

Council may act on lane proposal

The State College Municipal Council is expected to take final action tonight on the North Atherton Street turning lane proposals, Municipal Manager Carl B. Fairbanks said.

The State College Planning Commission approved with modifications Thursday the recommendation of Dennis Elpern, senior planner of the Centre Region Planning Commission.

The council will take into consideration the commission's recommendation and the previous recommendation from the Traffic Commission when deciding on action concerning North Atherton Street, Fairbanks said.

The council is also scheduled to consider action on amendments to the police pension ordinance. The council had suggested amendments to the ordinance that would have jeopardized the municipality's state funding, Fairbanks said. He said some of the suggestions were not specified in Act 600, the state law governing state funding for police pensions.

The municipality could lose up to \$150,000 in state funding if its police pension plan did not meet Act 600 guidelines, Fairbanks said.

The council is also scheduled to discuss the State College Board of Health's recommendation for an ordinance banning smoking in public places in the borough. The board would like the council to pass a local ordinance and to support the proposed state ordinance banning smoking, Fairbanks said.

The council will meet tonight at 7:30 in the State College Municipal Building.

—by Margaret Ann Walsh

Common Cause lobbyist fighting repeal of reforms

Continued from Page 3.
They also want to repeal the special prosecutor mechanism of the Ethics and Government Act and the assistant attorney general said he'd like it repealed and if not repealed, he'd like it seriously weakened.

He's right up front about it. They are calling for restrictions on the Freedom of Information Act.

There are a number of areas on substantive policy disagreements about which we have a lot of trouble with the Reagan administration. The troubling thing about those reform issues is that they are not saying "Let's take a look at these laws and possibly refine them." What they're saying is, "These need a new look, let's do away with them." That's a major policy difference we have with the Reagan administration. Carter was very good on those issues.

COLLEGIAN: How would you react to these statements: Lobbyists are bad because they persuade a legislator to align himself with a special interest group rather than his constituency; and a lobbyist only serves as another catalyst who spurs government corruption.

HEDLUND: I think that as an absolute statement is wrong. Whenever you look at groups and make judgments about a group, it tends to have grains of truth in it, but also hyperbole.

I'm a lobbyist, in fact, my business card lists myself as Jay Hedlund, lobbyist. I give that out to folks on the Hill and they laugh at me. They say they've never seen anybody identify himself as a lobbyist before. There are 15,000 lobbyists in Washington.

COLLEGIAN: What type of title would the other

lobbyists use?
HEDLUND: They call themselves Washington representative, legislative liaison, what have you, because the connotation of lobbyist is a bad one.

I feel a lobbyist's main job is to deal in information. You picture the lobbyist that deals with a satchel full of money and spreads it around. I am not so naive as to say that has never happened, but a lobbyist's real job is to deal in information.

It's not to say that we are right. There will be other sides coming in, but a legislator's job, if the system works right, is to balance the information that I might give him or the chamber of commerce might give him on the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

COLLEGIAN: How about the problem that he won't be receiving any information or input from people who are not represented through lobbyists?

HEDLUND: That's a problem. That's a real problem, and the growth of interest groups and the sophistication of lobbying techniques has left a whole segment of society under-represented.

In Washington, when you tie lobbying with campaign contributions, you'll find that wealthy trade associations, business groups, unions, make large contributions during a campaign. And they'll back it up with lobbyists that are in Washington, who, right after the election are saying we need help on this issue. Or right before the next election or contribution are saying we need help on this issue and a legislator wants to get elected.

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