

Students question opposite-sex living option

By Heather Cook
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Haverford College decided last week to open its on-campus apartment-style housing to students who want to room with the opposite sex, a move that Penn State housing officials don't plan to copy in the near future.

Fred Fotis, director of Residence Life, said the issue is complicated and while it can't be ruled out completely for future Penn State students, the problems for any state institution are different than those of private colleges.

"I'm sure that some people would have a negative response if any state institution — not just Penn State — would do this," Fotis

said. Money could be in danger if legislators, private contributors, parents or even students opposed the idea of allowing students to share rooms with the opposite sex, Fotis said.

The option at Haverford College, a small private school near Philadelphia, will be offered during an experimental period in Fall Semester 2000.

Requests from gay and lesbian students, who said they often felt uncomfortable sharing rooms with members of the same sex, helped inspire the policy.

At Penn State, some students involved in the gay and lesbian community said they also would support an opposite sex housing option on campus.

"I have always wanted to have a gay male roommate," said Jennifer Dumin, director of Allies.

"My closest friends are gay males," she said.

Roommate difficulties at Penn State between gay or lesbian students and same sex roommates might be alleviated if Penn State were to adopt an opposite sex living policy, said Ryan Acton, multicultural coordinator of Allies.

Acton is gay and said he has had problems with roommates in the past.

Lynn DuBois, associate director of housing, said if any type of roommate problem occurs, it goes through her office, where housing staff finds new rooms for students

immediately, regardless of the reason the student needs to be moved.

"It basically comes down to where we have spaces," DuBois said.

Fotis agreed that there are problems between gay or lesbian students and their heterosexual roommates, but said allowing an opposite sex living option isn't necessarily the way to solve them.

"I'm not sure that you can say that matching a gay male student with a female roommate would create harmony," Fotis said. "The solution would be to live with a student who understands your lifestyle."

Not all students living in the dorms think such an option would be beneficial.

Tener Hall resident James Chester (fresh-

man-engineering) said he would not support it.

"I believe that sex before marriage is wrong. This sort of situation could lend itself to that," he said.

Chester said though he understands that living situations are often uncomfortable for gay and lesbian students, there are other options for them, like living with students who share their views, or living in a single room.

Roommate choice shouldn't depend on sex, whether sexuality is an issue or not, Dumin said.

"I would have lived with my best friend here for the last three years if I could have lived with a man," she said.

State system considering new plan for admissions

By Jill Leonard
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

To increase the enrollment of minority students, Pennsylvania's State System of Higher Education is considering the adoption of a plan that would admit the top 15 percent of graduates of every high school in the state.

According to a report published in The Chronicle of Higher Education last week, if the system approves the idea, Pennsylvania would join a growing number of states that have enacted similar class-rank plans. The idea follows suit of comparable plans recently adopted in Texas, Florida and California. Pennsylvania's figure of 15 percent falls in the middle of Texas' requirement, where the top 10 percent of its graduates are admitted into its state system, and Florida's, where the top 20 percent are guaranteed admission. The University of California has a more stringent policy, extending admission invitations to the top 4 percent.

The long-range goal of the plan is to boost the number of minority students that enroll in the state system, said Ken Marshall, a spokesman for the SSHE. Currently, 95,000 students are enrolled in the system's universities, and 8.5 percent of those students are minorities.

"We would like to see that (number) increase," Marshall said.

The state system consists of 14 universities, including Bloomsburg, Edinboro and Kutztown. The proposal is included in the latest draft of the state system's new strategic plan, and the system's Board of Governors is expected to review the plan and vote on it in July, Marshall said.

The earliest the plan could be implemented is with the freshman class entering the system in Fall 2001, Marshall said.

Bloomsburg University is hopeful that the plan will be approved, said Jim Hollister, director of media relations and marketing for the university. "It fits in our philosophy," he said. "It actually excites us. It puts an emphasis on more than just a standardized test — the SAT.

"It's a better indicator of how a student might do over the long haul (in college)," Hollister said.

In addition, the university feels it will continue to draw the majority of its students in a radius of about 75 miles in all directions of the campus, Hollister added.

Penn State officials said they do not foresee implementing a similar plan in the future. "I don't believe that the SSHE plan would affect Penn State in any way," Penn State President Graham Spanier said in an e-mail.

According to the report, admission policies at Pennsylvania's other state-related universities, Lincoln University, Temple University and the University of Pittsburgh, would not see any changes from the plan either.

Activists pressure schools to join WRC



Liz Wolhausen, a Purdue senior, is one of six Purdue students who began a hunger strike on March 27 as part of a rally against sweatshops.

Penn State group stays adamant for labor review

By Alison Kepner
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

Although their deadline has not been met, student leaders urging Penn State administrators to join the Worker Rights Consortium say they are not giving up.

Students for Accountability and Reform (STAR), an unregistered student organization devoted to affiliating the university with WRC, hoped to have a commitment from administrators before tomorrow, the day of the WRC's founding conference in New York City.

STAR plans to begin occupation of Old Main Lawn at 5 p.m. today as a demonstration to support its demands that Penn State join WRC by tomorrow, according to a press release from STAR.

WRC is an international organization that monitors sweatshop labor. Although Penn State has yet to commit to WRC, it is already a member of another sweatshop monitoring organization — the Fair Labor Association.

Although the university will not join WRC in time to be at its founding conference, STAR still wants administrators to commit soon so Penn State can have a leading voice in the organization and development of the new group.

