

Astro Club sights comet on 6½-yr. orbit

By RHONDA F. BERSHOK
Collegian Science Writer

Undaunted by chilly temperatures, five members of the University's Astronomy Club set up their equipment on the roof of Davey Laboratory during the early morning hours Saturday and watched.

At 2:30, Tim Wugofski (senior-astronomy and physics), the club's vice president, looked through the telescope's eyepiece and said, "There it is."

Four other people hurried around him. Looking briefly through the eyepiece, they saw a faint white smudge and went home with a deep sense of satisfaction.

Mark Horvath (senior-astronomy and physics), the club's president, said, "Amateur astronomers thrive on this sort of thing."

The club had assembled to view comet Giacobini-Zinner — "GZ" for short. Horvath said the comet appears in the Earth's skies every six and a half years.

Comets remain visible for several months, depending on how fast they are traveling, Wugofski said.

Saturday morning was one of the better times to view GZ, he said.

Adding excitement for the club members Saturday was the possibility of viewing the long-awaited return of Halley's comet. Had they been it able to see it, it would have been visible within two degrees — four widths of the moon — of GZ in the sky, Wugofski said.

As it turns out, however, they did not see Halley's — it was too faint to be seen.

Halley's, which returns to the inner solar system every 76 years, will be visible from late November to April, Horvath said.

The best time to see Halley's will be in April, but the viewing will be better in the Southern Hemisphere, he said.

The Astronomy Club plans to hold open houses to view Halley's in late November and early December, he said.

Horvath explained that a comet is

"basically a dirty snowball."

Comets originate in the Oort cloud far outside the orbits of the planets. The cloud of ice and debris is left over from the formation of our solar system, he said.

"The snowball may sit out there for millions of years and then something disturbs it," he said.

When a snowball in the Oort cloud is disturbed by a gravitational tug, the comet starts moving toward the sun — very slowly at first, he said.

"Most comets flip around the sun and are never seen again," Horvath said, adding that all comets follow a cycle, but the cycle may be millions of years long.

"Occasionally, (comets) wander by a major planet, and those are the ones that (return regularly), because they are bent into a shorter orbit," he said.

These short-period comets might become trapped in our solar system and develop a cycle of one thousand years or less, Horvath said.

Horvath said the actions of McDonald and

"When the comet is going away from the sun, the tail precedes it," he said.

Horvath said the Astronomy Club plans to view Halley's from the University's Black Moshannon Observatory, about 25 miles northeast of State College, as well as from the Davey Lab observatory.

"The 'seeing' is better at Black Moshannon," Horvath said. The viewing quality of an area is rated on a scale of one to 10, he said. This is what is referred to as the "seeing."

Humidity, turbulent air, and city lights lower the seeing, he said.

"The less stars twinkle, the better we like it. The less moon, the better we like it," Horvath said.

Wugofski said, "I wish we could switch the moon off."

"Anywhere USA" has an average rating of six or seven. Black Moshannon stands at an eight or nine, while State College is several points lower due to the town's lights, Horvath said.

USG dismissals topic of hearing tonight

By W.T. HOLLAND
Collegian Staff Writer

Members of a special Undergraduate Student Government Senate committee will conduct a hearing at 6 tonight to determine if USG President Dave Rosenblatt justifiably dismissed Michael McDonald and Andrew Barnes from their USG Business Department positions.

Barnes and McDonald, the former co-owners of Mike and Andy's College

Carpets, 342 E. College Ave, submitted formal written requests to the USG Senate on Aug. 27, asking the Senate Appropriations Review Board to investigate the circumstances of their dismissal.

In response, the board subpoenaed eight people associated with either the USG Business Department — previously under McDonald's management — or staff members of Perceptions magazine — previously under Barnes' direction this summer,

said review board Chairwoman Sue Wilson.

The dismissals came after McDonald's and Barnes' carpet business led them to neglect their USG positions, Rosenblatt said.

Rosenblatt said Barnes' staff was ill-informed about approaching deadlines, while McDonald never fully explored all the possibilities of carpet sales for USG.

In a Sept. 8 interview, Rosenblatt

said the actions of McDonald and

Barnes were "irresponsible to two groups, the USG Business Department and Perceptions personnel, and the students."


