

Talent shows in Summer Week

11 rising stars perform for fun and cash prizes

The Pollock-Nittany Residence Hall Association gave people a chance to catch a rising star Wednesday night when 11 students competed for cash prizes in a talent show as part of the Association of Residence Hall Students' Summer Week.

In a show characterized by serious acts — not the silly — the first prize of \$25 was awarded to Lydia Fraser (7th-petroleum and natural gas engineering) and her sister Leah (7th-biology), for their harmonizing vocals as they performed "Faithless Love" and "The Rose." Their accompanist on piano was Mike Roberts (1st-psychology).

Second prize of \$15 went to Joe Campbell (9th-mechanical engineering) and Sue Wendlek (3rd-health, physical education and recreation) for performing two James Taylor compositions, featuring Campbell's vocals and guitar work with Wendlek's harmony.

Two jazz compositions performed by John DiTieri (2nd-mechanical engineering) on saxophone and Jamie Ward (1st-physical education) on piano, won the \$10 third prize. Both musicians perform in bands, but said they still experienced some nervousness before the show.

"It's different with just two instruments because there's more concentration on you," DiTieri said.

Andy Mozenter, assistant director of the residence hall programs and emcee for the occasion, said, "Most of the time these talent shows have people up here with bags on their heads and toothpaste coming out of their ears, but this is serious stuff."

Dave Cushing, summer ARHS president, and Dave Linde, technical director for the show, said they tried to present peer talent that would not become reminiscent of The Gong Show.

—by Carole Trottere



Lydia Fraser sings at yesterday's talent show, sponsored by the Pollock-Nittany Residence Hall Association. Lydia and her sister, Leah, won first prize for singing "Faithless Love" and "The Rose."

Power rates to stay constant, West Penn Power official says

By DAVID MEDZERIAN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

West Penn Power Co. customers' electric bills should remain about constant because the company has no immediate plans to increase its rates, the supervisor of public information for the company said Wednesday.

"We have no present plans to file for a rate increase at this time," said Robert B. Van Atta at a luncheon news conference at Toftrees.

Van Atta said the company requested its last rate increase in April 1980, which went into effect in January.

Arthur Scheib, vice president for customer services, said the Greensburg-based company is in an enviable position among energy companies because about 95 percent of the company's power comes from burning coal.

West Penn's next major power station, planned for Armstrong County, would also be a coal-fueled facility, Van Atta said. The plant is scheduled to go into service in 1989 and would cost about \$2.6 million.

Van Atta said the company uses coal at its plant because of the abundance of the resource in the state. The company has studied the use of alternative "exotic" systems, but Van Atta said they were economically unfeasible.

"For example," he said, "we've studied the wind." However, Van Atta said the area is not windy enough that wind is a practical source of electricity.

He said solar power is also difficult to use in western and central Pennsylvania because of the shortage of sunny days — about 71 per year.

"It doesn't seem feasible for this area," he said.

Scheib said the cost of alternative power sources is also too high. He said a wind turbine for electrical generation would cost about \$3,700 per kilowatt — about five to six times the cost at the company's newest coal-powered station.

He said photovoltaic cells for solar power are even more expensive — about \$10,000 per kilowatt.

"It isn't quite the free source it claims to be," he said.

The company has no nuclear-powered generating stations because they were not proven to be economically possible, Van Atta said.

State College is the largest municipality served by West Penn Power, and Van Atta said that despite national trends, electrical use in the area has increased.

He said this is because of an increase in the number of customers served, increased use by present customers and the fact that the company serves rapidly growing areas.

"One of our fastest growing areas is Centre County," he said. He said that, systemwide, the company is experiencing about 2 1/2 to 3 percent growth per year, and that figure also applies to the Centre Region.

Asked about the possibility of offering lower rates to customers who use electricity during off-peak hours, Scheib said the company will begin a limited program of rate reduction in the fall. West Penn plans on offering a 2.26 cent per kilowatt hour reduction to about 400 residential customers for off-peak usage, he said.

He said that although the difference to the company between peak and off-peak hours is only 0.4 cents per kilowatt hour, the company will begin offering the reduced rate as an experiment.

Although the company has set standards for new residential customers, Van Atta said their future is uncertain.

He said the first company in the state to implement such standards, Allentown's Pennsylvania Power and Light Co., has been taken to court by a construction group that says the insulation standards are unfair.

"Our standards were not set to go into effect until Oct. 1," Scheib said.

West Penn is "sitting by quietly" awaiting a decision in the PP&L case, he said.

Wednesday's news conference was one of 12 luncheon meetings for reporters held throughout West Penn's system. Van Atta said the programs are held so the company can obtain input on its operations and to discuss local issues.

Correction

Because of a reporting error, it was stated in Wednesday's Daily Collegian that the Centre Area Transportation Authority has voted to endorse a proposal by State College representative Jim Miller to reorganize CATA into a joint authority administered by the Centre Region Council of Governments. Miller's proposal was for CATA to

become an independent joint authority. The proposal was submitted to COG for consideration.

In the same story, the information that CATA will hold a public hearing on proposed route changes was omitted. The hearing will be held on Aug. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the State College Municipal Building, 118 S. Fraser St.

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