

Home opener

Lady Spikers begin their home season tonight against Duquesne

— Page 13, Sports

Gangster movies make offer you can't refuse

— Page 23, Arts

Intervals of sunshine and a few clouds today. High 75. Clear to partly cloudy tonight. Low 53. Mainly sunny and a bit warmer this weekend. Highs in the upper 70s to lower 80s.

— by Chris Patti



the daily Collegian

30°

www.collegian.psu.edu

Vol. 98, No. 34 30 Pages ©1997 Collegian Inc.

Friday, Aug. 29, 1997

Published independently by students at Penn State

Medical clinic approved

By AIMÉE HARRIS
Collegian Staff Writer

It was the strictest state inspection of an abortion facility Eric Harrah said he had ever been through. But the results were in his favor.

After three months of battling local resistance, Harrah received word yesterday from the Pennsylvania Department of Health that his facility, State College Medical Services, 477 E. Beaver Ave., has permission to perform abortions.

Harrah, director of administration at the facility, said he has gone through about 12 state inspections before for other health facilities.

"I've never seen the scrutiny I did with this one," he said. "But I didn't mind the position they were in. (The inspectors) were under a lot of public pressure."

Inspection of the State College facility was more detailed, Harrah said, from inspection of equipment to measurements of doorways for the handicapped.

Now it's time to readjust to life out of the public eye, Harrah said.

"I feel relief," he said. "I'm very happy. I'm patting myself on the back."

But Harrah also feels slightly disappointed,

"For the past three months my whole life revolved around this process and now I'm asking myself, 'What's next?'"

— Eric Harrah
medical clinic director

he said. "It's sad — for the past three months my whole life revolved around this process and now I'm asking myself, 'What's next?'" he said.

Next, Harrah has an eviction hearing. Sue Rogacs of Centre County Citizens Concerned for Human Life is quick to remember that the Friendly Corp., which owns State College Medical Services, still has to appear in court on Sept. 9.

"There is still another obstacle regarding the validity of the lease," Rogacs said.

Rogacs was not surprised State College Medical Services passed its inspection, she said.

"Harrah and (Dr. Steven C. Brigham, Harrah's partner — executives of the Friendly Corp.) are involved in abortion clinics. They

know how to open them and how to meet the laws," Rogacs said.

Harrah also has concerns about the facility as a crime target. He is currently arranging to have armed guards at the facility and has a team of attorneys gathered if legal action needs to be taken.

"I'm not going to stand by and watch myself and my employees be intimidated," Harrah said. "We're going to be very, very tough on people who harm or cause problems."

The facility is scheduled to open the week of Sept. 8, and has already received mixed reactions from students and residents.

"I think it's upsetting because the point is that girls can go right next door and get an abortion," said Kellie Weiss (junior-secondary education).

Weiss is concerned that women will act too hastily if there is an abortion clinic so close to them.

Michael Hancharik (sophomore-political science), however, thinks an abortion clinic in State College is necessary to a free society.

"This (clinic) is allowing for due process of human rights to flow in a democratic society," he said.

Citizens' group to protest clinic

By PAULA K. KNUDSEN
Collegian Staff Writer

Local pro-life activists will march through State College Sunday afternoon to protest a Beaver Avenue medical clinic that administrators said will offer abortions.

The walk, sponsored by representatives of State College and Penn State religious communities and Centre County Citizens Concerned for Human Life (CCHL), will begin at 2 p.m. on the corner of Hetzel Street and Beaver Avenue.

The march will end on the HUB lawn with a solemn prayer assembly, said Susan Rogacs, CCHL political education director.

The prayer walk is protesting State College Medical Services, Suite 210 of the Uni-Mart Building, 477 E. Beaver Ave., and director of administration Eric Harrah's pledge to provide abortion services, Rogacs said.

A traffic detour has been planned by the State College Police Department to steer traffic away from the march by temporarily halting westbound vehicles on East College Avenue.

"It's going to be a large crowd," Rogacs said, adding that she expects 1,000 or more walkers.

The walk was advertised in area churches and through word of mouth, Rogacs said.

Please see CLINIC, Page 2.



Collegian Photo/Christa Rimonneau

Jeff Price (freshman-golf management) attempts to start a washing card machines, along with new washers and dryers, replaced old machine in Hamilton Hall by using the new laundry card system. The laundry equipment all over campus.

Laundry cards clean up washing process

New laundry cards, washers and dryers make cleaning clothes on campus a high-tech process.

By VICTORIA FREILE
Collegian Staff Writer

The new ID cards are not the only new type of plastic surfacing at the University this fall — the

new laundry card is also sweeping across the campus.

These new laundry cards have a specialized computer chip that allows students to use the card like a debit card, said Fred Fotis, director of housing.

"The students put an amount on the card, insert the card into the reader in the laundry room and the money is deducted off the card," Fotis said.

Laundry cards can be purchased in the campus commons areas at

Features of new laundry card

— Page 2

the new cash value centers, Fotis said. The cards are available in \$10 and \$50 amounts, he added.

The \$10 card supplies \$7.50 worth of washes, Fotis said. The card itself costs \$2.50, he added.

When a student purchases the

\$50 card, the full \$50 of washes are included with no cost for the actual card. Money can be added onto the card in \$5 increments, he said.

Although Tom Powell (sophomore-telecommunications) said the \$50 card was too expensive, he did say the system is more convenient.

"Instead of having to walk to the dining commons, purchase a ticket and possibly lose (it), you can just punch in the card and you're done," he said.

Please see LAUNDRY, Page 2.

