

Raising cane

Local residents, police prepare to ride out weekend hurricane

By MICHAEL T. JESKY and REBECCA LOGAN
Collegian Staff Writers

With the Hurricanes blowing in this weekend, police, resident assistants and local businesses are battenning down the hatches.

University Police Services, the State College Bureau of Police Services and the Rockview state police are increasing their patrols in anticipation of the thousands of fans who will pour into Happy Valley for the football game between the University of Miami and the Nittany Lions tomorrow afternoon.

"It's the standard home football game plan — everybody works," said Clifford Lutz, University police supervisor. "We'll have our entire complement of 50 officers and student auxiliary working."

And Lutz warned visitors against parking illegally in an effort to get closer to Beaver Stadium.

"During the game, our traffic people are on parking enforcement detail," Lutz said. "Illegal parking

makes the streets impassable. We will be ticketing."

The Rockview state police will be directing traffic on the outside of town and using a helicopter to provide information to the University police on traffic patterns coming into State College, Lutz said.

The State College police will be assisting the University within the stadium, but their main focus will be the downtown area, said State College Police Lt. Carmine Prestia, adding that a larger than usual force will be on duty this weekend.

Prestia is worried about the crowds that are sure to form in the event of a victory. Although he said student celebrations are usually peaceful and that in the past "the main casualty has been the goal post," he is still concerned about the safety of people and property downtown.

Students attempting to seize the goal post are endangering themselves and others, Prestia said, emphasizing that the post is metal, not wood.

And security will also be boosted in the dorms.

Roberta Hurst, coordinator of Residence Life, said the organization is preparing for the worst. An extra coordinator will be on duty in East and North Halls — the dorm areas closest to the stadium — and RAs will make extra rounds.

RAs are going to be extra careful about enforcing drinking laws and keeping property safe, Hurst said. Many RAs who are not on duty will be available in the case of an emergency, she added.

Although Hurst said non-students often cause problems, visitation will not be limited this weekend. The card-access system will be in effect from 8 tonight to 8 Sunday morning.

Some local businesses are also increasing security as part of their weekend preparations.

"Extra beer and extra liquor" are key preparations for the Lion's Den, 118 S. Garner St., said employee Dennis Rallis.

Cafe 210 West, 210 W. College Ave., will be adding extra workers at the door. But Hal McCullough, co-owner of Cafe, does not expect too many problems.

McCullough expects long lines and said business will be considerably better if Penn State wins because people will be in a better mood and will stay out later.

The Penn State Bookstore on campus has stocked up on Penn State football videotapes and other merchandise.

"This is a very important weekend," merchandise supervisor Elizabeth Wilson said. "We will have plenty of stock where people can find it easily."

The bookstore will have the same staff as on any other football weekend, Wilson said. The store will also remain open until 8 tomorrow night to give people time to shop after the game.

"Knowing that people will be jubilant, we can share in the celebration," Wilson said.



Collegian Photo/Susannah Beary

Leslie Macher (junior-broadcast cable) works part time at The Kids Clothesline, 138 E. College Ave. She unpacked boxes of merchandise yesterday in preparation for tomorrow's Miami game.

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