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A fair exchange

Kyle Henninger, left, of Spring Mills and Stephanie Witherite of Reidsville engage in friendly dinner conversation with a new friend of the bovine variety at the Grange Fair in Centerhall. See related stories on Page 7.

Photo by Janis Burger

Old contract system to remain

Oswald rejects lottery for dorm assignments

By KAREN MCMANIMAN
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

This year's dormitory contracts will be accepted on the same first-come first-served system used last year and not by a proposed lottery system, said University President John W. Oswald.

Oswald announced the decision in a letter to Raymond O. Murphy, the director of student affairs and Ralph E. Zilly, vice president for business. Both departments had worked on an alternate plan to the first-come, first-served system.

Murphy said that plan would have added a lottery option to the existing 10-line system devised by the Association of Residence Hall Students.

"We felt that the students should have freedom of choice as to which system

they wanted, since they're the ones who have to wait in line," he said.

A survey by ARHS last spring revealed that 71 percent of the 6,000 students responding to the questionnaire preferred to wait in line, while 29 percent said they would rather take their chances with the lottery system.

"We have the unique opportunity here to honor both these groups' requests without it affecting the other," Murphy said.

Zilly said that because the dorm contract situation primarily affects students, the students' sentiment carried a lot of weight in Oswald's decision.

ARHS President Fran Kenawell said he was pleased to hear of Oswald's decision to go with the first-come, first-serve system primarily because

students in the lottery system wouldn't have any idea where they stand.

Kenawell, Murphy and Zilly stressed that because Oswald's decision is final, they are looking ahead together to the job of organizing and implementing the submission system.

"ARHS did a very credible and responsible job researching the contract submission system and making it work last year," Murphy said.

M. Lee Upercraft, director of Residential Life, said that in future meetings Residential Life, the Office of Housing and ARHS would conduct an extensive evaluation to eliminate bugs from the system.

Upercraft and Kenawell said problem areas with the system include:

- Determining in advance when student lines should be inside or outside

and how to facilitate movement of the lines.

- Alerting students on a leave of absence how and when they can apply for contracts.

- Determining how and by whom the lines should be monitored.

- Setting up first-aid stations to take care of any medical problems.

- Determining how to set up priorities for students requesting suites.

"We couldn't really plan on anything before we knew exactly what system we would be using; it was all just speculation," Kenawell said.

Kenawell said one of his aims before contract submission time is to sponsor workshops and pamphlets informing students of the contract submission system and how it works.

Consumers spending, businesses cutting

Economic indicators reveal mixed message

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Government indicators yesterday carried a mixed economic message — consumers continue to spend more, but businesses plan to cut back on their investments.

In a preliminary report, the Commerce Department said retail sales rose for the third straight month in August, climbing 1.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted \$79.5 billion.

And the Federal Reserve Board said Americans increased their borrowing in July for the first time since the recession began in February.

But another government report released yesterday revealed that after inflation is taken into consideration, American businesses plan to spend slightly less this year on plants and

equipment than they did in 1979.

It would be the first reduction in "real" plant and equipment investment since it fell a dramatic 10 percent during the last recession five years ago.

The improvement in retail sales — while only about half of July's revised 3.1 percent increase — was another in a series of recent indicators suggesting the economy may be edging out of its seventh recession since World War II.

The increase in retail sales was pervasive. Every major category of store — from gas stations to auto dealers to restaurants to department stores — showed some improvement.

Sales of durable goods — those expected to last at least three years — increased 2.4 percent to \$25.7 billion.

Sales at non-durable goods stores rose 1 percent to \$53.8 billion.

July's borrowing figures indicated consumers — while they continue to reduce outstanding debts — are taking on new debts now that tight credit controls have been lifted.

The Federal Reserve said new credit rose in July for the first time since February, going from \$20.7 billion to \$24.5 billion. Nevertheless, Americans increased payment of old debts from \$24.1 billion to \$25.1 billion in July, payments accounting for an overall contraction in outstanding credit.

Outstanding consumer debt in July fell \$609 million, just a fraction of the record \$3.46 billion drop in June and the \$3.43 billion drop in May.

The Commerce Department asked businesses about plant and equipment investment plans in July and August, and said businessmen indicate they will keep trimming spending plans for the year.

In March, businesses said they expected to increase capital spending by 11.1 percent this year. In June, they reduced that figure to 9.9 percent.

In the latest survey, firms now say they plan to increase the spending by 8.7 percent or \$192.5 billion. After that is adjusted for inflation, it represents a drop of about 0.1 percent from last year. Businesses plan to cut the spending 1.4 percent in the third quarter and raise it 1 percent in the fourth quarter.

