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USG elections close; Williams early leader

By MIKE MENTREK
Collegian Staff Writer

Voter turnout for this year's Undergraduate Student Government elections reached 6,400, falling about 200 short of last year's voting figure. The number represents about 20 percent of the student body.

Elections Commissioner Randy Oppenheimer said final tallies would not be available until about 2:30 a.m. No partial figures were released, but sources close to the elections said early returns showed W.T. Williams and Dave Hickton ahead.

Oppenheimer reported from an eye count of the voting machine figures that the faculty unionization referendum vote was running about three to one against unionization.

All the candidates were predicting eventual victories.

Al Leard said, "It's very, very close. But we feel we pulled it out. I've kind of got that feeling."

The Rick Glazier-Leard ticket claimed a sweep of all the dorm areas except East Halls. The candidates said they had probably lost in town by 150 votes, but

predicted they had carried the fraternities by over 100 votes.

"There was not a big turnout in town, which helped us a lot," Leard said. "We were poll-watching all day, trying to find out where our supporters had not voted. Then we were back at the room on the phones."

Joe Augustine spent most of the evening at home, away from the celebrating. "It's too late to worry," he said. "Win or lose it's over now. All they can do is count the ballots."

Augustine said he wasn't sure how well he had done in the elections, taking credit for "taking pieces of votes everywhere." He said the other candidates weren't considering losing. "They just won't accept it."

Asked what he would do if he lost, Augustine said, "I'd appreciate working with Glazier because he'll support the students. I'll work with either candidate to help the students."

Williams and Hickton, asked if they were confident of a victory, said, "We're being put in a situation where you can't be confident. If we do win, I hope Rick, Joe and Sharon would work with us, and

I hope some of the programs they suggested would be implemented," they said.

Hickton added, "I think we won the thing. I just got that impression. I think we won."

Sharon Kelly-Audrey Weinberg supporters hung up banners in the HUB and sang "We've got high hopes..." The candidates were not available for further comment.

Oppenheimer and five other elections workers were locked in a room on the second floor of the HUB tabulating the votes.

One floor above the sealed-off room, campaign workers celebrated victories for the prospective candidates. The room was filled with a party atmosphere — tables strewn everywhere, people singing, people dancing, people playing cards. The smell of beer was on almost everyone's breath. Outgoing President Joe Seuffer sat at a corner table playing pinocle with campaign supporters.

About 2800 people turned out to the polls yesterday, a figure slightly higher than election officials had predicted.



Early leader

Leading at 3 a.m. was USG presidential candidate W.T. Williams. He is flanked by supporters Marian Mientus, left, a former USG vice president, and Karen Mack (liberal arts).

Moslem insurgents bow to new truce

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — Lebanon's Moslem rebels bowed to U.S., Syrian and Palestinian pressure yesterday and agreed to a 10-day "trial truce" but warned final peace depended on President Suleiman Franjeh's resignation.

Moslem Socialist leader Kamal Jumblatt's stubborn opposition to Syrian-negotiated settlements and unyielding insistence on the resignation of Franjeh, a Christian, has fueled the latest fighting. Jumblatt said the 27th truce in 11 months would go into effect at noon 5 a.m. EST today.

The temporary truce will suspend the civil war that has claimed more than 15,700 dead and 33,100 wounded in seven fierce rounds of fighting since last April.

The truce would expire at noon Monday, April 12, one day before the first anniversary of the start of the war. Agreement on an extension of the cease-fire depended on whether the leftist demands that parliament elect a new president were met, Jumblatt said.

Jumblatt also demanded that parliament begin drafting reforms to strip Maronite Christians of their favored status in Lebanon through secularization of the state.

Jumblatt said his rebel forces would not withdraw from the positions they captured during the latest round of fighting. Rebel Moslem troops overran Beirut's luxury hotel district and captured it from Christians.

Jumblatt said a force of Palestine Liberation Army troops and Palestine Armed Struggle Command guerrillas would join rebel leftist troops of coup leader Brig. Gen. Aziz Ahdab's Beirut army garrison in

patrolling the truce.

Jumblatt said the Moslem rebels had renewed the fighting to "force Franjeh's resignation and impose a democratic, secular solution."

