

Editorial opinion

Swimming lessons

USG must solve current financial problems before tackling a business co-op

USG is thrashing about in dangerous waters. But instead of learning how to swim, they're merely treading water.

At the last senate meeting the members deliberated the formation of a business Co-op to establish a steady source of funding. They intend to model the proposed operation after the Harvard University Co-op, a professionally run business separate from the Harvard student government. The Harvard Co-op owns five department stores in the Boston area, and accrues \$30 million in gross income each year.

The Harvard Co-op was established 98 years ago to benefit members who presently have to pay one dollar to join. Every member receives a rebate on any Co-op profit. Last year the Harvard Co-op distributed an 8.1 percent rebate to members. Harvard Co-op General Manager James Argeros said.

USG Senator Chris Calkins said Harvard's student government receives a percentage of the profits in return for directing students to the Co-op's businesses.

This is wrong — the Harvard Co-op only benefits members, Argeros said.

Calkins also said, "Harvard makes upwards of \$50 million in gross income each year."

That's an absurd figure. Argeros said the Harvard Co-op makes \$30 million at

without USG and University consent) which exacerbated the internal strife hindering USG effectiveness. Time will only tell if the new staff will be more or less effective in working with USG as part of the whole, rather than a separate unit.

USG would have to include all campus organizations if it decides to pursue investment in any downtown business. Relations between campus organizations have been inconsistent in the past; USG's attempts to convince other organizations to commit themselves to a difficult task may be insurmountable. ARHS President Steve Osborn said there is no cohesion among campus organizations.

USG President Hal Shaffer said nothing definite was decided about the Co-op idea, rather USG is just "brainstorming," but considering the present financial problems plaguing USG, it seems ludicrous the student government would even spend a large segment of an important meeting mulling over the Co-op idea. Especially since the senate still hasn't decided its pay structure.

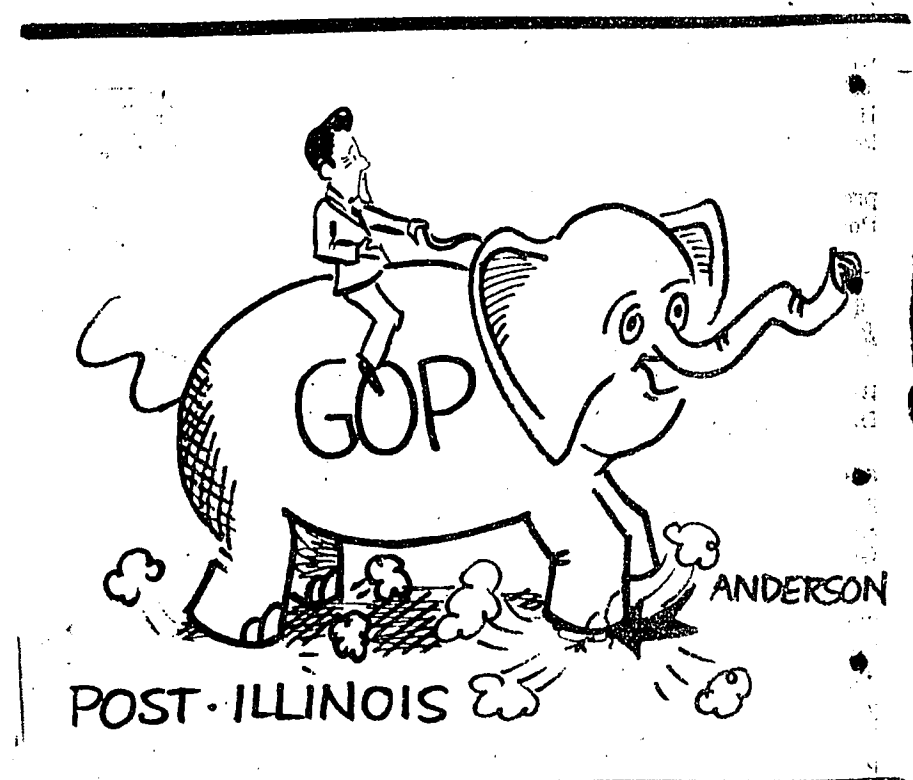
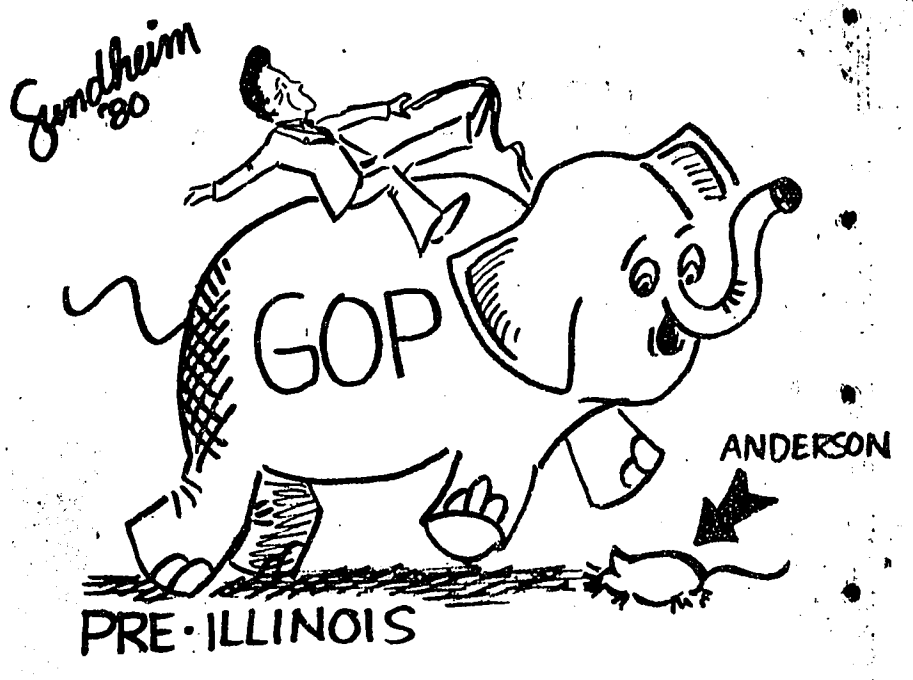
The Harvard Co-op is a large organization employing more than 600 students and faculty members. USG does not possess the resources to pursue a business Co-op.

