

USEC letter to Jordan criticizes Regan visit

By DAMON CHAPPIE
Collegian Staff Writer

USEC, in a letter to University President Bryce Jordan yesterday, criticized a visit here next week from White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan, but Jordan said last night that the invitation won't be withdrawn. The 18 members of the University Student Executive Council, composed of leaders from top student organizations, said a speech by Regan launching the University's long-awaited \$200 million fund-raising campaign "may not be in the University's own best interests."

"Truly, Mr. Regan's voice of support would ring hollow at a University with a strong commitment to equal opportunity," the letter stated. During the November superpower summit, Regan suggested that women care more about fashion than arms control and recently questioned whether American women would be willing to sacrifice their diamonds for South African sanctions.

"Mr. Regan's past public remarks resound clearly his view of the intellectual capabilities of women and of the role of women in our society," USEC wrote.

In a telephone interview from his home last night, Jordan said the "invitation has been issued and we will move ahead."

A White House aide on Friday confirmed that Regan will speak here Sept. 13, in the

opening ceremonies for the Campaign for Penn State, a five-year fund-raiser that the University is relying on to fund scholarships, endowments and new buildings.

Jordan said Regan's presence would be "a very definite benefit to the campaign."

Asked if he thought some potential donors would be alienated because of the Regan visit, Jordan answered, "No, we don't believe so."

Jordan said he hadn't seen USEC's letter but that it wouldn't affect the decision to invite Regan for the gala.

Details haven't been released yet on when Regan will arrive and how long he will stay, but the University is expected to issue a statement by the end of this week.

USEC Chairwoman Sue Sturgis, also vice president of the Undergraduate Student Government, called the USEC letter unprecedented because it was agreed to and signed by all members after a relatively short debate.

"This kind of action by USEC is unprecedented and makes a particularly strong statement," Sturgis said. "I'm really pleased with the way USEC is able to work together for the good of the whole University. The action shows a genuine concern for the way the campaign will be perceived."

The letter said: "It matters not to us where Mr. Regan stands in the political spectrum.

What is of concern is simply a matter of insensitivity.

"There is little doubt that Mr. Regan's support may force a portion, if not a major portion, of the potential pool of donors to the University to feel compromised in supporting this campaign in light of Mr. Regan's participation in our efforts."

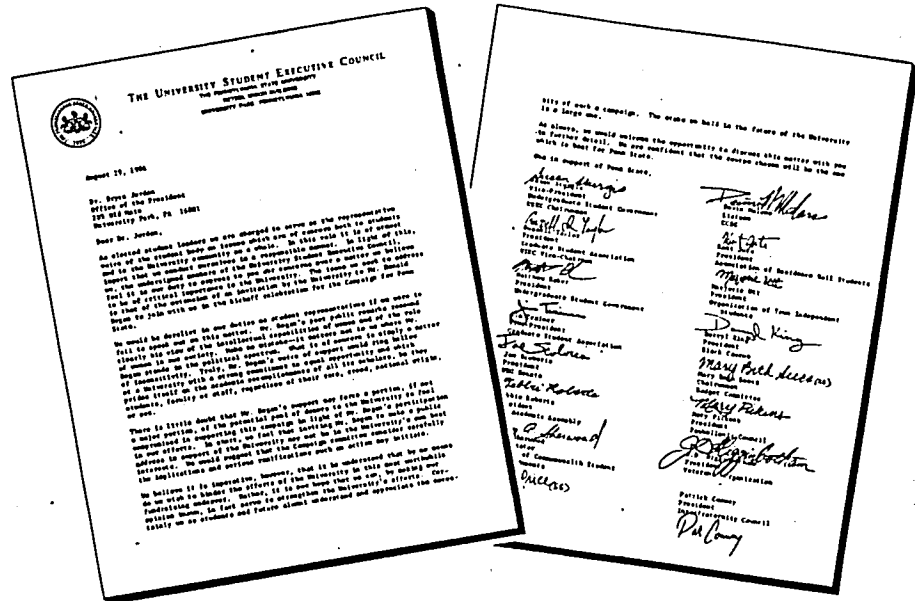
USEC said it wasn't attempting to "hinder" the campaign by raising the implications of Regan's visit, but rather it was attempting to "strengthen the University's efforts."

