



Security deposits of the former Laurel Glen Apartments, pictured in this 1979 file photo, are now in the hands of a disbursing agent.

With legal fight over, Laurel Glen residents can recover deposits

By MICHAEL NEWMAN
Collegian Staff Writer

After a three and one half year legal battle, residents of the former Laurel Glen apartments — now Heritage Oaks and Pennwood North — will receive payment on security deposits lost when the complex went bankrupt in 1980.

Michael Day, attorney and disbursing agent for the deposits, said the \$40,000 that was recovered is less than one half of the \$101,821 lost.

"The amount that was recovered was as a result of money that was put up by Stanley Melnick (the former owner) himself," Day said. "There was nothing in bankruptcy court left to be had."

No additional funds were available because of the extensive liens on Melnick's assets by his creditors.

Tenants who lived at Laurel Glen between 1979 and 1980 must contact Day, 200 W. College Ave., before June 18 to receive payment.

"(The former tenants) should write a letter to me — it has to be a written claim — detailing where they lived in Laurel Glen, when they lived there and how much of their security deposit they seek," Day said.

"To clarify that, if they had roommates and they only seek one half or one third of the deposit, they should put that in the letter."

Day said if all the former tenants file claim, only a proportionate share of the lost deposits can be refunded.

However, Day said he does not think all the tenants will contact him because many have since moved from this area.

The problem with the Laurel Glen security deposits began when Melnick filed for bankruptcy in 1976. Federal bankruptcy laws allowed him to continue operating the complex until the end of 1980. Melnick had deposited \$300,000 in

a secured escrow account to prove to the court he was not spending all the rent money he was collecting, said Robert Karp, 1980-82 OTIS president.

Melnick also should have had an additional escrow account for the security deposits but he did not, Karp said.

When filing for bankruptcy, Melnick told bankruptcy judge Thomas Wood that \$40,000 was enough money to refund the security deposits. However, Property Management Inc., the firm that later managed the property for Rochester Savings Bank and the Home Savings Bank of upstate New York, holders of the mortgage, said the figure was closer to \$101,000.

In May 1980, Wood agreed the former tenants were due \$40,000 from the escrow fund but Home Savings appealed the decision, saying all of the \$300,000 in the secured account should be used to pay Melnick's debts.

In January 1981, Judge Richard P. Conaboy ruled that OTIS and Association of Residence Hall Students could intervene on behalf of the former tenants. Conaboy later said the tenants should be considered as secured creditors, so he upheld Woods decision to pay them \$40,000.

Karp said a major problem in resolving the issue was trying to get Lloyd Persun, the attorney in charge of Melnick's secured account, to disburse the money.

"The whole 80-81 school year was spent trying to get (Persun) to disburse the money," he said.

Persun was reluctant to release the money to a student organization, Karp said, so OTIS and ARHS secured the assistance of Day as disbursing agent.

Karp said he was always confident the tenants would get their deposits refunded: "The lesson in this is that the wheels of justice move extremely slow."

Supporters of Solidarity routed during ceremony

By BRYAN BRUMLEY
Associated Press Writer

WARSAW, Poland — Police armed with pistols routed 1,000 Solidarity supporters in Warsaw yesterday, while Cardinal Jozef Glemp traveled to Gdansk and met with Lech Walesa in a strong gesture of church support for the outlawed union.

Police in Warsaw moved in after the crowd flashed victory signs and sang union songs at an unofficial ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw ghetto uprising.

Authorities detained at least three people, including Solidarity's former national spokesman, who told the crowd that if the Warsaw ghetto fighters were alive today they would join Solidarity in the "fight for truth, freedom and human dignity."

At another gathering, Glemp told 10,000 faithful at an outdoor Mass in Warsaw that the communist government has not responded to initiatives to open a dialogue with Solidarity, and that the Polish people are "humiliated before the world."

Glemp later went to Gdansk for ceremonies consecrating Auxiliary Bishop Tadeusz Goclawski. Walesa said that before the religious ceremony, he met with the Roman Catholic primate for 30 minutes in the parish house of St. Mary's Cathedral.

Walesa declined to discuss details of the meeting, but a reliable source said they talked about the interrogation of Walesa, his wife and their driver last week by police seeking information about Walesa's secret meeting with underground union leaders.

The developments came a day after police announced the arrest of at least 26 Solidarity backers in apparent retaliation for the underground's call for nationwide protests May 1.

Walesa met with the underground a week ago and agreed they would coordinate policies.

