

Research farm falls victim to theft problem

A \$750 weather-recording device was reported missing this week from a University research farm in Rock Springs.

Larry Jordan, coordinator for the plant pathology department, said the device was discovered missing Monday morning from a weather station on a section of land the department uses for research. University Police Services said the incident was reported Tuesday.

The device, called a Hydro-Thermograph, records relative humidity and temperature on a seven-day basis, Jordan said.

Rock Springs, about three miles west of Pine Grove Mills, is the site of several University research farms, including those operated by the horticulture and agronomy departments. Jordan said several farms in the area have been experiencing a pattern of theft and vandalism this summer.

"There's been a problem of thefts of weather equipment this summer for some reason," Jordan said. "That plus some trouble with (all-terrain vehicles) coming here with kids who are about 12 to 15 years old. We look at this as the same kind of thing."

"We have other ones," Jordan said, adding that the theft would not set back research at the farm. "They're pretty common, but they're fairly expensive."

—by Robert P. King

Air Force says H-bomb dropped in U.S. 29 years ago couldn't have detonated

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — A 42,000-pound hydrogen bomb accidentally fell from an Air Force plane 29 years ago, it was disclosed yesterday, but officials said there never was any chance of a nuclear explosion.

No one was injured when the bomb hit an uninhabited area 4 1/2 miles south of Kirtland Air Force Base's control tower on May 22, 1957, the Albuquerque Journal reported in a copyright story.

The bomb created a crater about 12 feet deep and 25 feet in diameter, and minor radioactive contamination was detected there, government documents obtained by the Journal said.

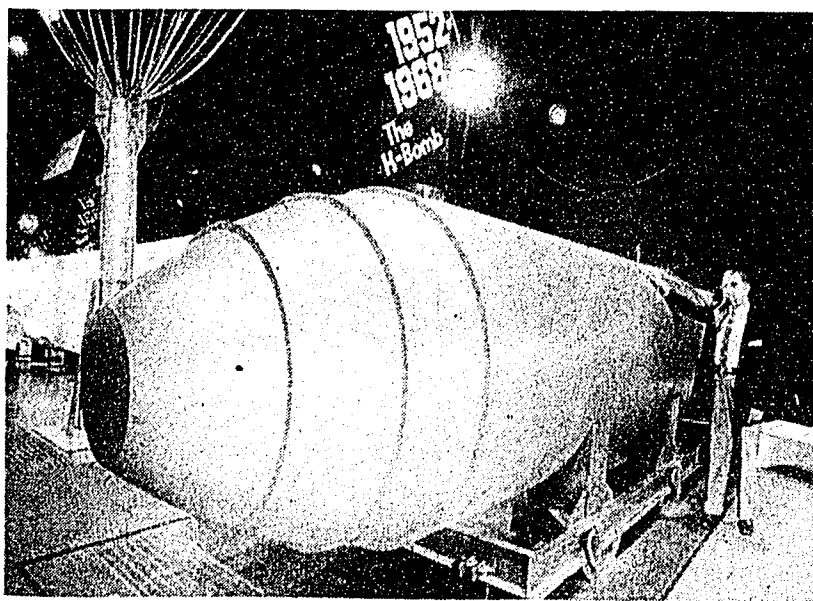
Non-nuclear explosives in the Mark 17 bomb detonated when it hit the ground, the documents said. But non-nuclear explosives must be triggered in a precise manner to cause a nuclear explosion, said Rich Garcia, spokesman for the Air Force Weapons Laboratory in Albuquerque.

"When a bomb accidentally falls, the impact of the fall triggers some (non-nuclear) explosives to go off, but not in the correct fashion," he said yesterday.

Dave Jackson, spokesman for the U.S. Department of Energy in Albuquerque, said there was another reason that it was physically impossible for the Mark 17 to produce a nuclear explosion in an accidental fall.

The bomb "had a portion of the actual weapon removed and put in a different location," he said. "It was routine procedure at the time."

The Mark 17 fell 1,700 feet from an Air Force B-36 bomber as it was flying to Kirtland Air Force Base from Biggs Army Air Field in Texas,



Woody Underwood, a worker at the National Atomic Museum at Kirtland Air Force Base is dwarfed by a replica of the Mark 17 hydrogen bomb. One of the 42,000-pound bombs accidentally fell from an Air Force bomber near Albuquerque, N.M. 29 years ago, although the Air Force says no blast occurred.

collegian notes

• Phi Mu Alpha jazz band will meet at 9:30 tonight in 117 Music Building.