The 67-year-old Regan, who has served in President Reagan's administration since 1981, first as treasury secretary then as chief of staff, has been said to be the dominant force in the Reagan administration and a key figure in every major decision.

The *Wall Street Journal* reported a joke circulating in the White House that maintains the entire nation's business is conducted between 9 and 9:30 a.m., when Regan meets Reagan for a daily briefing.

Regan, a Harvard University graduate, moved into government after heading Wall Street's leading financial service company, Merrill Lynch & Co.

His successor at Merrill Lynch, William Schreyer, a Penn State graduate, is also the chairman of the Campaign for Penn State and a recent gubernatorial appointee to the University Board of Trustees.



Please see Page 14 for related graphic
— a reproduction of the USEC letter.



Carl H. Zerbe, who shot a pedestrian in Sunbury yesterday, lies dead after being killed by police.

Police kill Sunbury gunman

By The Associated Press

SUNBURY — A gunman aiming at an auxiliary police officer shot a passer-by yesterday afternoon before being killed by police, authorities said.

The passer-by, Carl A. Rice, 43, was listed in stable condition in Sunbury Community Hospital after undergoing surgery for a gunshot wound in his abdomen, authorities said.

Carl H. Zerbe, 56, was killed by a single shot to the chest about 2:30 p.m. when he fired on police officers after being told repeatedly to

put down his gun, Sunbury police Chief Charles McAndrew said.

Authorities offered no motive for Zerbe's attack in this small northeastern Pennsylvania town.

The confrontation began when Zerbe, his handgun held at his side, started yelling obscenities at Special Officer Lawrence Ruhl after leaving a state tax office, McAndrew said.

Ruhl, a meter attendant who wears a police uniform but carries no gun, took cover behind a car and radioed for help. Zerbe then fired several shots, aiming at Ruhl but hitting Rice, McAndrew said.

Zerbe ran into the Hotel Edison, where employees said he had lived for two months, but left again moments later, finding 30 law enforcement officers from six departments waiting, authorities said.

"They told him to drop the gun several times. He started shooting and they shot him," said Jim Brumbach, owner of a store across the street from the hotel.

Hotel desk clerk Shirley Stellfox said a fellow employee tried to persuade Zerbe to drop his gun before confronting police.

400 Soviets feared drowned

By KEN OLSEN
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — A tourist-packed Soviet cruise ship, rammed and torn open by a freighter, sank so fast that there was no time to deploy lifeboats and almost 400 people are feared dead, a maritime official said yesterday.

The same vessel, then under a Red Cross flag, sank during World War II after striking a mine.

Deputy Merchant Marine Minister Leonid P. Nedyak told a news conference that rescue boats plucked 836 survivors from the Black Sea, most of them clinging to rafts that floated free when the liner *Admiral Nakhimov* plunged to the bottom at about midnight Sunday.

There were 1,234 people aboard, according to official reports.

Nedyak said 79 bodies were recovered and that 319 people were still missing two days after the collision.

"I hope and all of us hope that out of the 319 missing persons there may be some survivors," Nedyak said. But he added: "I believe that most of these passengers are still aboard the ship. Until the divers do their work it will be difficult to confirm this supposition."

He said the vessel rests on the bottom at a depth of 155 feet.

Nedyak said the information he had indicated no body had been recovered since late Monday. He said 29 of the survivors were hospitalized, but he did not give their conditions.

He said the liner was rammed amidships on its starboard at 11:15 p.m. Sunday by the Soviet freighter *Pyotr Vasyev*. The collision occurred about nine miles from the port of Novorossiysk.

Nedyak said officials believe the cruise ship sank within 15 minutes.

"The blow came into the partition between the engine room and the boiler room and, practically speaking, it ripped the ship open," Nedyak said.

"From the moment of the blow until the moment of the sinking of the ship, it was not possible to launch into water any of the rescue boats," he said.

Nedyak said it was too soon to assign blame. He said there was no fog at the time of the collision.

He said about 50 vessels were continuing search and rescue operations, along with helicopters and other aircraft.

