

# USG endorsements ruled unconstitutional

By KERRY GILDEA  
Collegian Staff Writer

The Undergraduate Student Government Supreme Court decided yesterday that the USG endorsement committee violates the organization's constitution.

The decision was made after a debate Sunday night between Town Senator Ken Houk and Senate President Ron Marlow.

"The senate does not have the authority to delegate law-making to a committee. (The endorsement committee) takes all the senate's power away," Houk said yesterday. Houk filed a complaint with the court against the seven-member committee, which was designed to endorse candidates in November's local elections.

Marlow said at Sunday's debate an endorsement is not a law but a show of support that serves as a recommendation to the public.

The committee, which endorsed four candidates for State College Borough Council on Nov. 1, consists of the USG president and vice president, co-directors of USG's Department of Political and International Affairs, Senate president and vice president, and chairman of the Senate Appointment Review Board. The committee falls under the category of a joint committee because it is comprised members from both executive and legislative USG branches and was approved by two-third majorities in the Senate and Academic Assembly.

The court agreed with Houk's claim that the committee's function violated USG bylaws which state: "A

joint committee may not establish USG law."

Chief Justice Mike Sosnowski said the key issue involved in the decision was whether or not the committee's endorsements constitute USG law. Houk proved that the committee makes law by comparing how past USG legislation has affected students, he said.

Houk said, and court justices affirmed that past USG legislation supporting a Student Credit Union, promoting Alcohol Awareness Week, and urging the University's Board of Trustees to divest its holdings in South Africa constituted law.

These actions are similar to candidate endorsement because they give students guidelines to follow, Houk said.

"The committee's endorsements



Collegian Photo / Pat Christmas  
**Ron Marlow**

are basically similar to the examples Houk gave, and if they can be termed law, the committee is unconstitutional because a joint committee may not establish USG law according to bylaws," Sosnowski said.

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# Proposal to change USG structure gets mixed responses

By PAMELA WEIERS  
Collegian Staff Writer

Members of the Undergraduate Student Government have something to think about during Thanksgiving break — the future direction of their organization.

A nine-member research team, created by USG executives in September to pinpoint and eliminate bureaucracy in USG, released its findings Sunday and USG members are faced with the choice of implementing the committee's suggestions.

Recommendations by the committee, called the Strategic Analysis Research Team, include eliminating the Senate and Academic Assembly and creating one new legislative assembly in their place. Yesterday, some USG members voiced concern over the controversial plan.

Senate President Ron Marlow said he does not agree with some of START's recommendations, particularly changes in the legislative branch, but said the Senate has two options at this point.

"We have the option of either taking the START recommendations and making changes within the existing system or taking the recommendations at face and creating the assembly to make a new system," Marlow said.

"Whichever course the Senate decides to take . . . as senate president I will be 100 percent behind either decision and work towards that goal," he added.

USG Executive Assistant Ken Hong

said the organization's problem may lie in the current check and balance system.

"I think it is the START committee's belief that maybe checks and balances (in the current system) are the reason we're not getting anything done," Hong, a member of the committee, said. USG has become "an unending bureaucratic loop," he added.

START was part of USG President Todd Sloan and Vice President Bonnie Miller's campaign platform last spring.

Hong said the START committee has a pretty good idea of what students want in their student government because the committee's recommendations were based on input it received in preliminary interviews which included 50-75 students.

START Committee Chairman John McManus said the committee hopes that as many changes as possible can be implemented before USG elections in March.

If USG officials believe it is necessary, they will set up a student referendum to get students' opinions on the proposed changes to the 25-year-old USG structure, Hong said.

"Right now we are interested in what USG feels about START," Hong said. "The referendum issue is something we will have to discuss later."

Town Senator Betsie Polo said she disagrees with the plan.

"I don't care for the recommendations they made for the legislative branch. They are moving away from their purpose . . . and I really don't

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Collegian Photo / Pat Christmas

## Homeward bound

From left, Eric Foster (junior-English writing), Mytrice Robinson (senior-communications) and Dave Hager (freshman-communications) take a look at

the carpool lists in the HUB in search of a lift home for the Thanksgiving holiday.

# USG pres. to trustee: Speak out

By MAUREEN QUINN  
Collegian Staff Writer

Undergraduate Student Government President Todd Sloan yesterday said the role of the student member on the Board of Trustees should include speaking out about issues affecting University students, but the student trustee said her job is to improve communication between the trustees and students.

"(Christine Henke) has just as much power as any of the rest of the trustees, and it's a power I think she should be making use of," said Sloan of the student trustee. Sloan is a non-voting student representative on the board, which met last week at the University.

