

# PACs pile on the money — and the controversy

## Supporters, foes debate issue of influence-peddling

By JAMES A. STEWART  
Collegian Staff Writer

Among the audiences trying to catch an influential ear in the U.S. Capitol, lobbyists from the National Association of Letter Carriers believe they have an inside track. But most citizens and many congressmen know little about their concerns.

**'PAC money is necessary in terms of getting people involved in the political process.'**

—Jim Clark, campaign manager for U.S. Rep. William F. Clinger

Letter-carrier issues include preservation of the postal monopoly and civil service pensions, as well as general attitudes about the federal budget, said association spokesman Fred Nesbitt.

The group is the nation's fourth largest political action committee.

At election time, Nesbitt said, his group tries to interview all the candidates before making a political endorsement.

"Sometimes, quite truthfully, a candidate

doesn't know too much about our issues," Nesbitt said. "It's an opportunity to discuss issues and tell candidates about issues as we see and view them."

Proponents of political action committees — known as PACs — say the \$70.7 million in 1986 campaign contributions donated by special interest groups each year gives individuals the opportunity to maximize their voices in Washington.

Opponents, however, say the money is used to exert influence over government officials, creating both the appearance and the possibility of conflict of interest. PACs ought to be controlled or eliminated, they say.

"PAC money is necessary in terms of getting people involved in the political process," said Jim Clark, campaign manager for Republican U.S. Rep. William F. Clinger. "People donate through their own industries. They want to get involved and let people know they're there."

In contrast, Citizens Against PACs spokesman Mark Zuckerman said: "PACs have a detrimental effect on the political process. They're anti-democratic. They buy access to people in power and limit access of citizens to representatives."

### PACs and Pa. Politics

Whether for or against PAC contributions, both sides admit to the large role they have



played in the Clinger-Wachob and Edgar-Specter races this fall.

U.S. Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., running for re-election to the state's Senate seat, leads the Pennsylvania PAC race with \$691,952 in PAC contributions, according to the Federal Election Commission.

Specter's opponent, U.S. Rep. Bob Edgar, D-Del., received \$331,445 from political action committees, FEC records said.

In the 23rd district U.S. Rep. William Clinger, R-Pa., has received \$200,218 from PACs and Democratic challenger Bill Wachob has received about \$220,000.

PACs generally endorse and support candidates on the basis of voting records, recommendations from local groups, and the importance of the political race to their special interest. Donations to campaigns are limited to \$5,000 per candidate per election.

The National Association of Realtors runs the nation's largest political action committee. The group favors the Gramm-Rudman budget deficit reduction program and deductions of automobile expenses from income, said spokeswoman Elizabeth Razzi.

"PAC contributions magnify the voice of individual members," Razzi said. "It allows them to have an effect on races that mean something to them. It prompts broader political participation."

"The point is that the contributions are from individual NAR members," said Razzi. Jeff Cox of the Pennsylvania Association of Realtors said the Realtors' Political Action Committee favors Specter and Clinger, both Republicans, in local races.

