

Collegian Photo/Michael L. Palmieri

Road barriers are blocking the diverters in East College Heights on North Allen Street and Adams Avenue as crews work on them. The diverters were altered this week to make them accessible to emergency vehicles.

Bumpy diverters block emergency vehicles

By CHRISTINE KOSOVAC
Collegian Staff Writer

The State College Borough is trying to smooth out a bumpy situation.

Crews began altering the East College Heights traffic diverters this week to make them more accessible for emergency vehicles, said Borough Manager Peter Marshall.

The original diverters were designed to be mountable by emergency vehicles in an emergency situation — including police cars, said Lt. Tom Hart of the State College Police Department.

When tests were conducted earlier this summer to measure the ability of police cars to travel over the diverters, the conclusion

reached was that police cars were able to drive over them.

However, the diverters were too "bumpy" for police cars to handle, Marshall said.

Although some people raised questions about the ability of emergency vehicles to pass over the diverters, Marshall said, the fatal accident which killed two people Saturday on North Allen Street and stockpiled traffic for hours had no bearing on the decision.

State College Police Chief Tom King was unable to be reached for comment.

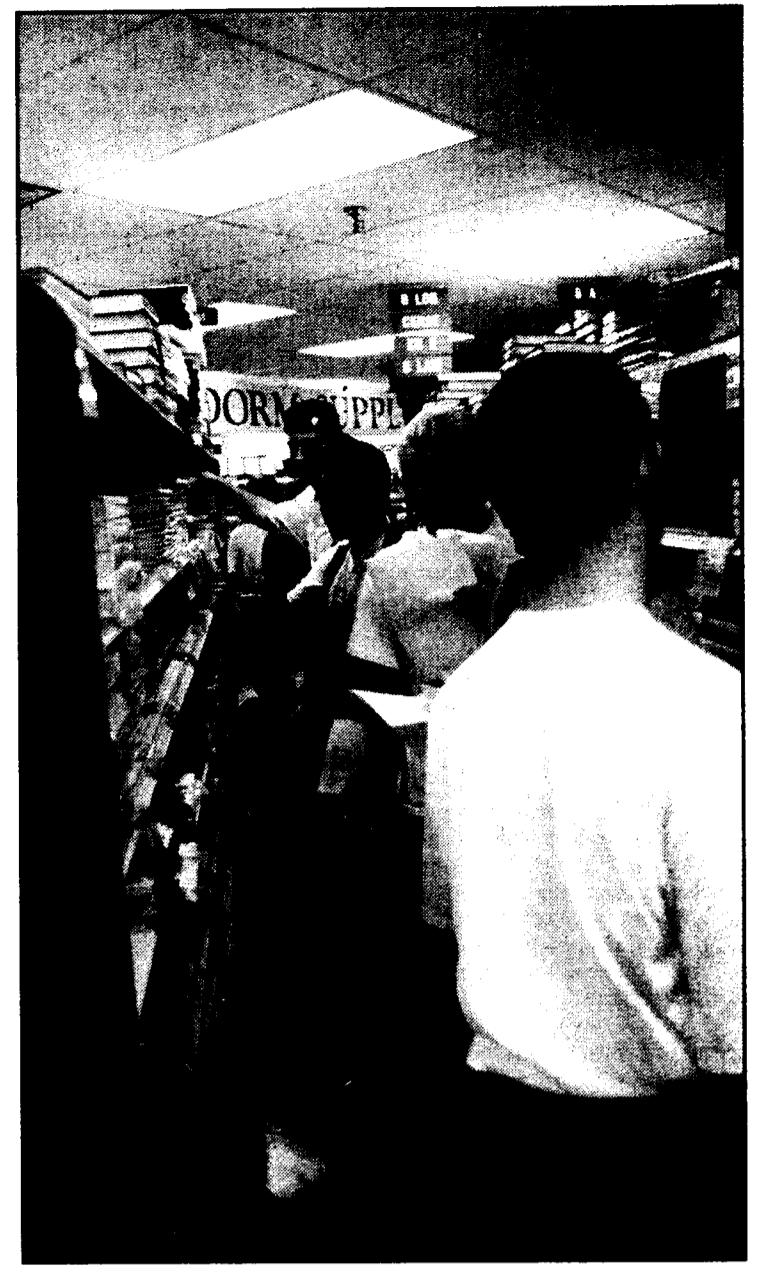
"What's changed?" asked Rick Tetzlaff, president of Citizens for Public Access, a political action group against the diverters. He referred to a June 2 vote by the State College Borough Council to maintain, as originally constructed,

the diverters placed at the intersection of Mitchell Avenue and Thomas Street and at the North Allen Street-Adams Street intersection.

"Why were we told over a year ago that emergency vehicles were able to go over them? Tetzlaff questioned. "Now, all of a sudden, they can't."

The centers of the diverters are being reduced so emergency vehicles may pass, but it will remain difficult for smaller vehicles to drive over the diverters. The center poles will be replaced with poles that will break away upon impact.

"If they (the borough) really want to make it accessible to emergency vehicles take them out. Then there's no question," Tetzlaff said. "Emergency vehicles won't have a problem."



Collegian Photo/Kurt Redeker

Searching the stacks

Students crowd the aisles at the Penn State Bookstore. Many students bought their Fall Semester books yesterday.

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AUDITION DATES: Tuesday, September 2 or Wednesday, September 3 @ 6:30pm - 132 White Building
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QUESTIONS: Gina - 867-7290
Alison - 867-5589
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"We know for sure we wouldn't be where we are without our time spent at the Collegian."

— Michael Signora, communications specialist at the National Football League, and Brad Young, editorial projects researcher at Sports Illustrated



Brad Young, left, and Michael Signora covered football and men's basketball at the Collegian. Now they both work in New York City — Brad at Sports Illustrated and Michael at the NFL.

What's the best part of working for the Collegian? That's like trying to pick a favorite Rockette.

Is it the memories? Going to a New Year's Day Bowl Game in the Sunshine State to cap our season covering the Penn State football team. Interviewing Joe Paterno on a weekly basis. Sitting courtside at the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

Is it the opportunities? While still in college, we wrote daily about Division I sports programs that people in the business 20 years would die to cover. Each day at Sports Illustrated and the NFL, we apply Collegian-taught lessons in writing, organization and time management.

Or is it the people we met? At the Collegian, most of us had the same interests and aspirations, so it's no surprise that lasting friendships were formed through shared triumphs, laughs and gotta-make-deadline all-nighters.

What's the best part of working for the Collegian? Experience it all, then look back and decide for yourself.

Want to be a Daily Collegian reporter?

Whether you aspire to work for the NFL, write for Sports Illustrated or simply gain some journalism experience, The Daily Collegian provides excellent opportunities. The Collegian invites any student interested in writing for the arts, campus, metro or sports staffs to try out. No previous experience is necessary. Attend one of the following tryout meetings, where you will be asked to write a short news story based on a set of facts. Bring a pencil and a blue exam book. The tryouts will last an hour and a half.

6-7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 2
6-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 3
4-5:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 4
or 3-4:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5

All tryouts will be at the Collegian office, 123 S. Burrowes St. (see map below)

If you have questions about the tryouts, call News Adviser Kyle Heim at 865-1828. If you are interested in being a columnist or editorial cartoonist, watch for announcements on the Opinions page. If you are interested in applying for the photography or graphics staffs, watch for upcoming ads.

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