Egypt, Israel resuming peace talks

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (UPI) — Israel and Egypt have agreed to resume their stalled Palestinian autonomy negotiations later this month in New York, President Anwar Sadat said yesterday.

Emerging from an hour-long meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Sadat said the two made lots of progress toward improving bilateral ties between their nations but he did not elaborate.

"As I told Begin recently, I don't ask for 100 percent. I ask only for 50-50."
— Egyptian President Anwar Sadat

He also said Prime Minister Menachem Begin's plan to move his office from west to Arab East Jerusalem has been deferred, easing the recently heightened tensions between Israel and Egypt over Israeli moves in the disputed city.

Sadat said "yes, at the United Nations" when asked specifically whether the autonomy negotiations will be resumed later this month.

In Tel Aviv, Begin also said talks with Egypt will restart this month and a steering committee may convene as early as next week to work out an agenda for future negotiations.

Sadat said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Butros Ghali will leave for New York tomorrow to attend the U.N. General Assembly session, which opens officially Tuesday, and participate in the autonomy talks along with Shamir.

The two foreign ministers "are planning to meet together and to meet also with our friends in the United States," Sadat said.

U.S. Middle East envoy Sol Linowitz won agreement from both sides last week to restart the talks concerning the future of the 1.1 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. It was also agreed to prepare for a summit with President Carter later this year.

Egypt suspended the autonomy negotiations Aug. 3 because of Israel's decision to declare united Jerusalem its eternal capital.

Shamir, returning to Israel from his 24-hour visit in time for the start of the Jewish New Year, said he was promised a "serious effort in many different spheres would now be made so that the process of normalization between the two countries would become more real."

The foreign minister had complained about Egypt's slow pace in bilateral exchanges.

A joint communique said the two countries "recognized that the reassessment of the normalization process would help build up mutual trust and bring the two countries closer to reaching their common goal of a comprehensive and lasting settlement of the Middle East problem."

But the question of Jerusalem was still a focal point of disagreement even as the two sides spoke to resuming their peace efforts.

Begin told Israel Radio that if Sadat insists on separate Arab and Jewish rule of the disputed city then "there's no agreement on Jerusalem" and he added, "I will reject it with both hands without hesitation . . ."

Sadat, however, said in an interview with the Israeli newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth Tuesday that he did not "ask to divide the city" but insisted Israel keep in mind the religious link of 800 million Moslems and a billion Christians to the city.

"As I told Begin recently I don't ask for 100 percent," Sadat said. "I ask only for 50-50."

Syria, Libya planning to merge

DAMASCUS, Syria (UPI) — Libya and Syria, separated by 700 miles, proclaimed their merger into a single Arab nation yesterday and hinted the new state will seek closer ties with the Soviet Union.

A joint communique, the Tripoli Declaration, announced establishment of "full political, military, economic and cultural union" between Syria and Libya "in all fields."

But, as with past efforts by each to marry into wealthy or strategically located states for political or military gain, the details of this still unnamed merger, unfolded with great fanfare and embroidered with propaganda, were left to be worked out at a later date.

In the landscape of Arab politics, where alliances shift as often as the desert sands of Libya itself, it was not immediately clear where the new "state" announced simultaneously by Tripoli and Damascus radios would fit.

Some Western diplomatic observers did not take it very seriously. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat called it "childish" but Israel said it was worried about the added military capability the agreement could give to Syria.

Libyan strongman Col. Moammar Khadafy proposed the merger in characteristic fashion, announcing that if Syria did not accept, he would take up a rifle and go to northern Galilee to fight as a commando.

Syrian President Hafez Assad, who is reported to be in

serious trouble at home and in need of political as well as military aid, agreed 24 hours later and flew to Tripoli for two days of talks.

The 13-point communique proclaiming a "unified" state to oppose "Zionism and American imperialism" and to overthrow Sadat and "liberate Palestine," was announced minutes after Assad returned to Damascus.

It said the aim was to establish "one unified state in the two countries, with full sovereignty over both of them," to "achieve full political, military, economic and cultural union between the two countries" separated by 700 miles and by the enemies they are uniting to oppose — Egypt and Israel.

In an indication the union would take a pro-Soviet bent, the communique said the new state "is part of the popular liberation movement of the world and an ally to all socialist and liberation forces."

...the details of this still unnamed merger, unfolded with great fanfare and embroidered with propaganda, were left to be worked out at a later date.

Damascus Radio said Khadafy and Assad will meet again within one month to work out the details of a "general pan-Arab congress and a single, one-executive authority."

This has been tried before. The closest it ever came to working was the association between Syria and Egypt in the United Arab Republic, which was held together for 44 months by the charisma and ideology of Gamal Abdel Nasser in the 1950's.

