

district magistrates

Realignment proposal supported

Police chief Williams addresses public hearing

The State College Police Department on Monday asked that Harris Township be added to the magisterial district of State College Magistrate Clifford Yorks.

At a public hearing on realignment proposals for Centre County's four district magistrates, State College Police Chief Elwood G. Williams Jr. said the change would be more convenient for his force.

"Our motive is somewhat selfish," Williams said. State College police began providing police service to Harris Township last Wednesday. The township is now under the jurisdiction of District Magistrate Keith Bierly, so State College police now must deal with both Yorks and Bierly.

According to 1979 data, Yorks' State College office handled 23,739 cases, while Bierly's Centre Hall office handled 1,610. The state average for the year was 3,262.

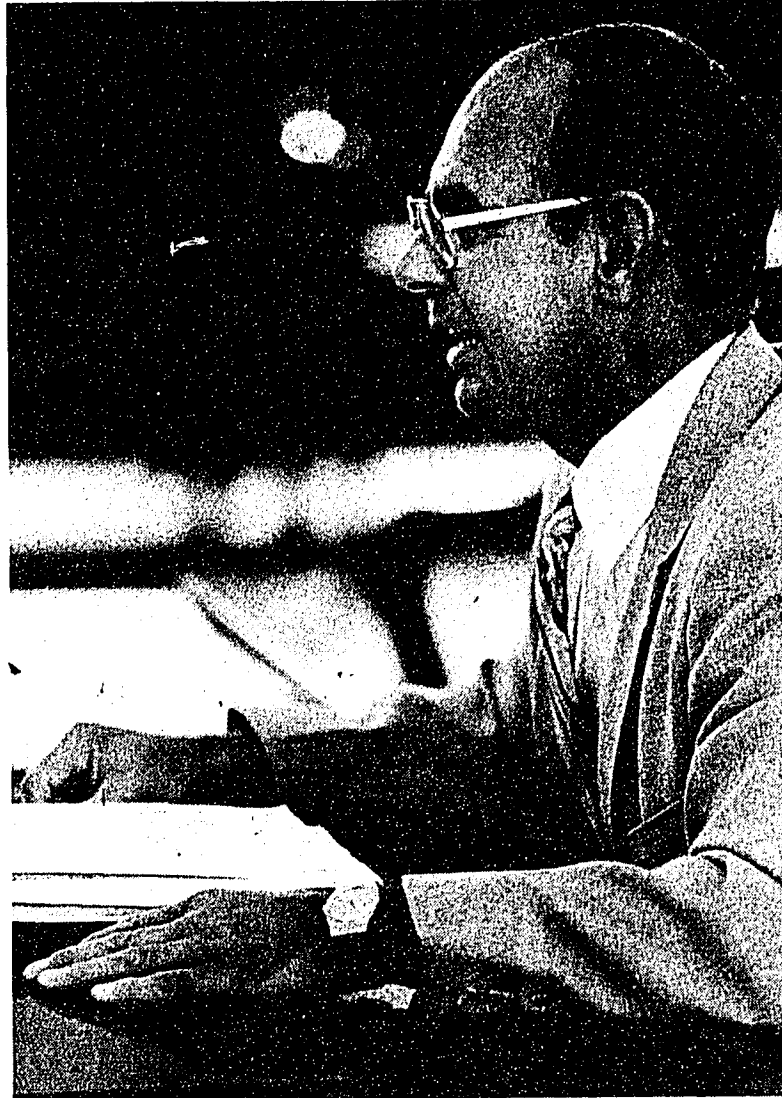
Part of the realignment proposal, drafted by court administrator Lawrence C. Bickford, would have Bierly work out of the State College office three days a week to help equalize the workload.

"It looks to us like a very reasonable assessment," Williams said.

Among those attending the hearing were Yorks, Williams, Bierly and Bellefonte District Magistrate Louise O. Green. Williams was the only person to address the hearing.

Judge Charles C. Brown Jr., who conducted the hearing, said Bickford's report and a transcript of the public hearing would be forwarded to the state Supreme Court. It will be up to the Supreme Court to make a final decision on the realignment proposals.

The state requires a reappraisal of magisterial boundaries every ten years after the results of the census are announced.



—by David Medzerian *Elwood G. Williams Jr., State College police chief*

CATA:

Reorganization could eliminate student rep

By MARGARET ANN WALSH
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The Centre Area Transportation Authority voted yesterday to endorse a reorganization plan that would eliminate the student representative on CATA's board of directors.

