

Sororities to receive vote

Delegates to be on South Halls Council

By JENNY CLOUSE
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

When South Halls Council approves its amended constitution after the first of the year, each sorority headquartered in South Halls will receive a vote in the council, said Dean Ball, council president.

According to the constitution, each house of each dormitory in South Halls has one delegate and thus one vote in the council. The new constitution will provide for a vote for each of the eight sororities in addition to the vote for each house.

"Each house gets a representative in South Halls Council, and a sorority is a member of a house," Ball said. "However, because of lack of communication between independent and sorority floors, participation (of sororities in council) hasn't been that good.

"We just want to try to get a little interaction between sorority members and members of South Halls," he said. "We (South Halls Council) had a meeting with five of the eight sororities in South Halls, and they were all in favor of it."

Parliamentary Council President Wendy Okes said she thinks the change is a step in the right direction toward improving relations between sororities and the South Halls Council.

"I think that it's a really good idea — I'm glad (Ball) is acting on it," Okes said.

Mary Lynn Ripp, a member of Alpha Sigma Alpha sorority, said she believes the action is a positive move.

"I don't feel that we are involved in council enough," she said. "I think it would be a good idea to become more involved because, after all, we live here.

"I think people will get involved, because there's more of a chance to get things done that are related to us — that involve us," Ripp said.

However, a significant increase in interaction between sororities and the council is not likely, Priscilla Braham, a member of Delta Delta Delta sorority, said.

"Since sororities run so independently within themselves, there really isn't enough time to devote to many other activities," Braham said.

"Although it's important to have the communication between sororities and council, I don't think interaction is going to increase," she added. "There's already a lot of apathy toward Panhel, which is the center of sorority activity.

"If they can't generate enough involvement in this, I don't think there will be more involvement in such things as council."

David Linde, a member of the Pollock-Nittany Residence Hall Association, said PNRA will see what happens with the change in South Halls Council before acting on any similar proposal for the Pollock-Nittany area, which houses 10 sororities.

"The best thing is to wait to see what happens in South Halls," Linde said. "Our policy changed at the beginning of the year, because the attitude of past PNRA's had been low. Therefore, steps were taken to try to get sororities involved in PNRA."

"Our executive vice president, Tara Howe, sent letters to all sororities in our dorm area to encourage participation," he said. "The reaction here has been quite favorable — attendance by sorority members to dances, coffeehouses and the like has increased a lot during Fall Term alone."

Improved interaction is not only desired but expected, Okes said.

"Any time you open up the lines of communication, it can only get better," she said.

Heart Association hopeful about goals

By CHRIS WINDELL
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Although last year's American Heart Association drive in Centre County raised \$45,000 — falling 18 percent short of its goal — a campaign vice chairman said he is optimistic about the association rescuing this year's goal of \$54,750.

Evan G. Pattishall, University dean of the College of Human Development, said while the official campaign does not start until February, prospects for this year look good.

"I'm very optimistic because the preliminary activities have shown a lot of interest in people of all ages and the Heart Association people say we're ahead of where we were last year," Pattishall said.

"We're trying to branch out and include a lot of activities to involve the young as well as the old in the fund raising," he said.

Robert K. Zimmerman, campaign chairman, said Jump Rope for Heart, a fund raiser taking place in public schools around the county, has already raised \$6,000.

Many other fund-raising activities will take place in February, he said. For example, Skimont will sponsor a Heart Day in February in which a portion of the payments for lift tickets will be donated to the association, Zimmerman said.

Other February events include The Run For Your Life Marathon as well as the traditional door-to-door solicitation, he said.

"CPR has greatly reduced the number of deaths due to heart disease," he said. "The remaining money pays for fund raising and management," he said.

Thornon D. Wheeler, field representative from the American Heart Association's State College office, said 28 cents out of every dollar collected goes toward research. Three doctors at the University are doing research supported by the association, he said.

House Bill 1689 would allow commercial and mutual savings banks — which are allowed to have offices only in the county where their home office is located and those counties directly adjacent to their home county — to expand into any county touching the directly adjacent county.

After a period of eight years, banks would be allowed to open branches anywhere in the state.

In addition to the expanded branching provision, the bill also allows bank holding companies to control more than one bank.

For the first four years of the bill's proposed 8-year phase-in period, a bank holding company would be able to control four banks and during the following four years, a holding company could acquire control of up to eight more banks.

After the 8-year period passes, the number of banks that a holding company

Judge issues gag order on Fabri murder trial

Judge Harold Thomson Jr., Pike County court, issued a gag order during the hearing of Cathy Olwfski yesterday, sealing all court records and ordering all involved with the case not to discuss court proceedings.

John Stieh, Pike County attorney and co-defense counsel for Olwfski, who is charged with the Nov. 25 slaying of Sesto Fabri, former owner of Tony's Sub Shack, said the order has no time limitations.