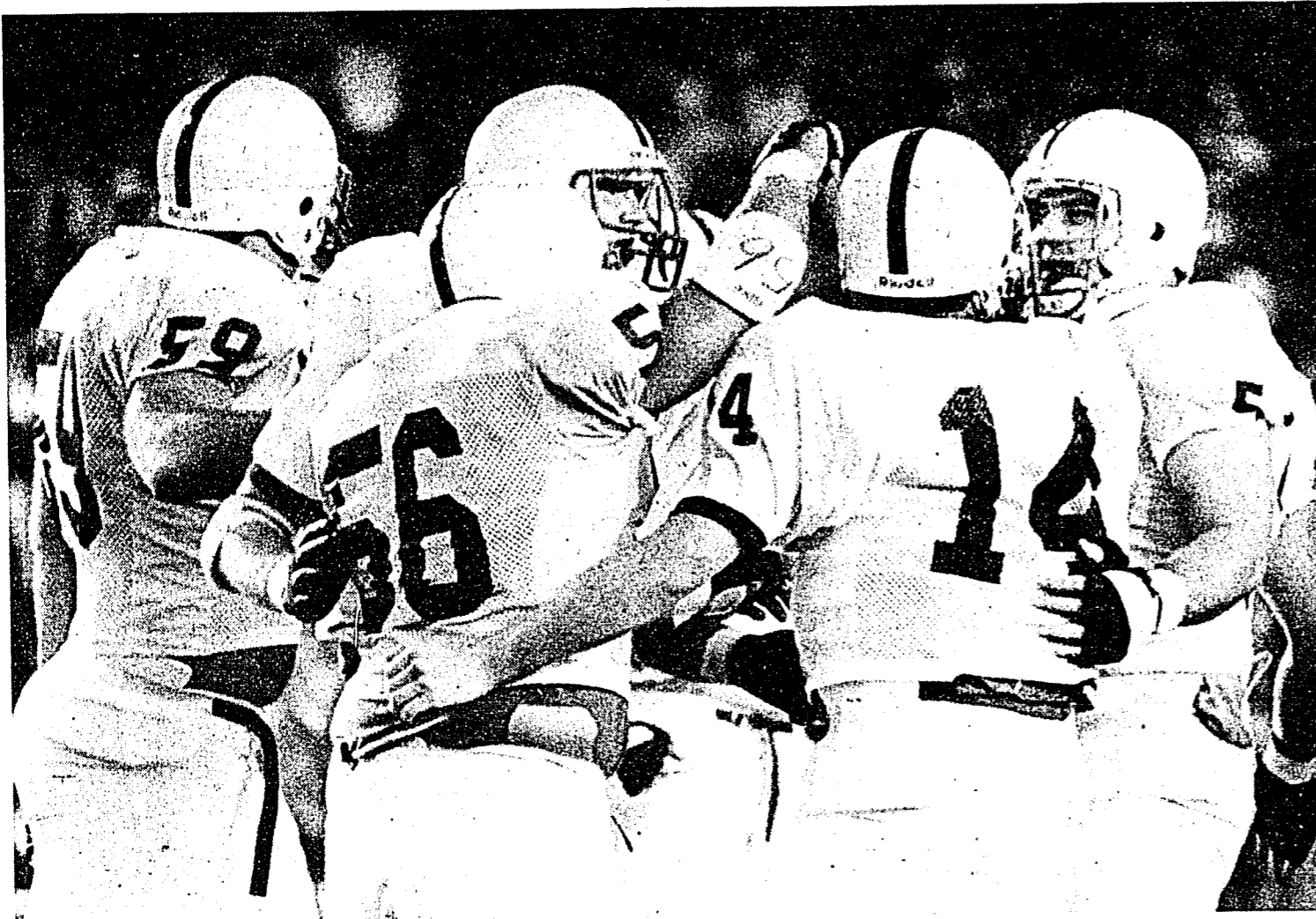
The nation's second-largest PAC is the National Education Association. The NEA, a national union that represents educators, believes the federal government should take an active role in financing and regulating education.

NEA spokesman Howard Carroll said endorsements and donations by NEA-PAC, the union's political action committee, are based on whether a candidate is "considered an overall friend of education."

The major factor in the NEA-PAC's selection of candidates, besides incumbent voting records, is a candidate's view of the role of the federal government in education, Carroll said.

Please see PACS, Page 16.

# Almost No. 1



The Nittany Lions assemble on the gridiron to celebrate their 23-3 victory over the Crimson Tide of Alabama last weekend. The romp in Tuscaloosa moved the Lions up in the polls to rank No. 2 among the country's college football teams. Please see story, Page 10.

### The Top 20

The Top 20 teams in the Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, 1986 record, total points based on 20-19-18-17-16-15-14-13-12-11-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 and ranking in last week's poll.

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pvc
1	Miami, Fla. (55)	7-0	1,193	1
2	PENN STATE (4)	7-0	1,197	6
3	Michigan (1)	7-0	1,081	4
4	Oklahoma	6-1	1,017	5
5	Auburn	7-0	986	7
6	Washington	6-1	818	8
7	Arizona St.	6-0	798	9
8	Alabama	7-1	792	2
9	Nebraska	6-1	684	3
10	Texas A&M	6-1	679	10
11	Iowa	6-1	602	11
12	LSU	5-1	597	12
13	Arkansas	6-1	467	14
14	Arizona	6-1	428	15
15	UCLA	5-2	343	17
16	N. Carolina St.	5-1	262	20
17	Ohio St.	6-2	188	-
18	So. California	5-2	173	-
19	Mississippi St.	6-2	93	13
20	Florida St.	4-2	65	-

Others receiving votes: Georgia 55, Baylor 45, Clemson 27, Brigham Young 24, Southern Methodist 12, Pitt 11, Air Force 10, Fresno State 10, Stanford 7, Colorado State 6, Michigan State 6, Colorado 5, San Jose State 4, Mississippi 2, Rutgers 2, Virginia Tech 1.

# McKee to stay open in summer

By VALERIE BAILEY  
Collegian Staff Writer

McKee Hall will be open next summer only for graduate students occupying the residence hall during Spring Semester 1987, said Donald Arndt, director of Housing Services.

Arndt said that when these students file a summer contract, they will have to sign an agreement that they will tolerate the noise and odor associated with maintenance work. Areas in the hall will be painted and refurbished.

During the summer, McKee Hall will be locked 24 hours a day, and students will be issued a special key to enter, Arndt said.

