

Union demands cannot be met, Oswald writes

By JEFF HAWKES
Collegian Staff Writer

The University is not able to meet the wage demands of Teamster's Union Local 8, University President John W. Oswald said in a letter to the University community released yesterday.

The University has offered the union a 5 per cent wage increase and a 6.8 per cent increase in certain benefits, the letter said.

The union's leadership has asked for an 8 per cent wage hike. They plan to recommend to the union members that the University's offer be rejected and that the union strike.

Oswald is "full of bunk," said Local 8 president Jane Pikovsky, because of a misleading sentence in Oswald's letter.

In the letter, Oswald said the University's final offer consists "of a total salary increase of 5 per cent and a compensation increase of 6.8 per cent."

Union leaders claim the sentence is misleading because it makes the University appear as if it is offering the union an 11.8 per cent increase.

They said much of the 6.8 per cent increase for compensation benefits is required by federal or state law. The additional compensation benefits offered by the University that are not required by law amount to less than a 2 per cent increase, they said.

"What Dr. Oswald has printed appears that he is offering an 11.8 per cent increase," said C. Rodney Knepp, a Local 8 official. "If this is what he is offering, we'll accept it."

The breakdown of the University's 6.8 per cent increase in compensation benefits is a 67 per cent increase for surgical benefits and a 133 per cent increase for maternity benefits as well as "additional contributions for social security and the state pension plan," the letter says.

The union leadership is satisfied with the University's offer on compensation benefits, but will ask its membership Thursday to strike because the University is offering a 5 per cent wage increase, 3 per cent less than the union leadership requested.

"We're saying our people can't live off that kind of wage increase," Pikovsky said.

Oswald said at a press conference last Wednesday: "I want to make it clear that what has been offered is a final offer."

The University's 5 per cent wage increase offer would increase the hourly salary of top-grade workers from \$6.06 to \$6.37. Lower-grade employees would receive a raise of at least 20 cents an hour with the lowest-scale workers receiving at least \$3.92. All union

members received increases in 1976 and last January.

In the letter, Oswald gave several reasons for the University being unable to meet Local 8's demands.

"Penn State is entering into the most austere budget year it has faced in recent history," he said.

In order to balance the University's budget, he said, tuition has been increased by \$4.6 million, "critically needed expenditure increases of \$3.7 million" have been eliminated, and \$3.2 million in budget cuts have been made.

"It is still uncertain that the (state) legislature will vote to approve" the University's request for a \$3 million increase in state appropriations, he said.

If the state does not approve the University's request for additional state funds, he said the University's budget would be thrown out of balance, "and could result in a second round of tuition increases and further serious cuts in programs."

Oswald said the University's offer of a 5 per cent wage increase is "fully comparable with increases received by other groups of University employees." Oswald said the University has contingency plans if Local 8 votes to strike Thursday. Local 8 represents about 2,000 maintenance, food service and technical workers.

"The University will remain open and will continue to operate its academic programs and essential services," if a strike is called, Oswald said. "Inconveniences will certainly occur..."

When asked Wednesday if students will be hired to fill positions vacated by striking workers, Oswald said, "There will be opportunities for (students)."

"I firmly believe that students will not interfere with what we feel we need to do in order to get a wage to keep up with the inflationary costs throughout the country," union official Knepp said.

"We're confident that students realize the needs of employees locally here," he said.

"It is our hope the membership will vote according to our recommendation," Knepp said. He would not say if he thought two-thirds of the union membership will vote to reject the University's offer. Two-thirds of the membership must reject the University's offer for a strike to be called. The strike probably would not begin until September.

"It is my fervent hope that an understanding of the University's fiscal situation will prevail, and an early contract settlement will be reached, which will avoid a strike," Oswald concluded in his letter.

Oswald's letter appears on page 6.



Photo by Randy J. Woodbury

University President John W. Oswald (left) and his executive assistant Doris M. Seward listen to a question at a press conference last Wednesday. The conference was the first in a series of conferences to come once a term.

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Oswald to permit open SAB

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The Student Advisory Board (SAB) has the authority to decide for itself if it wants its meetings open to the public, University President John W. Oswald said at a press conference last Wednesday.

"If they want it to be open, I will tell them it will be little more than a rap session," Oswald said.

He said he did not think the board would be as effective with open meetings because the students would be concerned about what the editor of The Daily Collegian would say about the board's proceedings.

Joe Seuffer, 1975-76 Undergraduate Student Government President, said Oswald told the SAB two years ago that the board couldn't be open.

When told Oswald said the SAB has the authority to open its meetings, Seuffer said: "That's news to me." He said it is still Oswald's decision because Oswald must approve anything the SAB recommends.

"If he's saying SAB has the authority, he's kidding," Seuffer said.

"The Board of Trustees is open and their work is not any less effective," Seuffer said. He added that the SAB should be open.

Eva Whitley, former Association for Women Students president, said she was not aware that SAB had the authority to open its meetings.

"It's certainly a surprise to me," Whitley said.

