

Meanwhile

Most of us were outside the State College area during term break, and we were probably more concerned about fun than University Park news. But while we were out, a few major things did happen here and they raised issues with which we should be concerned. For example:

On May 31, 4,600 seniors and graduate students received Penn State diplomas and a chance to seek employment in the special fields they now know.

But before they got their diplomas, the commencement speaker, U.S. Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman, told the graduates their search for jobs would not be easy, that they would "face severe economic problems and perhaps the worst job market for college graduates since the 1930s."

The U.S. Government recently seemed to echo Coleman's remark, announcing an unemployment rise to 9.2 per cent — the highest since 1941.

These "severe economic problems" will prevent many University graduates from establishing careers in their interest and for which they were educated. We should be concerned.

On May 30, the University Board of Trustees irritated Ralph Nader and Students for a Pennsylvania Public Interest Research Group by voting 19 to 7 against a negative check-off system for funding PennPIRG. (See story on page 1.)

Instead, the board authorized University officials to negotiate and execute a contract to organize

PennPIRG under a positive check-off, a funding system Nader and PennPIRG people say can't work. And it probably won't, primarily because it won't be tried.

Students for PennPIRG rejected the University's offer of positive check-off, citing examples of similar systems failing at more than 140 other institutions. PennPIRG organizers now plan to work with state legislators to introduce legislation that might help develop a more workable funding system.

But the important thing is that PennPIRG, which is supported by a petition with the signatures of 24,000 University students, is a long way off. An organization with recognized educational merit and great potential for public good may not even get started. Again, we should be concerned.

For the freshmen:

There will be about 11,000 students in Happy Valley this summer. 1,360 of those will be new students including 890 for their first term. And for those the freshmen, here is some off-the-cuff advice.

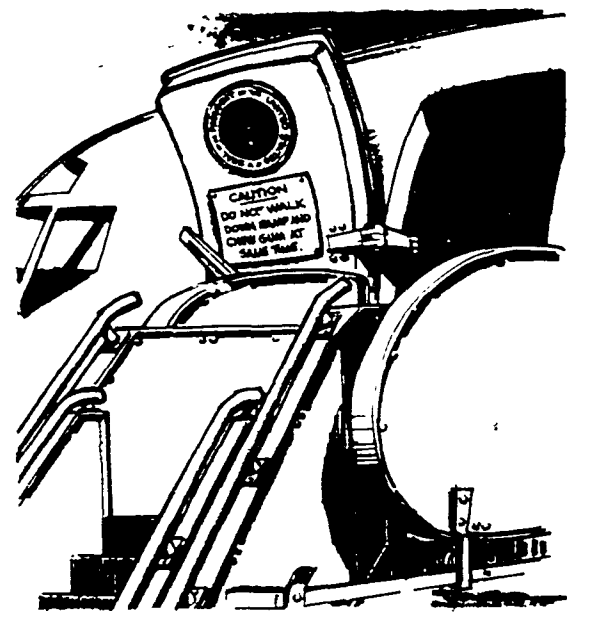
You've already heard that the class of 1975 is now alumni. You've also heard that the graduates will have hard times finding work in fields in which they majored, and for some it won't even be easy to find any job at all. Scared? Don't be.

We are told that the recession is "bottoming out," but that the effects will not be made apparent immediately. Such news should be received with both hands so that the alternatives may be balanced accordingly.

First, if we have in fact stopped our downward economic plunge, you don't have to limit yourselves to an area of study solely because it's the only one with an optimistic job market. Choose an education you are comfortable with and work at it.

However, don't become so immersed in the pleasantries of college life that a sense of reality vanishes from your mind. For four years, you will be called on to make decisions that may carry on to an uncertain future. Do not base those decisions on the narrow sights of a contented student.

Search for your own Eden but consider that this new life is only temporary and after four years it will be by mostly your efforts and your attitudes that the real world will accept or reject you.



the Collegian

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The Board can be contacted through Curtis Reeve, executive secretary at 865-2531, or at the Collegian office, 126 Carnegie.

Letter policy

The Daily Collegian encourages comments on news coverage, editorial policy and campus and off-campus affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double spaced, signed by no more than two persons and no longer than 30 lines. Students' letters should include the name, term and major of the writer.

