

# Magistrate discusses his position; students react

Continued from Page 1.

fairly. In many cases, this was not because of the student being found guilty, but simply a reaction to the fairness of the proceeding.

Raymond C. Lewis (8th-accounting) said Yorks was "very disappointing and very unfair." Lewis said during his hearing before Yorks, the magistrate bit his nails and signed papers from a secretary who interrupted the hearing while Lewis was giving testimony and trying to make his case.

"He didn't pay attention — he didn't listen," Lewis said. "I think he's set in a decision before he gets in a hearing."

Another student who was charged with criminal mischief and found not guilty, said he thought Yorks was not fair.

The student elaborated that Yorks had let a police officer, who was testifying, call another student in the hearing a "jerkass."

A student who had a hearing before the magistrate gave the following account:

"During the hearing, (Yorks) admitted prior records and hearsay evidence. The cop testifying said he thought a gas station attendant saw or heard the incident in question. When I objected, Yorks said, 'Tough, that's your problem.'"

Several students, however, did think they received a fair hearing.

One student had to pay numerous fines. Yorks put him on a payment schedule, he said, and after he had paid for awhile, released him from paying further even though he was guilty.

"He gave me a pretty good turn and he was pretty fair," the student said.

Lou, another student, said he thought he got a "fair shake" from Yorks.

"He's fair, but he doesn't take any crap from anybody," he said.

Lou told a story that Yorks had told him to illustrate the point.

"Several years ago, two sorority girls were caught vandalizing the dorms as a prank. One of the girls' father was a Pennsylvania Supreme Court justice who tried to put pressure on Yorks to get the girls off innocent," he said.

The result? "He still found them guilty," Lou said.

A graduate student who sued a local business and lost said Yorks treated him well.

"He went out of his way to be cooperative."

active. He showed me the point of law and why I couldn't win," he said.

Michael Henry (12th-administration of justice) worked with Yorks one term on a pre-trial.

"He's pretty fair from what I've seen," Henry said. "By far, in the majority of cases, people were satisfied."

Yorks said he thought everyone who came through his office received a equitable hearing.

"A lot of people are mad, but I think that everyone who comes before me gets a fair decision," he said.

The District Justice Monthly Statistical Report that contains a breakdown of hearings for certain offenses and their results shows there are not great disparities in the determination of guilt or innocence. The following statistics are from January 1981 and February 1982:

• Of the traffic citations filed in January 1981, 13 people were found guilty by trial, 24 were found not guilty and 612 pleaded guilty. The prosecution dropped 78 cases and 69 people could not be located.

• Of the non-traffic citations issued in the same month, 10 people were found guilty by trial, 15 were found not guilty and 327 pleaded guilty. Prosecution was withdrawn in 114 cases, and 236 people could not be located.

• For February 1982, 1,100 traffic citations were filed. Of that number, 37 were found guilty by trial, 27 were found not guilty and 790 persons pleaded guilty.

• During the same month, non-traffic citations totaled 573. Those guilty by trial came to 24; 11 were found not guilty. Guilty pleas amounted to 276. The remainder included the prosecution withdrawing and unlocated people.

Despite these reports, many students had further complaints of favoritism toward the permanent residents of State College and women, while they claimed Yorks was biased against students.

University Associate Provost Rosemary Schraer said she has received a number of complaints about Yorks and the magistrate's office.

"It seems (the students) have the perception that they're not treated as what one student called 'full-fledged citizens' of the community," she said.

Many students agreed with this point. One student who knows the managers of several local apartment complexes

said they thought Yorks was "town-oriented."

"(The managers) said that Cliff would decide in their favor easily if they had any trouble with student tenants," he said.

Josephine Zauhar of Boalsburg said Yorks was sympathetic to her problems and helpful, but thought the magistrate is "quite harsh with the students."

To still others, Yorks gave the impression of a prejudicial view against students.

One student, who thought Yorks didn't "operate legitimately," related her experience with the magistrate:

"I was charged twice for the same offense — all they did was change the date on the ticket. My father sent in a canceled check to (Yorks) to prove that it was paid," she said.

"Yorks told my father that 'all those college kids do is lie,'" she said.

In another incident, the same student told how the State College police collected a fine, but didn't give the women a receipt.

"I went to the magistrate's office to clear it up — it was just a case of mistaken identity. I produced my ID — my license and student ID — and he didn't believe me. Then, he started interrogating me," he continued.

"(Yorks) said to me, 'You may have to go to jail for some time,'" he said.

"Finally, someone from North Caroli-

na called the office and said they had the right man down there. Only then did he let me go," the student said.

Yorks said that although 50 percent of all cases he hears involve "young people" 18 to 24 years old, a majority of the young people aren't necessarily students.