Olwfski's release from the Women's State Correctional Institution in Muncy, Pike County District Attorney Michael Weinstein would not comment on yesterday's hearing, but said he expected another hearing to be held in the future.

He said the judge's order seals the records of all future hearings as well as those of yesterday's hearing.

Generally, all preliminary or pre-trial hearings in criminal homicide cases are kept open to the press and public — preliminary proceedings are very rarely closed by a judge's order.

Yesterday's hearing was to determine whether Olwfski, 17, would be tried as an adult or a juvenile, a spokesman for the Pike County District Attorney's office said.

Stieh filed a writ of habeas corpus — which states that a person is being held in prison unlawfully — in Olwfski's behalf, but could not comment on which specific rights of his client are being violated because he is bound by Judge Thomson's order.

If granted, the writ will allow for

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—by Renee Hardoby

Some area banks oppose bank bill

By SUZANNE M. CASSIDY
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

A bill that would eventually allow banks to operate branches statewide was passed recently by the state House of Representatives and is now under the consideration of the state Senate Banking and Insurance Committee.

Cal Shields, president of First National Bank of Centre Hall, 611 University Drive, and a member of the Independent Bankers of Pennsylvania, said the bill would allow large metropolitan banks to gain a monopoly through statewide banking.

Proponents of the bill have argued that the bill will encourage competition among banks which will in turn help the consumer, Shields said. But the bill will only hurt consumers living in rural areas such as State College and Centre Hall, he added.

Rural customers will be forgotten if all decisions will be made by directors in large metropolitan areas, he said.

"Banks like Central Counties and Mid-State are seen by the House bill as small banks — does that give you an idea of its magnitude?" Shields said. "The bill is really detrimental to the consumer — that's what I'm fighting."

Elmer G. Grant, president of Central Counties Bank, 122 W. College Ave., said that contrary to the arguments of the bill's opponents, approval of the bill would create a more competitive banking atmosphere that would benefit the community.

The present law was created in 1933 and is due for a change, he said.

"The freer we are in allowing our financial institutions to operate competitively, the better off we'll be and our customers will be in the long run," Grant said.

In addition to First National Bank of Centre Hall, other area banks that oppose the bill include Farmers Community Bank, 125 S. Pugh St.; Peoples National Bank of Centre Hall, 117 S. Allen St.; First National Bank of Howard, and First National Bank of Spring Mills.

The first public hearing before the Senate committee was held yesterday. Representatives from the Independent Bankers of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Bankers Association and the Department of Banking were present to give the committee their views on the bill.

Beverly Pirritano, legislative aide to state Sen. Edwin G. Holl, R-Montgomery County, the chairman of the state Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, said that no committee action has yet been taken on the bill. Further deliberation of the bill is expected after the holiday recess, Pirritano said.

Bankers Association contributed funds to the election campaigns of several legislators in an effort to gain support for the bill. The Pennsylvania Bankers Association was well within its legal rights to make the contributions, but the Independent Bankers of Pennsylvania could not afford to exercise the same strategy, he said.

"The small banks just couldn't afford to compete dollar for dollar with the big banks when it came to contributing to political campaigns," Metzner said. "And money is power — the results bear that out."

If the bill is passed and Central Counties becomes a holding company, it would have the opportunity to control four banks anywhere in Pennsylvania, he said.

Even if the bill is not approved, Grant said Central Counties will benefit by being able to expand by acquiring a mortgage banking company or by entering into other areas such as credit life insurance and credit accident and health insurance.

"If (the holding company) can be a larger institution which can have a larger loan limit, which can bring more industry into the area, which can create more jobs," Grant said. "It will be a more viable community."

The move to become a holding company must be reviewed and approved by the bank's shareholders at a special meeting to be held Dec. 22.

Provided the shareholders agree with the proposal, the new corporation will own all the stock of Central Counties Bank. In addition, the shareholders of Central Counties will become shareholders of Central Counties Bancorp Inc., Grant said.

The bank's operations and personnel would also remain the same, he said.

Two other area banks have also decided to form bank holding companies.

Charles Moore, branch administrator at Union National Bank, 511 Pine Grove Road, said his bank has formed a holding company and wants to expand — possibly into the Harrisburg area.

Wayne Miller, vice president and director of banking of Mid-State Bank and Trust Co., 224 E. College Ave., said Mid-State is forming a holding company so it would be in position to take advantage of the provisions of HB 1689.

If bill passes, local banks plan to apply for holding company status

By SUZANNE M. CASSIDY
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Central Counties Bank, anticipating the passage of state House Bill 1689 that would allow bank holding companies to control more than one bank, has applied to the Federal Reserve Board for approval to become a bank holding company.

If its plan is approved, Central Counties Bank, 122 W. College Ave., will be named Central Counties Bancorp Inc., said Elmer G. Grant, bank president.

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