

USG head to probe Ritenour job cutbacks

In an effort to restore two jobs lost in a budgetary squeeze at Ritenour Health Center, Undergraduate Student Government President Grant Ackerman said he will discuss the matter with University officials.

The purpose of the meeting is to attempt to restore two positions at the center discontinued because of a University hiring freeze caused by budget problems, Ackerman said.

Ackerman said he expected to meet with Chalmers Norris, director of planning and budget officer; Robert Patterson, senior vice president for finance; and Stanley Ikenberry, senior

vice president for University development. A time for the meeting will be announced later, Ackerman said.

"We're looking forward to the restoration of the health educator and the group therapist," he said.

The loss of the health educator and group therapist would reduce Ritenour's ability to serve students, he said.

The therapist is needed, Ackerman said, because there are 70 patients currently being treated by the Mental Health Center that would benefit from a group therapy program.

A health educator is involved in ac-

activities ranging from the contraceptive program to medical assistance training in the dorms, Ackerman said.

The positions are only two of four planned cutbacks, Ackerman said. A physician's assistant and a billing clerk will also be let go. Earlier, the University had planned to fire one physician but that decision has since been reversed, Ackerman said.

Ackerman said that he also planned to discuss possible student involvement in budgetary decisions.

"I believe it is essential for students to take part in that process," he said.

Less gov't money available

Revenue sharing funds shrink

WASHINGTON (AP) — The shrinking value of federal revenue sharing dollars is likely to force either an increase in state and local taxes or cutbacks in government services, according to a Brookings Institution study of the \$6.85-billion program.

Because of inflation, the value of the revenue sharing fund will have declined by 17 per cent between 1972 and 1980," the research institute reported yesterday.

Its 238-page paper concludes: "Hard-pressed cities that have been using federal revenue sharing to hold down tax increases or maintain programs will have a hard time reaping such crucial fiscal benefits in coming years."

"Similarly, healthier governments that expanded or created new programs will find it increasingly difficult to sustain these programs without raising taxes or reducing spending on other programs."

Revenue sharing was a cornerstone of the so-called "New Federalism," a Nixon administration move to funnel federal money back to the states and localities with few strings attached. The first checks went out in December 1972; last year Congress renewed the program for 3 1/2 years.

Brookings monitored eight states, 29 cities, six towns and one Indian tribe during 1973 and 1974.

More than 39,000 units of government receive the general purpose money; even tiny towns get a minimum of \$200 a year.

The report, written by Charles Adams and Richard Nathan,

indicates that small towns and counties have been using shared revenue money for programs ranging from emergency ambulance services to debt retirement on public building construction.

Big cities — with populations over 100,000 — more frequently used revenue sharing money to forestall tax increases or maintain services that otherwise might meet the budget-cutter's axe.

Some jurisdictions, like Newark where high local taxes were driving families and businesses out of the city, actually used their revenue sharing funds to lower taxes. Others, like Baltimore or Rochester, N.Y., used their allotments to hold down tax increases.

Growth areas, as expected, were more likely to use shared revenue on new spending programs — constructing roads or public facilities, for example.

Revenue sharing helped localities not in fiscal straits to "sustain that situation," the report said.

"In contrast, revenue sharing plays a more critical role for those jurisdictions currently faced with extreme fiscal pressure," it added.

Adams and Nathan noted that last year's extension of the revenue sharing program made no changes in the distribution formula. They recommended revising the formula to provide more money to hard-pressed local governments.

The current formula distributes funds in a method based mostly on population and local willingness to levy taxes.

Crash involves two cars, one tree

A car driven by Charles S. Huber, Boalsburg, ran into a tree Saturday when he was hit by a car driven by James J. Flaherty of Pittsburgh, State College police said. Charles and Christine Huber were treated and released at the Mountainview Unit of Centre Community Hospital. Estimated damage to the car was \$900.

University police reported a "Road Closed" sign was taken from the west end of McKean road Friday night. Estimated value was \$50.

Unknown persons broke a window on the south side of the HUB Lion's Den Friday night. Estimated damage was \$25.

State College police yesterday recovered a stolen 1973 Fiat, at Neidigs Quarry, which was stolen Saturday from Barnett's used Car lot, 849 E. College Ave. Also recovered was a 1963 Plymouth, which was stolen from Ferguson Township.

