

Weekend puts parents in touch

By ELLEN STERN
Collegian Staff Writer

For many parents, college life conjures up images of their children asking for more money. But the University's second annual Parents' Weekend held Saturday and Sunday gave parents and students a chance to share in some fun at the University.

The activities started Saturday with a continental breakfast for parents in the residence hall dining areas, and continued through the weekend with tours, open houses and information sessions.

"For a university of this size, they really make more of an effort to get in touch personally with par-

ents and students than a college one-tenth this size," said Ruth Schoenberg of Philadelphia, whose daughter is a freshman.

Sharon Mortensen, coordinator of Penn State Parents, which sponsored the event, said all the programs went very well. The Office of Penn State Parents was formed about a year ago to help parents experience the spirit of the University.

Before the Nittany Lions football game with Temple University Saturday, a reception in the Intramural Building enabled parents to become more familiar with academics at Penn State. Representatives from each college were available to answer questions about their respective fields.

Edward Danis, Division of Undergraduate Studies consultant to the College of the Liberal Arts, participated in the program and said parents really seemed to appreciate the opportunity to talk with academic advisers.

"Some parents expressed gratitude for the counseling their children received over the summer," he said. "From a public relations point of view, it's been very positive."

But Danis explained that college students and parents were not the only ones to benefit from Parents' Weekend.

"We've also talked to young high school students who have expressed an interest in liberal arts," he said,

explaining that brothers and sisters of University students visited with their parents and also learned about college life through the programs.

Another featured event of the weekend was a 7,000 blue and white balloon send-off before the game. Parents wrote their names on tags attached to the balloons and released them in Beaver Stadium. A prize will be given to the person whose balloon travels the longest distance.

"I think the weekend was very well organized and a lot of fun," one parent from Reading, said. "This is a much more social atmosphere than freshman orientation, which was more informative."



The parent of a University student signs her name on a slip of paper to be attached to a balloon and released at the start of the Penn State-Temple football game, while her daughter and another parent look on. The balloons were part of the second annual Parents Weekend, held this past weekend to help parents informed about their children's lives at the University.

Missing witness delays trial

By LORI HELLER
Collegian Staff Writer

The non-jury trial of a State College man charged with involuntary manslaughter in the drug death of a young woman will not begin today as scheduled because the key prosecuting witness cannot be located, Centre County's Ray Gricar said.

Elizabeth Road, was charged in March with involuntary manslaughter and delivery and possession of drugs after he was found unconscious in a room at the Nittany Budget Motel, 1274 N. Alberton St., with Sabina Wright, 23, of Piney Ridge, who was found dead.

Wright's autopsy results revealed that Wright died from a cocaine-morphine overdose. The defendant, son of Raymond F. Agostinelli — owner of McLanahan drug stores — allegedly supplied the victim with the drugs, Gricar said.

The trial has been postponed because Marc A. Saccarelli, a witness who testified during the March preliminary hearing that he took drugs with the pair at the motel room and later left, cannot be located, Gricar said.

The trial could proceed without Saccarelli because his testimony was taped, but Gricar said it would benefit the prosecution's case if Saccarelli testified in person.

If a witness cannot be found, Pennsylvania law allows pre-recorded testimony of witnesses to be included in the trial, Gricar said.

Gricar said he does not know why Saccarelli disappeared. Gricar said he spoke to Saccarelli's friends and family, but no one can explain why he left.

The trial may reveal whether the morphine came from McLanahan's Drug Store at 1690 N. Atherton St. or from another source, Gricar said.

"We don't have an eyewitness that saw (the defendant) take the drugs (from the store)," he said.

Gricar said Wright's death was accidental. The defendant is on trial for doing something in a grossly negligent manner to cause a death, he said.

Saccarelli, a University student at the time of the incident, is an essential witness for the prosecution and the judge must decide whether he is a credible witness, since the defendant chose to have a non-jury trial, Gricar said.

For most crimes, the defendant has a choice between a jury and non-jury trial, but the prosecution does not have that right, said Arthur Patterson, University associate professor of administration of justice.

Patterson said a defendant may choose a non-jury trial if he thinks the jury may be biased because of his status in the community.

collegian notes

- The Student Counselors are accepting applications for the Escort Service from 4 p.m. to midnight each day in 135 Boucke.
- The Student Counselors have extended their services to 24 hours each day. Stop in 135 Boucke or call 863-2020.
- A bloodmobile will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and tomorrow in the HUB Ballroom.
- The graduate student group of Episcopal Student Ministry will meet from 3 to 4:30 this afternoon in 210 Eisenhower Chapel.
- The Peer Contraception Education Program will have a program at 7 tonight in 28 Ritenour Health Center.
- The College of Arts and Architecture Student Council will meet at 7 tonight in 128 Arts Building.
- The Newman Student Association will hold an open discussion at 7:15 tonight in the Memorial Lounge, Eisenhower Chapel.
- A keg of beer and a tap were reported missing Saturday from the vehicle of Scott Weaver, 716 Tener, while it was parked north of the Intramural Building, University Police said.
- A jacket belonging to Dennis Slater, 605 Clyde St., New Kensington, was reported missing Saturday from the IUB lawn, University Police Services said.
- A jacket belonging to Tom Schaffner, 229 S. Patterson St., was reported missing from her front yard Saturday morning, State College police said.

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