Janusz Onyszkiewicz, Solidarity's former national spokesman, was led away by two plainclothesmen yesterday after giving a speech at a monument to the 70,000 Jews who were killed or captured in the 1943 ghetto uprising against Nazi occupation forces.



AP Laserphoto
Cardinal Jozef Glemp

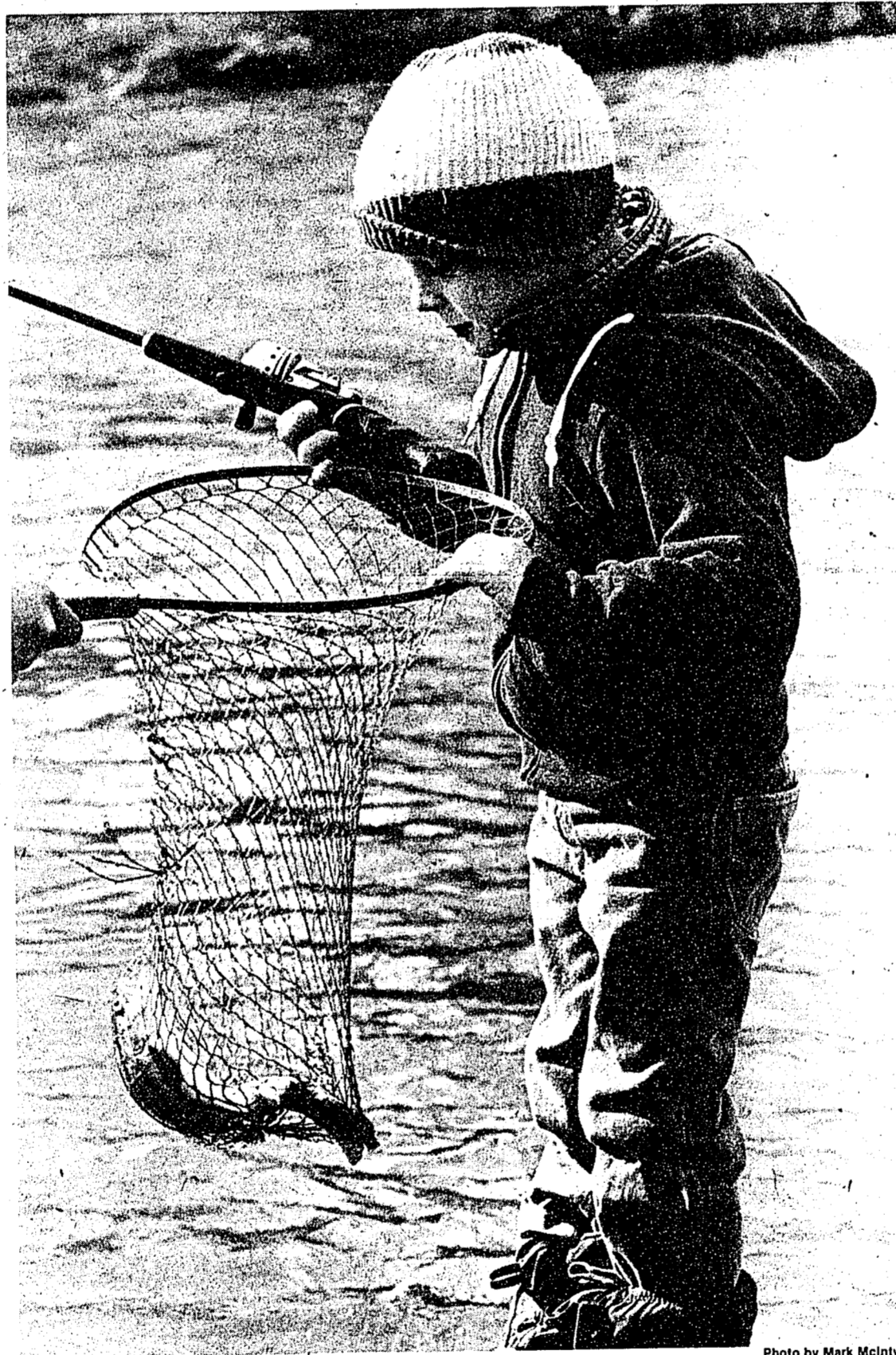


Photo by Mark McInlyre

Catch of the day

Jeremy Burris of State College catches his first fish ever on Saturday, the first day of fishing season. Twenty-one lakes and creeks in Centre County lakes and creeks were stocked for the season opener.

Bad weather strikes out at Pa. residents

By The Associated Press

Western Pennsylvania residents were digging out their winter coats yesterday as snow flurries and cold air moved in from the west, while residents in the eastern part of the state continued to fight river flooding caused by heavy rains over the weekend.