More recent efforts have been less successful. Syria has been in and out of unity agreements with Jordan and Iraq while Khadafy has at various times proposed to Egypt, Tunisia and others.

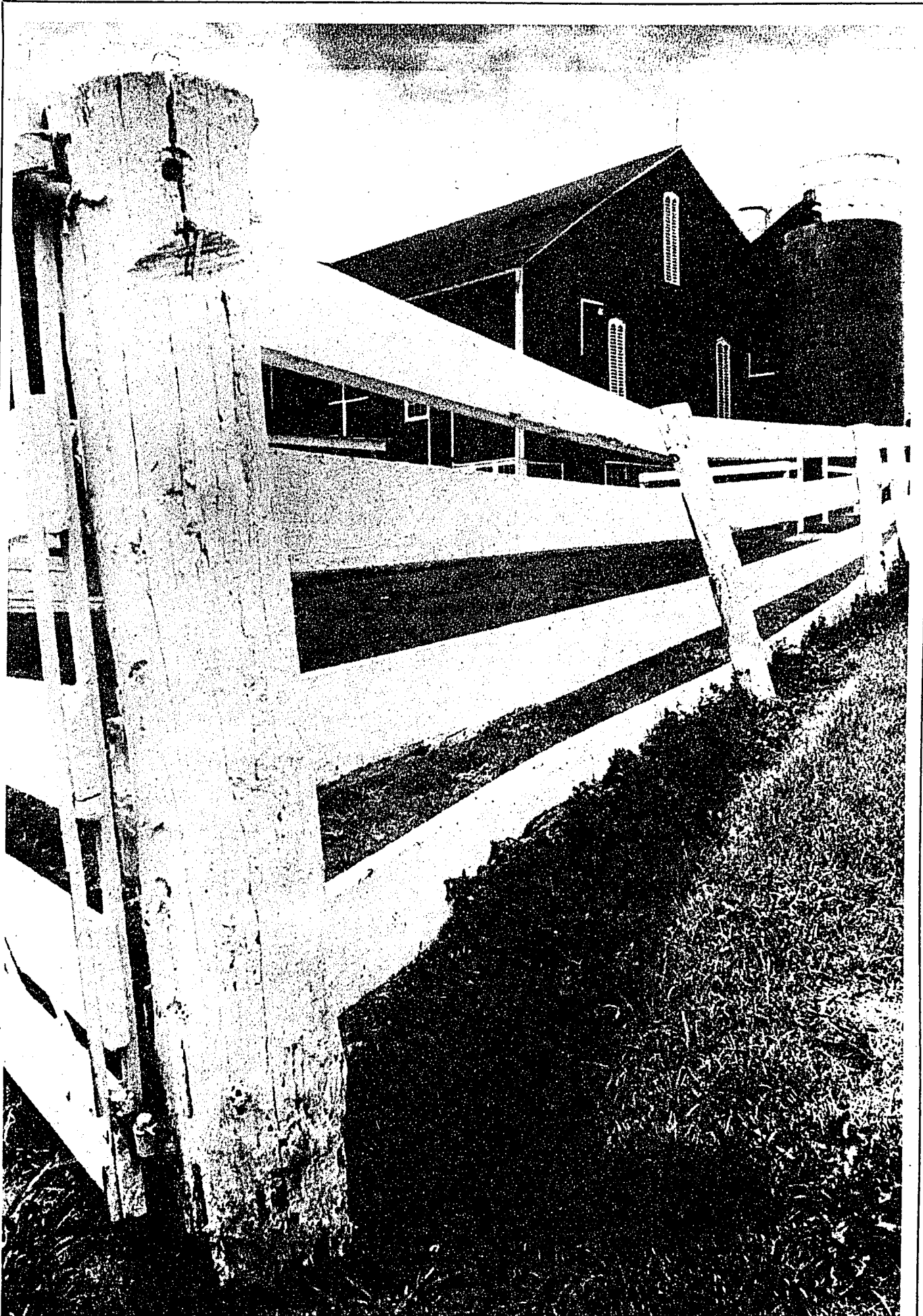


Photo by Stel Variss

Posted

The closest looms largest, at least that is the way it often seems. From this vantage point, the fence is one formidable barrier.

A cool breeze

Jacket time. After a chilly start today, brilliant sunshine will help boost afternoon temperatures to a pleasant high of 71. Under clear skies tonight, temperatures will again fall to cool levels with the mercury bottoming out at 49. Tomorrow's weather should be pleasant with plenty of sunshine, despite some afternoon high cloudiness. The high temperature on Friday should reach a mild 75. On Saturday, clouds should be on the increase and showers may threaten by day's end.