

## Grad wants info; will sue University

By **MARCIA McGRATH**  
Collegian Staff Writer

Charging that a Capitol Campus social group was involved in drug abuse a few years ago, a graduate of that campus plans to file a civil suit against the University seeking release of information under the federal Freedom of Information Act.

But a federal official has already cleared the campus of the accusations and called some of the graduate's allegations "far-fetched."

Vito Valvano, 26, of Dunmore, Lackawanna County, is asking for release of any records the University possesses relating to his activities at the Capitol Campus and reports pertaining to drug abuse Valvano says occurred there from 1977-79, said Scranton attorney Frank Muraca.

Although University lawyers have told Valvano the University is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act, it will respond to the suit, which will be filed in U.S. District Court, Scranton.

"There's no way the University ever ignores any suit," said Wendell Courtney of McQuaide, Blasko, Schwartz, Fleming & Faulkner, Inc., 811 University Drive.

The planned defense, Courtney said, is "that (act) applies to U.S. agencies, and I certainly do not consider Penn State a government agency."

Valvano, a 1979 business graduate, referred all questions to Muraca, his lawyer.

Patricia A. Murphy, coordinator

of residential programs and services at the Capitol Campus, said Valvano has been making allegations about drug and alcohol problems at the campus since spring 1980.

James D. South, acting assistant to the provost at Capitol Campus, said Valvano has distributed leaflets on campus and notified several state officials charging that Murphy and Joint Effort, a campus social group, were involved in drug abuse on campus. South said Valvano also claims the campus sanctioned keg parties.

But "all allegations have been reviewed and there's absolutely no factual foundation" for them, South said.

Murphy said: "Vito feels that Capitol Campus has shafted him in some way and it's not true."

Richard Weatherby, director of the Bureau of Narcotics Investigation in the Office of the state Attorney General, said most of the charges date back four to six years.

"The allegations are unfounded, at least in current terms," he said.

His bureau received a letter from Valvano dated May 21 of this year. "There were quite a few far-fetched allegations in there," Weatherby said.

Before clearing the campus of all charges, Weatherby said his bureau talked with Capitol Campus administrators and its head of security. He also spoke to students who were members of Joint Effort during the period in question, and the Dauphin County district attorney, who also received notification from Valvano.

## Dept. of Education liaison chosen

By **CHRISTINE MURRAY**  
Collegian Staff Writer

The recently selected student liaison officer in the U.S. Department of Education hopes his fellow Penn State students will take advantage of their voice in Washington.

Mark Smith (senior-general arts and sciences) is the 11th liaison officer, said Stephen Dougherty, special assistant to the Deputy Undersecretary of Education for inter-governmental and inter-agency affairs.

"The position was created to get student input within the Department of Education," Dougherty said.

Smith said he was chosen from among 75 applicants, more than twice as many students who applied for the position last year.

Smith was the chairman of the University's Council of Branch

Campus Student Governments for the 1981-82 school year.

Kenneth Varcoe, assistant vice president for Student Affairs, said Smith did an excellent job both as student government president at the DuBois Campus and as COBCSG chairman.

Varcoe said he believes Smith is a good listener and "will do a good job expressing the views of the students to the powers that be in the Department of Education."

Smith will receive a salary of \$875 a month and will hold the position until Jan. 16, when he will return to the University to finish his senior year, he said.

Smith has been on the job for a little more than a week and has just begun work on his first newsletter that will be sent to more than 3,000 colleges and universities across the country.

One of the tasks Smith said he

must tackle in writing the newsletter will be cutting the red tape to get information from administrators in Washington.

"That is a very difficult thing to do around here, as I've discovered," he said.

Smith intends to initiate his own ideas as far as the newsletter is concerned.

"Being involved in student government, I've never been afraid to come up with new ideas."

Input from students is scarce, Smith said, and he hopes the newsletter will inform more students that the liaison position exists.

The newsletter coming out of Smith's office will be different from the one published by the previous liaison, Mary E. Hayter.

Controversy arose when Hayter published some editorials about the nuclear freeze and school prayer in the newsletter, Smith said.

Smith plans to focus his newsletter on what is happening in the education department and why.

"It will keep us out of political hot water, I hope," Smith said.

In addition to writing a monthly newsletter, the position of student liaison also includes communicating students' views to the undersecretary.

"It doesn't mean the administration is going to change their policy," Smith said.

One of the biggest problems that students face, he said, is adjusting to their new economic conditions after graduation.

"Colleges and universities and even individual departments have to make students more aware of what's out there," Smith said.

He said Hayter did a good job while she held the position by expanding the mailing list and making more people aware of the position.

