility of the attacker taking the repellent from the victim and using it to weaken their defense. Berger said he recognized this possibility, but added that unlike other objects that victims may try to employ, such as a knife or a gun, Chem-Shield could do no permanent damage to the victim.

"There are experts and self-defense classes that tell you not to carry anything that could be used against you, but with Chem-Shield, if it's taken away from you, any damage done to you is only temporary," Berger said.

"If it's used on you, the fumes will come off of you and affect the attacker so that if he was going to rape you, he wouldn't be able to carry through with it," he said. "If you try to use something like a nail file to defend yourself, the damage could be permanent," he said.

Pulitzer prize winner to speak

The School of Journalism and the Penn State chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi will present a lecture and slide show by Tom Kelly, Pulitzer prize-winning photographer, at 8 tonight in 382 Willard.

The Hetzel Union Board will sponsor a coffeehouse from 8 to 10 tonight in the HUB main lounge. The Rustical Quality String Band and Phil Sweeney will be featured.

Applications for the Coaly Society, an agricultural activity honor society, are now available in 217 Agricultural Administration Building and 104 Bortland Lab. Deadline for applying is 5 Monday afternoon.

The local chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers will hold an organizational meeting at 7 tonight in 305 HUB. Plans for the picnic and canoe race will be discussed.

Alpha Lambda Delta's meeting for current members and new initiates scheduled for tonight has been postponed until May 6.

The HUB Craft Centre will hold registration for second session craft classes from noon to 5 this afternoon in 312 HUB.

Collegian notes

Lambda Alpha Epsilon will meet and hold elections at 7:30 tonight in 3025 Human Development.

The College Consumer Party will distribute literature on El Salvador today in the HUB basement. There will also be a sign-up sheet for anyone interested in taking a bus to the upcoming Washington demonstration to protest U.S. involvement in El Salvador.

The Environmental Resource Management Club will meet at 7:30 tonight in 301 Agricultural Administration Building.

The department of architecture will present a talk by California architect Kendrick Kellogg at 8 tonight in the auditorium of Mineral Sciences Building.

The Kung Fu Club will meet at 8 tonight in 133 White Building.

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