

NOTES

- The Free University will hold a discussion on "Reincarnation and the New Age" at 7:30 tonight in 108 Eisenhower Chapel.
- The Penn State Chess Team will meet from 7:30 until 10:30 tonight in 318 Willard.
- The Association for Barrier Free Living and Design will meet at 7 tonight in 115 Osmond.
- The American Red Cross and Alpha Phi Omega will sponsor a blood drive from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today in the HUB Ballroom.

Researchers try to control insects with fewer chemicals

By DAVE HORNICKLE
Collegian Science Writer

The University and the state Department of Agriculture have joined forces to help farmers in the war against pests.

College of Agriculture Dean Lamartine Hood and state Secretary of Agriculture Boyd E. Wolff recently agreed to share resources and to give priority to researching new techniques in Integrated Pest Management — a crop protection system which was designed to reduce pesticide use while maintaining a farm's profitability.

"We feel at the moment IPM is a terrifically important issue," said Robert Sams, assistant to the Dean of the College of Agriculture. "It is an information-intensive system whose goal is to apply pesticides only when it is absolutely necessary."

"The department has been supporting these con-

cepts for some time and the feedback has been positive," Wolff said.

Sams said the partnership between the University and the department is not new. Under this agreement, though, increased communication will help to most effectively coordinate research and funds. The agreement re-emphasizes and reedificates both institutions to this area of research, Sams added.

"We're just trying to put our money where our mouth is," said Gene Schenck, a spokesman for the department.

Greg Silver, assistant to the Dean of the College of Agriculture, said IPM research is not a new field. But although research in IPM has been conducted at the University for 20 years, it is still an evolving field, he said.

IPM research examines conditions which bring out pests, such as heavy rainfall, Silver said.

For IPM to be successful, the life cycle of the pest must be defined, Silver said. The research

also looks at the economic potential of applying pesticides versus the impact of infestation, he added.

"Sometimes it is not economically feasible to spray. It could cost \$1000 to spray while there would only be a \$500 loss to crops," he added.

Silver said one example of IPM research involves the European red mite, a pest that reduces the number and quality of apples. The old way to deal with this particular type of insect was to spray miticide.

Researchers at the University found a predator that would eat the mite, he said. The technique of applying this predator has been refined over the last 18 years. Since the technique's inception, use of miticide has dropped by 1.4 million pounds, he said.

"The reason this research takes so long is that you must make sure the predator does not do any other damage to the crop," he said.

IPM research yields several benefits, Silver

said. For one, it saves farmers money they would spend on unnecessary pesticides. Farmers are not eager to use these chemicals because they are very expensive, he added.

Lowering the amount of pesticide use also helps the environment, Silver said. This is important aspect especially in light of current concerns over food safety issues, he said.

IPM research evolved from the heavy spraying practices of the 1940s and 1950s, Silver said. Then, if a chemical was developed to deal with a pest and it was sprayed on without question, he said.

But, environmental concerns forced some people to begin looking for other ways to control pests, he said.

IPM research continues at the University with projects ranging from biological control of forage diseases to Christmas tree-integrated pest management. The Department of Agriculture has provided more than \$386,000 in research grants to the University for such projects.

U.S. government checks valid for one year only

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — People holding U.S. government checks soon will have one year to cash them, or go to the trouble of having the government agency reissue them, the Treasury Department said yesterday.

A new law requires such checks dated Oct. 1 and later to be cashed within one year of their issue. The phrase, "Void After One Year," will be printed on the checks as a reminder.

The law also requires people holding checks dated prior to Oct. 1 to cash them no later than Sept. 30, 1990.

Commissioner W. E. Douglas of the department's Financial Management Service said in a statement that "not only is it a poor business practice to

keep the government's books open forever," it is also expensive to maintain the records. And it's the taxpayers who have to pick up the tab."

The checks range in value from two cents for a 1945 income tax refund to a \$8,606 compensation check dated April 9, 1964. The oldest uncashed check is one dated April 15, 1919 for \$1.01 in interest on a World War I Liberty Bond.

The department emphasized the time limit does not affect the government's liability. But if the time limit is exceeded, the check will be cancelled and the person to whom it was written will have to apply to the agency that wrote it for a replacement.