"Andy was risking our magazine and Mike was not fulfilling his responsibility as business manager because they took a USG idea and turned it into one for private profit," McDonald and Barnes have said several restrictions prevented an organization such as USG to sell carpets on campus.

Wilson.

The dismissals came after McDonald's and Barnes' carpet business led them to neglect their USG positions, Rosenblatt said.

Rosenblatt said Barnes' staff was ill-informed about approaching deadlines, while McDonald never fully explored all the possibilities of carpet sales for USG.

In a Sept. 8 interview, Rosenblatt



PS I love U

Penn State Sub Shops

Meatball Monday
\$1 off an 18" meatball hoagie
offer expires Sept. 16th
offer good with this ad

FREE DELIVERY
234-4SUB

DAILY SPECIALS!!



Pizza π

*Whole wheat dough available

\$1 off any 16" Pizza with 2 or more items

Pizza π

one coupon per customer

Expires 9/16/85
FREE DELIVERY DAILY
Starting at 11 a.m.
234-0182

Wear your **Pizza π** T-Shirt into the store and get 1 free topping on a slice!

Need a place to have a Baby Shower, Retirement Party, or a Private Party? Try the Founder's Room in the HUB Eateries. There's no Rental Fee and we'll tailor a menu just for you. We're also open for lunch from 11:30 am-1:30 pm daily serving the menu listed below. Join us for a relaxing lunch in an on-campus atmosphere. Call 865-7623 for more information.

BEGIN WITH

PAPAYA JUICE	.95
COCKTAIL	1.25
MONKEY BUSINESS	.65
SOUP OF THE DAY	.65 bowl .95

LITE & HEALTHY

FRENCH ONION SOUP AU GRATIN	1.95
POTATO SKINS — stuffed with your choice of:	
cheddar cheese & bacon	2.25
monterey jack cheese & mushrooms	2.25
broccoli & cheese	2.25
"south of the border skins"	2.50

DELI-WICHES (YOUR CHOICE INCLUDES CUP OF SOUP, KOSHER PICKLE SPEAR & CHIPS)

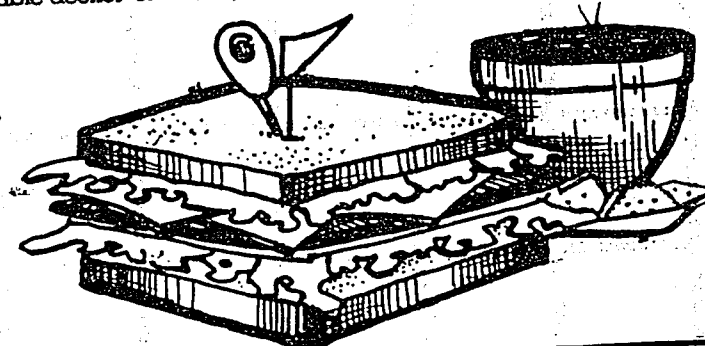

CROISSANT	3.25
HAM & SWISS	2.75
CHAR-BROILED BURGER	2.75
REUBEN GRILL	3.25
FRENCH DIP	3.25
FOUNDERS' CLUB	3.25

DESSERTS


UNIVERSITY ICE CREAM	.60
UNIVERSITY SHERBERT	.60
FRESHLY BAKED PIE	.65
BROWNIE SUNDAE	1.25

BEVERAGE

COFFEE	\$
MILK	.75
SOFT DRINKS	.75
FRUIT JUICES	.75
VARIETY TEA	.75

THE FOUNDERS ROOM



33 Hetzel Union Bldg. University Park, PA 16802
Located in the Hetzel Union Bldg. (ground floor)
Operated by The Pennsylvania State University Housing and Food Services.

You Can Save A Life!

Come And Donate At Your

BLOODMOBILE

TODAY!

HUB Ballroom 10-4
Mon., Sept. 16 & Tues., Sept. 17

Alpha Phi Omega And Gamma Sigma Sigma

Penn State

Indoor Soccer Club


2nd Organizational Meeting

7:00 PM Tuesday Sept. 17

HUB Assembly Hall

(next to the HUB desk)

All members and any others interested are reminded to bring \$14 for yearly dues and t-shirt, data sheets, waiver forms, and shoe orders (with payment). New members are still welcome.



Conserve water.