

## Second student arrested in alleged burglary ring

By **MARCIA McGRATH**  
Collegian Staff Writer

A second University student has been arrested in connection with a far-reaching burglary ring and a hearing for the first defendant was postponed after seven more charges were filed against him.

Investigating officer Ron Schreffler said he expects as many as 30 more arrests in the case, which may extend from Massachusetts to Florida.

The arrests are the result of a year-long investigation into a

burglary ring that stole whatever buyers requested, said Clifford Lutz, University Police Services spokesman.

"They were a custom-order burglary ring," he said. The first arrest was in connection with the theft of two electrical engineering exams from the University and the subsequent sale of the tests.

**YESTERDAY**, Steven B. Brown, 21, of 333 W. Logan Ave., was arrested and charged with two counts of burglary in connection

with the April 1 theft of a microwave oven from Fenske Laboratory and the April 4 theft of nine cases of carbonated beverages from the Foods Building Warehouse, police said.

The burglaries resulted in five felony and three misdemeanor charges.

Brown (senior-electrical engineering), from Miramar, Fla., was arraigned before District Justice Robert May and is being held in Centre County Prison, Bellefonte, in lieu of \$20,000 bond. A hearing is scheduled for Wednesday.

A hearing for David E. Schmidt (senior-nuclear engineering), who was arrested April 5, was scheduled for yesterday but postponed until May 3 to give the defense time to prepare its case against the additional charges.

In addition to the microwave and carbonated beverages thefts, new charges against Schmidt involve a set of master keys worth \$250,000 stolen from the Maintenance Building and a \$3,000 computer system taken from the Agricultural Administration Building.

Both men were charged yesterday

with burglary, theft by unlawful taking, receiving stolen property and criminal conspiracy.

Schmidt, 21, of 707 Stuart Hall, has been charged with a total of 17 felonies and eight misdemeanors. The charges include the alleged theft of two electrical engineering exams, possession of instruments of crime (lock picks), and possession, sale, distribution, manufacture or advertisement of intercepting devices (wiretapping equipment).

Schmidt is in Centre County Prison in lieu of \$250,000 bond. He

had been released April 11 when he posted the \$20,000 bond set for the original charges.

Police have recovered between \$6,000 and \$7,000 worth of the stolen property — including typewriters, the computer system and a refrigerator — Schreffler said.

The continuing investigation involves undercover University police and student and University employee informants. Some informants came forward as a result of related stories in The Daily Collegian, Schreffler said.

## Tension continues at embassy

London police stand vigil as officials in Libya free hostages

By **MAUREEN JOHNSON**  
Associated Press Writer

**LONDON** — Libya lifted its siege of the British Embassy in Tripoli yesterday, the Foreign Office said, but British sharpshooters in London kept their rifles trained on the Libyan mission from which a gunman attacked peaceful protesters.

A Foreign Office spokesman said British Ambassador Oliver Miles and 24 other Britons were given permission to leave the embassy in Tripoli yesterday afternoon after being trapped inside for more than 24 hours.

"We welcome this," said the spokesman, who spoke on condition he not be named. He said an unspecified number of those inside the embassy had left and that Libyan guards were still outside the embassy.

In London, police released without charge four Libyans who were detained Tuesday after a gunman sprayed submachine-gun fire from an upstairs embassy window on exiles demonstrating against Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khadafy. A British policewoman was killed and 11 protesters were wounded.

ABC news in New York reported last night that U.S. intelligence sources told it that shortly before the protest, an American spy satellite had intercepted a radio message from the Libyan government telling the embassy in London to use force in responding to the demonstrators.

"The U.S. government warned British authorities, but by the time British authorities could respond, shots had been fired," said the network, which did not name

the sources.

State Department spokesman Brian Carlson said in Washington he had no comment on the report.

Yesterday, for the first time in the two-day standoff, a Libyan diplomat left the building and went to the Foreign Office. Muftah Fitouri, from the embassy's political section, spent 40 minutes with the minister of state, Richard Luce.

Luce reiterated Britain's demand that the diplomats and revolutionary students holed up in the five-story Georgian building should leave it, the Foreign Office spokesman said.

Fitouri, the spokesman said, returned to the embassy in London's elegant St. James's Square to confer with Khadafy's administration.

Police sent Arab-style meals into the embassy yesterday, and nearby buildings remained evacuated. Armed police were seen moving across the roof of the surrounding structures and the embassy itself, believed to still house the gunman.

Scotland Yard spokesman John Miller said sporadic negotiations were conducted by telephone with those inside the embassy.

Earlier, in the Libyan capital of Tripoli, Ambassador Miles had been escorted by armed guards to see the Libyan foreign minister.

