

OTIS asks borough for 24-hour student parking

By ALICE RUDOLPH
Collegian Staff Writer

The Organization for Town Independent Students plans to suggest to borough officials tonight at a public hearing that 24-hour parking be created for off-campus students on lots in the borough.

Peter Cutrone, OTIS president, said lots that are not used extensively could be possible locations, such as the Western Parkway Shopping Plaza, the Hamilton Avenue Shopping Plaza and the South Allen Street area.

The OTIS plan comes in response to the ongoing neighborhood preservation debate, which includes parking problems.

The suggestion also comes after the University's decision to eliminate 24-hour parking on campus for off-campus students.

In previous years, residence hall students and off-campus students could park 24 hours in Parking Lots 83 north, 83 west, 44 and 42 are parking areas for only those students issued green stickers. Parking Lot 44, near Beaver Stadium, is an overflow area for vehicles of both types.

No lots exist for 24-hour off-campus student parking during the week.

On weekends, students with red or green stickers may park in any of these student lots. The weekend starts at 5:30 p.m. Friday and ends at 7 a.m. Monday, except for Parking Lot 80 which ends at 4 a.m. Monday.

Roy Henry, Student Parking Regulations Coordinator and a member of a University committee that was formed in fall 1982 to make parking changes on campus, said changes were made to benefit both the commuting student and the on-campus student.

Many off-campus students were using University parking facilities as a "garage," he said, and his office received many complaints in previous years from resi-

dents in the Nittany Halls area who said some cars were never moved.

Many off-campus students are not willing to pay the prices downtown lot owners are asking, or they cannot find space, Henry said.

However, he said, students should not be blamed.

"Apartment owners should be responsible for parking at apartments," he said.

Part of the parking problem downtown may be caused by more people living in an apartment than those who signed the lease.

Cutrone said part of the problem downtown may also be that some freshmen park their cars there, even though they are not permitted to park them or drive them on campus.

"They're clogging our off-campus spaces," he said.

Henry said that because of construction in the Nittany Halls area of campus, approximately 300 parking spaces will be eliminated. Parking Lot 42 will eventually be lost to construction, he said, although students may continue to park there until it starts.

Off-campus students benefit by having Parking Lot 80

because they do not have to compete for spaces with residence hall students, he said.

Allan Derzak, University Parking Coordinator and also a member of the committee, said, "We were looking for equity for the students."

Commuting students often could not find spaces, he said.

Charlene Harrison, assistant director of the Office of Residential Life Programs, said downtown parking is a "scarce commodity" and that a "slight difference" in cost exists between on-campus lots and off-campus lots.

The University charges \$15 a semester for red and green stickers. Spaces downtown range from \$8 per month to \$36 per month.

Cutrone said he contacted Carl Hess, State College Borough zoning officer, about the OTIS proposal and Hess told him that the areas are appropriately zoned for the suggested lots.

Lots in town would not be as expensive, Cutrone said, if the lot owners knew that the supply of parking spaces exceeded the demand.

State College municipal officials will meet with citizens concerned about the preservation of their neighborhoods at 7:30 tonight in the State College Municipal Building, 118 S. Fraser St.

Parking, noise, littering, property maintenance and occupancy ordinances will be discussed at the meeting, said State College Municipal Manager Carl Fairbanks.

Many citizens have become concerned recently because an increasing number of students have been moving into single-family neighborhoods, violating a borough ordinance which restricts to three the number of unrelated people living together in an area zoned for single-family homes or duplexes.

Fairbanks said municipal officials will review which ordinances govern these problems.

Hess said the Old Boalsburg Road Neighborhood Association, the College Heights Neighborhood Association and the Holmes-Foster Neighborhood Association were also invited to the meeting. In addition, concerned neighbors in the Logan, Bradley and East Foster Avenues' areas were invited.

—by Anne Conners

Dorm contracts

Jordan asks ARHS to explore line alternatives

By GAIL JOHNSON
Collegian Staff Writer

A new system of accepting dorm contracts could go into effect as early as next year, said David Labuskes, president of the Association of Residence Hall Students.

The possibility of abandoning dorm contract lines in favor of a new system is being researched by University officials and ARHS. University President Bryce Jordan expressed a concern about the need for a new system which prompted the action, Labuskes said at the ARHS meeting last night.

"(Jordan) is very concerned about adverse public relations from the lines," he said.

Last June, the executive council

of ARHS wrote a letter to former President John W. Oswald, saying it would support the 11th line option until it could prepare a formal recommendation.

This option, initiated last year, provided a lottery system for those who did not want to stand in line to get a contract.

With Jordan's direction, the administration and ARHS have begun to prepare that recommendation.

"Our ultimate goal is to come up with the best dorm contract submission system," Labuskes said.

Ed Doherty, assistant director of the Residence Hall Advisory Board, agreed.

"The University really doesn't have to ask for student input at all," he said. "They could put in any system they want. Since they are asking us, we should go at it whole heartedly."

William H. McKinnon, assistant vice president for the Office of Housing and Food Service Operations, told ARHS yesterday that the deadline for a final proposal is November 1.

ARHS has begun to collect information about other dorm contract acceptance systems from universities across the country. The ARHS executive council plans to review the information next week.

