

News In Brief

Many North Carolinians favor conditions

Most North Carolinians surveyed over the weekend say the United States should try to meet conditions for the release of 52 Americans being held hostage, but Iranian students interviewed Monday say they don't believe the Iranian Parliament's decision on the hostages reflects the nation's wishes. In a random survey of 40 North Carolinians Sunday, only a few contacted said the conditions for the hostages' release should be rejected outright as a matter of principle.

Iraq continues to hold Iranian official

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)—Iraq refused to free Iran's oil minister Monday and said Iran's complaint that his battlefield capture violated international law sounded odd coming from a country that has held 52 Americans hostage for a year. The Iraqis said they held Iran's oil minister Mohammed Jawad Baqir Tugyan and five senior aides here and shunned an Iranian pledge to invoke "all international codes and regulations" for his release. "They were ambushed and kidnapped... and taken to Iraqi territory," said a statement by Iran's Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Rajai who also plays a role in indirect negotiations for release of the American hostages.

Court to decide deaf students' case

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Supreme Court said Monday it would decide whether the nation's public schools and colleges must pay for interpreters to help deaf students in their classwork. In a case that could significantly affect the educational opportunities of handicapped persons, the court will study a University of Texas attempt to avoid such expenses. A federal appeals court said the university was obligated under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to pay for Walter Camenisch's classroom interpreter. The law prohibits all programs and activities receiving federal aid from discriminating against any "otherwise qualified handicapped individual."

Refugees to move to Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON (AP)—The transfer of Cuban and Haitian refugees from southern Florida to Puerto Rico is expected to begin in about a week, a spokesman for the State Department's Refugee Task Force said Monday. The State Department was given a green light to move the refugees when the Supreme Court on Monday set aside a temporary stay sought by the commonwealth government. About 2,000 refugees are scheduled to be transferred to Fort Allen, a former military installation on Puerto Rico's southern coast, for processing. But the spokesman emphasized the refugees would be resettled on the U.S. mainland "except for those rare cases in which a refugee has close relatives living on the island." Arrangements to send the refugees to Puerto Rico are now being made and the initial group will be drawn from the two refugee centers in the Miami area where some 800 Cubans and Haitians are presently awaiting the move.

Closing arguments begun in Klan trial

GREENSBORO (AP)—Attorneys for six Ku Klux Klansmen and Nazis charged in the shooting deaths last fall of five Communists have not shown the defendants were fired upon or were trapped at the rally scene, argued Guilford County Assistant District Attorney Jim Coman on Monday.

Coman's comments came as the state began its closing arguments in the first-degree murder trial of the Klansmen and Nazis. The prosecution is scheduled to resume its arguments at 9:30 a.m. today.

The five Communist Workers Party members were shot to death at a CWP-sponsored, anti-Klan rally last Nov. 3.

The defense, Coman argued Monday, has not proved the CWP fired the first shot or that demonstrators fired shots from atop buildings and from behind trees as defense attorneys had promised they would.

The shot from the Klan-Nazi caravan of cars "was the first shot and it started the ball rolling and we've got five people dead and six people on trial because of it, and you cannot take that lightly," Coman said.

The defense also failed to show the Klan-Nazi defendants were trapped at the intersection of Everitt

Street and Carver Drive, where CWP members and supporters were gathering for the rally, Coman said.

"They didn't have to shoot those people to get out of there...they had any opportunity to leave...did they want to? I submit they didn't," Coman said.

"They saw their opportunity to engage these people in a fight—which is what they were there for—and jumped on it with both feet. And you and I are here one year later talking about it," he said.

The seeds for the confrontation were planted in July 1979, Coman said, repeating his opening arguments delivered at the trial began in August. He referred to a confrontation between Klansmen and Nazis and Communists at China Grove.

Coman said that, according to testimony, Communists had burned both a Confederate flag and an American flag during a confrontation in China Grove.

"What you see sitting over there are six defendants who consider themselves tough guys and they don't like one bit the fact that the stars and bars were burned right before their very eyes. What did it challenge? Their manhood," Coman said.