Whitley said she does not think the SAB is effective. She said she was rarely asked for advice by the administration.

Often people were on the verge of sleeping at the meetings, she added.

Black Caucus President David W. Allen said he was not aware that he was a member of the SAB. He said the SAB "definitely should be open to all the students."

Betty Spector, Association for Women Students president, said Oswald did tell the SAB last term that it could open its meetings. She said the SAB decided not to because board members thought they would have to be careful about what they say and that open meetings would not be a comfortable situation in which to talk.

The University's student handbook says the Student Advisory Board was set up because the University Board of Trustees "decreed that the president shall consult with the student body as appropriately organized in the area of Student Affairs."

The board meets monthly with Raymond O. Murphy, vice president for Student Affairs, and every three months with Oswald. The handbook says the board discusses campus issues and student-related matters.

The board is comprised of about 17 heads of various student organizations at the University Park and some Commonwealth campuses.

Concerning other matters discussed at the press conference, Oswald said the University will go through with the recently approved remedial math and English programs even if the state does not increase its appropriation to the University.

He said the remedial programs are necessary because "we're dealing with the most capable students in the state,

many who were in the top 20 per cent of their high school class, but for a variety of reasons they haven't achieved sufficient skills in writing and mathematical computations."

"It's not a question of reducing our standards, but a question of our graduates having the skills to implement the knowledge they have acquired at the

University," Oswald said.

He said the deficient writing skills of many students may be caused by their heavy reliance on television and telephones instead of reading and writing letters.

He also said written tests are being replaced with tests graded by computer forms.

Crime Commission's funding increased

HARRISBURG (AP) — The House gave the state Crime Commission a vote of confidence yesterday by earmarking \$1.4 million for its operations in the proposed state budget.

After lengthy debate, the House voted 153-43 to increase the commission's funding from the \$326,000 recommended by the House Appropriations Committee.

The amendment was one of dozens the House considered yesterday as it continued the struggle to hammer out a new state budget.

The commission could be put out of business June 30 if the state doesn't come up with the extra money voted by the House.

The federal money the commission has lived on since 1970 runs out June 30.

Despite warnings from the federal government that no more aid was in store, Gov. Shapp recommended and the Senate passed budgets for the commission that assumed a \$1 million contribution from Washington.

Gov. Shapp asked for \$433,000; the Senate approved \$225,000.

The House approval doesn't guarantee the money to the commission.

Few lawmakers expect the Senate to approve the House's version of the budget. If that happens, a conference committee of House and Senate leaders will write the ultimate version.

Rep. James J. Gallen, R-Berks, said he doubted the Crime Commission would survive the conference committee.

Rep. Marvin Miller, R-Lancaster, said the issue was clear:

"Will we fund the commission or close it down and turn our backs on official corruption and organized crime?"

Miller, a member of a special subcommittee on organized crime and official corruption, said witnesses from other states warned that Pennsylvania's loose laws were attracting mobsters.

"Don't allow Pennsylvania to become a bedroom for organized crime and official corruption that New

Jersey once was," a New Jersey official told the committee.

Pennsylvania's Crime Commission is "a toothless tiger and some individuals want it that way," said Rep. Joseph Zeller, D-Lehigh.

He said lawmakers last year knocked out funding for the Philadelphia special prosecutor and want to make sure the crime commission also starves for lack of money.

Democratic leaders urged House members to reject the extra money for the commission.

"It was never the intention of the Appropriations Committee not to fund the Crime Commission," said committee chairman Max Pievsky, D-Philadelphia.

He said the House will have the opportunity to fund the commission next week when lawmakers vote on the portion of the budget financed with federal money.

Democratic floor leader James Manderino, D-Westmoreland, promised members that \$1 million would be in the federal augmentation budget for the commission.

U.S. House passes cut foreign aid bill

WASHINGTON (UPI) — In a stunning rebuff to President Carter, the House yesterday approved a \$6.7 billion foreign aid bill which cut nearly \$1 billion from the original White House request.

The House, in the closing moments of a two-day debate, adopted, 214-168, a five per cent meat axe cut of \$373 million proposed by Rep. Clarence Miller, R-Ohio.

One hundred Democrats joined with 114 Republicans in voting for the meat axe cut while 152 Democrats and 16 Republicans voted against it.

The action capped a stormy passage through the House in which Carter won some victories but watched the bill stripped of provisions to aid needy nations and those under Communist rule or influence.

The House Appropriations Committee slashed \$552.5 million from Carter's

original request of \$7.6 billion to help the world's needy nations before sending the bill to the floor.

After approving the across-the-board cut, the chamber then passed and sent to the Senate the massive money bill by a vote of 208 to 174.

But the House adopted one amendment to ban direct or indirect aid to Cuba by a vote of 274-112, and another — by voice vote — against aid to Angola and Mozambique.

Wednesday's 295-115 House vote against direct or indirect aid to Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos or Uganda, drew protests yesterday from White House and State Department spokesmen who warned the action could cause other nations to contribute less to international lending institutions.

