

# Education Secretary Wilburn: Curriculum must reflect society's needs today and emphasize basics

By KAREN KANE  
Collegian Staff Writer

HARRISBURG — Secretary of Education Robert C. Wilburn said Friday he hopes the controversy surrounding a Board of Education proposal to decentralize the state's school districts will not paralyze the board's intent to improve school standards.

Both school administrators and the public are concerned about the effects the proposal will have on the state's 501 school districts.

The purpose of the new Chapter 5 regulations, as originally drafted, was to increase quality by decentralizing

the 501 school districts throughout the state and allowing each district to establish "goal-oriented curriculum."

"I see a lot of merit in the proposals of Chapter 5, about what they were attempting to do, but I also understand the concerns that were raised by individuals that do not want to see any decrease in quality," Wilburn said.

"I think we have a real need to look at our curriculum to make sure that the curriculum reflects the needs of society today, and that is a greater emphasis on the basics," he said.

On one hand, the curriculum specialists want course outlines to be

based on goals, objectives and learning, Wilburn said.

On the other hand, he said, some citizens are concerned that if the schools are not required to provide "some of the old disciplines that they are comfortable with," a school district might not offer the courses in the future.

"I think the solution is there as long as we look at this issue, from a detached, objective point of view that you can as the two sides are proposing things that are not mutually exclusive," he said. "Both can be done, both should be done."

Once the regulations were published, people began to fear that

certain disciplines would be removed from the curriculums to save money, Wilburn said.

"Everyone has heard the concerns and it's going to be rewritten to make sure that those concerns don't become a reality," Wilburn said. "It seems to me the solution is to bring those people together."

The course requirements that are in Chapter 5 now are "truly minimum" and "inadequate," Wilburn said.

The department must provide guarantees that the intent of Chapter 5 is not lost, he said.

# Despite cutback threats students financial aids needs should be satisfied

By ALECIA SWASY  
Collegian Staff Writer

HARRISBURG — Despite the constant threat of federal aid cutbacks and the lack of increases in state financial aid, Secretary of Education Robert C. Wilburn said the needs of students in Pennsylvania will be met.

"I don't think that we really face a very serious problem in financial assistance today or projected in the near future," Wilburn said.

In a recent interview, Wilburn said although financial aid is a very controversial area, most are able to get the amount they need.

"I know of few students who can't get the assistance that they need either with grants or loans and actually aren't going to college," he said.

Referring to President Reagan's proposals for the consolidation and possible elimination of several federal aid programs, Wilburn said the significant cutbacks are similar to those made last year, but the cutbacks actually did not occur.

"I think there's been a myth per-

petuated as far as the extent of cutbacks that have occurred," he said.

Some restrictions — such as a ceiling on loans to families with adjusted incomes of \$30,000 or more — have been implemented, but "this sharp reduction that everyone was planning on and worried about" has not happened, he said.

However, in anticipation of the proposed cuts last year, the state budget had increased PHEAA's budget by nine percent — the largest increase ever in PHEAA grant money, Wilburn said.

The state also enacted a multi-million dollar loan program through the sale of bonds, he said.

Wilburn said the bond program and the increase last year would offset any planned reductions for next year.

"We really didn't think, given this very difficult year, that this was an area that needed to be increased," he said.

The loan program was authorized when Gov. Dick Thornburgh signed legislation Dec. 29 authorizing PHEAA to sell up to \$300 million in

state bonds each year.

The current ceiling for the program is \$300 million, but the program could expand from year to year, depending on the demand for the loans, said John Ebersole, public information officer for PHEAA.

PHEAA is currently looking into different methods of implementing the loan program, he said.

The agency has never made direct loans to students because it does not have the facilities or the staff, Ebersole said.

Part of the idea behind the bond issue was to help students when the future of federal financial aid appears to be uncertain, Ebersole said.

Initially PHEAA thought the loans would be available for the 1983-84 academic year, Ebersole said. But the bond committee of PHEAA's Board of Directors has not reached any definite decisions about the bond sale.

Wilburn said this "holding the line" funding does not reflect a negative attitude towards PHEAA and the state government has acted favor-

ably towards PHEAA more often than against it, he said.

The money that has gone into PHEAA in the last five years has shown a significant financial commitment from the state relative to the previous five years.

"The administration certainly recognizes the value of the agency," he said.

Wilburn said the Department of Education and PHEAA have been involved in some "administrative hassles" and philosophical differences of opinions.

For example, when the increases in funding occurred, discussion ensued as to whether the money should be used to guarantee grants to low-income students or dispersed evenly to all students.

Although this is a positive, constructive debate, one has to look at it from the student's perspective, Wilburn said.

"Student financial assistance is to guarantee that students have an opportunity to go somewhere to col-

# CATA considers bus lease to ease fleet overcrowding

By TONY PHYRILLAS  
Collegian Staff Writer

The arrival of the 12 new Neoplan buses has prompted Centre Area Transportation Authority officials to consider leasing some of the older buses in CATA's fleet.

"It's great to be in the position of having the spare buses and helping someone else out," CATA managing director Paul Oversier said. "Usually, we were the one who needed to find buses."

