

Town/gown forum to spark discussion

By BRIAN HANNON
Collegian Staff Writer

Town Day '87, a forum for concerned community and University members to discuss local town/gown issues, will be presented tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Fireside Lounge in the Nittany Lion Inn by the Organization for Town Independent Students.

OTIS President John Zahor said the forum, which is not open to the public, will be attended by about 65 leaders from University organizations, the University administration, and officials from the borough and the State College Area Chamber of Commerce.

Two scenarios will be introduced to start a discussion among a six-member panel, said Cynid DeLong, Town Day '87 chairwoman. The two situations concern vandalism/crime and the relationship between minority students and the downtown community.

The panel will consist of represen-

tatives from the University, a downtown rental unit, the downtown business association, the borough government and two students.

Town Day's theme for this year is "Communication in Action" and will be only a condensed morning event rather than an all-day affair, Zahor said.

Last year's theme dealt more with the growth of State College, where this year OTIS is dealing more with the basic roots of communication between the borough, the University and the students, Zahor said.

Zahor added that the goal of Town Day is to look into new avenues of communication and see what each group expects the others to do.

"I hope people won't be afraid to talk and will be able to see that there are other sides to an issue," DeLong said.

Zahor said he wouldn't mind if the discussion became heated as long as people listened to what others have to say.

Alumni spots open on University board

By CHRISTINE NICHOLAS
Collegian Staff Writer

Elections for three alumni positions on the University Board of Trustees are under way.

Ballots were mailed April 10, and alumni have until May 14 to vote from among the seven candidates, said Grace Younginger, the board's assistant secretary.

The three current board members who are running are:

- H. Jesse Arnelie (Class of 1955) — attorney, Arnelie and Hastie, San Francisco, Calif.
- Helen D. Wise (Class of 1949) — secretary for legislative affairs, Pennsylvania governor's office, Spring Mills.
- Joel N. Myers (Class of 1961, graduate classes of 1963 and 1971) — president of Accu-Weather Inc., State College.

Other candidates are:

- Douglas J. Parsons (graduate Class of 1983) — president of Training Support Services Inc., State College.
- Ben Novak (Class of 1965) — attorney, Novak, Stover and McCarty, State College.
- Willard S. Detweiler Jr. (Class of 1956) — president of COMCORE, Philadelphia.
- Murray D. Friedman (Class of 1947) — managing partner of Seligman, Friedman and Co., York.

Names of the new trustees will be announced at the May 15 board meeting, Younginger said.

Members elected will serve a three-year term on the board, which oversees all decisions, financial and otherwise, at the University.

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Education is an end in itself.

Educators blame Bennett for missing information

By LAURA MAHONEY
Collegian Staff Writer

The U.S. Department of Education hired a private research company to find examples of misuses of power and funds by university presidents last fall and has been accused of withholding the information it found.

The department started the inquiry, costing \$257, after U.S. News and World Report requested the information for a general overview of management practices and college costs, said Deputy Under Secretary of Education Bruce Carnes.

Carnes said the inquiry is part of the department's function, and while some education officials are upset and accuse the department of overstepping its bounds, others are calling it a non-issue.

The American Council on Education, an organization that represents colleges and universities, requested the information under the Freedom of Information Act, but the department denied the request. The council appealed, and on March 16, the department released three memorandums.

Carnes said the department first denied the council's request because it was "lumped in" with a bundle of requests for information that could not be released at the time.

"It was a matter of an error in the lawyer's office," he said, explaining that the department released the information as soon as it realized its mistake.

Charles B. Saunders Jr., council vice president, said the information the council received amounted to some articles from *The Chronicle of Higher Education* concerning university presidents who had been fired or caught misusing funds.

None of the information was about Penn State, Saunders and Carnes said.

"It was miscellany," he said. "All of the stories were of minor, petty things."

George F. Bugyi, executive secretary of the University Faculty Senate, said that although it is not unusual to see some abuses of power, they are not common.

"With bodies like the University Faculty Senate, which serves as a check and balance, it is difficult to go ahead without at least our concurrence," he said. "I suspect the abuses found in the search were from a very small percentage of universities."

However, Saunders contended: "The point is, it exceeds the authority of the department to go on a 'fishing expedition' and look for dirt. . . . We are making sure funds for federal programs are spent efficiently, and this was a misuse."

"The secretary and his staff have been doing a lot of college-bashing in recent months, looking for whatever dirt they can find," he argued.

But Carnes said he does not understand why a simple request to look into management policies and practices at universities has turned into such an issue.

"We have an open-door policy," he said. "The taxpayers pay our salaries, and we do everything in our power to answer their questions. If we weren't answering the questions, then it would be a story."

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