

New organization formed to evaluate area's restaurants

By MARVELLEN KIERNAN
Collegian Staff Writer

Restaurateurs of State College, beware!

A new student organization, the Penn State Diner's Association, is being formed and its members will slip unannounced into State College's dining establishments to rate the food and service.

The idea for the association was conceived in November on the return bus ride from a food service convention in New York, said Henry Ellis, president of the association.

The weary travelers arrived in State College and went to a local restaurant, but found the service poor. They decided that some kind of watchdog organization was needed, he said.

The association is waiting to have its constitution ratified by the Undergraduate Student Government Supreme Court. If the constitution is approved, the association will begin operating after Christmas break.

The majority of members will probably be students majoring in food service and housing administration.

New members will be recruited as soon as the constitution is ratified, Ellis said. The group has about 25 prospective members at this time.

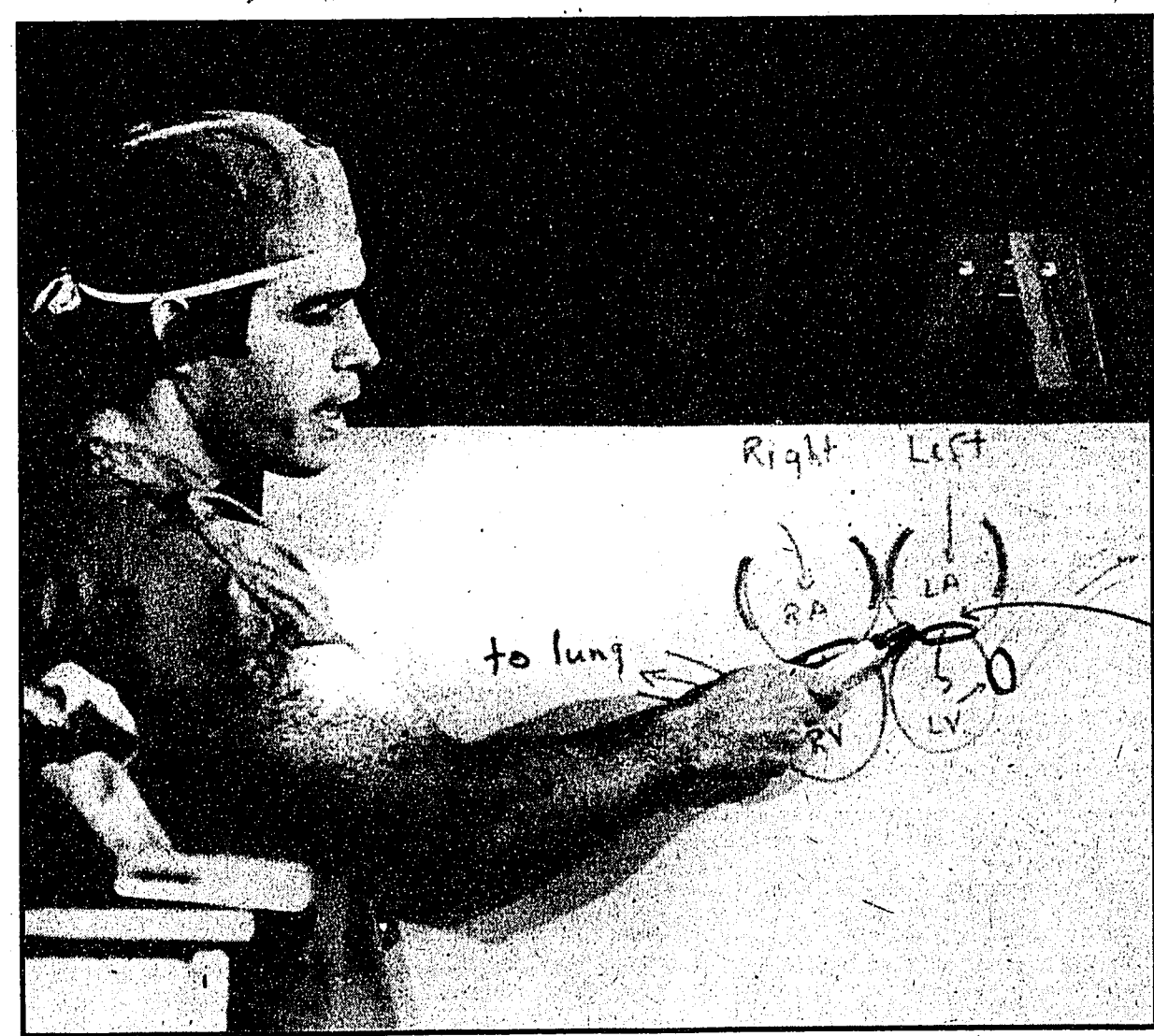
"The members of the association will not visit fast-food restaurants but will concentrate on full-service establishments," Ellis said.

"Several members will go in together and rate the restaurant from when we walk in until we leave. The scale the restaurants will be rated on and the criteria for rating are part of the constitution and have not been confirmed yet.

"We hope to anonymously visit two restaurants a month and publish our findings right after the visit. Then we'll combine the information into a booklet at the end of the term and update it each term.

In addition to rating the restaurants, the association will give the dining hall-bound student an idea of what types of restaurants exist in downtown State College, he said.

"When students have their parents come up for the weekend and they don't have a good idea where to take them out to eat, they often ask 'Where's a good place to go?'"