The 12 new buses, which were added to CATA's existing 19-bus fleet, leave the authority with too many buses to store in its garage. CATA expects to ease the overcrowding by leasing some of its older buses to other transit systems.

Under the leasing arrangement, State College will serve as the middle man in the agreement between the two transit systems.

CATA now leases five buses from the borough for \$200 dollars a month. CATA could save \$7,000 in leasing payments to the borough for the rest of the year when Indiana County enters the leasing plan. The leasing agreement ends December 31, 1983 and CATA has the option to buy the buses from the borough for \$1 each.

Instead of CATA buying the buses back, State College will lease them to the Indiana County transit system. The borough will then pass the money onto CATA, which could use it for local matching funds in future capital projects or as working capital.

The lease, which could run from one to three years, might yield CATA as much as \$36,000. Indiana County would have the option to buy the buses for \$500 each after three years.

taining a three percent processing fee.

Indiana County is also considering leasing a fifth CATA bus as a spare for \$100 a month, Oversier said.

If CATA can lease five of its older buses, the authority would be left with 36 buses — one more than the system needs, Oversier said.

Last year, the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation purchased 1,000 new buses from Neoplan USA Corporation for 15 of the state's transit systems in the nation's first bus pool purchase program. Many of the state's transit systems are now trying to lease some of their older buses.

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Monday the CATA board approved a plan to lease four older Centre Line buses to the Indiana County system for \$250 a month each.

The State College Municipal Council has already approved the leasing plan with the borough re-

# Commissioner candidates discuss issues

By TONY PHYRILLAS  
Collegian Staff Writer

Two Democratic candidates for Centre County Commissioner, John T. Saylor and Sue Smith, spoke to a small group of students last night on why each is qualified to serve as commissioner.

The Candidate's Night, sponsored by the College Democrats, gave the two candidates a chance to address a range of issues, with the two candidates spending much of the meeting backing each other's positions.

The two candidates agreed on almost every issue discussed, ranging from increased cooperation with local governments, bridging the gap between the county's rural areas and State College, to continued funding for human service programs.

Saylor, a Bellefonte resident and a two-term incumbent, said he is proud of his record as a commissioner and would like to continue serving the county.

Smith, a Lemont resident and political newcomer, is attempting to become the first woman elected to a commissioner's seat.

At breakfast, the third Democratic candidate seeking one of three commissioner seats, did not attend the meeting.

Smith, although a first-time candidate, stressed her involvement with the League of Women Voters in the past 10 years and her knowledge of



John T. Saylor and Sue Smith

human service agencies as qualifications for office.

Saylor said his eight years on the Board of Commissioners have been marked by sound fiscal management, accessibility to the public and cooperation with other local government officials.

"You have to stay on top of the government operation and my knowledge of county government will help

me continue doing the job."

Smith said her extensive involvement with many area human service agencies will give her the background to help her decide how to fund these agencies.

Three-fourths of the county's \$17 million budget goes toward human service programs in some way, Smith said.

"I know the agencies, their serv-

ices and the people who operate them," Smith said.

Smith is spearheading the drive by the Task Force for Emergency Temporary Housing to bring an emergency shelter to State College. Last month, she asked the State College Municipal Council to consider funding the shelter from the borough's Community Development Block Grant allocation.

# ARHS approves new officers, announces Movin' On bands

By LAURIE JONES  
Collegian Staff Writer

The Association of Residence Hall Students last night approved the students chosen by the president and vice president to fulfill appointed positions for the 1983-84 council.

The new officers chosen by ARHS President Dave Labuskes and vice president Jennifer Gould are: Judi Smith, executive vice president; Jane Morris, secretary; Trisha McGuinn, treasurer; Leslie Horn, executive council working representative; Joyce Darkey, Residence Hall Advisory Board director; Leslie Jacobs, publicity director; and Lynn Wilhelm, national communications coordinator.

Labuskes also informed the council of a meeting with the Panhellenic Council to discuss sorority expansion. He said ARHS and Panhel have not formed a recommendation on how the need for more sororities will be determined, but have decided how expansion should occur. He said this proposition from ARHS and Panhel will be sent to the Office of Residential Life Programs.

He said that once the 15 percent allowed for reserved space in the dorms is reached, a new system would be needed. Under this new system the sororities would be divided between East and Pollock halls, with 15 sororities in each area.

Under the present system, 11 sororities are located in Pollock (including Alpha Omicron Pi, which will not have reserved space until next fall) and 8 are located in South Hall.

Labuskes said the new system would not be implemented for at least three years.

In other business, Movin' On chairman Ed Doherty announced the bands that will play at the weekend-long concert on the HUB lawn. The concert will be on Saturday, May 7 from noon to 11 p.m. and Sunday, May 8 from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday's bands will be Borderline, The Freddy Wright Band, Johnny Deadline, Archie Blue, W.C. Billieck, Tahoka Freeway, Nightcap, and Robert Ellis Orrali.

The bands on Sunday will be Bookends, John Jackson, The Markley Band, Cartoon and The Roches.

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