Public has few complaints with research park zoning ordinance

By GREG SCOPINO
Collegian Staff Writer

A zoning ordinance for the Penn State Research Park will probably pass with few changes because of low attendance and lack of complaints at last night's public hearing on the matter.

All of the people who spoke at the College Township Council meeting said they believed the ordinance would benefit both the University and the township.

"I was going to try to answer any concerns people had about the ordinance, but since there haven't been any complaints, I'll just say I was pleased with the cooperative efforts between the University and the township," said Dan Klees of the township's planning commission.

"I didn't know it would go so quickly, I wasn't sure what to expect," said Bill Weaver, the township's zoning officer. Only about 6 people showed up specifically to comment on the proposal.

The proposed ordinance creates flexible zoning regulations for the nearly $360 million dollar park, which will be controlled by the council. The ordinance allows for industrial, retail, and educational development in one area, which is impossible under current zoning regulations.

Eva Cormick, Ron Lucus, and Mark Faulkner, attorneys specializing in zoning regulations, are reviewing the ordinance, Weaver said.

Weaver said he does not expect any major changes to be made in the ordinance, although some minor alterations might be made.

The ordinance was developed by the University and the township, said Lloyd Nieman, chairman of the council.

"I believe the ordinance allows for the park to grow, but the township can control it," said Gary Schultz, member of the Centre Regional Planning Commission.

The ordinance, the first of its kind, could be used in other places in the county or state, he said.

"The ordinance will probably encourage positive use of the area, and allow for greater cooperation between the University and the township," said John Hocks, on behalf of the State College Area Chamber of Commerce.

Sorority pledges celebrate the end of rush, reunite with fellow rushees

By JESSICA HARTSHORN
Collegian Staff Writer

Exchanging hugs over cake and punch, sorority pledges celebrated the end of rush last night at the Panhellenic Celebration in the HUB ballroom.

Pledges got back together with "rush buddies" — women who their rush counslers, or Rho Chis, paired them with.

Most rush buddies joined different sororities, so last night was their first chance to exchange pledging stories.

"You still have friends outside your pledge class," said Alison Smith, a pledge for Alpha Phi sorority, 1 Wolf, who enjoyed seeing her rush group again.

Rho Chis also enjoyed getting back with their groups.

"The best part of being a Rho Chi was watching all the women, how they felt and where they finally ended up," said Rae Calamia, a senior member of Alpha Phi.

The Panhellenic Celebration committee started planning the event last April. Attendance was greater this year than in the past, said Terri Fifh, a member of the public relations committee for the celebration.

But several pledge classes could not attend the event due to Yom Kippur, pledge inductions or other events, Fifh said.

The evening included speeches welcoming pledges to Greek life. Then the women stood and recited the Panhellenic decree, led by Colleen Finnegan, Panhel executive vice president.

Blue and white ribbons were given out to "reaffirm our ties and show our support to our Alma Mater," Finnegan said.

The event was called fifth rounds in the past, but the name was changed to get away from the idea of rushing, Finnegan said.

"Everyone's tired of rush," Finnegan said.

Pledges agreed.

"I hated rush," said Jennifer Leach, a pledge for Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, 2 Ritner. "I like meeting a lot of people, but it was very stressful."

Saburnia Scott, a pledge for Kappa Delta sorority, 101 S. Cross, and Erika Sheffield, a pledge for Delta Gamma sorority, 10 Shulze, are rush buddies who joined different soroities but remain close.

"We'll always be friends," Scott said.

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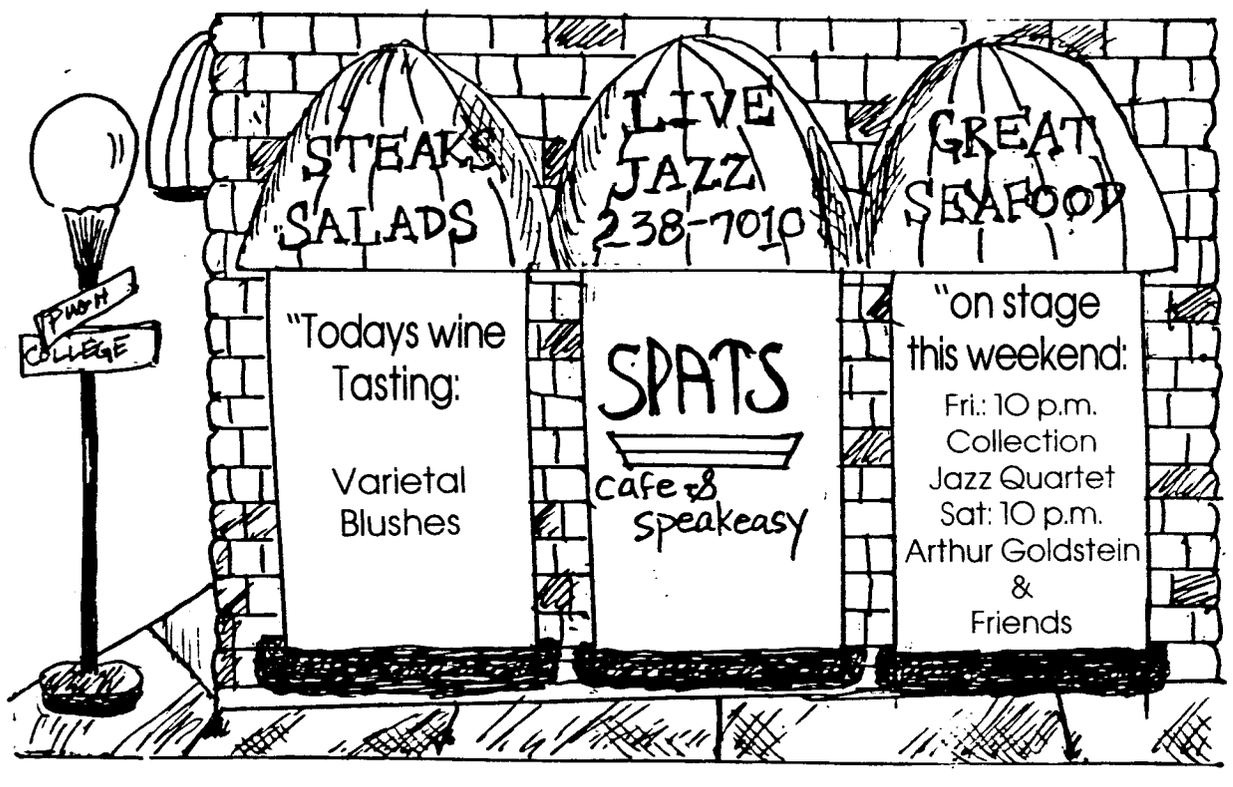