Military steps up attacks on Marxist rebels in El Salvador

By DOUGLAS GRANT MINE
Associated Press Writer

LAS FLORES, El Salvador — Government helicopters and warplanes have stepped up attacks on suspected guerrilla positions near towns in the northern war zone, but local civilians say the rockets, bombs and bullets have hit homes in the area and left civilians terrified.

A nun said rockets hit near a school where a crowd of children were at play.

This town of 1,000 people in the heart of El Salvador's rebel-dominated mountains was the only municipality to suffer direct hits in raids Aug. 19-20.

But inhabitants of surrounding hamlets are angered and worried by the government's use of powerful weapons in civilian areas.

"Only by the providence of God was none of the children killed," Sister Teresa Racia said as she described a raid Aug. 19 that left rocket craters and strafing damage across town.

She said more than 200 children were playing around the adobe schoolhouse when a helicopter gunship arrived and one rocket crashed into a hillside 60 yards away and a second just 15 yards away.

Minutes after the U.S.-supplied UH-1M gunship blasted the surrounding cornfields and hills, a C-47 warplane

strafed Las Flores with .50-caliber machine guns firing.

"The paving stones looked like they were exploding," said Elias Menjiyar, whose house was one of a dozen damaged. "They were even smoking."

Rev. Miguel Vasquez, a Roman Catholic priest in Arcatao, said an A-37 dropped four bombs Aug. 20 at the nearby hamlet of Santa Rita, damaging three houses.

Peasant farmers Andres Cordova and Felipe Orellana said their hamlet, Los Pozos, was strafed the same day.

"There was combat near the houses and they called in the airplanes," Cordova said. "Six houses were damaged. Everyone was panic-stricken."

The air force says that air strikes are made only against military targets. But in densely populated El Salvador few areas are well away from civilians.

Chalatenango Province is one of the most fought-over areas in the nearly decade-old war between the 56,000-member, U.S.-supplied and -trained armed forces and about 7,000 Marxist-led guerrillas.

Since late last year, the rebels have received several hundred Soviet-designed Dragunov sniper rifles. When used against aircraft, the Dragunov's effective range of 3,000 feet obliges government pilots to stay higher in the sky.

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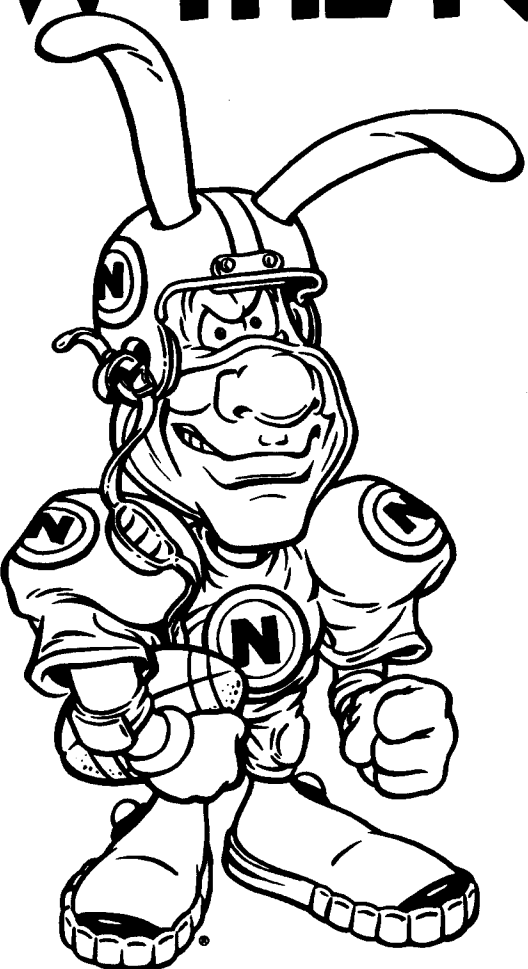
Information and application forms are available for School of Communications' students (including freshmen)

Room 204 Carnegie Building

Approximately \$20,000 will be awarded for the Spring Semester.

Deadline for submission of application is October 6.

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