Megan — Business

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Hartline (senior-chemical engineering).

While people in Pennsylvania question this new law, the debate between community safety and the rights of offenders who have paid their debts to society has continued to rage in Megan's home state.

The New Jersey statute has met with opposition in the courts. On the very day the Pennsylvania House passed its law, New Jersey was defending the concept of notification in federal court.

Harold Rubenstein, a New Jersey attorney, said he feels the law is an excessive punishment.

"These are convicted sex offenders who have served their time," he said, adding that he is also concerned about vigilantism.

The most serious New Jersey case of vigilante violence occurred in Phillipsburg, Warren County several months ago.

Frank Busci, a Warren County chief assistant prosecutor who handles the implementation of Megan's Law for the county, said two men were drinking one evening, shortly after they were notified that a sex offender had moved into their neighborhood. Having learned about their new neighbor's past, they decided to do something about it.

The two men knocked on the door and proceeded to beat the man who answered it, but the man was not the offender, Bucks said.

"These two individuals - under the influence - were convinced they had the right guy," he said.

Since the incident, New Jersey officials have taken steps to prevent another incident.

In spite of the vigilante incidents, New Jersey law-enforcement officials have already seen the law pay dividends.

Several months ago a group of girls were frightened by a suspicious-looking man driving a black car near a school bus stop. In New Jersey, all convicted sex offenders are required to register with local law enforcement. The registries are used as a tool by police in sex offense investigations.

When the girls reported the incident, the only detail they could remember was the car, Busci said.

"It just so happens the next town had an offender who owned an '88 black Camaro," he said.

Continued from Page 1. permarkets took that business away from the corner market and forced them to either adapt or per-

And adapt is what Stone is telling small businesses to do.

Businesses can compete with the likes of a nationwide retailer, and even take advantage of their proximity to a Wall-Mart — if they avoid head-to-head competition, Stone said. The chains tend to pull in shoppers from a wide area, and the resulting rise in traffic can benefit certain businesses.

For example, furniture stores tend to report an upswing in sales after a Wal-Mart opens nearby,

'Wal-Mart really doesn't carry furniture, just small things you put

together yourself," he said.

Realizing the benefits of a nearby Wal-Mart is just one of the few adaptations Stone said small business must make.

Stone uses the once-typical small town hardware store as an example of how many businesses must adapt to large chain stores. Many hardware stores had branched out into housewares, sporting goods and cleaning supplies, which are all Wal-Mart's strong suit, Stone said. Now, more are specializing in order to compete.

"The advantage of the small town hardware store is all the fasteners they carry, in all the sizes you can possibly think of — the eight-inch bolt," he said. Wal-Mart does not carry those types of

customers where to go to find them, he added.

"I know a few hardware store owners who want their stores to be as close as possible to the Wal-Mart; they know how to play the game," he said.

Jacob DeRooy, associate professor of managerial economics at Penn State Harrisburg, said he agrees with Stone. Small businesses cannot compete with the behemoths of retail if they sell the same merchandise.

'What's got to happen is that these small firms will have to look at themselves and see if they are offering a different product than the larger stores," he said.

With the recent addition of another Wal-Mart in the State Col-

things, but employees will tell their lege area, local merchants are finding a greater need to distinguish themselves from their big-chain competitors.

O.W. Houts and Son Inc., 129 N. Buckhout St., is a hardware store that tries to set itself apart through service, said General Manager Sam

Rogers. Many people, Rogers said, come into the store with a specific prob-

lem - such as a leaky faucet. "We tell you how to repair that faucet and sell you only what you need," he said.

Although O.W. Houts has seen its regular customers try the chain stores. Rogers said they often return, saying they missed the ser-

But, sometimes these competition strategies prove to be futile.

Scott Welham, president of Dank's Department Stores, which closed its location at 148 S. Allen St. in May, said it is not a problem of competition but a lack of customers. More stores have opened in the area while the population has remained fairly steady in the past five years

"Something's going to be squeezed out," he said.

However, Welham said he thinks that reports of the death of downtown have been greatly exaggerated. While cleaning out the downtown store, he said he found some old newspaper clippings that predicted tough times for local busi-

"They were having the same problems in the '60s when the Nit tany Mall opened up," he said.

Shake-up

Continued from Page 1.

money to see the changes through, he added.

But Spanier said the restructuring of the CES is not about cutting the budget or axing jobs. Instead, he said, it is about getting the University organized.

"We're undertaking this study with a realistic sense that resources are tight," Spanier said. "We are ready now to begin looking at the possibility of delivering our services differently and organizing ourselves differently."

Some of the options proposed to the Altoona Campus are to continue

its present mission with an alteration, such as adding one or two four-year programs, becoming a community college or becoming a four-year college.