Letters should be brought to the Collegian office, 126 Carnegie, in persons so proper identification of the writer can be made, although names will be withheld on request. If letters are received by mail, the Collegian will contact the signer for verification before publication. Letters cannot be returned.

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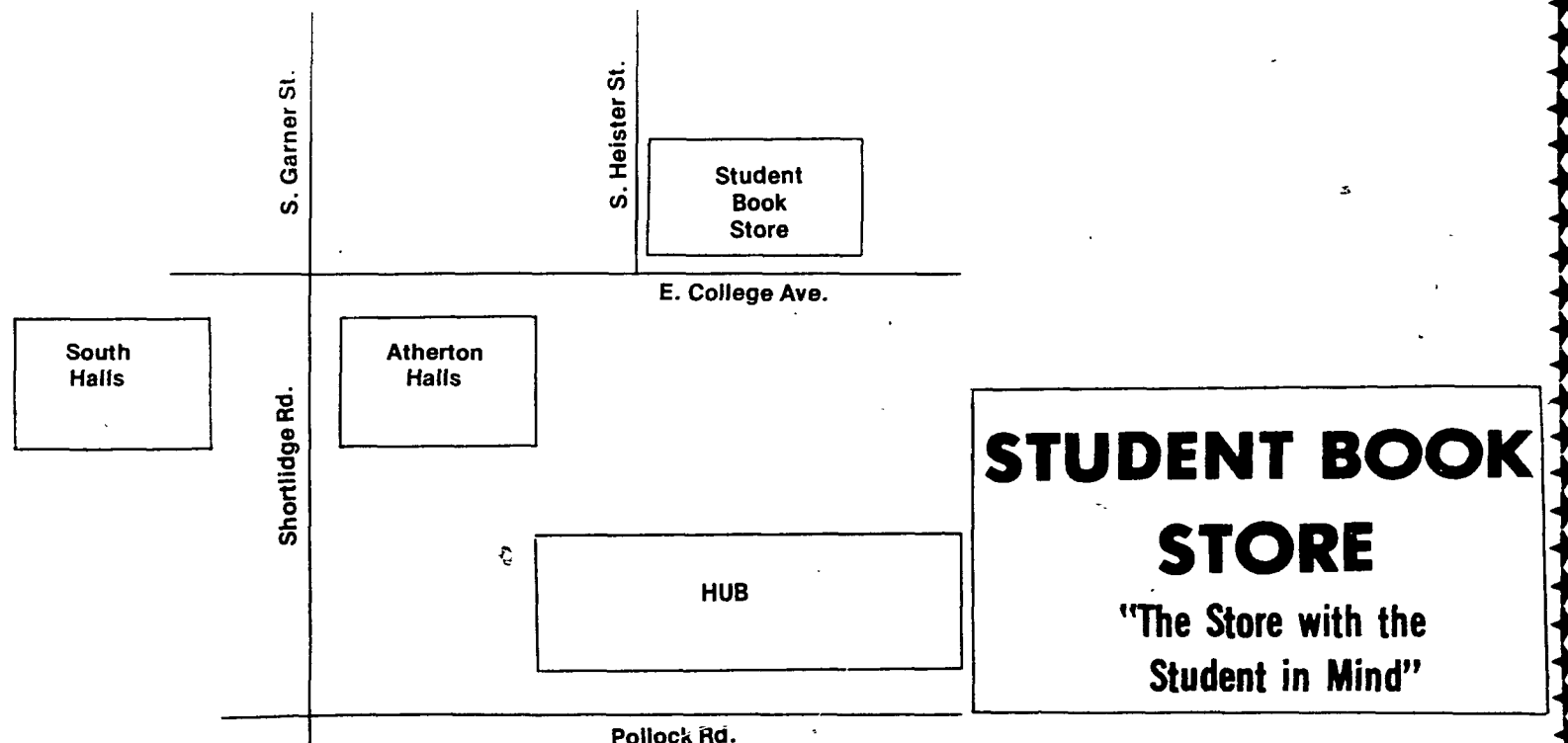
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