CATA also agreed to endorse a resolution sent to the Centre Region Council of Governments by State College representative Jim Miller calling for CATA to become a joint authority administered by the COG.

CATA is presently a State College Municipal Authority, with membership on the board subject to approval by the municipal council.

The reorganization would mean that each of the member municipalities would be equally responsible for CATA, Miller said. The reorganization would also mean that the board membership would consist of a representative from each of the municipalities, he said.

The borough does not want to assume the sole legal liability for CATA, Miller said.

Under the plan, CATA would have an advisory committee, Miller said. The advisory committee would consist of one or two student representatives as well as rider representatives and representatives from the elderly and handicapped community. Members of the advisory committee would not have a vote, he said.

Undergraduate Student Government President Bill Cluck said the reorganization looks like a step in the right direction, although it would be preferable if CATA became an independent joint authority instead of part of the COG.

"The advisory committee will be more effective with two student representatives, one off-campus and one on-campus," he said. "It will also take into consideration various interest groups."

CATA also heard from members of the handicapped community about the recently amended elderly and handicapped accessibility regulations.

The citizens preferred a combination of buses with wheelchair lifts and paratransit services — specialized, door-to-door service.

Irene Toth of Mount Nittany Residences said she was

concerned with the regularity of paratransit services. If they have to be called in a day or more in advance, it would remove the possibility of spontaneous travelling. That is one reason why a combination of services would be best, she said, so riders could depend on the regular bus services.

Donald Smidley, a handicapped citizen, said in addition to negative feedback, CATA should also look at reports from cities where the use of lifts has been a success.

'The advisory committee will be more effective with two student representatives, one off-campus and one on-campus.'

—Bill Cluck, Undergraduate Student Government president

CATA General Manager Paul Oversier said CATA has 30 days to decide if their new buses on order are to have lifts and six months to decide which of the options for accessibility they will use. The system needs more citizen input before making its decision, he said.

CATA also approved minor schedule changes in the B (Boalsburg), C (Houserville/Lemont), ES (Evening Shuttle) and X (Bellefonte/Nittany Mall) routes.

The ES route will discontinue its 6:41 Waupelani Drive trip and replace it with an extended 6:40 RE (Waupelani Drive) trip, Oversier said. Bus passes, which cannot be used on the ES route, can be used on the 6:40 RE trip, he said. The ES will also add a 12:43 a.m. Waupelani Drive trip for students using the library until closing and for students leaving downtown from other late night activities, he said.

The changes will go into effect on September 3.



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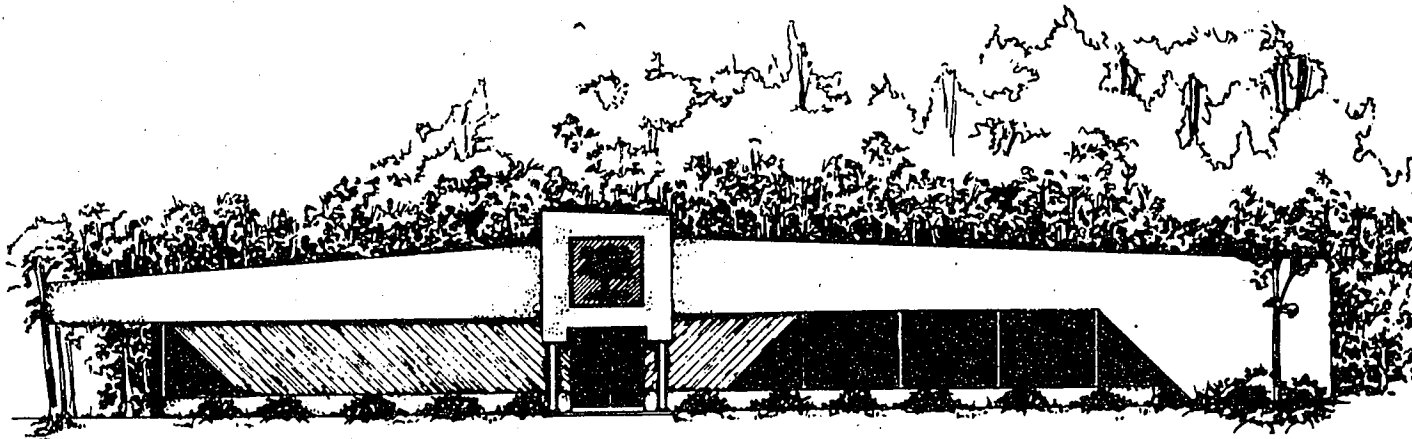
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