The plan proposes the DuBois Campus form an alliance with the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford. And the York Campus, Schuylkill Campus and Mont Alto Campus have the option of collaborating with Penn State Harrisburg as a multi-campus system, Dunham

Penn State Harrisburg Student Government Association President Duane Brooks said it is a good idea

for Harrisburg to work more closely with its neighboring campuses.

Delaware County Campus Commonwealth Educational Officer Edward Tomezsko said Delco received four options to choose

"I'm not considering any of those the one. I want to give them all fair opportunity," Tomezsko said. "(The students) were very pleased. About 40 percent don't transfer to University Park due to personal reasons. The president made them feel very good."

Collegian Staff Writer Megan Donley contributed to this report.

AT&T chairman shows hope for age of better information

By MICHAEL LEACH Collegian Staff Writer

The Palmer Chair Lecturer yesterday brought with him a message of hope and anticipation over the coming technologies involving the information superhighway, but stressed the need for responsible drivers to follow —and perhaps fashion - the rules of the road to come.

Robert E. Allen, Chairman and CEO for AT&T, delivered the annual James R. and Barbara R. Palmer Chair Lecture in Telecommunications Studies yesterday to an audience of 100 people in the Carnegie Cinema and 60 colleges, universities, and media organizations via satellite.

"This is the first Palmer Chair Lecture that is transmitted by satellite around the country," said Terri Brooks, dean of the College of Communications. "It is a sign of how far, how fast things have changed."

Allen, who assumed the positions of both CEO and chairman of AT&T in 1988, stressed the importance of moving forward in wisdom as well as information in his 45minute commentary.

"I would, in short, ask you to consider information, not as an end in itself, but as raw material that can

be magically transformed human imagination, Allen said. Additionally, the head of AT&T

a multibillion-dollar empire, noted the changes that have taken place in the development of the Internet.

When this decade began, the Internet was still the province of science and government," Allen said. "Today it's estimated and between 30 and 50 million people access the Internet - an ad hoc network that has come to symbolize the freewheeling, sometimes seditious, and always interactive nature of things to come.'

The things to come are not necessary essarily going to be easy, either The exciting technologies hitting the markets today carry pitfalls for future generations. Allen siso added that the Internet of today won't necessarily be the information superhighway of tomorrow.

"The Internet is kind of for today," Allen said. "But it is no very efficient, not very reliable and not very secure."

Gary Augustson, executive director of Computer and Info: :: tion Systems, sees bright future for both Penn State and AT&T in the development of Internat resources. The partnership between I

State and AT&T is a strong o Augustson said.

Continued from Page 1.

The CES continued to grow steadily because of the community's educational needs and ambi-

tions, Hosler said. "There has been constant evolution," he said. "The needs of the society and the needs of the stu-

dent keep changing." As students and community needs evolved, so did the structure of the CES; by 1966, enrollment increased significantly. Many new campuses were added and dorms were also constructed at a few locations.

Because of the rise in enroll-

versity Park would not be able to accommodate all of the students attending the Commonwealth Campuses. In 1970, the University designated Penn State Erie as the only Commonwealth Campus to offer a four-year degree plan and also began to evaluate the mission of each of the Commonwealth Cam-

The condition of the CES continued to undergo evaluation through the presidencies of Bryce Jordan, Joab Thomas and Spanier.

During the 1980s, the system merged with the Division of Con-

ment, it became apparent that Uni-tinuing Education to form what is now the CES. During that time, the state saw a steady decline in the number of high school graduates.

Thomas said ongoing discussions concerning the CES were a regular part of his presidency. He conducted studies of select Commonwealth Campuses and developed a strategic plan to address some of the CES problems, such as financial instability, he said. But change was not set into motion.

"We had a number of long-range plans but none that were honed down to implementation," Thomas added.



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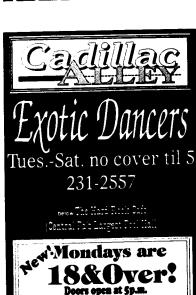
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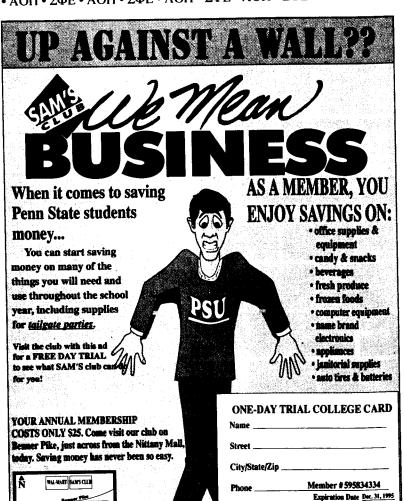
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