The business Co-op idea is akin to USG trying to stand dry on the dock when it can barely keep its head above water.

characterize administration statements as "untrue and unsubstantiated."

However, in contrast to the claims of the "Yachad jurist," there is wide international consensus that the Israeli settlement policy is illegal and in breach of specific international agreements. Apart from the fact that the Zionist policy of colonization constitutes a de facto violation of the spirit of the U.N. Resolutions and of the spirit of the U.N. Charter, there are also the specific obligations imposed on any occupying power by the Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilian Persons of 1949, of which the Israeli government is a signatory.

Of particular relevance is the requirement specified in Article 49(6) of the Convention that "The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." Not only has the U.S.



Letters to the Editor

Interpreting law

This is in response to the March 17 article by Lieber and Anchin of Yachad, the Zionist student organization.

The constraints of time and space do not permit a detailed response to the questionable statements abundantly contained in the above-mentioned article. Nevertheless, my major concern is the confidence with which these gentlemen have seemingly set out to reinterpret — indeed, to rewrite — international law.

According to these writers, the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories "are legal under international law." They, in fact, levy sharp criticism against the Carter administration's position of illegality and

State Department formally observed the Israeli settlements to be in contravention of Article 49(6) but their illegality has been stated by the International Commission of Jurists in lengthy legal analyses.

The position held by the U.S. government on this question has been consistent since the June 1967 N. Resolutions and of the spirit of the U.N. Charter, Ford and Carter administrations.

The Israeli government has, however, contested the conclusions of international jurists at various times either the nonapplicability of the Geneva Convention to the territories conquered in the June War, or the nature of the settlements as security outposts vital to Israel's defenses. Israeli arguments, as observed by one legal analyst, employ an obscure method of treaty interpretation not known in international law or in any civilized legal system.

The Lieber and Anchin may have embraced as their premise the "scholarly" statements of Menachem Begin, who has described Israeli settlements as "legal, legitimate and essential." It is rather disconcerting. Perhaps they may be encouraged to consider the conclusions of international law emeritus of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Writing in "Haaretz," Feinberg argues that the Convention is indeed applicable and that Article 49(6) does prohibit the Israeli settlements in occupied territories. Furthermore, he decisively rejects the legal arguments of the Israeli government as fundamentally inconsistent with both Israeli national interests and international law.

dorm contract for next year. This problem was caused by the fact that there is simply insufficient campus housing space. My source for this letter is "A Perspective on the 80s: Agenda for Action for Penn State University," which states:

At University Park, housing both on- and off-campus has experienced an extremely high occupancy rate throughout the '70s. This crowded situation has permitted little flexibility in enrollment of 41,900 in 1978 to 37,700 in 1980 — assuming college participation rates remain stable.