## Local phone service offers friendly ear to children

By **LORI-MARIE VAIL**  
Collegian Staff Writer

PhoneFriend, a telephone help line for children alone at home after school hours, will resume its service today.

The service, which is available to children in the Bellefonte and State College area school districts, is sponsored by the State College Branch of the American Association of University Women and is housed at the Women's Resource Center, 111 Sowers St.

Marilyn Keat, chairwoman of the PhoneFriend committee, said about 65 percent of last year's calls came from children who were lonely or frightened or just curious about PhoneFriend. Other calls concerned care of pets, minor cuts and scrapes, sibling disagreements, and household maintenance. Adolescents call the line for information concerning pregnancy, sexuality and dating.

The program, targeted at 4,500 children, received

about 45 calls per week last year.

Keat said volunteers have answered nearly 3,000 calls and have never had to handle a major medical question.

Volunteers act as supportive listeners for the children who call. They encourage the children to follow established family procedures when dealing with problems.

The pilot program for PhoneFriend began in January of 1982 and continued through June, when it closed for the summer. The service was then reopened in September and continued through the end of the school year.

"It is our feeling that parents are more likely to leave their children alone for a couple of hours rather than leave them unattended all day long, three months a year," Keat said.

However, one possible direction for the program would be to extend hours and to remain open through the summer because phone calls do come

in during hours when PhoneFriend is closed, she said.

But Keat said the program does not have adequate funds or volunteers to do so.

The idea for PhoneFriend was conceived in 1979 by AAUW members involved in a Family Facing Change study group that Keat chaired. The group studied the increasing number of two-career families. PhoneFriend evolved from this study.

"We know children are out there. We want to provide a service to the children — to the family," Keat said. "If talking to PhoneFriend can reduce stress children feel in their lives and perhaps then reduce the stress that parents feel, than that can enhance the community."

The AAUW has published a PhoneFriend Replication Packet containing a volunteer training manual and a public awareness program to be implemented in setting up a service similar to that of PhoneFriend. Keat said about 25 agencies have ordered the packet.

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Applications are due Sept. 26 at 5 pm.

The King and Queen will be announced in the HUB Ballroom Oct. 19. They will ride in the parade on Oct. 21.



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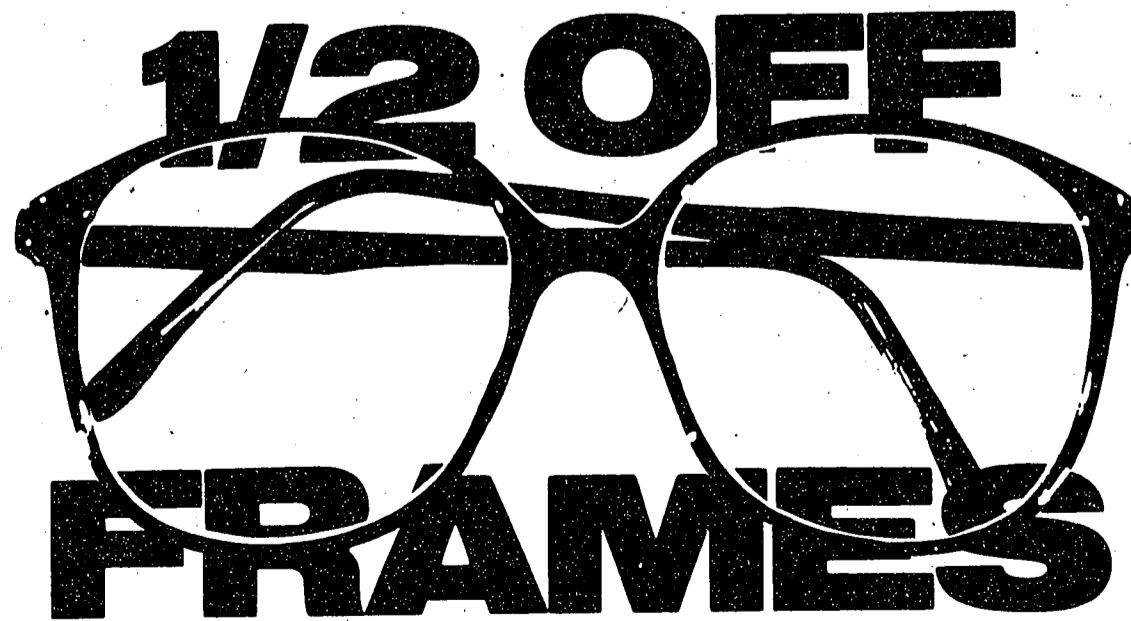
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