Parking lots 'almost' break even

Pugh St. garage deficit expected

Daily Collegian Staff Writer

The South Pugh Street parking garage operated under an estimated \$66,000 deficit in 1977, Ronald A. Davis, State College Borough finance officer, said.

It cost the borough approximately \$232,000 to operate The garage and pay part of the bond debt. Davis said, while receipts from parking at the garage returned only

"We fully understood the garage wouldn't be selfsupporting for at least the first 10 years," Davis said. That was one of the things we expected before we even

started construction."

Davis said the main reason for the debt last year was the added cost of repaying part of a \$335,000 supplemental bond on the garage. The bond, with a repayment term of 20 years, was used by the borough to repay the property owner for the land under the garage.

The land was acquired from the owner by condemning it under the law of eminent domain, Davis said. Eminent domain allows a municipality to appropriate land within its limits for public use, giving air compensation to the owner for the land.

When the appraiser's price for the land didn't satisfy the owner, he took the borough into court seeking more. money and won, Davis said. He said the borough was then forced to take out a supplemental bond to pay for the land.

'The garage would've been a financial success if we to a monthly financial summary of the garage's didn't have to have the supplemental bond," Davis said. "We ended up having to pay a lot more, and that didn't

Despite the deficit, Davis said the overall statistics on the garage's operation show that the borough is further ahead on repayment of the 40-year, \$2,140,000 bond used to finance the actual construction of the garage.

We're a lot closer to breaking even than we expected to be at this point," he said. "The money from the three parking lots left a surplus that even made up for the garage deficit and allowed us to just about break even.'

About 250 of the garage's 470 total spaces are now monthly rentals, Davis said, which brings an income of more than \$4,000. Rent from commercial shops like the Pathfinder that are built into the garage brings in an additional \$1,358, he said.

Davis said the customers using the garage "are fairly split between students and shoppers. An awful lot of students park their cars in the garage when they have classes," he said.

Clair Rhoads, a cashier at the garage during the daytime hours duirng the week, said the facility's three biggest days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday. "That's when most of the University people have classes," he said.

Use of the garage has increased substantially, Davis said. In April, 25,015 vehicles used the facility, with an average of 1,001 cars per day parking there, according operation. April's daily average was the second highest. 1,041 cars per day used the garage in December 1977.

We closed the gate to cars once recently," Davis said.."It's a rare occasion when we have to put that gate down. As far as I know, a lot of people have been parking up on the roof lately too."

The extra customers in April apparently paid off, as the average cash profit per day reached \$598.30, a new record for the garage. Davis said, however, the borough doesn't look at the facility singly as a profit-making operation. Instead, the borough considers all its parking space, including lots and meters, as a whole, he said.

"As a municipality, we're not out to make a profit," Davis said. "As long as the total package balances out, we break even. We're out to provide a service to the community.'

Planning commission member James Deeslie agreed. The Pugh Street garage is a "utilitarian-type operation" designed to serve the community, Deeslie

"I would say it's successful," Deeslie said. "The location serves most of the town and provides the necessary service the community needs.'

The recent parking rate increase approved by State College Borough Council will help somewhat, Davis said, but it won't be enough.

"I don't think it's going to make up a \$66,000 deficit," he said, "but it will go a long way towards it."

Two children killed in Florida tornado

CLEARWATER, Fla. (AP) — A tornado cut a swath through an elementary school Thursday, killing at least two youngsters and injuring 94 persons.

'I laid on the floor and saw half the school gone," a shaken fourth grader

After ripping away walls and roofing at the High Point Elementary School shortly before noon, the twister skipped into a nearby high school vocational facility, then hit a trailer park and upended a halfdozen mobile homes.

It was the worst of several tornadoes that hit Florida, causing power outages and heavy damage at Gainesville, disrupting an airport at Sebring and flipping a truck trailer on a highway near Kenansville.

At the school, between Clearwater and St. Petersburg on the Gulf Coast, walls, chairs, tables, glass, trees and cars went flying.

John Timothy Duval Jr. died of head injuries after being rushed to a hospital, officials said. He was 6 years old on Thursday. The other victim was identified as 5-year-old Gary Staly of Clearwater.

"It was lunch-time, and a lot of kids were in the cafeteria. That saved a lot of lives" because the twister hit several classrooms, said Sheriff Bill Roberts.

First grade teacher Nancy Canas said the sky darkened without warning.

"All of a sudden I heard a tremendous roar," she said. "I screamed, 'Hit the floor and cover your heads.' There was glass flying all over. I tried to cover four or five of the children."

Her blouse was stained with blood. Reporters at the scene said at least 12 classrooms were damaged in the school, which was occupied by 600 youngsters in grades one through six. Deputies said three rooms were severely damaged. The roof of one section was torn off and wall siding was stripped away.

