

# Council approves programs for block grant expenditures

By S.A. MILLER  
Collegian Staff Writer

Some members of the State College Municipal Council and the director for the Community Development Block Grant program both blame a lack of time for their trepidation in approving CDBG allocations last night.

Republican council members John Dombroski and Fred Honsberger said they believe that the CDBG jobs bill allocations could have been better spent if thought gone into the process. Council was faced with a July 1 deadline to submit a jobs bill budget to the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, which administers the CDBG program.

The jobs bill allocations — \$253,000 in federal funds to create jobs for low- and moderate-income persons who have been out of work for the last three to six months — came through for the borough only about two months ago. At the meeting, Honsberger said he questioned "in his own mind" whether the money could have been better spent in other ways.

However, when voting time came on the jobs allocation recommendations from borough CDBG Director Harry Lawlor, Honsberger voted for them.

"(The jobs bill funds were) a last minute thing thrown in," Honsberger said. "It's the best we could do with the limited amount of time allotted to us."

But Dombroski refused to vote for the budget because he said he could not understand the rationalization behind why some programs got the money and others did not.

"I just didn't think it created enough jobs," Dombroski said. "I had to vote with my conscience and not with my pocketbook."

Lawlor said his recommendations would create 50 to 60 temporary construction jobs and seven full-time equivalent jobs.

Lawlor explained that CDBG jobs bill allocations must both create jobs for, and benefit, low- and middle-income people.

"It's not just the job, it's the activity; it's not just the activity, it's the job," Lawlor said.

Lawlor's jobs bill recommendations included:

- \$127,640 to create better access for the handicapped to Schlow Library.
- \$70,192 to continue the streetlighting and handicapped ramp programs on College Avenue.
- \$16,000 to cover administrative costs incurred in developing the jobs bill program.
- \$12,053 to cover some of the deficits that will be incurred by the Centre County Youth Service Bureau in establishing a shelter for runaways and homeless youths in Centre County.
- \$11,115 to Home Health Services of Bellefonte to train and employ one person as a home health aide.
- \$10,000 to create two part-time health code enforcement aides. One will be employed 30 hours per week and the other 20 hours per week.
- \$6,000 to create an engineering and planning aide position, mostly for work in the construction phases of the downtown streetlighting and handicapped access programs.

Concerning the CDBG funds themselves, Lawlor recommended allocating:

- \$24,513 for the Ad Hoc Committee on Emergency-Temporary Housing to operate a four-bed center for families needing temporary housing from two nights to two weeks.
- \$15,000 to the Blair and Centre County Association for the Blind and Handicapped to provide a full-time service coordinator and a part-time assistant.
- \$11,976 to Home Health Service to establish a home-care hospice program.
- \$10,659 to the Youth Service Bureau for the agency's Big Brother - Big Sister program.
- \$4,910 for On Drugs Inc. to expand programs

relating to drug and alcohol abuse, while increasing its capabilities for crisis intervention.

Lawlor said that because of the peculiar nature of the borough, many human services are offered. Fifteen human services applied for CDBG funds.

"It was with regret that I had to recommend these five," Lawlor said.

Council passed the recommendations unanimously, but not before some complaints were filed by members of the public in attendance.

Most of the complaints centered on the fact that recommendations to council from the borough's CDBG staff were made based only on information included on applications for the funds to Lawlor.

Michael Bresnahan, a representative of Keystone Legal Services, which was refused funding for a program that would have trained elderly to be legal assistants, said he believed it's difficult to understand from the application what a program is designed to do.

"The people making decisions got a skewed view of the proposals," Bresnahan said. "Oral discussion is absolutely necessary in the future."

Lawlor said he believed last year, the first year of the CDBG program, was different from this year.

"I did a better job last year because I had more time," Lawlor said.

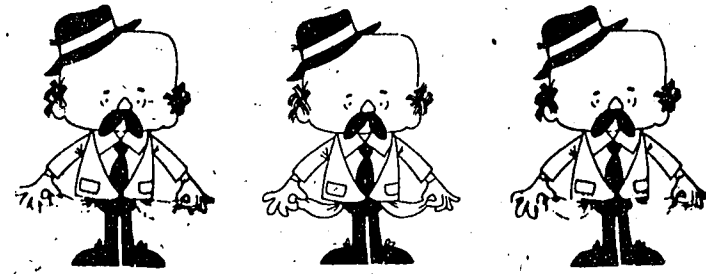
Democratic council member Felicia Lewis said she believes council must find "a more thoughtful way" to determine who gets the funds.

"We're still learning to do this," Lewis said.