• The Peer Contraception Education Program is accepting applications today for Fall Semester training, in 237 Ritenour.

police log

• University Police Services apprehended an undisclosed number of individuals Tuesday night for squirting pedestrians with a squirt gun from a moving car along College Avenue, University police said. The individuals were turned over to the State College Bureau of Police Services.

• Padlocks in the men's locker room in White Building were switched sometime Tuesday, preventing people from opening their lockers, Patricia Moore, White Building staff member, told University police.

• A wallet containing \$62 was reported missing Tuesday from the room of Todd Banning, 516 Tener, University police said.

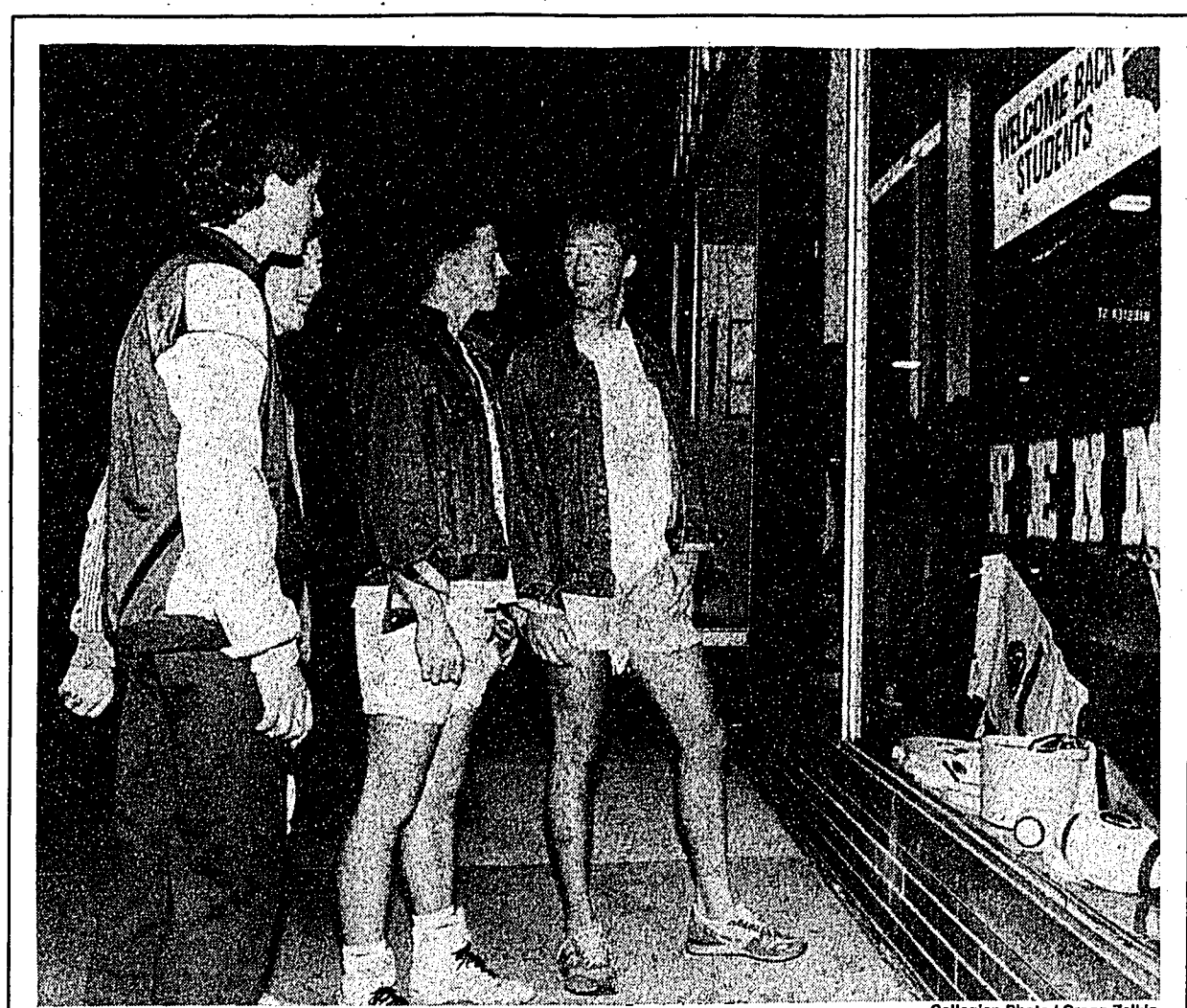
• A microwave belonging to Kaplan Ventures, 226 Highland Ave., was reported missing from an apartment at 325 W. Foster Ave., sometime between Aug. 25 and Aug. 26, State College police said.

