



Yum, yum eat 'um up

Don Charley (1st-computer science), one of the four dessert-eating champions from Behrend House of Packer Hall concentrates on breaking the record (above) and looks around for relief afterwards (left). The event took place during dinner last night in East's Findlay Dining Hall. The Behrend House team broke the record set by Geary Hall's Jefferson House in January of this year.

ner last night in East's Findlay Dining Hall. The Behrend House team broke the record set by Geary Hall's Jefferson House in January of this year.

## An Open Letter To The University Community

You should be aware that contract negotiations between Penn State and its technical service employees, which began in January, are now ended. On June 30, members of Teamsters Union Local No. 8 will vote to accept or reject the University's final offer, consisting of a total salary increase of 5% and a compensation increase of 6.8%. Because of the importance of this matter to the total University community, I want to report on the nature of the contract offer and how the vote will affect you — the faculty, staff, and students.

Last year the membership of Teamsters Union Local No. 8 approved a two-year contract with a reopener clause for (a) negotiations on wages for the period July 1, 1977, to June 30, 1978, (b) improvements in the surgical schedule and (c) free dependent coverage for the health insurance program.

The leadership of the Union and representatives of the University have been engaged in negotiations on these items for the last several months. The University's final offer provides for a 5% increase in wages, which is within the budget approved by the Board of Trustees and fully comparable with increases received by other groups of University employees. The contract offer also provides for improvement in the UNICARE surgical schedule, increasing the maximum benefit from \$450 to \$750. The maximum benefit for each individual surgical procedure has been increased by some 67 percent. In addition, the basic maternity benefit (doctor's fee for normal delivery) has increased from \$150 to \$350. The cost to provide these increases, including additional contributions for social security and the State pension plan, amounts to 6.8%. During negotiations, the demand for free dependent coverage for health insurance was withdrawn by the Union.

In short, the University has offered an increase in wages and an improvement in fringe benefits fully comparable with the wage and benefit increase that will be received by other groups of University employees effective July 1, 1977.

The Union leadership asked for an 8 percent wage increase and has announced its intention to recommend to the membership of the Union rejection of the contract offer. The University is not able to meet this wage demand.

Why didn't the University offer more? What would happen in the event of a strike?

The answer to the first question is that Penn State is entering into the most austere budget year it has faced in recent history. The budget approved by the Board of Trustees at the May meeting required the University to close a \$14.5 million gap (exclusive of the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center) between our State appropriation request and the recommendation in the Governor's budget. It was necessary to eliminate \$3 million proposed in the budget request to restore previous cuts; to eliminate critically needed expenditure increases of \$3.7 million; to make internal budget cuts of \$3.2 million; and to increase tuition by \$4.6 million.

Although the budget approved by the Board of Trustees assumed a \$3 million increase in the University's State appropriation, it is still not certain that the Legislature will vote to approve this increase. Failure by the Legislature to approve the \$3 million increase would again throw our budget out of balance, and could result in a second round of tuition increases and further serious cuts in programs.

The University, with Board approval, has seen fit to proceed with salary increments on July 1, 1977 at the 5% level even though the \$3 million increase from the State on which such increments are based has not been finalized. We are in no position to go further.

Turning now to the second question, what are the implications of a strike by the technical service employees? If two-thirds of the Union members voting reject the final contract offer, the Union leadership will be authorized to call for a strike.

If such a strike is called by the Union leadership of the technical service employees, the University will remain open and will continue to operate its academic programs and essential services. Inconveniences will certainly occur, but contingency plans have been made by each unit throughout the University to cope with a potential work stoppage.

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.

June 21, 1977

Sincerely,

*John W. Oswald*  
John W. Oswald  
President

## There is nothing like a nice cold bowl of soup.

Mom may have forgotten to tell you that while she was busy reminding you of the virtues of hot soup — but then very few mothers had a French Chef who could make refreshing vichyssoise or really cool cucumber soup or icy gazpacho.

Every day we have a soup to help you keep cool — as well as some great hot soups. After all, mom did know what she was talking about.

*La Superbe*

Open every day 6:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
Fridays and Saturdays until midnight.



**VOLUNTEERS** needed for rewarding work with retarded young adults. Help needed for one week day camp session at Stone Valley; transportation arranged. For more information call 865-3431, or stop in at the Volunteer Service Center, 203 HUB. Anytime!

# FREE!

Buy any Medium at the regular price

**Pizza**

Get Identical PIZZA

**FREE**

Little Caesars Pizza



PICK UP ONLY

"Across From Old Main"  
"Above My-O-My Bar"

This coupon expires 6-30-77

**237-1481**

\* One Coupon Per Customer At This Location Only

## ARBY'S IS A ...



**89¢** INCLUDES:  
**99¢ Roast Beef**  
**35¢ Soft Drink**  
For you a 45¢ Savings  
Good at both locations  
Valid Fri.-Sun. June 24-26

**89¢** INCLUDES:  
**99¢ Roast Beef**  
**35¢ Soft Drink**  
For you a 45¢ Savings  
Good at both locations  
Valid Fri.-Sun. June 24-26

## 8 coupons in today's Collegian

**89¢** INCLUDES:  
**99¢ Roast Beef**  
**35¢ Soft Drink**  
For you a 45¢ Savings  
Good at both locations  
Valid Fri.-Sun. June 24-26

**89¢** INCLUDES:  
**99¢ Roast Beef**  
**35¢ Soft Drink**  
For you a 45¢ Savings  
Good at both locations  
Valid Fri.-Sun. June 24-26