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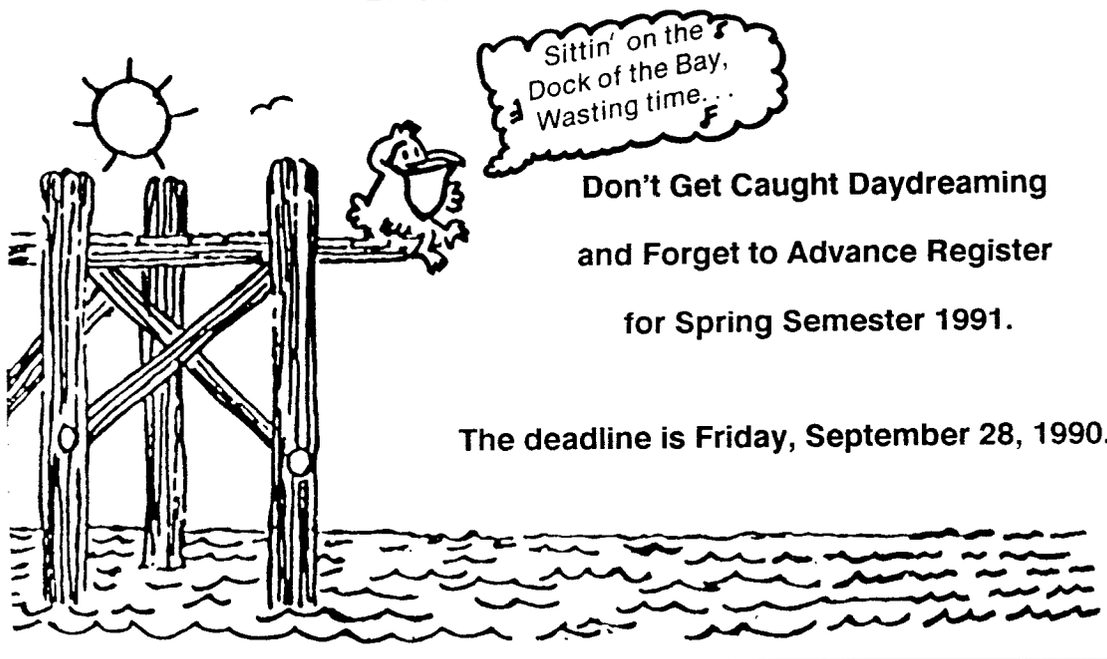

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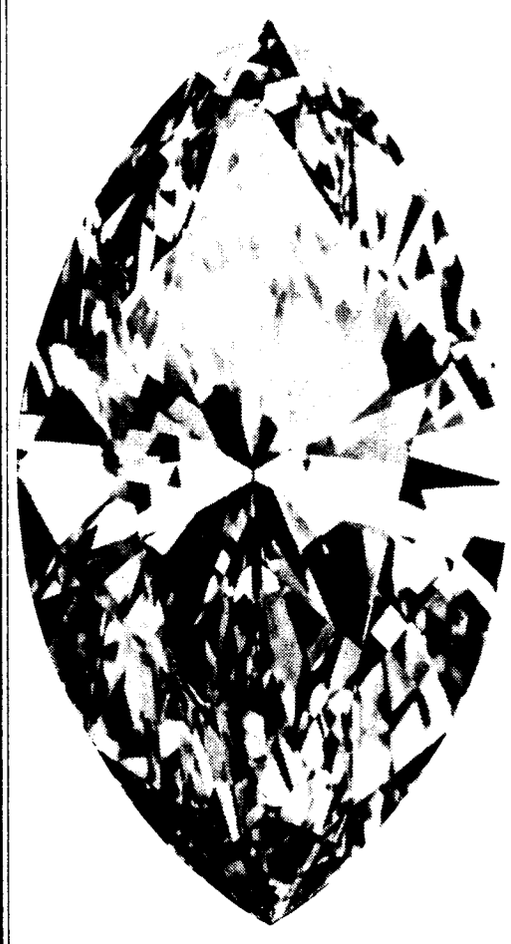

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