

Concern for the disabled lessening

By KATHY ANDREWS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The proposed cancellation of guidelines that require handicapped accessibility to federal buildings indicates that the government is really losing its concern for the disabled, said Jeffrey Alan Watson, adviser to the University's Association for Barrier-Free Living Environment and Design.

"The federal government is saying that they no longer feel the disabled need to be accommodated architecturally," Watson said. "By allowing barriers to remain, (Reagan) forces the disabled to accept welfare and employment that is sub-standard."

Watson said his reaction to the proposed rescission is very negative.

"It comes down to the fact that Reagan is forgetting the little people," he said. "The guidelines, adopted at the end of

the Carter administration and labeled too costly by the Reagan administration, apply to new construction, additions or alterations at federal buildings or newly leased buildings for federal agencies.

The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board on Sept. 22 delayed action on the proposed rescission of guidelines that require federal buildings be accessible to the handicapped.

Instead, the board voted unanimously to extend the public comment period for another 45 days until Nov. 6. The board will delay action until Dec. 1.

Watson said the 45-day extension does not give the disabled people enough time to get together and decide what to do.

"It gives you enough time to know, but not to respond," he said.

The board, which is composed of 11 federal members and 11 public members, voted 12-10 at the July 10 meeting to abolish the guidelines.

Brenda Hamester, University coordinator of services for the disabled, said the extension period is encouraging, but questions whether it will change the majority of the board's decision.

Hamester is responsible for the renovations being done on the first floor Sparks Building to make it more accessible to the handicapped.

"I'm not too hopeful the guidelines will survive," Hamester said. "It's an interesting split between groups advocating for the disabled and the federal government."

Carl Goodman, public information specialist for the compliance board, said it recognized very quickly the need to extend the comment period on such a controversial issue.

He said 12 issues, or 95 percent of the guidelines, are controversial.

Bellefonte route in jeopardy

By L.A. HILL
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Centre Line "X" Bellefonte route riders may be walking home or finding other modes of transportation next year if the Bellefonte Town Council decides not to fund the route.

Centre Area Transportation Authority General Manager Paul Overstier said he will meet in a work session later this month with the Bellefonte council concerning funding of the "X" route for 1982.

CATA Vice Chairman Jim Miller said the Bellefonte route, which is now funded by Centre County, was initiated in 1969 as a "2-year pilot project."

"For the last two years Centre County has paid for Bellefonte's share," he said.

Overstier said if Bellefonte doesn't fund the route CATA will have to discontinue the "X" route next year.

The Bellefonte route has always faced cutbacks in services because of a lack of funds.

Last May, CATA cut the service from 17 to 10 daily round trips because the Centre County Commissioners cut their funding of the route from \$10,591 to \$5,699.

Overstier said although a cutback in services usually causes a decrease in ridership, that hasn't been the case with the "X" route.

"Essentially we cut services by almost one-third and ridership still went up by almost one-fifth," he said.

The board also agreed to ask for a clause in the contract which would give CATA some input in case of "objectionable advertising."

"I would think that they'd have as much interest as we do in seeing that advertising is acceptable," Overstier said.

He said Morgan Signs also indicated it wanted to place one or two public service announcements in the advertisement racks.

Frank Finsinger, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said riders on the "X" run are "very

aware" of the possible elimination of their bus service.

"The people down here are very, very supportive of the bus system," he said. He said he would expect a good turnout if the Bellefonte council session was made public.

Overstier also said Bellefonte riders "should be encouraged to go to the work session if Bellefonte decides to open it up."

The session is set for Oct. 19.

In other business yesterday, CATA decided to execute a contract with Morgan Signs Inc., 403 S. Allen St., to place advertisements inside the CATA buses.

Under the contract CATA will receive 50 percent of the advertising profits.

Overstier said he "couldn't say at this point" how much money CATA will receive from the advertisements.

The revenue, he said, "depends on rate structure and how well the space sells."

Overstier said Morgan Signs indicated a desire to proceed as soon as possible with the advertisements because it is more difficult to secure advertising in the winter months.

"We have uniformed police officers here so students will look and say, 'He's not so bad,'" McJunkin said.

Service available to former CETA employees

Federally funded Bureau of Job Service provides assistance through job referral, testing

Former Comprehensive Employment and Training Act employees whose jobs were eliminated earlier this year because of federal budget cuts can seek help getting jobs in the private sector through the Bureau of Job Service.

Since March, local Job Service offices have been assisting these people looking for jobs. Services offered include Aptitude Testing, Job Development, Career Counseling and Job Referral.

The federally funded program was announced by Joseph E. Fay, Regional Director of the Williamsport Bureau of Job Service.

Former CETA employees to whom the program applies are trained or experienced Public Service Employee officials. Their jobs are primarily Title II-D jobs, which have consistently high unemployment rates.

Other jobs fall under Title VI which have more sporadic rates of unemployment.

Applicants in either of these categories were usually situated in municipal and non-professional agencies.

However, Fay said, "There are a number of back grounds from which the applicants come. The only real common denominator is that they are unemployed."

In the State College Area both the CETA Manpower Agency and the local Job Service office, 311 Benner Pike, are participating in the effort.

Frank Clemson, manager of the State College Job Service office, said he supports the program. He added, however, that CETA was "not hit as heavily here (by the Reagan Administration tax cut) as in other areas."

—by Shawn Israel

Police officers available for questions at HUB table

By ANNE CONNERS
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The average policeman is fat, talks in a southern drawl and hates anyone under 50. Right? Wrong, says James McJunkin, chairman of the Undergraduate Student Government's Police Services Committee.

To foster better communication between students and State College and University Police, the committee has set up a table in the basement of the HUB which will be staffed all this week, McJunkin said.

