

ARHS, OTIS,
USG to prevent
duplicating efforts

— Page 2

Collegian critics
pick best albums
of the year

— Page 20

First and Tenn

Lions prepare for a New Year's Day
battle with the Volunteers

— Page 25

Today, rain possibly heavy at
times, high 45. Tonight, rain
changing to snow after midnight,
low 28. Tomorrow, windy with
snow showers likely, and temper-
atures falling through the 20s.



— by Adam Canter

the daily Collegian^{30*}

Benefits rare for part-time faculty

Some call professors 'exploited'

By KATHY SWINGLER
Collegian Staff Writer

It's 8:45 a.m. and Eileen Christman's hectic day is just beginning. In her cramped cubicle, she arranges lectures for her two 400-level classes and organizes computerized-engineering seminars. Her phone constantly screams at her while students and colleagues beg for answers to their imperative questions — all before 10 a.m.

After teaching, she hurries back to her office to continue working until 6 p.m. Scattered papers, lecture notes and electrical engineering books cover her desk to remind her of the many tasks that need to be completed.

Despite her full schedule, Christman is only considered part time — a status that some say causes her to get the short end of the stick.

"There's no question these faculty are being exploited," said Iris Molotsky, a spokeswoman for the American Association of University Professors. "The pay is very low, and they don't receive benefits. There are all sorts of problems with it."

At colleges and universities nationwide, 38 percent of the faculty is part time, according to the AAUP. Penn State has been hiring part-time professors for years. In 1991, half of all student credit hours were delivered by part-time personnel, according to the 1991 Task Force Report on Undergraduate Education.

John Cahir, vice provost and dean of

undergraduate education, said students would not be able to get the classes they need without part-time professors.

"Problems can arise when part-time professors are hired, but just as many problems can occur when no part-time professors are hired," Cahir added.

Christman is just one of 1,171 part-time professors currently on staff at the University. These professors have the opportunity to apply for retirement and medical benefits. But Christman, like many other part-time professors, does not qualify.

"I get the opportunity to buy a part-time parking pass, which allows me to park in a parking lot, that when there's snow on the ground, is closed," Christman said sarcastically. "The parking pass and the exercise I get from walking are the only benefits I receive."

Only 25 part-time professors qualify for benefits and only 50 percent apply, said Phil Carlin, benefit specialist at the employee benefit office.

But part-time professors usually do not remain at the University long enough to fulfill the benefit requirements, said Alan J. Grill, assistant to the dean for human resources and administrative services in the College of Education. They have to work 750 hours or teach 14 credits in a calendar year to receive retirement benefits and work 750 hours or teach 15 credits during two consecutive calendar years to receive medical benefits.

Christman has worked at the University

Please see PROFESSORS, Page 12.



Collegian Photo/Judy Fedor

In the spirit

Into the ol' holiday cheer, Cheryl DeCusati of Bellefonte prepares her Victorian home for Christmas. Getting an early start, DeCusati was touching up her home yesterday. Please see related stories on the Christmas furor including what's hip in tree ornaments on Pages 4 and 5.

Clinton urges tough crime crackdown

By NANCY BENAC
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Pressed by crime-weary mayors and police to embrace tougher gun controls, a somber President Clinton declared yesterday that violence is "tearing the heart out of our country." The attorney general said it ought to be at least as hard to get a gun as a driver's license.

"The American people are tired of hurting and tired of feeling insecure and tired of the violence," Clinton told officials from 35 cities gathered at the White House. "It's changing everyone's life in ways that are quite destructive. We have to move, and I

"It ought to be at least as hard to get a gun as a driver's license."

— Janet Reno
Attorney General

think we are prepared to move."

Clinton called for passage of a tough crime bill, including provisions to put more police officers on the street and ban gun ownership by children. He also has directed the Justice Department to study whether gun owners should be licensed and illegal weapons collected.

Clinton said yesterday, "We ought to talk about what else we do and where we go," without referring directly to the gun licensing idea he had ordered the Justice Department to begin studying on Wednesday.

Attorney General Janet Reno said the department also was considering a limit on

the number of guns an individual may own and a broader version of a proposed ban on assault weapons.

Registering guns is not enough, Reno said, because people should be required "to know how to safely and lawfully use a gun" before they can buy one.

"It ought to be at least as hard to get a gun as a driver's license," Reno said.