Graduate students living in McKee will have "the continuing understanding workmen will be in the building starting at eight in the morning," and at times there will be no screens in the windows, in addition to the noise and odors, he said.

Housing for students beginning graduate work in the summer will be provided in Nittany Apartments, located on campus, Arndt said.

Irvin Hall, which houses undergraduates during fall and spring semesters, will not be open for graduate students during the upcoming summer, he said.

Maintenance work in McKee will begin during the intersession in mid-May and continue until the end of Summer Session, Arndt said.

Only 120-130 of the hall's 160 rooms will probably be completed by the end of the summer, Arndt said.

The change in housing plans was made because the needs of the graduate students could be accommodated while the projects were being completed, Arndt said.

GSA housing committee member Haleh Rastegary (graduate-psychology) said at last night's Graduate Student Association general assembly meeting that several things bothered McKee residents.

Students were not consulted prior to making "a decision that would closely affect their lives," she said.

Also, students were upset that they were only given seven months notice, Rastegary said. Seven months warning is not enough time for students looking for jobs because they have already given out their McKee Hall phone numbers, she said.

For some students this would have been their second or third across-campus move in two years, she said. Former Atherton Hall residents had to move last summer when Atherton was converted from an graduate to an undergraduate residence hall.

"People (were) saying — if we knew we had to move another summer, we would have made other living arrangements," Rastegary said.

# Education more than learning a skill

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- A sensitivity training session for State College apartment owners will help them to "be perceived more like they want to be perceived" when dealing with minorities and people from other cultures.....Page 3
- The champion New York Mets, confident and cocky through 108 regular season victories, the National League playoffs and the World Series, already are talking about doing it again next season.....Page 10

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**weather**

This afternoon, breezy and warm with lots of sunshine, with a high of 68. Tonight, cloudy. Low 42. Tomorrow, it will be cooler with any morning clouds giving way to increasing sunshine. High 57.....Heidi Sonen

**Editor's Note:** This is the first of three articles on education by writers who attended an education symposium held last week at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

By WINSLOW M. MASON Jr.  
Collegian Staff Writer

Instructors on both a college and elementary school level must instill social and moral justice in students and act as gatekeepers ensuring that only socially conscious people participate in the American society, according to several education specialists.

The specialists exchanged ideas at a symposium titled "American Dreams: The Future of Education in America," held last week on the campus of the Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

"Teachers are cultural transmitters and should use their power to engage the young in what our national community has learned about all cultures," said Kevin Ryan, professor of education at Boston University and author of 50 published articles and reports about education.

Educational institutions are the places where cultural traditions should be passed on, he said.

Henry Giroux, professor in the school of education at Miami University of Ohio, characterized elementary schools as "dead zones." He said "public education teachers do not promote citizens who will improve public life."

Ryan said teachers should not serve as technicians who just deliver knowledge, but should be responsible for reshaping material and teaching methods to obtain the common good, which he characterized as a functional society and economy.

Penn State College of Education Dean Henry J. Hermanowicz, in a critique of the elementary school system, said teachers should have a great deal of responsibility in determining students' curriculum.

At the college level, Ryan said, many undergraduates are too young to make a career choice because "during these years they are wondering about the existence of God and their sexuality."

But Hermanowicz said that although students change their majors several times, "it's fine because students should have the opportunity to engage in the decision making process."

He called the teaching of standard

curriculum and human values inseparable and supported teachers who do not try to take over family responsibilities but work with the family.

A good education would include the combination of a good liberal arts background and a marketable skill such as engineering or computer science, Hermanowicz said.

Ryan said the term "professional teachers" should be upgraded because prostitutes, dishwashers and football linebackers are also called professionals.

"The question for me," Giroux said about teaching methods, "is not what works, but does it matter? ... Is it just?"

"Teachers and professors should be 'transformative intellectuals' who are concerned with empowering students so that they can read the world critically in order to change it," Giroux said, "not to become yuppies."

He said elementary and secondary schools should be democratic public spheres where students learn public responsibility and become rational human beings.

In reference to teacher training, Ryan said college professors must not have a concept of teaching as simply talking. "We should not give

teaching a vocational aspect," he said.

Saying that teachers and professors are underpaid, not well trained and not regarded as important people in our society, Ryan said "we need more, better and longer teacher training. The best way to improve the output of teachers is to improve the input."

"We're a culture that's been educating for a long time and there must be something we've learned about the process of instruction that should be implemented."

Currently, teachers and professors are "gatekeepers of Reaganism," Giroux said, advocating more student experience in learning and less dictation of classroom discussion.

Both speakers, in addition to many others throughout the conference, cited the poor conditions of urban public education and urged the need for reform to improve the education of lower-income blacks, Hispanics and others.

Concerning the role of families in relation to the role of teachers, Ryan and Giroux agreed that both play a role in educating America's young people.