

Associated Press News Scope

The World

North Vietnamese seize strategic area

SAIGON — North Vietnamese forces have seized almost complete control of the strategic Bolovens Plateau in southern Laos for the first time in the war there, a dispatch from Laos said yesterday.

Military sources in Vientiane, the capital, said Laotian troops were driven out Sunday from two government-held towns, in the center of the plateau. This left only one position in the plateau still in government hands. Three North Vietnamese battalions were reported advancing against this position, at Ban Houei Kong also in the central part of the plateau.

The North Vietnamese have long held much of Bolovens, including the important towns of Atoupeu in the south and Savavane in the north. They were seized in April and May last year.

In taking the two towns, Pak Song and Ban Houei Sai, Hanoi's forces have in effect completed occupation of the plateau.

Israeli diplomat kidnapped in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Four leftist terrorists yesterday slugged and kidnapped Israeli Consul-General Ephraim Elrom, a police officer turned diplomat who was the No. 2 interrogator of Adolf Eichmann, the executed Nazi war criminal.

The militant Turkish People's Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the abduction and demanded the release of all "revolutionaries" jailed in Turkey. It set a deadline of 5 p.m. Thursday—11 a.m. EDT—and said if the prisoners were not freed by that time Elrom would "face a firing squad."

Israeli sources said the Turkish People's Liberation Army-TPLA has close ties with a radical band of Palestinian guerrillas.

Deputy Premier Sadi Kocak announced on state radio that persons claiming to represent the TPLA contacted him and issued their demand and deadline for the release of political prisoners and the death threat for Elrom.

The Nation

Nationwide railroad strike halts traffic

WASHINGTON — A nationwide strike halted the nation's rail traffic yesterday and quickly threatened to spread paralysis to other major industries. It appeared that Congress would not be able to act on President Nixon's request to end the walkout until today.

The Senate Labor Committee scheduled afternoon hearings a few hours later, but chairman Harley O. Staggers, D-W.Va., of the House Commerce Committee said his committee couldn't consider until Tuesday Nixon's request for an end to the strike until July 1.

The fourth nationwide rail strike in nearly half a century began at dawn as a relative handful of signalmen left

their jobs in a wage dispute and the rest of the approximately 500,000 rail workers refused to cross their picket lines. The striking AFL-CIO Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen numbers some 18,000.

Bill to raise Social Security benefits

WASHINGTON — A five per cent increase in Social Security benefits for 20 million recipients was written into the mammoth Social Security welfare reform bill yesterday as the House Ways and Means Committee finally approved it.

The raise would be effective June 1, 1972, and would be in addition to this year's 10 per cent and last year's 15 per cent increases.

The bill is expected to go to the House in early June. Chairman Wilbur D. Mills, D-Ark., and other backers predicted the House will approve it by a bigger margin than it gave the 1970 welfare bill that died in the Senate.

The committee already had written in payroll tax increases to finance other Social Security changes, amounting to a maximum of \$145 tax increase next year on a worker earning \$10,200 or more and on his employer.

Government urges power conservation

WASHINGTON — The federal government, predicting an electric power crisis in some areas this summer, announced yesterday a nationwide campaign to conserve electricity.

A report issued by the President's Office of Emergency Preparedness indicated that brownouts and blackouts are likely to occur in some areas, as they have in other recent summers.

"The electric power supply situation in parts of the United States appears to be worse than last summer," the report said.

Electric generating capacity is too low for adequate safety margins in most areas except the West Coast, it said, and such safety margins as do exist depend largely on new equipment that could be delayed and on old equipment prone to breakdowns.

Fuel supplies appear adequate the report said, but the generating capacity just isn't there and breakdowns coupled with summer heat waves may overtax the system.

Sheriff accused of violating civil rights

OPELIKA, Ala. — Alabama's white attorney general, acting as defense counsel for a Negro sheriff and his black chief deputy, told a federal court jury yesterday that his clients did nothing but protect themselves after a prisoner fired 28 pistol shots at them.

But the government said in its opening statement to the jury of seven white men and five white women that Sheriff Lucius Amerson and Deputy Richard Coleman Jr. of nearby Macon County willfully attempted to inflict summary punishment following a gun fight.

He and Coleman, 27, are being tried in federal court under indictment charging violation of civil rights growing out of the arrest of Wilbert Dean Harris of Tuskegee on a drunken driving charge last Aug. 22. Harris also is a Negro.

Nader's PIRG seeks support of Pa. students

By BOB YUSKAVAGE
Collegian Staff Writer

Pennsylvania college students who wish to do more than idly complain about pollution, racial and sexual discrimination, consumer problems and a broad range of related contemporary dilemmas may soon have that via the student-funded Public Interest Research Groups.

Ralph Nader's Washington-based Public Interest Research Group has embarked on a project of "mobilizing student support" for various social problems, according to Dave Biss, a graduate research assistant in civil engineering.

Biss, who described his relation to PIRG as that of an "interested citizen," told The Daily Collegian that PIRG's interest is in establishing statewide, independent, student-supported versions of PIRG. "What it means to students is that they will be able to sue in the public interest," Biss said.

According to a PIRG release, the basic aim is "to encourage students to form, finance and direct groups of full-time professionals to engage in research, citizen action and litigation on behalf of the public interest."

In essence, according to the release, students on college campuses within a state would vote in a referendum whether or not to increase their activity fee \$1 per quarter of term. If the referendum were successful, the money would be used solely by students to hire 10 to 15 full-time professionals who could deal with any contemporary problem involving the public interest.