After learning more about various methods, members of ARHS will decide on which systems to include in a student survey.

Council to hear complaints about students

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—by Anne Conners

Revamped Medicare starts Oct. 1

By NAN CRYSTAL ARENS
Collegian Staff Writer

Under the new fixed rate Medicare system, hospitals will receive a uniform government payment for the treatment of particular ailments, a spokesman for the Department of Health and Human Services said yesterday.

The fixed rate is scheduled to take effect Oct. 1. John Kittrell, press officer for the national Health Care Financing Administration, a division of HHS, said the new program will affect the 29 million Americans over the age of 65 who depend on Medicare insurance for medical and hospital expenses.

The system, referred to as prospective payment, will pay a set rate for a given diagnosis rather than reimburse the hospital for services rendered, he said.

"Hospitals will know in advance what they will receive for the treatment of a given diagnosis," Kittrell said.

Lance Rose, Administrator for Operations of Centre Community Hospital explained that the Medicare diagnoses will be divided into 356 diagnosis-related groupings. The groupings include heart attacks, hypertension, pneumonia and gall bladder disorders.

A fixed rate of payment will then be set for each, Rose said.

Although 45 percent of Centre Community Hospital's patients are Medicare recipients, Rose said he

does not expect the treatment of these patients to be adversely affected.

Many doctors have voiced the concern that hospitals might be unwilling to admit severely ill patients on Medicare because they might exceed the time allotted by the Medicare fixed rate payments.

"This hospital would not be reluctant to treat (patients)," Rose said in response.

Kittrell said most of the concerns associated with the program stem from the doctors' ignorance of the program's provisions.

Only 356 diagnoses are recognized under the Medicare program as compared to the 467 recognized for Medicare. The discrepancy between the two is caused by the elimination of obsolete concerns in individuals over the age of 65, Rose said.

The payment system will prescribe a set minimum and maximum length of time for hospitalization as well as uniform limits on units of laboratory work, x-ray and nursing care for a given diagnosis. Medicare would then pay only for those prescribed units, Rose said.

If the patient's cost is less than that prescribed for a given diagnosis, the hospital would be allowed to retain the Medicare payment, Kittrell said. If, however, the patient requires more care than the Medicare payment, the hospital would incur the loss.

Kittrell said he did not believe this would result in hospitals providing less than required care to avoid losses.

Supplemental "outlier" payments will be made

to hospitals for reasonable charges incurred when the patient's expenses exceed Medicare's fixed limit, he said.

This will require very careful record keeping by the hospital of the units of nursing a patient required, and the amount of laboratory work and other services rendered, Kittrell said.

Rose said the addition of one or two staff members in medical records might be necessary to meet the bookkeeping requirements.

The hospital is also currently renovating its computer system which should help with the additional bookkeeping, Rose said.

Rose said he did not think Centre Community would be hurt financially by the budget change.

The national average hospital stay for a Medicare patient is 10.3 days, Rose said, and he estimated that Centre Community's average stay is shorter.

More financial strain will be placed on large hospitals with extensive teaching and residency programs, and programs of continuing acute care, he said.

The new Medicare system is based on a ten-year study at Yale University and a New Jersey experiment in prospective payment, Rose said.

A state board was established in New Jersey to determine the fixed rates for diagnoses, he said.

In the national prospective payment system, some variation in regional fixed charges will exist initially, Kittrell said, reflecting factors within the individual hospitals.

Hershey gets grant for cancer research

By JULIE HERR
Collegian Staff Writer

The American Cancer Society recently awarded the University's Hershey Medical Center an \$880,000 cancer research grant—the largest amount ever awarded to a Central Pennsylvania institution.

The grant will be used to study how the spreading of cancer can be stopped, said Joan Curtis, executive director of the Centre County unit of

the American Cancer Society.

Dr. Fred Rapp, director of Hershey's Research Center and chief researcher of the project, and his co-researchers, Dr. Mary K. Howell and Dr. Harriet Iso, are using a new procedure that involves transplanting cells transformed with herpes viruses into hamsters and then observing their response to different types of drugs.

Herpes virus is used to convert the normal cells of the hamster into

malignant (cancerous) cells that spread rapidly throughout the body. The faster-spreading cells are then used to test drugs and find one that will stop the spreading. This is vital because the spreading is what causes mortalities, Rapp said.

Interferon, a small protein naturally manufactured by the body, is made in response to the virus. Tests are being conducted to find out its potential for stopping the spread of cancer cells, he said.

Interferon is being used on a limited number of cancer patients, but it has some flaws, Rapp said.

The treatment is extremely costly and not available on a wide basis. Also, when large quantities of interferon exist in the body, the growth of normal, multiplying cells—essential in the healing of wounds and the making of bone marrow—is interrupted, he said.

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR

Wednesday, August 31

Alpha Phi Omega meeting, 7 p.m., Room 111 Boucke.

P.S. Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., Room 323-324 HUB.

Kern Classics, La Dolce Vita, 8 p.m., Room 112 Kern. Also Sept. 1.

Campus Bible Fellowship meeting, 9 p.m., Room 314 Boucke.

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