

Hospital

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contract to reduce health insurance co-payments to between \$12 and \$98 a month, said Jon Forster, the union's administrator organizer.

But Forster said union members are not satisfied with having to make co-payments.

"The vote was by no means unanimous," he said, adding it was only a compromise.

Other issues ratified in the hospital's contract are wage increases and significant pension improvements, Forster said.

The contract will be retroactive July 1 of this year and will last two years, Forster said. Negotiations will take place before a new contract begins on June 30, 1995.

Members of the union were also able to change the hospital's position on co-payments as of Jan. 1, 1995, Forster said. The hospital's initial proposal was to make its workers pay any health care cost increase. Monday night the hospital decided to split the increase evenly with workers, Forster added.

Renegotiations stemmed from

"The hospital was at a point to where it wanted to settle."

— Jon Forster
union administrator organizer

union efforts to make the hospital's board of trustees aware of its stance, Forster said.

"The hospital was at a point to where it wanted to settle," he said.

Members of the union made several attempts last week to voice their protests to the hospital as well as the community. Workers picketed outside the medical office of Dr. Donald F. Mandetta, a hospital trustee. They also protested in front of trustee chairman David Lee's home. And a candlelight vigil was held outside the hospital.

"I think we were doing a fairly effective job in getting the message out to the community," Forster said.

Tax

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another home, or renovating the current building.

"The constituents that I talked to wanted to keep it as a community entity," said Bierly, who voted for the resolution. Private-pay residents — those not subsidized by the county — will force the nursing home to maintain high standards, he said.

Commissioner Denny Sciabica, who voted for the resolution, said Centre Crest has not complied with state regulations for at least four years, and the previous board ignored the problem.

"This is one of the biggest problems, and one that's been on the back burner too long," he said. Sciabica said he is concerned about the growth of Centre County's elderly population and the problems of current residents who are county subsidized.

He said that by making an unpopular decision he is looking beyond future election campaigns and doing now what needs to be done.

But Wedler said she believes her two colleagues made up their minds on this issue a long time ago and were not interested in her alternatives. Wedler called the vote premature.

She said a better alternative would have been to talk to a non-profit social ministry planning to build a new nursing home facility in Pleasant Gap. A public/private partnership could have been worked out that would have been less expensive than renovating, she said.

"We should not be competing with the private sector," she said, referring to Centre Crest's tax-exempt status.

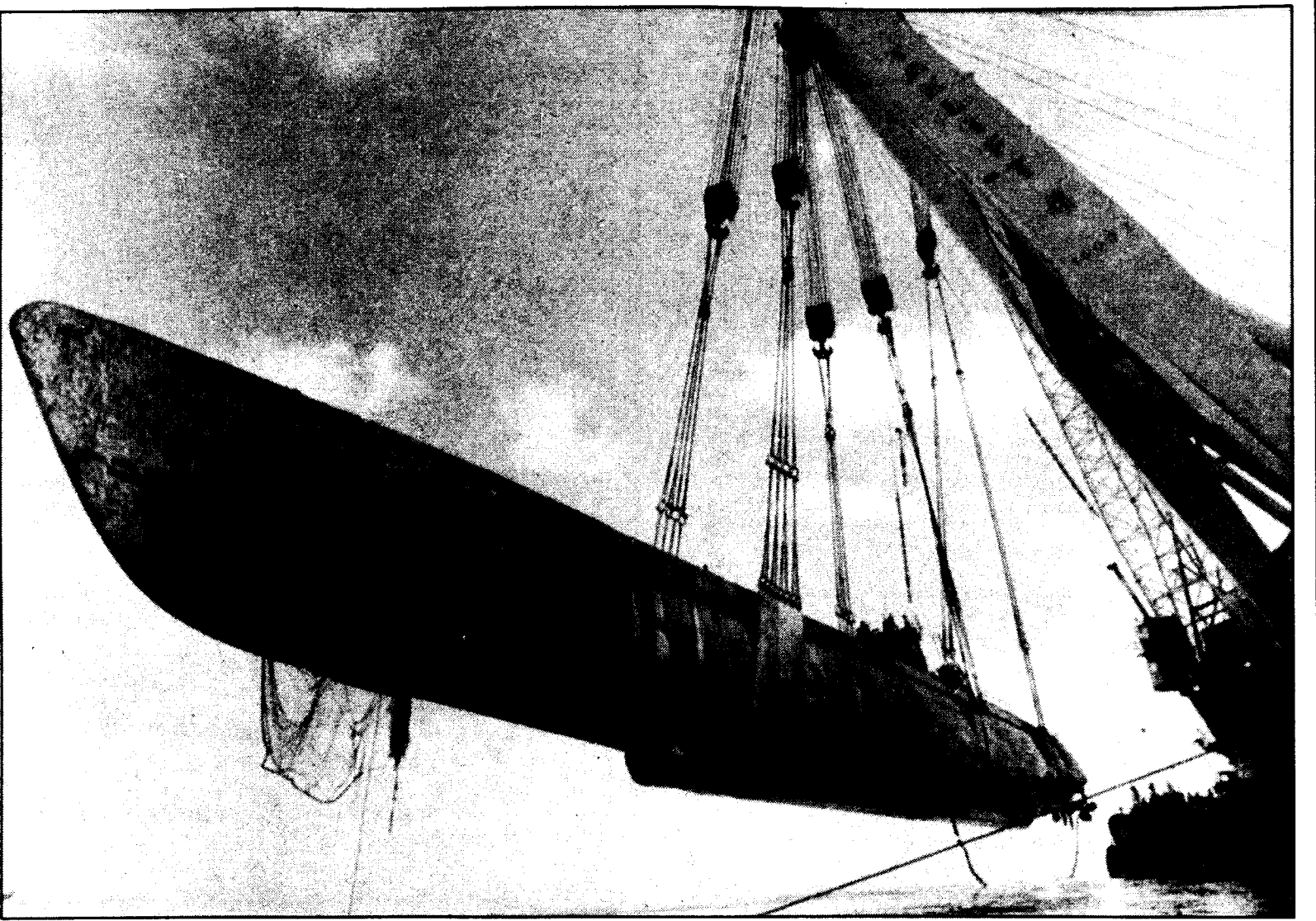
Sciabica said that the issue has been talked about for too long.