Meanwhile, survivors and associates of the five Communist Workers Party supporters filed a \$38 million suit Monday charging that local, state and federal officials violated their civil rights.

The 48-page complaint also charges that the Klansmen and Nazis violated the plaintiffs' civil rights.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court, charges the long list of defendants conspired to deprive an entire class of citizens of their constitutionally protected rights.

It asks for a jury trial and damages of \$6 million for the estates of each of the deceased, \$1 million for each of the injured and smaller amounts for CWP members who were arrested following the shootings on Nov. 3, 1979.

The Klansmen and Nazis named in the suit include all 14 men indicted on murder and rioting charges in connection with the Nov. 3 shootings.

The suit also charges the defendants with wrongful deaths, negligence, assault and battery, defamation of CWP members' characters and subjecting the CWP to false arrest and malicious prosecution.

The complaint contends the CWP members were targeted since 1968 because of their efforts to organize textile workers and their roles as civil rights activists.

hostages From page 1

something we have labored long and hard to get this spring and thought we had it there for a few hours and did not. So if this happens, it's a very encouraging sign."

Presidential aide Jack Watson, in an interview on ABC-TV's "Good Morning, America" program, called the transfer "a very positive development." Asked if it was a major breakthrough, Watson replied: "Indeed it is."

President Jimmy Carter, campaigning in Akron, Ohio, refused to comment on the latest developments. Asked if he was encouraged by the reports, he replied, "Don't know yet."

It was unclear whether the transfer of responsibility also meant a transfer of custody. The militants' statement, broadcast by Tehran Radio, had asked the government to "introduce your representative for delivery of the American spies" and allow the militants to join in the war against Iraq. Officials in Prime Minister Mohammad Ali Rajai's office said a transfer of custody would be discussed late Monday.

But a spokesman for Rajai later said no such discussion was planned and the militants "can keep guarding the hostages until the day they are released, if the conditions are met."

The official English-language text of the conditions were given Monday to the Algerian Embassy for delivery to the U.S. government.

final From page 1

• Voting blocs—Crawford said Reagan's efforts to erode Carter support among special interest groups had been done through literature and low-key campaigning. "You can't deliver votes as a wholesale community," he said.

Carter, is counting on traditionally Democratic constituencies of ethnic groups, women and blue-collar workers to give him the nod in the election. "We're expecting blacks to come out and vote in greater numbers than in 1976," Harris said. "They fear a Reagan presidency."

"We are keying on women, especially in light of Reagan's position on the Equal Rights Amendment."

• The Anderson factor—The candidacy of John Anderson, despite his recent slide in the polls, still is viewed with concern by both Carter and Reagan officials. Crawford said the impact would have to be evaluated state by state. Though Anderson seems to draw

more support from Carter, Crawford said the independent was a threat to Reagan's chances in crucial toss-up states such as Illinois and Michigan. "We're guessing that some of (Anderson's support) will dissolve at the polls."

Harris agreed that Carter was hurt most by the Anderson candidacy, saying that for every eight votes cast for the independent, Anderson took six from Carter and two from Reagan. "Anderson certainly will be an important factor," she said. "We need to educate people that the Anderson candidacy is not a viable one."

Leveson, however, said the independent had contributed to the campaign by offering voters a third choice. "We've said all along that you don't run a campaign on what the polls say," he said. "The spoiler is not John Anderson. The spoilers are Jimmy Carter and Ronald Reagan."

turnout From page 1

Orange County. We've got a lot of people listed as being registered here that have moved and re-registered somewhere else. With all the paperwork that's involved, it takes about two years to remove a name from the registration rolls," Cohen said.

Voter turnout in Orange County is expected to be high because of the bus tax referendum in Carrboro. "Many people are interested in this issue," Cohen said. The referendum will decide whether Carrboro residents will fund their transit system through a 10 cents per \$100 valuation property tax or continue to finance the system through federal revenue sharing funds.