In other business, council voted:

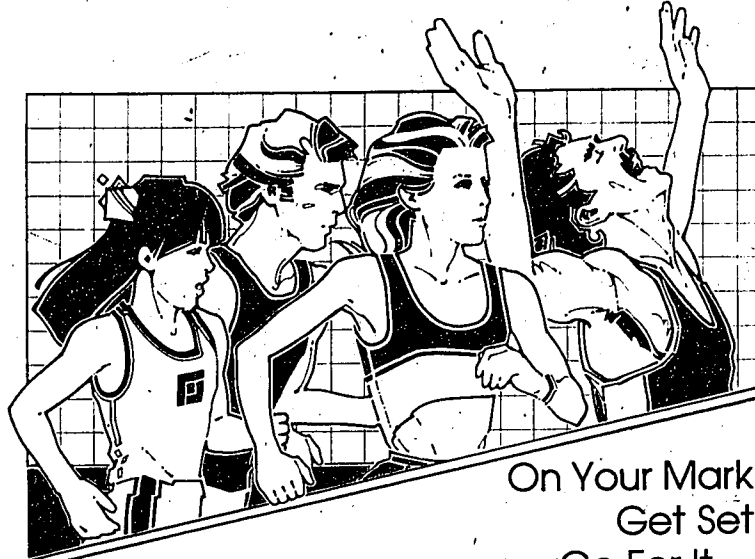
- 4 to 3, with Democrats Lewis and Daniel Chaffee and Republican Mary Ann Haas dissenting, to fund a feasibility and preliminary planning study for extending University Drive from Park Avenue to Aaron Drive. Haas said she dissented because the extension will receive no funding for at least 12 years.

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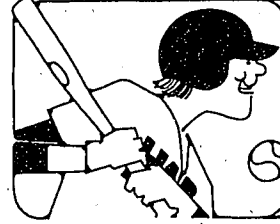


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ANNOUNCES ITS SUMMER SCHEDULE

| SUNDAY                              | MONDAY                           | TUESDAY                         | WEDNESDAY               | THURSDAY             | FRIDAY                     | SATURDAY                              |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 6-9am<br>OFF AIR                    | 6-9am                            | MUSICALE                        |                         |                      |                            | 6-9am<br>OFF AIR                      |
| 9am-noon<br>JUS' PLAIN<br>FOLK      | 9am-1pm                          | JUST JAZZ                       |                         |                      |                            | 9am-noon<br>JUS' PLAIN<br>FOLK        |
| noon-6pm<br>FINE ARTS<br>SHOWCASE   | 1-5pm                            | FREE FORM                       |                         |                      |                            | noon-6pm<br>FINE ARTS<br>SHOWCASE     |
| ODYSSEY THRU LIT.<br>TALK SHOWS     | 5-8pm                            | FINE ARTS SHOWCASE              |                         |                      |                            |                                       |
| 7-9pm<br>JAZZ ALIVE!                | 8-9pm<br>SPORTSWEEK IN<br>REVIEW | CONSIDER THE ALT.<br>FOCUS      | ON BROADWAY             | DISTANT CHANT        | CONSIDER THE ALT.<br>FOCUS | 6-9pm<br>FLASHBACKS                   |
| 9pm-midnight<br>ROOTS, ROCK, REGGAE | 9pm-6am                          | 9pm-midnight<br>BLUES           | 9pm-6am                 | 9pm-6am              | 9pm-3am<br>FREE FORM       | 9pm-midnight<br>METAL WIND            |
| midnight-3am<br>FREE FORM           | UNIVERSITY<br>OF<br>JAM          | midnight-3am<br>FEATURED ARTIST | UNIVERSITY<br>OF<br>JAM | INDEPENDENT<br>RADIO |                            | midnight-3am<br>TOO MUCH,<br>TOO SOON |
| OFF AIR                             |                                  | OFF AIR                         |                         |                      | OFF AIR                    | OFF AIR                               |

MUSICALE — an uptempo mixture of classical, jazz, and folk, along with information  
JUST JAZZ — from big bands to avant-funk  
JAZZ ALIVE! — live performances from NPR  
FREE FORM — rock, and a little bit of everything else  
FINE ARTS SHOWCASE — classical music

UNIVERSITY OF JAM — a smooth mixture of funk, disco and jazz  
INDEPENDENT RADIO — experimental  
FLASHBACKS — oldies, up to mid '70's  
METAL WIND — ear crunching heavy metal  
TOO MUCH, TOO SOON — State College's only punk show  
ROOTS, ROCK, REGGAE — reggae, ska and rock steady

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wdfm ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING WED., JUNE 29 6:30 PM RM 10 SPARKS