The university is currently attracting more qualified applicants than can be admitted. The recent implementation of an active recruiting program both in Pennsylvania and other states should enhance this position particularly since Penn State offers 70 programs not available elsewhere in the state. Of particular note is the fact that over one-half of the University's more than 200,000 living alumni are reaching the ages at which their children will be attending college.

I have tried to illustrate a housing problem. This is the flaw in a system in which students must wait up to three days in queue to compete for a contract only to get a room in an overcrowded dorm. That's not the way it has to be.

Mary Beth O'Brien, 6th-classics
March 18

the Collegian
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Betsy Long
Editor

Kathy Matheny
Business Manager

A serious flaw

The writing of this letter is prompted by the ludicrous process in which students were compelled to participate in order to secure a

wanted a 15-minute commercial break and felt uncomfortable about sitting for more than 22 minutes engaged in the same plot or subject.

Education must be taught in an enjoyable setting, with teachers behaving like entertainers. If otherwise students are bored and unenthusiastic. My cooperating teacher explained to me that I should present the information in a way that the students would not realize they are learning. Also it must be entertaining enough so the students would not switch their mental channels and daydream instead of listen.

Television is not the only factor that has contributed to the decline in scholastic achievement. The most upsetting discovery which I encountered was the attitude of the teachers themselves. Many saw their position not as a professional endeavor, but only as a job, period. Unfortunately, most handled their position with a mechanized style and approach that was neither updated nor humanized.

Education and the teacher's subject area were treated about as though they were talked about amongst themselves. Their concerns were their pay and the union's contract. Obviously this is not all the teachers, however, it is much more prevalent in this society than people would like to believe.

As students at Penn State we have all survived the high schools and graduated



No 'Kotter' or commercial breaks in this classroom

Mediocrity and incrementalism have become standard conditions within and throughout our nation's fabric. No more blatant or tragic can the result of these policies be seen than in the high schools in our urban settings.

I was fortunate enough to teach in such a high school during Winter Term. The discoveries and realizations I encountered during this 12-week period have both enlightened and disturbed myself and my colleagues.

Many of the tragedies about declining

SAT scores and comprehension levels of the entering freshmen at Penn State are magnified when dealing with the "average" high school senior. Their vocabulary is weak, spelling poor, comprehension limited and writing almost nonexistent.

Dealing with 17-year-olds in the last six months of their high school career, I had expected to find inquisitive, opinionated individuals eager to express their thoughts to the world. What I found were memorized, beaten animals with little imaginative thought or interest.

Mondays were devoted to orally on topics which the students had months to decide and research. Most of the topics were related to the old standbys of abortion and corporal punishment, however with a conservative stance which was surprisingly homogeneous throughout the school. Their speech was primitive, logic inane and presentation awkward.

Shocking? Yes, it should be. Many students walk through the schools without ever learning to read a sentence or write an essay. Many graduate totally unprepared to face the world.

But this doesn't happen everywhere; in some schools are worse. My students were respectful, quiet individuals who would yield to the teacher's position in the classroom. In many schools, the teachers are threatened and the classes are disruptive. The teachers and ad-

ministration were quick to point out this fact to me, seemed quite pleased that the classes were controllable and felt that this was enough to expect from the students.