Britain's Foreign Office said Libya also lifted a siege around the ambassador's residence, where Miles' wife, Julia, remained with their four children.

Seven other wives of British diplomats whose homes had been encircled were also free to come and go, the Foreign Office said, but the embassy and homes remained under guard.



The sorrowful mother and sister of London police officer Yvonne Fletcher, who was killed outside the Libyan Embassy yesterday, leave the police station where Fletcher was assigned.

## New service sends 'Space-ial' greetings out to the universe

By **NAN CRYSTAL ARENS**  
Collegian Staff Writer

If you are in the market for a "spaced out" greeting card, a way to tap into "planetary energy" or just a way to communicate with the stars, Teleplanet Services, Inc. of Sunbury, Mass., has a product for you.

For a \$5 "launch fee," Teleplanet Services, as part of its SpaceShot program, will beam a radio message to the astronomical object of your choice, Pat Smith, a company spokeswoman, said.

"We're beaming messages into space for people," Smith said, adding that there are three reasons people might want to send a SpaceShot message.

First, the messages are creative "high technology greeting cards." After the SpaceShot is radioed, a certificate is sent that lists the message, date, where it was sent and when it will arrive at its destination.

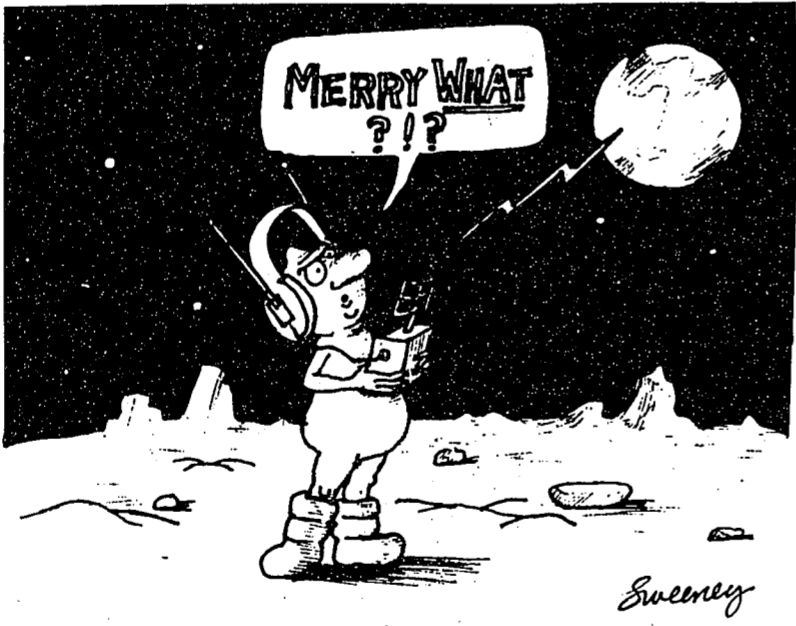
"Instead of sending the predictable Valentine's Day card, someone could send a SpaceShot to Venus that says, 'See how far I'll go to get the message across that I love you!'" said Stan Kaplan, president of Teleplanet Services.

People interested in astrology and tapping the mystic energies associated with the planets might also send a SpaceShot to ask for something for themselves or someone else, Smith said.

A SpaceShot to the moon might bring you increased emotional stability and protection according to an information kit provided by Teleplanet Services. Calling the sun could bring a promotion or raise and a SpaceShot to Neptune releases confusion, indecisiveness or irresponsibility.

Another reason for sending a SpaceShot is to interact with the Universe and send a greeting to any extra-terrestrial life that might be listening, Smith said.

Louis Winkler, assistant professor of astronomy, said a definite possibility exists that a



radio signal might reach extra-terrestrial intelligence.

"We do expect to find intelligent life forms out there," Winkler said. "They probably couldn't detect the (radio) signal over the intergalactic noise."

Winkler said people should choose a star like our sun if they want to have a chance of their SpaceShot reaching intelligent life.

Star systems that have more than one star tend not to have planets associated with them, Winkler said. "The planet gets kicked out when it tries to form in a binary system," he said.

Stars that are much larger or much smaller than our sun are also unlikely to have intelligent life, he added. Large hot stars do not live long enough for more advanced forms of life to evolve. Small stars like nearby Barnard's Star have violent solar flares that would disrupt life on a planet.

"One minute the life would be freezing and the next it would be burning up because of the (stellar flares)," Winkler said.

Barnard's Star, however, has two planets orbiting it. Astronomers believe they are large gas worlds much like Jupiter, he added.