"(Wedler) has been wanting to study for a long time. How long can you wait?" he said. "At some point, somebody has to say, 'Let's straighten things up.'"

The reassessment project will attempt to make property taxes equitable throughout the county, said Spicher.

The computers and technology project will modernize outdated computer systems for many county offices, Bierly said. A local data systems agency will coordinate the county computer systems, he said.

The 911 project will bring emergency 911 service to the entire county, Spicher said.



AP LaserPhoto

Shipwrecked

The German submarine U-534, sunk by British forces in 1945, is suspended above sea level near the Danish island of Anholt. The U-

boat, salvaged from the seabed Monday, is scheduled to become the centerpiece of a Danish museum.

Center

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versity development. "(We raised \$22 million and some change."

The lowest contractor bid for the on-site construction of the center was nearly \$56 million — about \$11 million over budget. The decision to reject all bids was made in hopes of lowering the projected costs for the arena.

McKinnon said the general services department and the University are doing whatever possible to bring the project's costs down. Although a size decrease for the center is not an option, he said, structural changes may be made.

"We're working with DGS and the architects to identify things that can be taken out of the project," McKinnon said.

For example, a larger-sized brick may be used to reduce labor costs — the larger bricks will enable the construction crew to cut construction time. Another option to reduce costs, McKinnon said, is to place the steam lines in insulated jackets and lay them in the ground instead of running them through the building.

Groves said although there are a lot of priorities at the University, it will do whatever is necessary to complete the center.

Mars

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"We're not giving up, and I need to emphasize that point strongly," he said earlier. "We are not giving up."

Engineers had insisted they were confident that the spacecraft — even if unheard from — would execute automatic computer commands, fire its thrusters at 1:24 p.m. PDT yesterday, start orbiting Mars, then radio Earth.

The earliest possible signal was expected at 2:44 p.m. But that time passed and there was still no signal.

If the spacecraft hasn't received any of the commands sent to it in recent days, it should automatically start another computer program and try to contact Earth this afternoon, Cunningham said.

If the craft orbited Mars, it could stay safe for weeks while engineers tried to regain contact, but "if we don't get it toward the end of the week, then the hope is going to become, well, really, hope," Albee said.

The spacecraft fell silent Saturday as it was carrying out commands.

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— Diane Nottle, copy editor, New York Times

If you wanted to learn how to sing well, you wouldn't just take classes in music theory, you would join a choir. Diane Nottle supplemented her journalism education at Penn State with hands-on experience at The Daily Collegian, as did several of her colleagues at the New York Times. She started as a reporter at the Collegian and rose to the rank of editor in chief by the time she graduated in 1975.

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