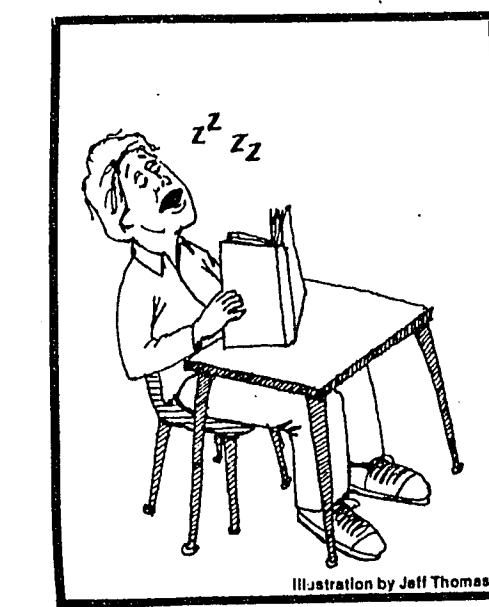
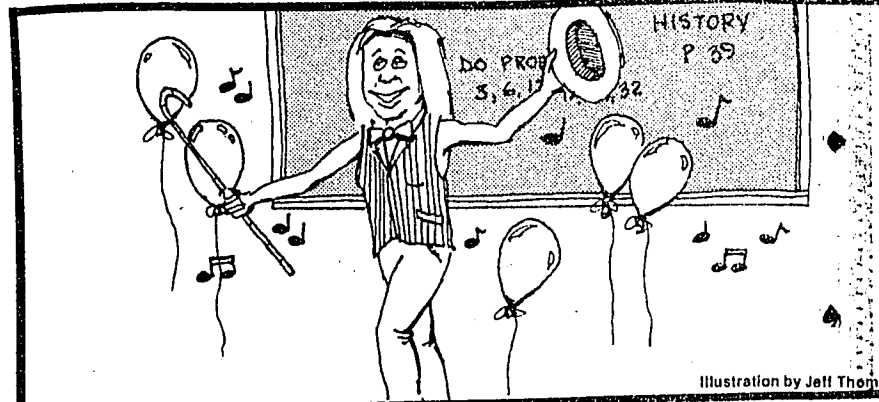
As a teacher I should be happy with this and not worry about the fact that many of the students cannot read even the most basic material or write even a simple sentence. My exams should also reflect this philosophy — just give multiple choice on simple facts that the students could memorize and understand easily. Don't try to tax the students' brains; they are seniors and they have learned already, they would never learn.

Education is the cornerstone of our society. Without proper education, talent may never be revealed or promise realized. Television has given society an easy way to entertain itself. However, there are many not-pleasant side effects. The classes I taught expected a "Phil Donohue" talk show in a "Welcome Back, Kotter" setting. They

with a better experience than the students that I have just described. But, as members of this society and perhaps future parents of the students of the schools that exist today, all of us are going to have to someday be aware and concerned of the problems that are already rampant in the schools.

With declining funds and little attention given to this institution, the situation and the problems could potentially become worse, and the results fatal.

None of us are immune to the effects the school has on the student. Even though we may not be directly affected by the problems, the results will not escape us. All the solutions have tried to change only a part of the problem. Only if we realize the tremendous



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Only if we realize the tremendous importance of the situation and refuse to put up with the mediocrity can we hope to see any positive future to this vital institution. There are no easy solutions, but the country's apathy and ignorance of this problem surely is not the right approach.

My practicum only lasted a short time, but the memories will last a lifetime. I hope the future will turn my dismal outlook into a bright light of hope. This cannot be done without help and understanding that must not be left to only the education majors or the teachers; it must come from the mass populace. If we don't have an educated society, what hope can we have?

Bonnie Northrup is a 12th-term, education education major and a columnist for The Daily Collegian.

Firestone to close Pottstown plant

From our wire services
POTTSTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. yesterday announced the closing of a tire plant in Lower Pottsgrove Township, one of six Firestone shutdowns in three states that will idle a total of 8,500 employees.

Firestone Chairman Richard A. Riley made the surprise announcement, which jolted the ailing rubber industry, in a prepared statement, saying the shutdowns, planned for completion by Nov. 1, are part of a restructuring of the company's North American operations.

Besides the local plant, Firestone, which reported a \$12.8 million first-quarter loss, said it will phase out tire plants in Los Angeles and Salinas, Calif.; Dayton and Barberton, Ohio, and a synthetic latex plant in Akron, Ohio. Firestone is based in Akron.

The closing of the tire plant near here will idle 1,000 hourly workers and 650 salaried employees, plant manager Harold Powell said. The plant is the largest local employer.

Borough Manager Eugene Moody predicted "a massive impact" on Pottstown, where unemployment has

been running at 7 to 9 percent.

Operations of a local Firestone plastics plant, which employs 800 people, will be unaffected, Powell said. The plant is operated by Firestone Plastics Co., a wholly owned subsidiary headquartered here.

No dates for the closings were given. But Powell said all production at the local tire plant "is expected to be discontinued later this year."

Top United Rubber Workers Union executives, including URW International President Peter Bommarito, and leaders of the affected local unions, gathered in Akron for an emergency closed-door meeting on the situation.

"Once again, the worker is the victim of a situation beyond his control," Bommarito said, adding that he was shocked that the company would take such drastic action without first asking the union for help.

He blamed increased imports of autos and tires as well as rising energy costs for the closings.

A union spokesman said the latest closings would boost the total of tire plant jobs lost since 1975 to 19,200 —

adding that some 6,000 jobs evaporated in the past 15 months alone.