There were no casualties among the crew of the freighter, which was laden with grain, Nedyak said.

The 888 cruise ship passengers were all Soviet tourists, mostly from the Ukraine and Baltic republics.

Nedyak said he was not sure how many children were aboard. He said five of those rescued and two found dead were children.

The Soviet media first reported the calamity Monday afternoon, less than 17 hours after it happened.

A commission headed by Geidar Aliev, a member of the ruling Politburo, is investigating the ship's sinking.

Rapidity of report on sea disaster uncharacteristic of Soviet media

By ANDREW ROSENTHAL
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — The Kremlin publicity machine, criticized for sluggishness after the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, reported the sinking of the passenger ship *Admiral Nakhimov* with surprising speed and rare detail.

Official media announced the Black Sea disaster less than 17 hours after it happened, a contrast to the usual handling of accidents by a government to which secrecy is a reflex.

Chernobyl was not reported until nearly three days later, when Sweden detected high radiation levels and demanded an explanation.

After the loss of the *Admiral Nakhimov* was reported, an official spokesman accepted questions from the foreign press, giving international telephone interviews in English. Local officials in Black Sea ports also provided some early information.

Last evening, less than 48 hours after the ship went down, authorities convened a news conference at which a top maritime official answered questions quickly and professionally.

Leonid P. Nedyak, the deputy merchant marine minister, told reporters without flinching that a Soviet freighter rammed the cruise liner, which was carrying 1,234 people, and it sank before lifeboats could be freed.

He said 79 bodies were found, 319 people were missing and 836 had been rescued.

State television's main evening news program included coverage of the news conference.

The speedy official response surprised Western journalists in Moscow, who normally scramble for every crumb of information about major accidents or natural disasters and often are left with only unconfirmed rumors.

Students express drop/add frustration

By CHRISTINE METZGER
Collegian Staff Writer

Confusion about the University's registration system has left some students frustrated and angry as they have attempted to drop and add classes during the past few days.

Two problems students said they encountered were a lack of departmental control over student registration in certain courses and the fact that students found it necessary to fill their schedules with undesired classes.

"I couldn't get a class that is in my major while people in other majors were able to pick it up," said Andrea Dunn (junior-speech communication). "I don't think this is fair. I feel students should have the first shot at classes in their major."

Tony Lentz, assistant professor of speech communication, expressed similar concerns.

Without course control, under which departments allow only certain students into particular classes, individual departments have problems assigning students the courses they need for their majors, Lentz said. As a result, the courses can be picked up by non-majors, he added.

The procedure of obtaining course control involves a request made by a department head to the instruction

associate dean of a college. The request is then sent to the vice president of academic services, said E.R. Melander, assistant vice president for academic services.

"Course control is applied when there is an over-subscription of students for a course that is needed to fill major requirements," Melander said.

However, requests for control are not always honored, Melander said.

"The University tries to keep courses as open as possible to allow students to move around the curriculum," he said.

"I don't know of any student unable to graduate because of the unavailability of a course," said Dennis S. Gouran, head of the department of speech communication.

"Some students may have to settle for a class that is not what they wanted to fulfill graduation requirements. However, we do try, through advising, to select a course that has similar content with the preferred course," Gouran said.

Melander added that the University, through the course assignment program, tries to keep students informed about courses that are in high demand. For example, ads are published in *The Daily Collegian* that list closed courses and courses under department control, he said.

wednesday

inside

A new high speed rail survey predicts the system could be used by up to 8 million people a year. The proposed system, which would run through State College, would allow passengers to travel from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh in two hours
.....Page 2

With football season less than a week away, it's time once again for the Penn State Blue Band to take the field. But the most important question facing the band this year revolves around the drum major and whether he will be able to perform his traditional pre-game flip.....Page 24

index

arts.....24
opinion.....12
sports.....15
state/nation/world.....10

weather

This afternoon we'll have a mixture of sun and clouds. It will be warmer as the high reaches 77. Tonight, partly cloudy and mild with a low near 60. Tomorrow, morning sunshine will give way to clouds during the afternoon, high 73.....Heidi Sonen