Those who do vote will have choices for president, U.S. Senator, Congress, governor, lieutenant governor, numerous judgeships and a referendum on a state constitutional amendment to require future judges, either appointed or elected to the bench, to be lawyers. Cohen said, however, he felt voters would not be intimidated by the large ballot. This is because many of the candidates on the ballot are unopposed, Cohen said.

Brock said that if voter apathy was a problem, politicians may have been a contributing factor. "Government officials may, though probably unintentionally, contribute to voter apathy by calling voters to the polls too frequently."

"The fewer times a good citizen has to go to the polls, the more likely he is to go," Brock said. "We had a bill introduced into the General Assembly last session which would restrict municipalities, counties, special districts, etc., to certain months of the year when they could schedule an election."

"It will probably take at least three sessions before this bill could be passed, though," Brock said.

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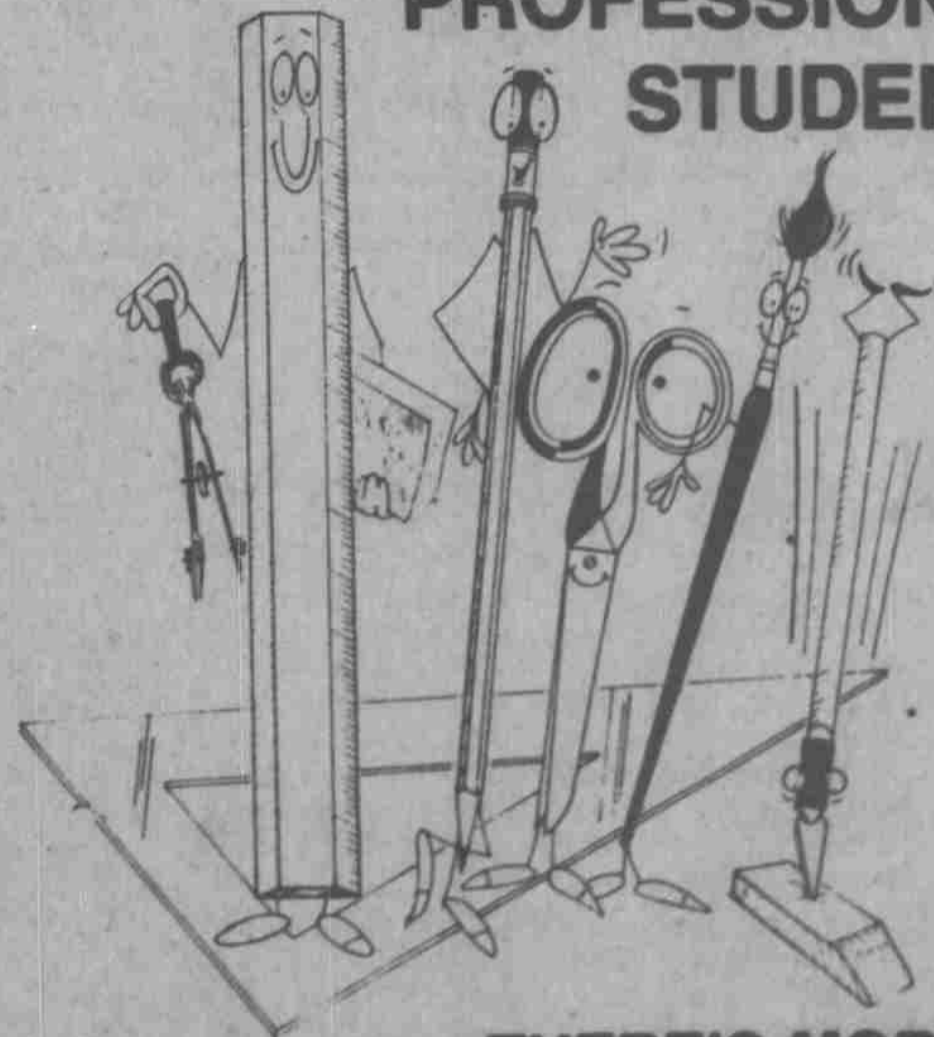
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