

Panel discusses drug screening process

By JILL JESIOLOWSKI
Collegian Staff Writer

Students should be made aware if drug screening is part of a company's application process, the president of the Society of Women Engineers said last night.

Kathy Hazelback (senior-industrial engineering) said because students do not have a choice if they really want the job, they should find out ahead of time about the process a company takes before going to an interview.

Hazelback was part of a panel discussing pre-employment drug screening.

Fran Tynan, employee relations manager at Mobil Oil Corporation, said "We go to great pains to interview for competency — it makes great sense to further screen for drugs."
"Implementing a drug screening



Panelists from left to right, Fran Tynan, employer relations manager at Mobil Oil Corporation; Jack Rayman, director of the Career Development and Placement Services; Kathy Hazelback, president of the Society of Women Engineers; and Dr. Floyd Naugle, of the Ritenour Health Center, discuss pre-employment drug testing in the HUB last night.

program was a step we needed to take," she said.

Tynan helped implement Mobile's pre-employment drug screening program in 1985. She said only five to ten percent of applicants have tested positive.

In addition to pre-employment screening, Mobile screens employees if there is cause to do so. This involves observation of the employee under suspicion, and certainty of the observer beyond doubt, Tynan said.

Tynan emphasized that Mobile had to extend screening to current employees for protection of other employees and company property. "Before implementation, we had no means, no instrument to prosecute someone for drug sale or usage on company property."

Part of the current employee screening process includes a search. Tynan said this arose because people could be selling drugs on company property, but actually pass a drug test with a negative result.

Mobile's screening program operates in conjunction with a company sponsored drug and alcohol rehabilitation program that has existed since 1962.

"The number one problem is the

fact that there is not a regulating agency nationally for the drug testing laboratories," said Dr. Floyd Naugle of the Ritenour Health Center.

Naugle said a positive test result, meaning drugs were found in the applicants urine specimen, depends on whether an applicant is a frequent or infrequent drug user.

For example, he said, marijuana residue may not be detected in the system of an infrequent user two to five days after usage. But it may take thirty days to leave the system of a frequent user.

Naugle said there is a pretty good chance that an infrequent drug user would slip through a pre-employment drug test.

Jack Rayman, director of the Career Development and Placement Services at Penn State and moderator of the discussion, said most errors made by drug testing laboratories are made in favor of the applicant.

Pa. Democrats hold rally for students

By RICK WOODWARD
Collegian Staff Writer

The Reagan Revolution is over and young people should join the party of compassion, said notable Pennsylvania Democrats at a rally last night.

The speakers, including Lt. Gov. Mark Singel, addressed an audience of about 100 as part of the "Pick up the Torch" program being held statewide.

The "Pick up the Torch" program is based on a quotation — "the torch has been passed to a new generation" — from former President John F. Kennedy.

Mark Schreiber, administrative director of the state's Democratic committee, said it is time to pick up the torch and bring the United States the policies it needs.

The Republican party "stole our youth in '84," and plans to do it again in 1988, he said. With Wall Street and the world economy behaving "like a yo-yo on hallucinogens," it is "reality time" for the Reagan administration, he said.

State Rep. Ruth Rudy, D-Centre, said Democrats are members of a family which must pull together in times of trouble to achieve a common purpose, and said they need to hold onto state government in the General As-



Lt. Gov. Marc Singel

sembly and on the county level. State Rep. Karen Ritter, D-Lehigh, said women need to become more involved in politics if women are to be elected to higher offices.

Singel, a University alumnus, said the difference between Republicans and Democrats is that Democrats "are motivated not by greed but by trying to do the right thing."

He said the Republican "institutional policy of selfishness" is "a mistake ... and it's got to change," and said Democrats are now proving that government can help people without "frivolous spending and high taxes."

According to the most recent national survey conducted by the College Placement Council, 28 percent of 497 participating employers are involved in drug screening.

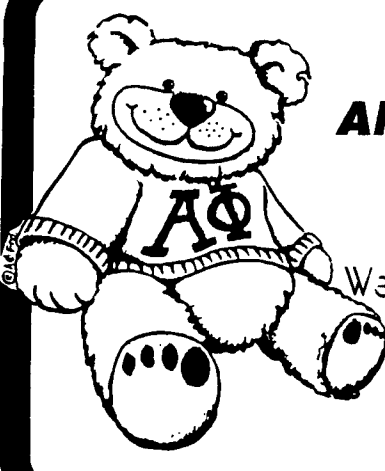
An additional 20 percent indicated that they plan to implement drug screening programs within the next two years.

According to the PSU Career Development and Placement Services, the majority of employers screened college students for full-time as well as co-op and internship or summer employment positions.

Nearly all the employers notify applicants in advance if the company is involved in drug screening. Jack Rayman, director of the CDPS, said many companies that interview here at the University have statements on file concerning their drug screening policies.

Urinalysis is used by nearly all the companies, and in 51 percent of the cases, the specimens are collected at independent laboratories.

—compiled by Jill Jesiolowski



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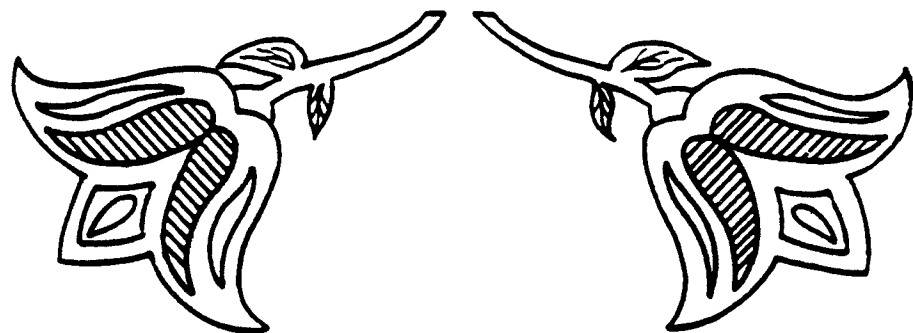
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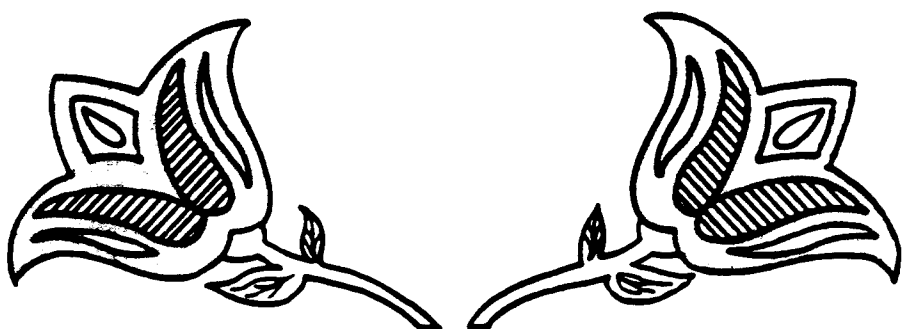


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