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Linksters end topsy-turvy season

By MEGAN CULHANE Collegian Sports Writer

It was a roller coaster ride of a fall season for the men's golf team. The season started off modestly with a very young team possessing the potential to fulfill Head Coach Mary Kennedy's goal of a national championship

Slowly, the team set its goals, nurtured young talent, boosted its confidence and felt its way around the golf course.

After two fifth-place showings, the Lions turned it on firing 598 to clinch the first-place spot at the Walter McLaughlin tournament. The title marked the first time the team had won a tournament in almost three years and established the Lions as a force to be reckoned with.

established. Riding on a wave of confi- eigth-place showing. dence, or maybe overconfidence, it "We thought we would win (the looked to the qualifier as a bridge to ECACs), but we forgot one thing," bigger and better things.

The Lions went in expecting to win got to play well to win." - indeed, they were favored to win - but after one round of do-or-die golf, said that it was a positive one from they settled for a disheartening third- her standpoint as a coach. place finish.

A chance for redemption came when the Lions hosted the Atlantic 10 Championship Tournament. Penn State had last won an A-10 tournament in 1983 by a mere one stroke. This season, the team again gained a one-stroke victory by nudging out arch-rival Temple 623 to 624. The team was pleased at the

chance to get another notch in the win home stretch. Their two wins out of looking backward and saying 'Look themselves and their golf games. The four tries wasn't a bad record, but the what we did.' "

five. The ECAC Championships season with pride.

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'Even though the final outcome had to come about, I feel we are still successful as a team. It has been one of the most successful seasons I've had coaching.'

Marv Kennedv Head Golf Coach

With that tangible win securely in loomed on the horizon and, with the "We had a great season," Braun their golf bags, the Lions headed for A-10 victory fresh in their minds, the said. "The tournaments we won were the East Coast Athletic Conference Lions had hopes of another win. The great team efforts. There were the qualifier. The team was at the peak of team's play fell short of those expecbad points, but the winning overshadits season and under pressure to tations, however, and the Lions ended ows them. We ended sourly, but you maintain the status it had previously the season with an anti-climatic can't sit around crying about it or

> sophomore Dan Braun said. "You've Reflecting on the season, Kennedy

"Even though the final outcome had to come about. I feel we are still successful as a team," Kennedy said. "It has been one of the most success- itive schedule. As success comes, ful seasons I've had coaching. I'm hopefully the spring will bring a more happy that I kept my decision on the confident and competitive level for lineup, it seemed to work out the best all of them." way. The combination seemed to work well.

team was shooting for three out of The players, too, look back at the chance to change strategies and cov-

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vou'll lose confidence." Kennedy said the final letdown makes the team more eager to start

the spring season. She said if the Lions didn't have the disappointing finish in the fall, there might have been a hint of overconfidence to taint the team's attitude. "They've been learning and matur-

ing all the way," Kennedy said. "They've had the experience of playing with good players and a compet-

As winter approaches, the Lions will be driven indoors to practice. "A couple of wins combined with a Kennedy said the team will concencouple of letdowns contributed to the trate on both individual and team The Lions then entered the season's final disappointment. We're not goals, as well as learning to trust time will provide the team with a

er past mistakes.