Sloan said Henke, the student trustee, should have publicly condemned the posting of racially-offensive swastika stickers on campus four weeks ago. The USG president said he wrote letters condemning the act to *The Daily Collegian* and the University



Collegian Photo / Chris Hiestler  
**Christine Henke**

administration soon after the incident.

"The student trustee has to be known to all students," Sloan said. "It's a dangerous precedent to set just having the trustee go to meetings."

But Henke, whose trustee seat was confirmed by Gov. Robert Casey on Oct. 6, said condemning the stickers was a more appropriate role for student leaders, such as Sloan.

"By speaking (publicly), I would be usurping the role of student leaders, and I didn't want to do that."

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# Fire breaks out at Sheraton

By TERRY MUTCHLER  
Collegian Staff Writer

A fire broke out at the Sheraton Penn State at 240 S. Pugh St. about 1 a.m. today, causing guests to evacuate the building.

No one was injured and damages were unknown. At press time, Alpha Fire Chief Marvin Robinson said the

cause of the fire was unknown.

"At this point the fire is out," he said.

In the rear of the building, firefighters kicked out window panes as about 50 people looked on. Couches and mattresses were thrown out the window and hosed with water. Night

receptionist Scott Reitz said the fire started in room 111.

# ANC delegate decries S. African govt.

By TERRY MUTCHLER  
Collegian Staff Writer

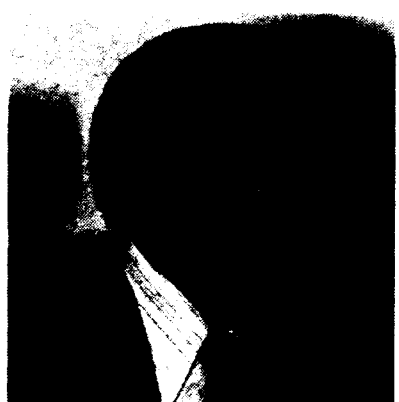
Comparing the political unrest and daily massacres in South Africa to those of the Jewish Holocaust, a representative of the African National Congress of South Africa last night denounced his country's white regime.

"Now we in South Africa are facing that same monster that is trying to rise up from the ashes of the last World War, crying to the world and saying we are dying daily," Dumi Matabane said. "(Yet) the world continues to say: 'can that be true? Can that really be happening?'"

"Yes. This is not a Rambo film," he continued. "This is true and we'd better do something."

Founded in 1912, the African National Congress is the oldest political movement in South Africa. It campaigned openly and non-violently against the South African government's racist policies. In 1960, the ANC was outlawed in South Africa and the group went underground.

Matabane said because of the white regime now in power, black South Africans have lost their identity. He



Collegian Photo / Jody Stecher  
**Dumi Matabane**

said their rights have been stripped away, citing the lack of the right to speak: of individuals to go where they choose: the right to fall in love with whom they choose: and the right to send children to the schools of their choice.

"They say to us: 'You can't even swim in the same part of the ocean,'" he said. "How do you understand such a system that says, 'Because you are not my color you can't swim in this part of the ocean?' What

mentality of human being (are they). What happened to their minds?"

He said thousands of persecuted black people are languishing in prison, including "12-year-olds in solitary confinement who come out mentally destroyed . . . and young girls who want to die, saying 'I don't know why I should live.'"

Matabane said the current government claims to be civilizing the African people, but he has a different idea.

"I think we are much more civilized than those who claim to have brought civilization into our country," he said. "They said we must close our eyes when we pray, and we did because we are trusting. But by the time we said 'Amen,' they had everything of ours in their hands."

President Ronald Reagan contends that if the white regime loses power, South Africa will be lost. Matabane said.

"We in South Africa are not about to surrender to a racist regime," he added. "Enough is enough. Come what may, we are going to fight and be free."

Following Matabane's hour-long speech, most members of the audi-

ence praised its message while a few expressed criticism.

Larry Young, director of the Paul Robeson Cultural Center praised Matabane's speech.

"(Many say) it will infect the minds of our young people to hear the ANC, but that is just an infection of ignorance," Young said. "Knowing more is better than knowing less, and you can't if you stifle any one voice."

Chris Woronchuk, (senior-political science) said the speech was informative but one-sided.

Woronchuk questioned Matabane's credibility to speak on South Africa, adding that further documentation should have been presented.

"If we had a U.S. Congressman here saying how terrible things are (in South African jails), it would have helped win me over," he said.

Donald Rallis, a white South African who teaches a University course entitled "South Africa Today" said, when he grew up in South Africa he was taught by the white regime that the ANC was a subversive organization.

"I don't fear the future of South Africa under the ANC (now)," he said. "I very much look forward to it."

**tuesday**

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**weather**

Today, a mix of cloudiness and sunshine, mild, high 53. Tonight, more clouds, low 39. Tomorrow, cloudy, with an increasing chance for rain, high 49.