"Today, the road is open to these demands and we are ready to offer an opportunity for the implementation of a political solution... through a 10-day truce during which time the house will amend the constitution, the current president will resign and a new one will be elected," Jumblatt said.

Diplomatic sources attributed leftist acceptance of the temporary truce to direct intervention by Palestinian guerrilla chief Yasser Arafat.

The newspaper An Nahar said Arafat had ordered guerrillas to withhold any offensive operations against Christian forces and fire only in self defense.

Syria put further pressure on the leftists to accept the truce with a strong denouncement of "one of the parties" that had complicated the situation by continuing the armed conflict — an obvious reference to Jumblatt's militia group.

The Syrians had already cut off arms supplies to leftist forces and stationed 17,000 troops along the border in a move seen partly as enforcing the weapons boycott and as a threat of possible military intervention.

Seven ships of the U.S. 6th Fleet remained in the eastern Mediterranean, steaming in a holding pattern less than 24 hours from the Lebanese coast. The ships included the helicopter carrier USS Guadalcanal for use if needed for the evacuation of nearly 1,500 Americans.

Disputes centered around wages

Labor strife spreads across nation

By UPI

Most of the nation's truck drivers and a broad assortment of other workers — city employees, television newswriters and technicians, truck mechanics and brewery workers — were on strike yesterday in the worst outbreak of labor strife in more than a year.

The disputes centered primarily on wages.

The strike of Teamster Union members triggered scattered instances of violence and threatened to hobble the nation's economy unless it was quickly resolved.

Violence flared when an independent trucker was shot at twice along Interstate 90 in Ohio, another driver was fired upon from an overpass in Detroit and rocks and debris were hurled at trucks elsewhere in Michigan and Ohio in apparent attempts to scare nonstriking drivers off the highway.

Labor Secretary W.J. Usery, the federal government's primary mediator, told newsmen at an early afternoon news conference there were "still some wide differences of opinion" between bargainers for

400,000 Teamsters and the trucking industry.

"I assume if we don't reach an agreement this afternoon it could change at any time."

Usery said he had conferred by telephone with President Ford and that the President is "very much concerned about the national interest, the public."

Ford was reported to be weighing whether to ask federal courts to order the truckers back to work for an 80-day cooling-off period under Taft-Hartley Act provisions.

In other major labor disputes:

— More than 1,700 technicians and news writers — members of the National Association of Broadcast Employees and Technicians — went on strike against the NBC Television Network. The strike hit NBC studios in New York, Chicago, Washington, Cleveland, San Francisco and Burbank, Calif. NBC continued operations with management personnel and said there was no interruption of service.

— In one bright spot in the labor picture, a last-minute

contract agreement averted a threatened New York City transit strike that would have halted bus and subway service for 3½ million daily riders. The Transport Workers Union voted to accept a two-year contract without a wage increase.

— San Francisco city workers expanded a strike which began Tuesday night, picketing the public hospitals and tying up the transit system and other city facilities.

Under a "gentlemen's understanding," Mayor George Moscone said enough workers were remaining at the city's hospitals to continue essential care of patients. Police and firemen remained on duty. The city water and sewage systems operated under emergency conditions.

— Some 3,000 truck mechanics went on strike in 13 western states. The mechanics, represented by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, charged trucking firm employers had refused to bargain with them.

Pa. Teamsters take part in strike

By The Associated Press

An estimated 35,000 Pennsylvania Teamsters truck drivers went on strike yesterday as part of a nationwide walkout, forcing manufacturers to seek other ways of moving their products to market.

There were scattered reports of violence, but no serious injuries were reported. State police said truck traffic was light on the state's major freeways.

The immediate impact of the strike was difficult to gauge, but it appeared to be slight. Most of the Teamsters who struck were involved in long-haul driving, such as interstate shipments of manufactured goods.

State officials had made plans to make sure necessary shipments, such as needed drugs, got through and the Teamsters promised cooperation.

"Our flow hasn't been affected," said Robert Buchanan, manager of the Food Distribution Terminal in Philadelphia. "The Terminal handles incoming produce for many area supermarkets."

Still on the roads were independent truckers or Teamsters' members not covered by the general nationwide contract.