The cost would range from \$150,000 to \$300,000 per year "depending on size, experience of the staff, and location," according to the release.

Biss emphasized that the staff must be full-time professionals. "In order to outdo industrial interests," the PIRG people "would have to be much better researched than the industry."

Local PIRG boards would be located on each of the participating campuses, with dues-paying students electing board members. The local boards would then elect a student board of directors, with the criteria for board member selection varying according to the constitution of each statewide research group.

The board of directors would have full power in deciding which activities a particular group would have its staff of professionals pursue. The staff would work through existing legal channels to effect any changes. Biss said Nader considers litigation the "backbone" of these groups and said any group unable to sue in court would be ineffective.

State Group Biss explained that neither Nader nor the Washington PIRG would have any control over a state group. He said Nader's organization of workers merely conceived the idea to send it to students, and would only endorse the program in state campaigns.

Joel Magaziner, chairman of the consumer protection committee of the Organization of Town Independent Students, explained the problems Pennsylvania would face in securing their own PIRG.

Magaziner stated that the student tax would be the main problem. He said if the referendum which would have to be passed by a majority, was agreed upon by students each term at University Park, approximately \$85,000 could be raised. The referendum would need to be passed at other Pennsylvania colleges and universities for the program to be successful, Magaziner added.

Legal Questions He also said there would be legal questions raised by the State legislature concerning whether or not students have the right to collect such a tax. "Certain things will have to be clarified to allow a student tax at Penn State," Magaziner explained.

Magaziner said he has been working on establishing a PIRG at the University since Winter Term. He also said he has been speaking to Nader representatives in Washington.

Based on talks with representatives of Gov. Milton J. Shapp, Magaziner said he believes Shapp favors the program. However, he said gaining the approval of the University Board of Trustees may be another problem.

"Build Up Allies" Magaziner said he is "trying to build up allies" in Harrisburg for next fall. He said supporters of a Pennsylvania PIRG will campaign for the program and then try to attempt to initiate it Fall Term, 1971.

"This is the direction I definitely plan to be taking in regard to consumer protection, working through O.T.I.S.," Magaziner added.

Biss, in commenting on possible problems, emphasized that student interest is the key factor to success. "My hope is that there will be enough student interest to get this off the ground," he said. He added that he hopes student idealism will provide the interest, which he said is fundamental to the existence of the program.

Another Problem Biss explained that another problem may be Pennsylvania's status as a major industrial state. "Nader's people discounted Pennsylvania as a locality for one of the first research groups due to its amount of industry."

He added that the industry ties of many trustees may prevent the movement from beginning at the University, if at all. He said, "In many ways Penn State has been run solely for the benefit of state industry."

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The fact that there are no broad-based consumer's courses at the University such as courses on buying cars, houses, and insurance, may indicate that the University is not responsive to the needs of its citizens as consumers. Biss said, "There are some public interests which must be represented in a free-enterprise society," he explained, adding that this is one

Collegian notes

Application due

The deadline for Fulbright study-abroad applications for 1972-73 must be submitted to the office of the associate dean of the Graduate School during the first week of Fall Term, by Oct. 4. Applications will be available in 316 Graduate Center starting June 1.

Robert Stone, professor of microbiology, will discuss ironing bacteria that are helping control pollution at 7 tonight in S-220 Frear.

Students who have received Water Safety Instructor Authorizations may get their authorization renewed by attending a WSI review course at 7 tonight and at 7 p.m. Thursday in the Natatorium.

The Engineering Undergraduate Council will meet at 7:30 tonight in 171 Willard.

The Undergraduate Student Government Senate will meet at 7 tomorrow night in the HUB Assembly Room.

W. C. Purdy, head of the analytical chemistry division of the department of chemistry at the University of Maryland, will speak to an analytical chemistry seminar at the University at 1 p.m. today in 310 Whitmore.

Purdy, a nationally recognized authority on clinical chemistry, will discuss "Coulometric Titrations in Analytical Chemistry and Toxicology."

Cyril Stanley Smith, Institute Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is the next speaker for the Graduate School Lecture Series at the University.

Smith, who has written that

his "main interests are structure, of all things at all levels, and the history of technology and science," will discuss "The Role of Art in Shaping Technology" at 8 tonight in 101 Chambers.

Student International Meditation Society will meet at 7:30 tonight in 215 HUB.

The Other Vision will meet at 7:30 tonight in 203 HUB.

The Penn State Overcomers will meet at 8 tonight in 214 HUB.

The Arts Student Council will sponsor its first student art exhibition May 22-29 in conjunction with Renaissance Festival activities. Art work should be brought to 239 Arts by tomorrow.

The Department of Comparative Literature will offer a new course, Comparative Literature 210, Jewish Literature—The Yiddish Root and the American Stem, starting Tuesday eighth and ninth periods, Fall Term, 1971. The cause will deal with the literary culture of the Eastern European ghettos in translation and American Jewish literary involvement through Henry and Philip Roth, Clifford Odets, Nathaniel West, Arthur Miller, Bernard Malamud and Saul Bellow.

G.M.A. Grube, professor emeritus of classics at the University of Toronto's Trinity College, will present a lecture on "Aristophanic Comedy, A Unique Literary Genre," at 7:30 p.m. Monday, in 171 Willard.

He will also conduct a seminar-discussion on "Aristotle's Poetics" at 4 p.m. today in 214 Willard. Both events are open to the public.

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