"We have uniformed police officers here so students will look and say, 'He's not so bad,'" McJunkin said.

Police officers available for questions at HUB table

"Most police contacts are 'You did something wrong and I caught you,'" he said. "This is a chance to have some contact other than that."

A State College Police Officer, Blaine Corle, said it was a good opportunity to interact with students on a relaxed basis.

"It's a good opportunity — especially for us," he said. "The only interaction we have is some type of incident that occurs. We don't get that much of a chance to get input."

Corle said several students stopped and asked him questions.

"The table will be set up in the HUB for the rest of this week, McJunkin said.

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'Living filter' treats waste

By GENE GRYGO
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

During the early 1960s, the University discovered that waste water from the sewage treatment plant on University Drive was polluting Spring Creek with compounds of nitrogens and phosphorus. The compounds caused the aquatic plant life to grow in abnormal abundance.

A team of University scientists then began to research the possibilities of a third stage of water treatment that would eliminate the high nutrient levels of the University's waste effluent.

The research team decided to develop a system of experimental sites that would be irrigated with chlorinated water. The sites were set up on University farm lands and state game commission lands.

This enterprise became known as the "living filter" project, and the experiment has led to the construction of two permanent irrigation sites that will be completed next year.

Lloyd Niemann, University manager of utility systems, said the two irrigation sites will be on the agronomy areas near the Special Services Building on Fox Hall Road and the gameland zones near Tototres.

The need to expand the University's waste water treatment was caused by the University and State College populations during the years 1955 to 1970, said Richard Parizek, professor of geology and geophysics.

Parizek was a member of the research team responsible for finding sites for the living filter experiments.

The living filter project had to cross many scientific and applied science disciplines, and experiments for the project involved professors from the departments of geology, forestry, agronomy, engineering and zoology, he said.

Parizek said that besides the University's excessive nutrient dumping, many State College residents had been using sewer wells, dry wells and tile fields — all unsafe methods.

The fractured bedrock under most of these fields took the water, but only if the population remained relatively low, he said. Once the population increased the level of safety decreased, he said.

"The University had to protect the health of the citizens," he said.

"There were many goals for this project," Parizek said. "We were aiming at getting water more pure than first and secondary treatment."

Parizek's team determined, in a report to the Environmental Protection Agency in 1974, that spraying waste water on land offers farmers "a guaranteed economic level of crop yield" and purified 60 to 100 percent of the waste water.

"We applied the effluent in the winter to defuse the troubles of spraying in winter," Parizek said. "We sprayed up to 6 inches of waste water in a week."

Despite the apparent success of living filter project experiments, many soil and geology specialists disagree on the effect of the treated waste water will have on the soil, water table and crops of the area.

Some of the specialists said waste water could raise the level of dangerous bacteria in the soil as well as the levels of heavy metals, and that waste water leaves too few nutrients in the soil.

Excessive deposits of heavy metals such as copper, zinc, chromium, lead, cobalt, cadmium and nickel that build up in the soil can be toxic to humans if animals raised for food production eat plants contaminated with heavy metals, Parizek said.

Another report to the EPA in 1968, compiled by William E. Sopper, professor of forest hydrology, and Sonia Kerr, an environmental research analyst, concluded that the spraying of effluent from the University's sewage treatment plant "did not significantly increase the trace metal concentrations in the soil or vegetation when applied over a 16-year period."

Kerr said there are virtually no problems with heavy metals in the soil of the State College area.

"A lot of people have shown concern about the level of heavy metals but there's virtually no industrial input," she said. "There have been more investigations, more doctoral theses on this site. This is a very studied area. The soil, the animals, the birds, the earthworms all have been studied."

She said treated waste water irrigation stimulates growth in an ecosystem, but the population remains constant.

"You may get a change in the type of animal or birds," she said. "The kind of animals change from ground to the herbaceous (tree-dwelling) level."

Kerr said another major public concern is that the living filter system will give off an offensive odor.

"A lot of people are concerned about the stink. But when we bring people to the site they say, 'Hey, it doesn't smell.' Properly treated, effluent on land will not have an odor," she said.

"There have been more investigations, more doctoral theses on this site. This is a very studied area. The soil, the animals, the birds, the earthworms all have been studied."

—Sonia Kerr, environmental research analyst

The living filter system is good for keeping streams and lakes clean but presents some major problems for the farmer, Dale Baker, professor of soil chemistry, said. Baker was never directly involved with the project but has worked on similar ones.

"The excess water on the soil speeds up the soil process. The life expectancy of a site is limited. Sooner or later you're going to have to change your site. After 10 to 30 years you'll have to go to another site."

"The soil irrigated with treated waste water has a limited nutrient concentration, and if there aren't enough nutrients in the soil the crop won't produce," he said.

Baker said farmers would have to supplement their soil with fertilizers to produce a good crop.

"All these are managerial difficulties that can be worked out. I say, 'Proceed with the best technology possible,'" he said.

Bacteria levels in the water from a land application system will be a problem for farmers, said C. Edwin Young, a professor of agricultural economics and a project leader for the United States Department of Agriculture.

"You still do have to worry about bacteria. There are a bacterial remains in the waste water. There have been studies where bacteria in the air have been found 1,000 miles away from a waste water irrigation system. I wouldn't say it's totally safe — you do have to take some precautions," he said.

"I'd say it's the best option for a small rural area that just has to have some advanced system to remove the nutrients of nitrogen and phosphorus," he said.

Young said waste water application is an option that requires access to low-cost land, a level area for the irrigation system and proximity to the community it is serving.

Sludge used as fertilizer to enhance waste water could have serious consequences if the sludge has toxic chemicals in it, he said.