Student may contest rejection from council ballot

By DARREN ROBERTSON
Collegian Staff Writer

A University student who was rejected from the ballot for the State College Borough Council elections said he may be taking the county Board of Elections to court.

Former Undergraduate Student Government presidential candidate Jason Covener was denied a space on the ballot in the borough council elections by the Centre County Board of Elections earlier this month. Covener (senior-international politics) announced his intention to seek a place on the council as an independent candidate in July.

His bid was rejected, however, because he is actually a registered Republican, said Joyce McKinley, director of elections, Office of Elections and Voter Registration.

"Pennsylvania state law requires the candidate to be a registered independent before the primary," McKinley said. "Mr. Covener is still a registered Republican. His petition was rejected."

The primary elections were held May 20, and

"There are things going on that should not be. I believe this is all because they know I am a student."

— Jason Covener
rejected from borough council ballot

Covener would have had to have been registered non-partisan 30 days prior to that date.

Covener said he was misinformed by the Board of Elections and plans to appeal his rejection.

"I am going to be speaking to a lawyer tomorrow," he said. "I am planning to take this to court if I have to."

Covener said he believes the Board of Elections may not have followed proper procedures when dealing with his petition to be placed on the ballot for the Nov. 4 elections.

"I think the elections commission is making decisions against the election code," he said.

"There are things going on that should not be. I believe this is all because they know I am a student."

Although his name has not been placed on the ballot, Covener could still seek a write-in vote, McKinley said.

"If he wants to do a write-in campaign, that would be allowed," she said. "He talked about it."

Covener said he will campaign as a write-in candidate if he is not granted his appeal.

"I am prepared to do a write-in and win it if I have to," Covener said. "So students will still have the option of voting for me."

There are five candidates vying for three open seats on the borough's seven-member council, McKinley said. Currently, there no University students on the ballot.

"We make up 70 percent of State College," Covener said. "There should be at least three or four students as councilmen."

The foremost issue on his platform is the reform of the borough's housing ordinance, Covener said.

Please see COVENER, Page 2.

Megan's Law finds way into Centre County

A Rockview inmate, previously convicted of sexual crimes, refused to register his address with police and now faces felony charges.

By ELISA SCHEMENT
Collegian Staff Writer

Before his arraignment Wednesday, Miroslaw Piktas, 41, asked to register his planned address in accordance with Megan's Law, Rockview state police Trooper Warren Sasserman said.

"He told me it was between him and the judge now and he would sign the papers," Sasserman said. "I advised him it was too late. He had already violated the law."

Piktas' case is the first violation of Megan's Law in Centre County. He finishes his 10-year sentence for deviant sexual intercourse today. Pennsylvania state law says sex offenders must register their future addresses 10 days before their scheduled release from prison.

Piktas refused to give his intended address twice, said prison officials at the State Correctional Institute at Rockview.

Refusal to register is a third-degree felony punishable by up to seven years in prison, Centre County District Attorney Ray Gricar said.

District Justice Brad Lunsford set Piktas' bail at \$100,000.

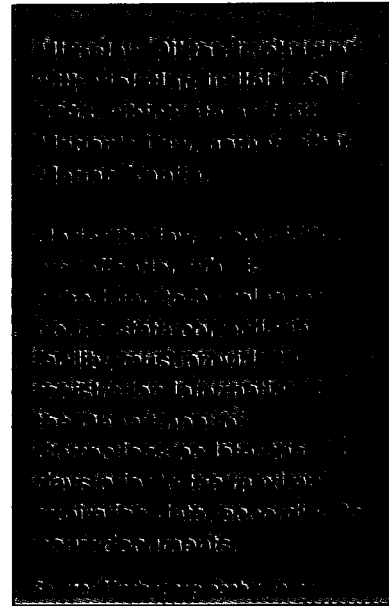
"It's a requirement that persons who are convicted of child molestation charges must register (their addresses) within 10 days prior to release," Lunsford said. "He was asked on two occasions, but refused to do so."

After the much-publicized sexual assault and murder of 7-year-old Megan Kanka, of Hamilton Township, New Jersey, President Clinton signed a federal law requiring community notification of a sex offender's intended residence. The 1996 law was created to protect children from convicted sex offenders.

Because of failure to meet bail and an Immigration and Naturalization Services detainer, Piktas will remain in custody tomorrow.

Piktas, who is not an American citizen, speaks broken English, Sasserman said. The Polish immigrant asked for a translator for his arraignment, he added.

"I believe he would understand what's going on a little better if he was being spoken to in his native



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tongue," Sasserman said, adding that no interpreter was available for his arraignment.

Prison officials said they made the two previous address requests in English.

INS Special Agent Michele Kennedy said Piktas may be affected by the stronger criminal deportation laws Congress passed in April. He will not enter INS custody until all state and federal charges are completed, she said.

"I think (he's withholding his intended address) mainly because of his immigration detainer," said a prison official, who refused to be identified. "He may be trying to avoid deportation."

If Piktas' officially releases his intended address, it will not alter the charge, Gricar said.

"He can't say, 'Oh, I changed my mind,' and we have to drop the charges," Gricar said. "Sex offenders should be required to register so that the people are protected. . . It's a very important law. It's a very serious matter and we intend to enforce the law."

Correction

An article in The Daily Collegian yesterday incorrectly stated that area Wal-Mart stores reserved Penn State Barbie. Wal-Mart does not take reservations for the doll. Also, in the same article, the Collegian incorrectly identified the Lion's Den, 118 S. Garner St., as a store that sells the Penn State Barbie.