Planetary systems like our own are also most likely to form around stars that rotate slowly, Winkler said.

Winkler said Tau Cetus, one of the objects available for a SpaceShot, and Epsilon Eridanus are two stars that could have planetary systems capable of supporting the evolution of intelligent life.

Smith said Teleplanet and the SpaceShot idea grew out of Kaplan's career in the telecommunications industry combined with his fascination with space.

"Few in our lifetime will be able to travel in space," Kaplan said. "What SpaceShot does is provide an affordable way to express that longing to literally get out there in the Universe."

"A radio message sent into deep space goes on forever. It's a chance for someone to have a tangible bit of personal immortality," Kaplan said.

The first SpaceShot messages will be sent from a radio tower in Sunbury, Mass., on May 1, Kaplan said.

Winkler said radio is chosen as a medium for communication

because radio waves can escape the earth's atmosphere. Also, radio waves pass through the clouds of dust that fill the spaces between stars.

"You wouldn't want to choose (visible) light, for example, because it would be absorbed by the dust," Winkler said.

Messages are sent in a binary digital format much like those used by computers that Kaplan said he believes extra-terrestrial life forms would recognize as intelligent in origin. The transmissions are made at a frequency of about 1,000 megahertz. This is close to the frequency monitored by scientists in their search for intelligent radio signals from space, Kaplan said.

SpaceShot uses a computer program to calculate the positions of astronomical objects and to determine when they are in range for transmission, Kaplan added. Messages can only be sent when the object is in proper alignment with the transmitter.

"I don't think SpaceShot is quite as way out as it seems at first," Kaplan said. "Are scientists who monitor signals from outer space in search of extra-terrestrial life way out? What I'm doing for people is providing them with a link with outer space."

Winkler said scientists have taken the initiative in contacting extra-terrestrial life forms instead of just listening passively. In 1974, a radio message was sent from the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center radio telescope at Arecibo, Puerto Rico. The message was aimed at the star cluster M-13.

"We've also been sending messages since the invention of radio," Winkler said. Because the ionosphere, the layer of the atmosphere from which radio signals are reflected, is inefficient, 99.9 percent of radio signals escape into space.

Although no SpaceShot messages have yet been sent, Kaplan said response to the new product has been overwhelming.

Also, Kaplan said he anticipates college students will be the prime users of the new service.

"We expect our college communities to be a prime target — the intelligence is there and students are always looking for something new and different."

## State House candidate withdraws from race

By **BEVERLY IVENS**  
Collegian Staff Writer

Because of extensive coverage of his legal problems in the Centre Daily Times, Philipsburg Mayor Ira Smades announced yesterday he has withdrawn from the 77th District race for a seat in the state House.

"They (the CDT) have gone out of their way to dig things up about me," he said.

Smades wrote a letter to the CDT announcing his withdrawal and sent a copy to The Daily Collegian. In the letter, he wrote: "You win. Despite the fact that I have grown accustomed to seeing my smiling face in the Centre Daily Times on almost a daily basis, I have decided to withdraw from the race for State Representative for the 77th Legislative District."

Smades was named in two federal tax lien notices and is contesting a lawsuit filed by his former law partner. He said the CDT has taken investigative journalism too far and that its coverage of the candidates has been unfair.

Smades' letter said CDT reporter Jim Buzinski and CDT State Editor Terry Dalton are biased toward incumbent Rep. Lynn Herman, R-Centre County. Buzinski said the accusation is unfounded. Information used in

CDT stories about the lawsuits is public record, he said.

"He's obviously upset by adverse publicity about (the lawsuits), but we think we were just doing our jobs," Buzinski said.

Merle McCalips, chairman of the Centre County Democratic Committee, said that Smades' withdrawal will increase the Democrats' chances of defeating Herman.

"It gives us an opportunity to get back into the race," McCalips said.

McCalips said he suggested to Smades last week that he consider withdrawing because of the loss of credibility.

"I didn't really believe he was a viable candidate any longer." Although rumors circulate that Tom Ortenberg, now running as Consumer Party candidate, would be asked to replace Smades, McCalips said, "I'm not sure how seriously we would entertain that idea."

The Centre County Democratic by-laws say that a candidate must be registered as a Democrat for at least two years prior to an election, which makes Ortenberg ineligible, he said. The committee has not selected another candidate for the race, McCalips said.

Ortenberg said he was not sure how Smades' withdrawal would affect his chances in the race.

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#### weather

Considerable cloudiness and cool today with a brief shower possible. The high will be 50. Partial clearing and cold tonight with a low of 35. Partly sunny and more seasonable tomorrow with a high near 58....by Glenn Rolph