• The receiver of the Hastings lobby phone was missing Tuesday, University police reported. It is valued at \$10.

• A \$400 television was reported missing Tuesday from 2 Fisher Hall by Sharon Abrino, housing supervisor for East Halls, University police said.

• Two trophies worth \$50 were reported missing Tuesday from the Hartranft Hall lobby, after a glass display case was broken, University police said.

—by John Spence



Window shopping
Chuck Malone (sophomore-engineering), Dave Oht (sophomore-engineering), John Rautzahn (junior-engineering), Darrell Rearch (junior-Hazleton campus) shop for Penn State memorabilia on College Avenue Monday evening. Cash registers at downtown businesses began jingling again as students returned for Fall Semester. The cost of textbooks will cause many wallets to grow painfully tight this week, but State College businesses aren't complaining.

Academic excellence continues at PSU

By DEBBIE BRODERICK
Collegian Staff Writer

Dean Charles Hosler, vice president for research and dean of the graduate school, credits the University's high ranking to the combination of strong academic programs, good faculty members and the students themselves.

"I believe we have some excellent, rigorous academic programs here at Penn State — the nature of the instruction is enough to inspire students to get fired up about education so that they want to go to ultimately earn their doctorate degrees."

Hosler added that the ranking "reflects very favorably on the undergraduate program here at Penn State."

The top 10 U.S. institutions include the University of California at Berkeley with 964 doctoral degrees; the University of Michigan, 307; the University of Illinois, 267; the University of California at Los Angeles, 253; the University of Wisconsin, 245; Penn State, 224; Cornell University, 217; Ohio State University, 207; Michigan State University, 202; and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 200, according to the survey.

Responsibility:

OTIS advice on getting your security deposit back

By MICHAEL CARLIN
Collegian Staff Writer

Students can avoid the problem of getting back security deposits if they are informed about the laws regarding them.

Marjorie Utt, president of the Organization for Town Independent Students, said the main problem with returning security deposits is that students do not understand the responsibility behind renting an apartment.

"They say, 'This place was a pigsty when I came in, so they leave it that way,'" Utt said of tenants going to OTIS for legal advice.

However, landlords may deduct the cost of damages or uncleanness from the security deposit, Utt said, adding that tenants are not responsible for normal wear and tear on an apartment.

Utt said it is advantageous for students who come to OTIS claiming "bogus" deductions were

taken from their security deposits to have pictures or witnesses to prove the fees are unwarranted.

Although OTIS hasn't had any students coming in with security deposit problems to date, Utt said she expects many students to seek legal advice within the next few weeks.

Kevin DePietro, member of the OTIS legal committee, said many people do not realize that state law currently allows landlords 30 days from the day the lease ends to return the security deposit. If a security deposit is not returned within 30 days, DePietro said, OTIS will call the landlord and look into the problem.

If the tenant has not received the security deposit after 30 days, the landlord forfeits his claim to damages and the tenant is entitled to collect double the deposit amount.

While state law limits security deposits to no more than two months' rent, in State College the deposit is usually equal to one month's rent.

Dottie Colton, property manager for Associated Realty, 1321 S. Atherton St., said a check-in sheet is filled out at the beginning of the lease. At the end of the lease, the room must be in the same condition. Everything — including carpets, drapes and refrigerators — must be cleaned.

Colton said the security deposit is placed into a neutral-party escrow account for the duration of the lease. When leaving, tenants must provide a forwarding address to which the security deposit may be returned.

If the room was left uncleaned or damaged, the company sends out a letter stating costs, Colton said.

The biggest problem with apartments is vandalism, she said. If the damage cost exceeds the deposit, the owner sends an invoice to the tenant. If the damages are not paid within two weeks, the district magistrate takes over.

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