In the closing debate, the House defeated, 59-24, an amendment by Rep. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, to delete \$45 million in military assistance for South Korea because of torture and repression of dissidents by the Seoul government.

In doing so, the House handed President Carter one victory over the appeals of liberals.

IN EDITION

'They shoot birds, don't they?'

Last week, In Edition made light of the blackbird and starling problem in Centre County. We have been forced to change our position.

Wednesday night, Collegian staffers noticed that a bird was flying around the newspaper office. Since the ceiling in the Collegian office rises some 30 to 35 feet above the floor, chasing the bird out was practically impossible.

A campus policeman called to the scene decided that it was definitely a job for the Department of Maintenance and Operations.

The two men from Maintenance and Operations made sure there was really a bird in the room, and then went to get the campus police.

Two policemen returned (new ones) and said they had been sent over by Maintenance and Operations and that they had been advised to shoot the bird. They decided that that approach was impractical, and left, promising to call in the morning.

Thursday morning, a few ingenious Collegian staffers (new ones), managed to chase the bird out.

We still haven't heard from the police.

Plop, plop, fizz, fizz oh what a relief...

A stroll through East Halls on any given summer night will expose the

average tourist to many interesting sights and sounds peculiar to that part of campus.

First on the list of peculiar sounds has to be the verbal battles between Packer and Geary Hall.

One would think that the rivalry between these two dorms quits with the nightly shouting matches, but four students have taken it a step further.

Mark Steinberg (10th-law enforcement and corrections), Scott Simmen (1st-math), Rick Morrison (1st-computer science), and Don Charley (1st-computer science) have stolen Geary's dessert-eating record.

Last January four students from Jefferson House in Geary Hall set the East Halls dessert-eating record by consuming 101 desserts in one hour and 30 minutes.

But last night, Mark, Scott, Rick, and Don put away 120 desserts in one hour and 20 minutes.

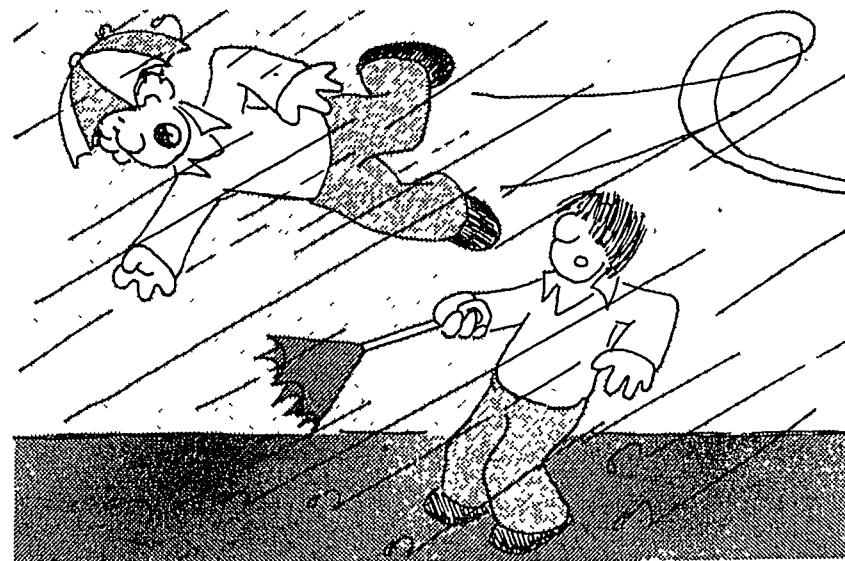
The new record holders are all members of Behrend House in Packer Hall.

So the next time your room and board bill goes up, you'll know who to blame.

See page six for photos.

Weather

Outdoor weekend activities should be saved for Sunday. Considerable cloudiness today through tomorrow with a few showers and thunder-showers likely tomorrow. High today and tomorrow 78, low tonight 60. Becoming mostly sunny and less humid Sunday.



Don't be a wethead, be an umbrella head

Face it. It happens to all of us. You're walking out of Willard building with a full knapsack on your back, all of your class notebooks in your left hand and a 30-page paper on post-war Tibet in your right hand. Then it starts to rain.

Regular umbrellas have a way of failing you at times like these. Luckily there is still an alternative to getting soaked.

At a few stores around town you can get a genuine Brocca Brella. An umbrella that you wear like a hat.

A person uses a Brocca Brella for any activity that requires protection from the sun or rain as well as some freedom for their hands.

Of the two clerks that we talked to at the Allen Street McLanahan's store, the first has never sold a Brocca Brella and the second has sold one.

The second clerk told us the Brocca Brellas must be selling, though, since there used to be a stack of them in the store and now there are only five or six.

We see only one major drawback: With a regular umbrella, if a strong gust of wind comes along you only have to worry about a broken umbrella; with a Brocca Brella you have to worry about whiplash.

—by Mark Van Dine and Dave Skidmore

Correction

The Daily Collegian incorrectly identified the Pa. secretary of education as Robert N. Hendershot in Wednesday's issue. Carol Kline is now the secretary of education.