"Somewhere along the line, people should be taught what's expected of them in society, what the laws are," Yorks said in reference to students.

"When students come to (the University), they leave mommy and daddy for the first time and don't seem to know how to act," he said. "There's a lot of impulse involved in student offenses — I don't think they really know what they're doing."

Yorks also said he couldn't respond to specific incidents, as with complaints of favoritism toward women.

About 10 of the 50 students cited what they thought was a favoritism toward women on Yorks' part.

One male student related how an attractive woman received a parking ticket that had blown off her car. By the time he had noticed the ticket, the fine had increased, he said.

"Her hearing was before mine. Even though I was in the exact same situation, the girl only had to pay the original price, but I had to pay the new, higher price," he said.

"She told me later that even she noticed the different results of our two similar hearings," he said.

A female student said older people in professional counseling positions in the community told her that Yorks is an easily-swayed person; they also told her to "use feminine tactics, and I'll get my way," she said.

Another student said that although he never officially received his parking ticket on his car and had to pay it anyway, a woman in the same circumstances was "let off."

In response to these complaints of female favoritism, Yorks only said, "I don't judge women different than men and I don't judge men different from women."

Throughout April three female artists will be displaying their work in the HUB browsing gallery.

An informal discussion with the artists, who are faculty members in the art department, will be held at 7:30 Sunday evening in the HUB Gallery lounge, McGague said. Refreshments will be available.

Also during the week, registration for a cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction course will be held on the HUB ground floor.

The program was originally planned to certify participants over a three-week period of sessions. McGague said, but the Ritenour Health Center decided more people would be interested if the program lasted one day.

Therefore, the program will not be able to certify anyone, but all techniques of CPR will be taught and the same equipment used in a longer course will be used, she said.

The time and place of next Saturday's CPR program have been changed to 9 a.m. in 28 Ritenour, McGague said.

Monday's programs include: "Women in Business and Industry" at 7 p.m. in the Buckeye career library; "An Evening With the International

Dancers" at 7:30 p.m. in the HUB ballroom and "What's Happening in Washington" at 8:30 p.m. in the HUB Assembly Room.

On Tuesday "Opportunities in Graduate Studies" will be held at 7 p.m. in the HUB gallery lounge and "Tips on Getting Ahead" is scheduled for 8:30 p.m. in the HUB gallery lounge.

Other activities for the rest of the week include "Spring Fashion for Work or Play" at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the HUB Ballroom; "Trim Down and Shape Up" at 7 p.m. Thursday in 301 HUB; "Women's Health Issues" at 8:30 p.m. Thursday in 320 HUB; and "Battle of the Sexes" at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in 126 White Building.

The "Battle of the Sexes" will be an anything goes type of competition between women's and men's athletic teams, McGague said.

All events of Women's Awareness Week are free and open to the public, McGague said.

## District justice courts have extensive jurisdiction

By RENAE HARDY  
Collegian Staff Writer

Even though the four district justice courts in Centre County process the largest number of cases in the county's court system, few people know exactly what these courts do.

The greatest number of cases in the county have been consistently filed in the State College magistristerial district. In 1980, more than 23,000 cases were filed in this district, according to a study done in April by Lawrence C. Bickford, Centre County court administrator.

Bickford's study shows that in Pennsylvania, district justice courts have a great deal of jurisdiction — or power to hear certain types of cases.

These courts have complete criminal jurisdiction over summary (first) offenses, which are punishable by no more than a \$500 fine and/or a jail sentence that does not exceed 90 days, according to the Bickford study.

The power to decide most civil cases in which the claims are not higher than \$2,000, and landlord/tenant cases is also vested in the district justice courts. In addition, the courts are granted jurisdiction to accept guilty pleas for many third degree misdemeanors such as theft and criminal mischief.

Generally, the district magistrate may preside over preliminary hearings, set and accept bail, issue warrants and conduct preliminary hearings, according to the study.

The magistrate's office also collects the funds from fines imposed in the district. In 1980, the State College district's receipts collected and paid to the county were more than \$18,000; expenditures totaled more than \$127,000. The total money collected by the State College district in 1980 that was payable to all government levels was \$607,121, according to the study.

Pennsylvania law previously mandated that district magistrates had to be at least 35 years of age and live for a certain number of years in the district they would be presiding over. In 1978, these laws were repealed.

Magistrates do not need an undergraduate or law school education to take office. Laymen can run for this position without meeting any educational requirements.

The administrator of the state court system has a training program that all justices must take part in. Said Henry Guttenplan, professor of administration of justice.

But Guttenplan thinks that district magistrates should meet some minimal (compatible to law school) standards.

"Anyone serving in a judicial position should have judicial training, at least at the level of law school," he said.