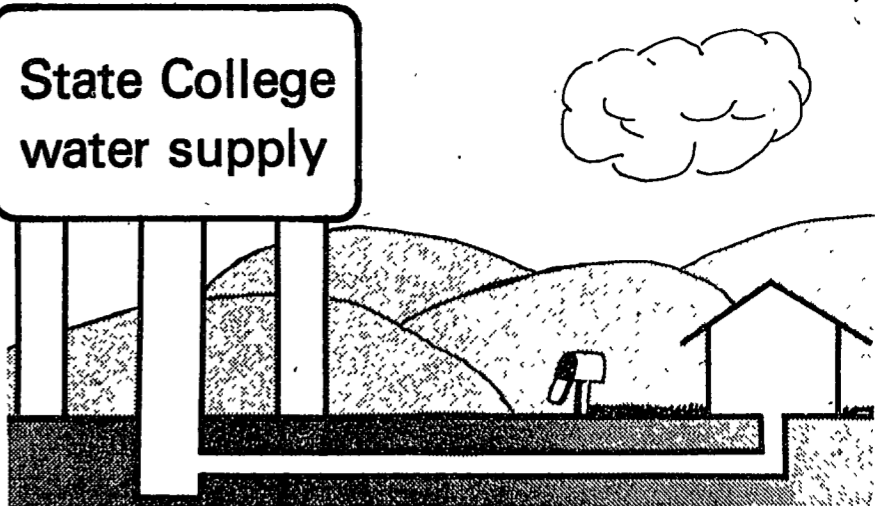
University police reported a Dodge

pickup truck had been parked in parking area Red K for several days and had not been moved. Investigations revealed the truck had been stolen from Lewistown.

Edward J. Minge, 312 No. 4 Homestead Lane, Boalsburg, was arraigned before District Magistrate Bierly, Centre Hall, yesterday — on charges of drunken driving, and was later released on nominal bail.

—by Wayne Johnson

New wells to prevent water lack



By WAYNE JOHNSON
Collegian Staff Writer

Drilling new water wells will sufficiently prevent the threat of a water shortage in the State College area, a spokesman for the State College Water Authority said.

Paul Fisher, assistant manager of the water authority, said an exploratory well is being constructed north of campus, in the Nixon farm area, and engineers are currently seeking new sources of water.

The possibility of a water shortage arose when the authority learned that unless new water sources are developed, the system's daily excess water supply of 690,000 gallons would not meet the anticipated needs of new customers after June, 1979.

But Centre Region planners are surveying undeveloped land that may call for access to the system, while the authority is investigating new wells.

In 1972, because of the rapid growth in residential and commercial water consumption, the authority issued \$1,625,000 in bonds to finance an improvement program to

assure the supply of water and provide a reliable alternate water source.

Since then, the authority has spent \$128,000 in funds from the bond issue on the development of three new well fields.

Beginning July 1, the water authority will absorb the Patton Township water system, but that system must be upgraded and will not contribute significantly to State College's water supply.

Though the University is investigating drilling of new wells, according to John Miller, director of planning and development in the Office of Physical Plant, the University has sufficient water to meet its future needs.

The University foresees no substantial increase in size that would affect the water supply, Miller said, but new wells will assure the reliability of the present system.

Charles Martin, manager of utility operations in the Office of Physical Plant, said the University's two wells are being reconditioned. Unless there is a long drought, the University will have adequate water for the future, he said.

42 killed in Tenn. prison fire

COLUMBIA, Tenn. (AP) — Forty-two persons, most of them Maury County jail inmates, died yesterday afternoon in a smoky jailhouse fire that asphyxiated most of them before they could be released from their locked cells.

Officials said they thought the blaze was touched off by a cigarette in a padded cell housing a prisoner confined for disciplinary reasons.

Chief Deputy Bob Farmer said a 16-year-old runaway from Wisconsin who was pulled from the padded cell told him he set the flames. He identified the youth as Andy Zimmer. The youth, badly burned, was taken to a Nashville Hospital where officials said he was in critical condition.

"Me and another officer drug him out," Farmer said. "He said he set it."

"He has caused a little trouble. He'd been stopping up the commode and being a little unruly, so we put him in the padded cell."

Randy Dew, assistant administrator at Maury County Hospital, said there were "several women" among the dead. However, it was not known whether they were inmates or visiting friends or relatives.

Fire Chief Billy Thurman said the burning padding material gave off a toxic gas, but said he was not sure

whether that, or the smoke, which he described as similar as that from a burning tire, caused the deaths.

"The fire itself was no problem; it didn't take long to bring it under control," Thurman said. "We had a smoke condition there — that was where the trouble was at."

The building was not heavily damaged by the flames.

Forty persons were treated for injuries, said Andrew Earl of the Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification.

Mike Smith, dispatcher for the Maury County Sheriff's office, said smoke from

the blaze spread in the 60-person capacity jail through air conditioning ducts. He said one jailer was in the 13-year-old facility when the fire broke out, but was unable to evacuate everyone.

There were about 70 persons in the building, 58 of them prisoners.

"All the victims had got down on the floor as far as they could, lying down to get some air," said Columbia Police Chief Edward Holton, one of the first on the scene. "All of the bodies were on the floor. It seemed like most of the victims were lifeless."

Holton said firemen had a hard time getting into the building.

Lesbian Collective to hold fete

The Lesbian Collective will hold its anniversary party 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Women's Resource Center.

stration will be held for prospective new members 7 tonight in 106 White Building.

FSHA 330 will sponsor a "summer fun" dinner 5:15-6:15 tonight in the Maple Room. The meal will consist of picnic favorites.

The Learning Center, 211B Boucke, helps students become more efficient and successful learners. Center hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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