

Zoning change requested to allow health care homes

By ANNE CONNERS
Collegian Staff Writer

Two Centre County social service agencies have asked the State College Planning Commission for a change in the zoning ordinance, which restricts to three the number of unrelated people living together in an area zoned for single-family homes or duplexes.

The two agencies — the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) and the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC) — appeared at the commission's public hearing last week to explain their special housing needs. The AAA wants a plan for the agency to establish domiciliary care homes in State College. Under the domiciliary care program, families take in the elderly or individuals with physical, mental and emotional problems, Horn explained.

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Commission Chairman Roger Downs said the commission will put

the agencies' requests on its Sept. 15 agenda.

The issue will also be addressed in a special report about housing conditions in State College, he said. The report, which will be released at the end of December, will evaluate some State College zoning ordinances.

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State College Zoning Officer Carl

Hess said group or domiciliary care homes are permitted in any commercial district or any district where rooming houses are allowed. In requesting that the commission open residential areas to special care homes, representatives from both agencies stressed that such homes are not usually based by the noise and traffic problems that can result when more than three students live together in a single-family neighborhood.

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Horn said clients in the domiciliary homes must be "social" people because they must fit into the families as well as the neighborhood's lifestyle. She also said most of the clients would not have cars, thus eliminating the parking problem.

"As far as the noise factor, there would be very few problems except perhaps a few turned up because of hearing loss," she said.

Both agencies' special care homes are monitored by local and state organizations.

The AAA and the Pennsylvania Department on Aging certify the domiciliary care homes. The group homes are supervised 24-hours a day and are funded and supported by the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare through the Centre County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Unit.

Center supports older students

By KAREN NAGLE
Collegian Staff Writer

When a person thinks of the typical new student on campus, he usually visualizes a wide-eyed 18-year-old, fresh from high school, or a graduate student with a newly printed undergraduate degree.

But think again. About one-third of the nation's college students are students who delayed their higher education or interrupted college for a period of time.

To meet the special needs of the University's returning students, the Returning Adult Student Center was recently opened at 204 HUB.

"The purpose of the center is to serve as an entry point for those who are anxious about returning to school," said Barbara C. Wood, center coordinator. Services offered by the center include: general counseling, informal courses to ease entry/reentry, interaction with and support from other adult students, lounge and kitchen facilities, an orientation program and information referral. The supply of the center has been a source of anxiety and obstacles that younger students do not.

Math professor named chess champion

By ANITA YESHO
Collegian Staff Writer

Edward Formanek, a University mathematics professor and international chess player, was named Pennsylvania Chess Champion after a three-day tournament last weekend in the HUB Gallery Lounge.

Formanek received the title after drawing to international master Igor Ivanov, the Canadian national champion, who defeated from the Soviet Union in 1980.

The tournament was sponsored by the Chess Club and sanctioned by both the Pennsylvania and United States Chess federations.

Chris Avery, a senior at Taylor-Alldridge High School, Pittsburgh, won the title of best expert. Andrew Costigan of Philadelphia

was named the best Class A player and Gary Fischman of Pittsburgh won the title of best Class B player.

Lance Pangel (senior-business administration), won in the Class C category.

Joseph D. Cipri (freshman-finance) won the title of best untitled player in the open tournament.

A special tournament for novices was held Saturday while the state tournament was being played. Ted Griner, a University alum, won the first division of the novice tournament. The second division was won by Donald Chambers, assistant professor of finance and Sheldon Lin (freshman-pre-med), Bo-Hock Khoo (graduate-psychology) placed first in the third novice division.

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Cocaine: Florida's big dealers drop prices

MIAMI (AP) — Faced with overproduction, "like General Motors turning out too many Chevrolets," Florida's high-volume cocaine dealers have dropped the price of the drug to new lows, police say.

"We're been offered coke at \$28,000 per kilo, on credit, with two weeks to pay," said Metro-Dade Organized Crime Bureau director Cmdr. Arthur Nebbiss. "That's unheard of... right now, it's a buyer's market."

Record seizures by federal, state and local drug enforcement agencies have had virtually no impact on the enormous supplies as demand for cocaine remains high. The Miami Herald reported yesterday.

One reason is the efficient, industrialized production of the narcotic in South America and what drug enforcement officials call "ambitious" coca cultivation three years ago in South America.