In December 1975, Guttenplan attended a three-day symposium led by then-Gov. Milton Shapp. Guidelines were developed for all involved in the criminal justice system.

Guttenplan said one chief of police stood up and asked about requiring magistrates to be lawyers. The Penn State campus, but if students register bicycles with University Police Services they have a much better chance of getting them back, said Robert McNichol, police supervisor in charge of crime prevention.

In the most recent figures compiled by University Police, 3,410 bicycles chained to a tree in front of the Forum. It provides police with information enabling them to match the bike with the owner.

The computerized registration also helps police determine if thefts are related or if a theft ring is involved, McNichol said.

In that case, University police can put the suspects under surveillance. Students who plan to leave their bicycles at the University, instead of taking them home for the summer, should register before May 31.

And when students come back Fall Term, they can register their bicycles for 1982-83 at the on-campus information booths from 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. weekdays.

After 5 p.m., students may register their bicycles at the desk in the University Police Services lobby located in the rear of Grange Building.

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## Women's roles to be studied

Awareness week to offer career programs, art displays

By PATRICIA HUNGERFORD  
Collegian Staff Writer

Women's Awareness Week is not just for sororities, but for the entire student population and community as well, co-chairwoman Margie McGague said.

"The purpose of the week is to increase awareness of the many roles women fulfill in our society," she said.

The five areas of awareness to be explored — beginning Sunday and running through next week — include physical, political, personal, cultural and career, McGague said.

The program has not been effective in the past because it did not appeal to the large scope of the campus, she said.

This year the program is incorporating men, McGague said, and independent are helping in the planning process.

Also, the quality of the programs is being stressed more than the quantity and all events will be held in the evening to reach more people, she said.

Throughout April three female artists will be displaying their work in the HUB browsing gallery.

An informal discussion with the artists, who are faculty members in the art department, will be held at 7:30 Sunday evening in the HUB Gallery lounge, McGague said. Refreshments will be available.

Also during the week, registration for a cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction course will be held on the HUB ground floor.

The program was originally planned to certify participants over a three-week period of sessions. McGague said, but the Ritenour Health Center decided more people would be interested if the program lasted one day.

Therefore, the program will not be able to certify anyone, but all techniques of CPR will be taught and the same equipment used in a longer course will be used, she said.

The time and place of next Saturday's CPR program have been changed to 9 a.m. in 28 Ritenour, McGague said.

Monday's programs include: "Women in Business and Industry" at 7 p.m. in the Buckeye career library; "An Evening With the International

Dancers" at 7:30 p.m. in the HUB ballroom and "What's Happening in Washington" at 8:30 p.m. in the HUB Assembly Room.

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The "Battle of the Sexes" will be an anything goes type of competition between women's and men's athletic teams, McGague said.

All events of Women's Awareness Week are free and open to the public, McGague said.

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## Registration helps in finding stolen bikes

Awareness week to offer career programs, art displays

By JACQUELYN GOSS  
Collegian Staff Writer

More than 3,000 bicycles are lost, abandoned or stolen each year, it is important for students to register their bicycles, McNichol said. Registration is mandatory, but students who do not register their bikes will not be fined.

Registration benefits not only the student whose bike has been stolen, but also the careless student who may accidentally leave his 10-speed Fugli chained to a tree in front of the Forum.

It provides police with information enabling them to match the bike with the owner.

The computerized registration also helps police determine if thefts are related or if a theft ring is involved, McNichol said.

In that case, University police can put the suspects under surveillance. Students who plan to leave their bicycles at the University, instead of taking them home for the summer, should register before May 31.

And when students come back Fall Term, they can register their bicycles for 1982-83 at the on-campus information booths from 7 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. weekdays.

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## collegian notes

• The Interlandia Folkdance Society will hold a recreational dancing meeting at 7:30 tonight in the HUB Ballroom.

• Thomas Hubka, professor of architecture at the University of Oregon, will speak on "Maine Farmers: The Connected Farm Architecture of Northern New England" at 4 this afternoon in 319 Walker. Refreshments will be served before the meeting.

• Ballroom Dance instruction will be given at 7 tonight in 133 White Building. The foxtrot and samba will be practiced.

• An astronomy open house will be held at 7:30 tonight on the sixth floor of Davey Laboratory. If cloudy, it will be held tomorrow.

• A fashion show, sponsored by Nittany Mall merchants, will be presented at 2 tomorrow afternoon in the mall outside Hess's Department Store.

• A prayer meeting will be held at 2 tomorrow afternoon in the Paul Robeson Cultural Center.

• The Penn State Outing Club is sponsoring a climbing trip to Donation Rocks from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. tomorrow. The trip is open to beginning or advanced climbers. Participants sign up at the bulletin board in the HUB and meet at the Intramural Building.