OTIS submits budget request

The Organization for Town Independent Students requested \$13,629 from the Associated Student Activities Budget Committee on Thursday.

The request included funds for film to update the slide program on town living, a 1979 apartment listing service, an ambassador program to inform branch campus students about State College living, a conversion unit listing, a notary public and office expenses.

Also, the Graduate Student Association requested \$11,267 for speaker education and cultural activities, bands and concerts, publications, publicity and office

Other requests were submitted by the Panhellenic Council and the Interfraternity Council. Panhel requested \$3,891 for a new rush booklet, information cards, a pledge party, a wine and cheese social and summer mailings to acquaint incoming students with sorority life.

IFC requested \$8,733 for fraternity education, movies and office management.

—by Kay Raskay

Effects of coal strike on unionism debated

By GINA CARROLL Daily Collegian Staff Writer

"The public does not know that a man who works in a coal mine is not afraid of anything except his God; that he is not afraid of injunctions, or politicans, or threats, or denunciations, or verbal castigations, or slander that he does not fear death." - John L. Lewis, in a 1930 speech in Indianapolis.

Lewis may have been right then, but mounting pressures from non-union mines and a general fatigue ended the 109-day-long strike against the Bituminous Coal Operators of America.

The economic effect of the coal strike in Pennsylvania is not as bad as had been feared. The mass layoffs and energy crisis that were predicted and prepared for barely materialized.

At the end of the strike, the United Mine Workers of America union looked sad. Dissention among the ranks was obvious, and Arnold Miller was close to being stripped of his presidential powers.

The campaign to oust Miller from his presidency ran out of steam soon after the strike was over. The predictions of the union's demise seem to be lessening. Other unions are now claiming they are stronger solidarity is a major benefit of the coal strike.

Both small and large unions agree the strike has given all unions solidarity. Any increased popularity for unions as a result of the miners "fighting through all obstacles" is a matter of opinion.

The larger unions' leaders say union popularity will not change because of the strike, but that the strike did make the unions stronger.

'The coal miner's union is much more effective now than it was and it has made itself much stronger." according to a union economist in the United Steelworkers of America International Headquarters. "There is an increase in union solidarity" for those indirectly affected unions, such as the steelworkers, he said, but views of non-unioners aren't likely to change.

Analysis

"If they (non-union people) were unfavorably opposed to the unions in the first place, the strike would just reinforce existing views people already had," he

But other union spokesmen said the union image has been hurt as a result of the strike. Jeff Zinser, an organizer for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said the union image was probably not standing up well.

"It was probably hurt in the mind of the public," he said, "but for the people who know the issues, it

Union bargaining abilities will remain mostly the same, union leaders said. They do not expect the settlement or the length of the strike to have an important effect on negotiations.

"I imagine they'll try to use it as a position, but it

won't have much effect," said Bob McIntyre of the American Federation of Labor, Congress of Industrial Organizations.

McIntyre said the bargaining table was ruled by "the economics on hand" and strike settlements had been used at the bargaining table for "70 to 75 years."

"Coal strikes are historically long. They never get around to hard bargaining until the coal stocks are depleted. They negotiate in the newspaper, not at the table. They wait until the scales become unbalanced,'

Strikes have lost much of their earlier effectiveness because they are predicted so far in advance. Coal was stockpiled for use during the anticipated strike months before the strike date.

The unions point to the extension of credit to the miners by various stores and credit companies and the help other unions gave the miners during the strike (nearly \$2 million from the United Auto Workers and about \$1 million from the United Steel Workers of America) as indicators that business and unions supported the strike.

But businesses said they knew better than to keep billing persons who, because of a strike, could not pay. Both stores and loan companies gain by appearing to be on the side of the coal miners, credit managers said.

The mine workers have proved by their strike that they are still not afraid of any injunction, or politician, or denunciation, or castigation, or death as Lewis said, but they are afraid of God — and non-union labor.

PennPIRG requests USG spot Jeff Goldsmith, president of Students

for PennPIRG, requested an ex-officio seat on the Undergraduate Student

Government Executive Council at a meeting of the council Thursday night. Goldsmith met with opposition from council members because PennPIRG is anot yet an official student organization,

but rather a special interest consumer

group. Council members argued that the purpose of executive council is to serve as a vehicle for communication and understanding between the leaders of major University organizations.

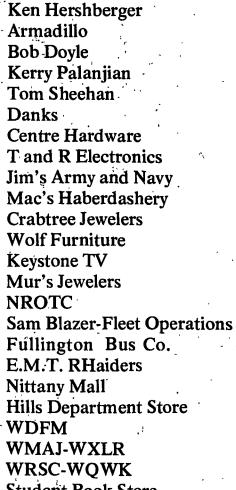
No vote was taken on Goldsmith's proposal, since a quorum was not present.

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