"They're overproduced," Nebbiss said, "like General Motors turning out too many Chevrolets."

In contrast to the new low price per kilo, or 2.2-pound unit, drug agents in Miami, still the center of the U.S. cocaine network, routinely negotiated for cocaine at a wholesale price of \$58,000 to \$60,000 per kilo during the summer of 1981.

DEA intelligence analysts say the price drop which began in Miami is slowly spreading to other cities with active drug rings, particularly New York, Los Angeles and Houston.

DEA estimates released last week said the price of cocaine in Los Angeles has dropped to \$45,000 a kilo, while remaining high in other cities such as Chicago (\$55,000 to \$75,000 per kilo) and Atlanta (\$55,000 to \$60,000 per kilo).

"We're sure of two things," said DEA researcher John Bacon in Washington, D.C. "One, there is a declining price at the wholesale level in major markets, and two... there's a glut in South America of all coca products — the coca leaf, the coca paste and cocaine hydrochloride."

Although coca production is illegal in Colombia, unlike Peru and Bolivia, drug informants have told police of new coca crops growing in eastern Colombia. The Herald reported.

"The paste and coca base are rotting in Peru and Bolivia," Bacon said. "The Colombians have stockpiled all the raw materials. There's nothing in the world to stop them from producing at the rate they are now until the end of 1984, at the very soonest."

Brain-damaged woman chained onto stretcher

DENVER — A woman functioning at the level of a 14- to 20-month-old since an unexplained insulin overdose damaged her brain spends most of her time chained to a stretcher while state and city agencies disagree on which should care for her.

"This is not a case of us versus them," said Dr. John Shabaro, deputy director of clinical services at Denver's Department of Health and Hospitals. "We've got four institutions of society — four management bureaucracies — who can't handle one... lady."

Belcher, 25, was found near death at her apartment on May 30. Doctors say part of her brain was destroyed by an insulin overdose, but she is not diabetic and authorities don't know why or how the former waitress suffered the overdose.

Belcher has no bowel or bladder control and has spent recent days in a cubicle off Denver General Hospital's emergency room. The chain is necessary because she tends to wander, hospital workers say.

On weekends, she is moved to the jail ward because emergency-room personnel are too busy to take care of her.

Late last week, a mother and brother were located in Michigan, but officials said they apparently

are unable to provide the care Belcher needs. "She's really pretty much of a lost individual," said John Collins, who directs clinical social work for Denver Health and Hospitals. "My feeling is one of frustration that here is a dependent person without any resources — either financially, mentally or emotionally. She has nothing."

The agencies involved in the case are Denver General — where she has been for most of the last three months — the state Department of Institutions and the city and state departments of social services. Belcher came to Denver General in mid-July from the church-operated Porter Memorial Hospital. She was to have an evaluation aimed at getting her into the State Fort Logan Mental Health Center.

But tests showed she is "clearly not a psychiatric patient," said Shabaro. "She has organic brain syndrome, and that makes her a physical patient, one that needs long-term care."

Monte Sinai Nursing Home, a private institution, told Belcher for 11 days, but she was returned because that institution has no locked ward.

On Friday, the Denver Department of Social Services was granted custody of Belcher in Probate Court, a step Denver General often asks of the department when a patient cannot make decisions and no relatives can be located. City social service authorities

have been unable to find an opening for her in a private nursing home with a locked ward.

And Armando Atencio, who heads the department, said yesterday he believes the state Department of Institutions should take charge.

"It's my understanding that her chances of getting better are almost nil, so she needs to be in an institution," Atencio said. "And that, I believe, needs to be the responsibility of the state."

The city and state social services agencies agree that the Department of Institutions should step in, but the department says it can't take care of Belcher for legal and financial reasons.

The department includes the Division of Developmental Disabilities, which operates a host of other brain-damaged people. "Brain damage from a drug overdose doesn't fall into that," said Nancy Maron, deputy director for the department.

State law says a developmental disability is one which "may have originated during the first 18 years of life" and federal guidelines set the age at 21, said Jeff Sandler, director of the division.

Since Ms. Belcher's condition occurred at 25, her case can't be considered during these tough economic times, Sandler said.

"We'd be really hard-pressed to make an exception for someone who doesn't even qualify for eligibility," he said.

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