Charles McGill, Bucks County Emergency Services director, said the Delaware River crested at 2 to 3 feet above flood stage yesterday evening, flooding basements and several roads.

McGill said a few families in Riegelsville were evacuated early in the day, and several more in Yardley left voluntarily as water rolled out of the river and the canal.

A waterlogged state Route 32, known as the River Road, was temporarily closed for about 20 miles from Plumstead Township to Morrisville, McGill said.

The Susquehanna River was receding at Wilkes-Barre, where it crested at 23.8 feet, about a foot above flood stage, late Saturday night. The National Weather Service at Wilkes-Barre reported a record 1.1 inches of rain in the area on Saturday, topping the one-day mark of 1.04 inches set in 1972.

The Wilkes-Barre area also reported 3.9 inches of snow in a 24-hour period Friday and Saturday, breaking the April 24-hour mark of 1.7 inches set in 1935.

In Chester County, one canoeist was rescued by a passing firefighter, but two others were still missing last night after their canoe capsized on the swollen Schuylkill River, authorities said.

Rescue workers called off the search for the two missing canoeists when darkness fell and planned to resume efforts in the morning, Phoenixville Fire Chief Reggie Wonder said.

"The river was too treacherous for divers. We sent three boats out looking for them," Wonder said.

The Schuylkill was running at 15 mph when the boat capsized at about 4:45, throwing 22-year-old Susan Painter, of Royersford, and her two male companions, both in their early 20s, into the icy water, Wonder said.

Robert Yannick, a volunteer Phoenixville fireman who saw the accident, dove into the Schuylkill and rescued Painter, but her companions had gone under by the time he reached shore, Wonder said.

1983 graduates face tight job market

Editor's Note: This is the first of a three-part series examining job prospects for this year's graduating class.

By MARK FEATHERSTONE
Collegian Staff Writer

For most students, graduation represents a time of optimism and looking forward to the future. But this year, many students are anxious about their chances of finding employment after graduation. And many have good reason to worry.

Here are some facts for the 1.4 million students expected to graduate from college this year:

- Overall, businesses plan to hire 17 percent fewer graduates with bachelor's degrees and 12 percent fewer master's degree graduates in 1983 than in 1982, according to a Michigan State University survey.
- For the first time since 1975,

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE CLASS OF '83?

there will be fewer job openings for engineering graduates, another survey says.

• More companies than ever report hiring plans are down from last year's quotas, according to Changing Times magazine's annual survey "Jobs for New College Grads." However, 30 percent hope to hire as many as last year and 20 percent plan to hire more, the magazine reported.

• Increasing numbers of companies are renegeing on offers or are laying off employees only months after they were hired, the Wall Street Journal reported.

"The class of '83 is going to have a pretty tough year, tougher than the class of '82, and they had a tough

time of it," the New York Times reported John D. Shingleton, director of placement services at Michigan State University, as saying. "Every employer is either maintaining his quota of hiring or cutting. One or two, out of hundreds, are increasing."

Some experts are calling this year's job market for college graduates the worst since the end of World War II.

Most others are saying that it is the worst in a decade.

University officials are not that pessimistic, but say job prospects for this year's graduates may be worse than for last year's. The Class of 1982 had the worst in-field placement percentage of any class since the University started monitoring the figures in 1976. Although official statistics will not be compiled until after Spring Term graduation, the situation appears bleak, based upon the number of

recruiters coming to campus. The number of companies recruiting at the University — and the number of interviews conducted — decreased 25 percent this Fall Term from Fall Term 1981, said Phil Bucher, assistant director for placement at the Career Development and Placement Center. From the same time last year, the number is down about 28 percent overall.

However, despite the decline, the situation at the University is better than at some schools. At the University of Florida, for example, on-campus recruiting dropped 40 percent from last year.

One reason many companies continued to recruit at Penn State while cancelling stops at many other schools is because Penn State has a large potential recruiting pool, Bucher said, and offers a diversity of

Please see GRADUATING, Page 2.

monday



inside

◀ He didn't know it 24 years ago, but a young black songwriter started the "Motown Sound" of stars like Diana Ross when he began picking out tunes.....Page 18

index

- Arts.....18
- Comics/crossword.....19
- News briefs.....7
- Opinions.....8
- Sports.....11
- State/nation/world.....6

weather

Partly to mostly cloudy and unseasonably cold today, high of 40. Partly cloudy and cold tonight, a low of 27. Partly sunny tomorrow, high of 43. —by Craig Wagner