"We're still applying pressure," said Justin Leto (junior-computer engineering), one of the founding members of STAR.

Administrators are waiting to make a decision until a new committee is set up to examine the affiliation. The committee, formed because of a suggestion by Undergraduate Student Government President Garrett Fitzgerald, will include three students, three administrators and three faculty members.

However, STAR leaders are weary of allowing the committee to delay progress.

"Administrations have successfully used committees like this as a tactic to stall," Leto said.

STAR members will give the committee a "good faith effort," while continuing to act as "active observers," Leto said.

Yesterday, Fitzgerald and USG Town Sen. Martin Austerhuhle sent letters to Penn State President Graham Spanier and Assistant Vice President of Finance and Business Dan Sieminski. Spanier, who said he was unavailable to meet with STAR members because of a busy schedule, delegated the issue to Sieminski.

Fitzgerald said the letters that he and Austerhuhle wrote were sent to inform the administrators of USG's position on WRC.

"We've (USG) become completely con-

Purdue protesters on hunger strike

By Alison Kepner and Tracy Wilson
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITERS

While Penn State students continue to lobby administrators to join the Workers' Rights Consortium, students at other universities across the country are also putting pressure on their respective administrations to affiliate with the group.

Students at other universities have turned to active protests, including a hunger strike at Purdue University. As of yesterday afternoon, five student strikers had not eaten since March 27 in an effort to force their administration to join the group. More than 40 students also have camped out on Purdue's Memorial Mall in an ongoing attempt to gain attention and support.

Nathan Strange, a graduate student in aerospace engineering at Purdue, was one of the five students in his ninth day on the hunger strike.

The first few days you're just really hungry, then the pain dulls away, said Strange, adding he was prepared to continue the hunger strike until sent to the hospital.

"I do feel very weak," he said. "It's real hard to go to class."

Strange was a student member of the com-

mittee that helped Purdue administrators develop its code of conduct. However, he said although the administration has adopted the code of conduct, they are not abiding by its criteria.

"They were using it for positive PR," Strange said. "Without enforcement, the code is meaningless."

Yesterday afternoon, student protesters met with Joseph Bennett, vice president of university relations.

Bennett could not be reached for comment yesterday.

The meeting was instrumental in "opening lines of communications," said Negin Almasi, a student representative for the protesters.

However, university president Steven Beering still refuses to meet with the hunger strikers, she added.

WRC also has become an issue at Brown University. Last week Nike announced it would end its apparel contract with the university because of the school's affiliation with WRC.

Nike ended its contract with Brown because it could not live up to Brown's code of conduct, Students for Accountability and Reform member Justin Leto (junior-comput-

er engineering) said. STAR plans to focus its next campaign on Penn State's own affiliations with Nike.

Nike voided the contract because Brown changed its terms in the middle of it, said Cheryl McCants, Nike representative.

"It's not that we have any problems with monitoring or with codes of conduct," said McCants, adding Nike was a leader in establishing codes of conduct during the early 1990s. "You can't just change a contract mid-stream."

One of the changes Brown requested in its letter to Nike was in the living wage for workers, something that WRC has not yet defined, McCants said.

"You can't change a document with terms not legally defined," said McCants, adding she questions how many college students are being paid the "living wage" at their college jobs.

STAR is urging Penn State administrators to join the now-forming WRC, a sweatshop monitoring organization. Penn State is already affiliated with another sweatshop monitoring organization, the Fair Labor Association.

Nike has contracts with universities affil-

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Inside

Under fire

Former Lions Pete Lisicky and Matt Gaudio and unnamed current players said in an article by *The Harrisburg Patriot-News* that Penn State men's basketball coach Jerry Dunn practiced his team longer than the 20 hours per week allowed by the NCAA. | **SPORTS**, Page 15

Lining up

Doomsdayers are bracing for the May 5 to 16 alignment of the sun and six planets and warn the configuration could shift the Earth's poles, causing a multitude of problems. Astronomers hope to debunk their predictions. | **NATIONAL**, Page 8

Murky waters

Three-fourths of states are failing to address water pollution, ignoring a provision in the federal Clean Water Act, members of a federal conservation group charged yesterday. | **ENVIRONMENT**, Page 11



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Hoagie House awaits liquor license approval

By Amy Looking
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

In a few short weeks, some students can satisfy their late-night craving for beer and munchies when a local eatery on West Beaver Avenue becomes the new home to a bottle shop.

If the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board approves the liquor license for Leo's Hoagie House, 222 W. Beaver Ave., a new location of the State College chain Brewsky's Bottle Shops will open inside, said Andy Benyo, owner of Leo's.

After the merger, students and residents can purchase both food and beer from the newly combined Leo's and Brewsky's, Benyo said.

"Basically, they're (Brewsky's) moving into our store. They have their own register and employees," Benyo said. The PLCB will hopefully approve the license within the next few weeks, Benyo said.

"They're the last say in the matter," he said.

Although they anticipated a March 28 opening, Chuck Patterson, general manager of all three Brewsky's locations, said he hopes the board will pass the license when it meets April 19.

The license would actually be transferred from Brewsky's Bottle Shop's former location, Thirsty's Bottle Shop, 444 E. College Ave., so there should not be a problem, Patterson said.

The idea, which developed within the last six months, came from



Dan Saetinger/Collegian
Vic Badger of State College makes a sub at Leo's Hoagie House, 222 W. Beaver Ave, which is expecting to receive a liquor license.

See HOAGIE HOUSE, Page 14.