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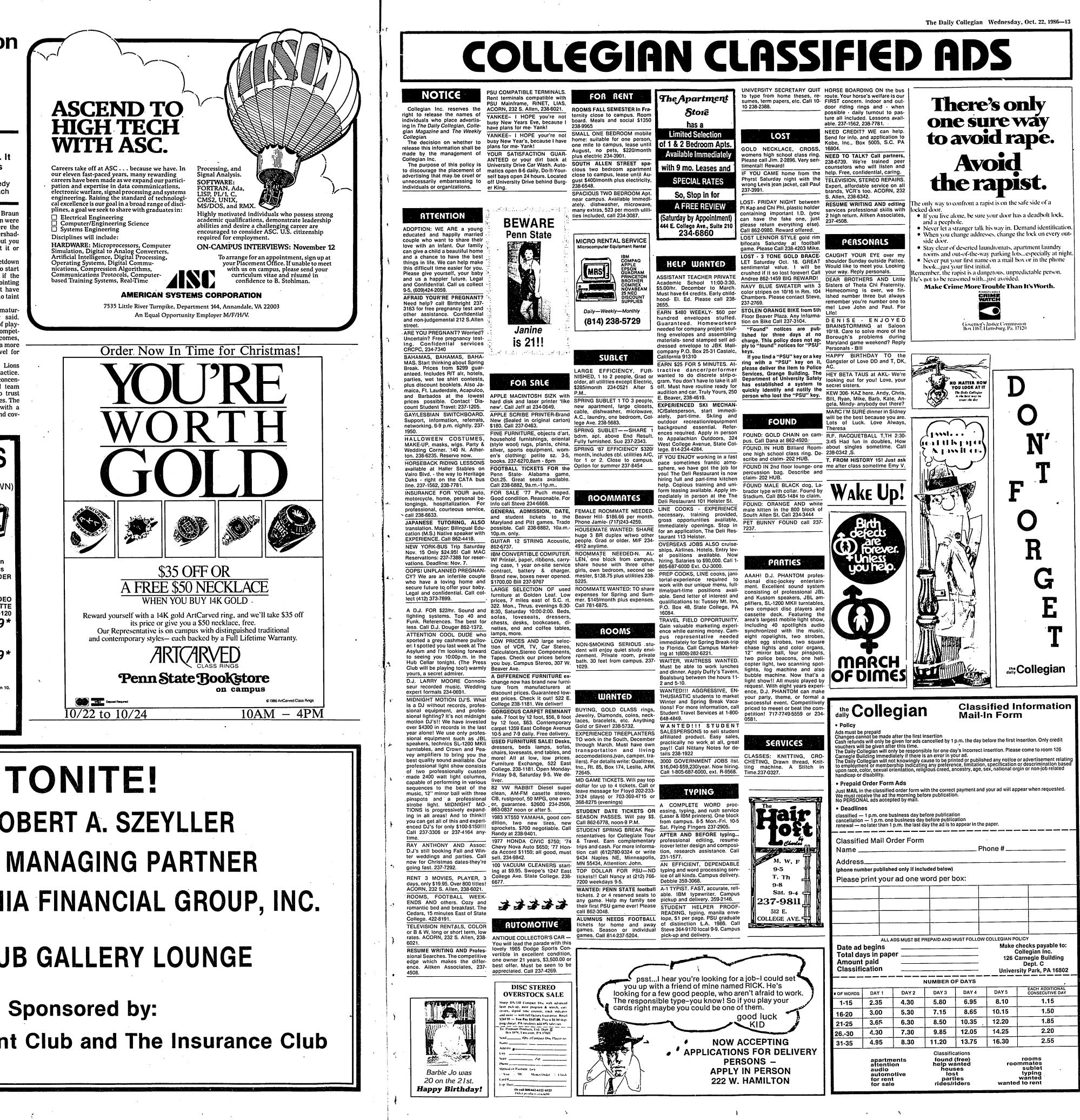
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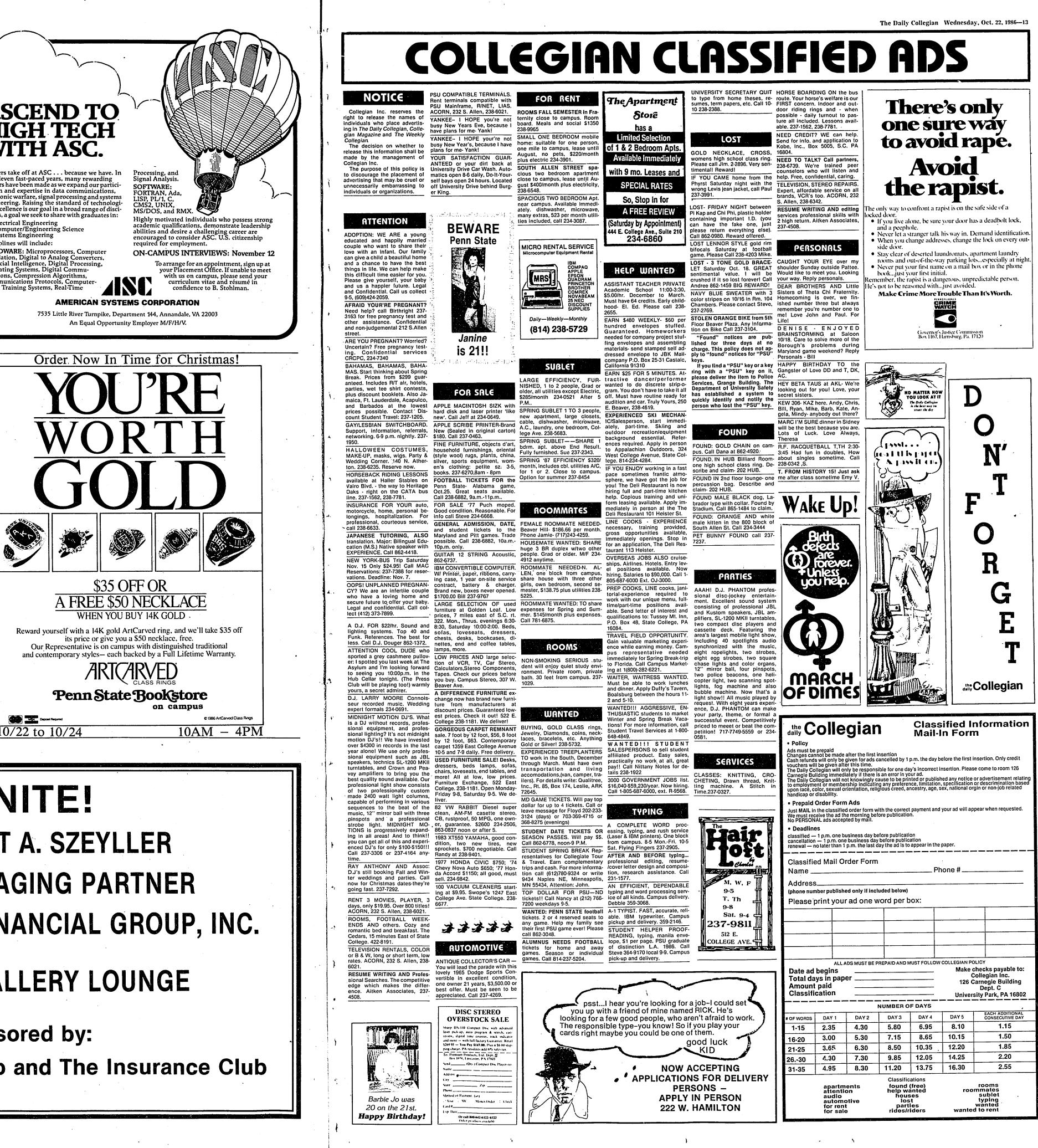
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