Malfunction

Dr. Robert K. Jarvik explains a valve failure that occurred in Barney Clark's artificial heart yesterday. The left ventricle of Clark's plastic heart was replaced in a four-hour operation prompted by a sudden drop in the 61-year-old retired dentist's blood pressure.

A malfunctioning valve in the permanently implanted artificial heart was "a random failure" unlikely to occur again, Jarvik said.

The problem was caused by a break in a wire housing containing the artificial heart's mitral valve, which attaches to Clark's own left atrium. A malfunction of the valve, which keeps blood from flowing backward, is the most serious that could occur with any of the heart's four valves.

Reagan 'not scared' to tackle Social Security's problems

By JAMES GERSTENZANG
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — President Reagan declared yesterday he is "not scared" to tackle Social Security's financial problems, but he's still leaving it to a national commission to pave the way. With that, a key Republican member of the panel demanded "some leadership from the White House" before the retirement system plunges over the brink.

The National Commission on Social Security Reform already had served notice it won't be able to shape bipartisan recommendations unless Reagan and House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill, D-Mass., step into the fray. The commission faces a Friday deadline for its report.

But Reagan held his ground yesterday, saying it should be up to the 15-member commission, including "experts in the field of actuarial statistics and insurance and pension plans" to develop their own proposals. He insisted, however, that "we're not scared to touch the issue."

O'Neill, for his part, said Monday he saw little prospect for teaming up with Reagan now on the issue. But he said "I'll be glad to go over" to the White House should Reagan call.

'It is a presidentially created commission — the initiative was the president's.'

—Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa.

A White House official, who asked to remain unidentified, said that private contacts between White House aides and the commission were continuing, and that at the White House there were discussions about what the administration would tell the panel.

As for the president's reluctance to make any suggestions, the aide said, "It's a question of who is going to touch their toe in the water first, the Democrats or the Republicans."

Some of the stiffest criticism of Reagan's reluctance came from fellow Republicans. Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., a member of the commission, noted pointedly that "it is a presidentially created commission — the initiative was the president's."

"We Republicans," Heinz told a meeting of the National Association of Manufacturers, "would like to see some leadership from the White House — we hope it won't be over the

edge of a cliff as it was two years ago."

Heinz referred to the first storm of criticism endured by Republicans when the administration proposed sharp curtailments in future Social Security benefits.

Reagan, visiting the White House press briefing room, told reporters "it doesn't seem to me this is the place for us to be interfering. We're waiting for the commission to come back and tell us: could they agree on a plan, if so what, or do they have alternatives. Then we will consider those."

But another Republican senator on the commission, Robert Dole of Kansas, charged on Sunday that the White House has "been frightened to death by Social Security."

Reagan countered yesterday that "Our previous experience had been that all we could succeed in doing was making it a political football and terrorizing the senior citizens."

Motion a warning of quakes?

Scientists report on rise and fall of California

By ROBERT LOCKE
AP Science Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Small chunks of southern California seem to rise and fall for no apparent reason and no apparent effect, in a process that could affect earthquake forecasting, scientists said Tuesday. Geologists are used to talking about cycles that build over millions of years, "but these are geologic processes — mountain-building processes — that are going on in a period of a year or two," Robert C. Jachens said at a news conference at the American Geophysical Union Conference here.

"We have these movements of the ground surface going on and they're not accompanied by earthquakes. That's very surprising to me," said Jachens, who works at the U.S. Geological Survey's Menlo Park center.

"There have been no long-term changes that we can see," just three distinct, short-term uplifts perhaps 30 miles across, that rose up to four inches, he said.

During six years of measurements along the San Andreas Fault since 1976, the "blisters" have fallen back to normal, he said.

One uplift, determined by comparing minute changes in gravity, was seen at each of three measurement sites. The sites are at Tejon Pass 30 miles south of Bakersfield, at Palmdale 90 miles north of Los Angeles and at Cajon Pass near San Bernardino.

The changes were spread over time and apparently are unrelated, Jachens said. He and co-workers Wayne Thatcher, Carter Roberts and Ross Stein, suspect such brief deformations are common throughout the state. If so, that could affect the way scientists try to predict earthquakes.

The normal strategy in quake forecasting is to study processes that gradually build to a climax. Changes in rates or patterns have been considered potential harbingers of earthquakes.

"My first reaction was this would make it a lot more difficult to predict quakes," Jachens said. "If substantial changes come and go without seismic activity, it could be tough to sort out which conditions might be significant and long-lived."

"But now it seems they may be friends and not foes," he said. "They may give us something to watch that says we're getting closer or farther away from an earthquake."

While such readings may not help much for long-term forecasts, they may imply some relative degree of risk at any given time.

"At least we know now these things do occur and we're going to have to take them into account," he said. A similar phenomenon is the Palmdale Balgo, reported as a vast area straddling the San Andreas around Palmdale that was somehow raised more than a foot, sparked considerable concern when it was reported by the USGS in 1976.

A great deal of research was concentrated on the region as geologists tried to determine if it indicated a great quake was approaching. Uplifts have been associated with previous quakes.

For several years, some scientists have argued the bulge never existed at all, that it was merely the result of a variety of measuring errors. The USGS has not significantly changed its mind.

Jachens said his gravity findings agree "rather well" with results of USGS surveys and strain measurements, suggesting the measuring techniques are basically accurate.

Dr. James L. Smith
of the
USDA Eastern Regional Research Center

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