The URW estimated Firestone's daily tire production will be reduced by 34.4 percent when the plants are closed.

"The plants to be closed employ a total of about 5,000 hourly and 2,000 salaried people. Another 1,500 workers at the plants are on indefinite layoff. At Lower Pottsgrove Township, about 480 workers have been furloughed since August," Powell said.

About four years ago, Pottstown lost a Bethlehem Steel Corp. fabricating plant, which employed 1,000 workers. It since has been divided into smaller manufacturing plants.

"That plant is slowly filling up and now to have this happen is a bad thing," Moody said.

Another Montgomery County tire plant, Lee Tire & Rubber Co. of Conowingo, shut its doors Jan. 31, eliminating 800 jobs.

Firestone chairman Richard Riley said the reason for some of the closing and layoffs is that the company is restructuring its North American tire operations.

"The realignment is intended to meet changing market conditions by eliminating unnecessary capacity that has been used mainly for producing bias-ply tires," Riley said.

"The planned actions will reduce Firestone's manufacturing costs and improve its ability to meet the needs of its original equipment customers, Firestone dealers and stores, and Dayton (Tire) dealers."

Firestone's financial position has been hurt since last year by a government-mandated recall of the company's "500" radial passenger tires, after government studies indicated the tire could be defective. The action was the largest tire recall in history.

The realignment is expected to be completed by the end of Firestone's current fiscal year in October. The company estimated costs of the actions, including employment termination and pensions, at \$25 million after taxes.

"These costs" will be somewhat offset by an estimated \$33 million gain from liquidation of... inventory reserves," according to a company news release.



John W. Oswald

Oswald takes post with GPU company

By KATHY HORE
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

University President John W. Oswald has recently accepted a position on the board of directors of General Public Utilities, parent company of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant. Oswald is the only member of the board who is involved in education. Other board members have backgrounds in business and government, he said.

Oswald was nominated by a three-member committee of the board and elected during the March 6 board meeting. The board meets at GPU headquarters in Parsippany, N.J., on the first Thursday of each month except August, McKee said.

In a GPU press release issued this month, Oswald said, "Energy continues to be one of our nation's most significant concerns. The development of the various forms of energy, and the monitoring of them, continue to be a major responsibility of research efforts in both industry and the academic community."

several subsidiary companies, including Metropolitan Edison, the power company that owns and operates the Three Mile Island nuclear plant. Although each subsidiary company has its own board of directors, McKee said "the final responsibility for TMI would ultimately rest with GPU."

McKee said Oswald is the only member of the board who is involved in education. Other board members have backgrounds in business and government, he said.

Oswald said he looks forward to his service on the board and is glad to have been selected.

"I can't imagine that any problem is more important than energy," he said.

Oswald said he wants to attend his first board meeting April 3 before commenting further on his selection to the board.

GPU is the parent company of

Pledges wanted from 1980 class members

By CINDY COX
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

Members of the class of 1980 are being asked to pledge the remainder of their general deposit to a Class of 1980 Fund, sponsored by the University Office of Gifts and Endowments and Lion's Paw.

The purpose of this fund will be decided in 25 years by class members.

How the money will be used will depend on how much we have after 25 years and what the needs of the University are at the time," Jim Adisey, president of Lion's Paw, said.

Lion's Paw is a group of seniors who are leaders of student organizations. They meet to discuss problems of the University and are dedicated to preserving University traditions.

Contributions to the fund will be placed in a bank account where the money will gather interest for 25 years. Class members pledged about \$10,000 at spring registration last year. Letters will be sent this term to seniors who have



not yet pledged, Tift said.

Pledges will automatically be transferred to the fund from students' general deposits after all other deductions are made, she said.

"If they acquire a sizeable amount, they can do something quite significant," he said. "There are a lot of needs at the University now, but as time goes on, the needs will change. Class members will definitely be involved in deciding what to do with the money."

Adisey said the money could perhaps be used for fixing walkways or elevators for handicapped students. "It will definitely go for something that will directly help students," he said.

Another way students will be helping the University to raise funds is by manning telephones in the Lion Line Phonathon April 21 to May 6, Tift said. Students will contact University alumni by telephone for three hours a night and ask them to donate funds, she said.

"Alumni support means the difference between a mediocre program and an excellent program," she said. "Alumni can designate their gifts to colleges, Commonwealth campuses, scholarship funds or wherever they like."

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