A task force from the U.S. Conference of Mayors presented Clinton with a report yesterday recommending gun registration, banning semiautomatic assault weapons, imposing waiting periods on purchases of all firearms, and significantly taxing ammunition and firearm sales.

Subway romance made to order

By JON FEINBERG
Collegian Staff Writer

Two 6-inch subs and a lonely corner of a Subway restaurant is not the vision most young couples have of a perfect first Valentine's Day together.

But for two Penn State graduates, the Subway at 100 S. Burrowes St. provided the magical spark that led to marital bliss in hoagie heaven.

Drew and Gretchen Svitko — who met while working in that very same fast food restaurant — were married in July.

Even more remarkably, the Svitkos have gone into a prosperous family business — they own and operate their very own Subway in Shippenburg.

The romance got off to an inconspicuous start in October 1989 when Drew and Gretchen were hired within a few weeks of each other. Gradually they became friends, and soon discovered they had a few classes together.

The two spent a lot of time together visiting State College bars, and the friendship grew, increasing the probability of a relationship they said their friends saw coming. Then came the fateful day during their senior year — the first date — a dinner at The Deli Restaurant, 113 Hiester St.

Neither Drew nor Gretchen could recall what was so special about the evening, but afterward the two were officially dating. The couple remained together through both work and classes and even spent their first Valentine's Day together after a long day of work.

Subway had a special — buy one 6-inch sub, get one free. Please see SUBWAY, Page 12.

Loaners question government plan

The new direct federal loan program may change the future of independent loan groups.

By COURTNEY CAIRNS
Collegian Staff Writer

Independent student loan organizations are peering into their crystal balls and wondering what effect the federal government's direct loan program could have on their futures.

The government's experimental program revamps, and possibly replaces, the current guaranteed student loan system by allowing

students to pay their loans straight to the government.

The success of the direct loan program could mean the end of the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency and might have swayed some state schools, including Penn State, not to participate. The University has chosen not to join the 105 schools participating the first year and may hold off until all the program's kinks are ironed out.

Penn State is one of the largest players in the "highly successful" PHEAA system, said Christy Rambeau, the University's assistant news bureau manager. She added that she couldn't imagine not having ties to it in the future.

Please see LOANS, Page 12.



Collegian Photo/Clarissa Gonzalez

Voicing support

As Kirsten Jacobson (sophomore-psychology) holds the megaphone, Chris Atkinson (sophomore-secondary education), president of the National Student Support Council for Africa, speaks at a Free Mumia Abu-Jamal rally. The rally was held yesterday in front of Pattee.

Visa: Baby's diner is everywhere you want to be

By JEAN CALISE
Collegian Staff Writer

When Visa needed a unique, interesting restaurant to feature in its winter radio campaign, it found one right here in the heart of Happy Valley.

Baby's Burgers and Shakes, 131 S. Garner St., was chosen to represent the Visa image of "everywhere you want to be" by Batten, Barton, Durstine and Osborn New York, the ad agency handling the Visa U.S.A. account.

An agency spokeswoman said the agency chose Baby's because "it is such a unique place in a fun college town."

The Visa radio advertisement has been broadcast on CBS-affiliated radio stations across the country since the end of November. Locally, the advertisement is being broadcast on WFBG-AM in Altoona and WMAJ-AM in State College.

Scott Krammes, manager of Baby's, said several of his customers reported hearing the advertisement. "You can't beat that — national recognition for doing nothing," he said.

The agency spokeswoman said Baby's is one of nine businesses featured in the radio campaign. The agency searched the country to find various businesses that do not take

American Express but accept Visa.

The businesses also had to portray the image of Visa. So the agency "romanced" the sites they decided to use in the commercials in order to impress the public with the opportunities available to a Visa cardholder.

In the advertisement, a booming voice with 1950s-style background music describes Baby's as "A place where time has stood still since the summer of '57 — where the malts still come with two straws, the fries are always just right, and poodle skirts have never gone out of style."

The advertising executives were

impressed with the flavor of Baby's and the attitude of the waiters and waitresses. The restaurant personified the "retro diner craze," the spokeswoman said.

Baby's was also in the running for a Visa television commercial. Krammes said he even sent menus, restaurant information and pictures of the restaurant to the agency, but Baby's was not chosen from the select pool of applicants.

Due to the popularity of the seasonal radio and television campaigns, Visa plans to continue the campaign into the summer, but the advertisement featuring Baby's will only run through March.