Bill Fry, manager of the Pocono Truck Plaza at Bartonville, said, "Traffic is dropping off. The longer the strike lasts, the more it will fall."

Officials of ConRail, the new national freight railroad system which came into existence yesterday to replace seven bankrupt Northeastern railroads, said there was a 20 per cent increase in traffic since Wednesday.

Steel industry officials said the strike's impact was not expected to be large and could be limited only to the shipping of finished steel products. Much of the industry hauling is done by the Fraternal Association of Steel Haulers (FASH), which was not on strike.

But FASH president Bill Hill said many of his drivers were staying home and "laying back to see what develops." He said, "The Teamsters aren't going out of their way to start trouble."

One of three non-striking drivers flagged over in Pittsburgh told police that a carload of men pulled him over on the city's North Side and shot holes in his radiator.

The driver, an unidentified Youngstown, Ohio man who was unhurt, said the occupants of the car first

accosted him near Allegheny center and fired at his tires before pulling him over several blocks later.

In Clearfield County, police said a truck had its windshield smashed on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. In Mercer County, a stone was thrown at a truck on Interstate 80 but no damage was reported.

On Interstate 95 in Philadelphia, a brick was thrown through the windshield of another independent trucker.

Picket lines were set up at a number of sites, but there were relatively few signs.

"Everybody knows they are on strike" so there was little need for pickets, explained Kenneth Moore, secretary of Local 107 in the Philadelphia area.

Richard Peluso, secretary-treasurer of Local 249 in Pittsburgh, said only about 150 or 160 of the local's 500 contracts were affected by the strike, and all those were either warehouses or freight yards.

Many retail outlets, such as supermarkets, were not immediately affected because their goods are delivered by truckers under different contracts. Only truckers under the National Master Freight agreement walked out.

State College restricts sign sizes, types

Borough's ordinance a sign of the times

By BOB HAMILTON
Collegian Staff Writer

I shall never see a billboard
As beautiful as a tree
And if the billboards don't soon fall
I won't see any trees at all.

—Ogden Nash

Anyone who has traveled over roads with signs and billboards leering grotesquely from everywhere can easily relate to Nash's poem. Signs can be ugly, but since the Middle Ages when they were composed of pictures and not words, they have been a necessity.

Imagine walking down College Avenue if all the signs had been removed from the stores. The street would seem

barren, bordered with nameless, faceless and colorless buildings. It also would be confusing for anyone wanting to buy an item or service.

Seven years ago, in an attempt to keep the main thoroughfares of town from turning into strips laden with ugly and overbearing signs, the State College Council passed a sign ordinance.

Under the ordinance, all businesses can have no more than five signs. The total area of all the signs on one premise cannot exceed 200 square feet and signs on poles cannot be larger than 25 square feet. Illuminated signs that blink or move are strictly prohibited.

Wallace Lloyd, chairman of a municipal council committee to review the sign ordinance, recently has proposed certain amendments to the ordinance.

"It (the sign ordinance) has been in effect for seven years and the borough manager and others were concerned over the difficulty of enforcing it," Lloyd said.

According to Lloyd, one major problem of enforcement is a distinction the ordinance makes between temporary and permanent signs. There are

few restrictions on any sign deemed temporary because "keeping track of what is temporary can be difficult," Lloyd said.

Currently, the ordinance places no restrictions on any sign not directly attached to a window, but a proposed amendment will restrict other inside signs that can be seen from the public way.

The final major amendment eliminates the need to get signs licensed every three years. Since there is a license fee, Lloyd said the amendment should please most people.

The Morgan Sign Co. and the State College Chamber of Commerce, however, are unhappy.

According to Virginia Eisenstein, a local attorney representing the Morgan Sign Co., one major complaint is that restrictions would be placed on inside signs.

"If downtown businesses aren't allowed to have window signs you knock down competition," Eisenstein said.

She said that if stores could not announce sales on a window sign they would have to spend more money on

radio and newspaper advertising, which would drive prices up.

She also said that if price tags on items in a display window could be seen from the street they would fall into the inside sign category. This could affect sales to budget conscious students who might think prices are too high if they are not advertised, Eisenstein said.

Lloyd refuted this point by saying that no reasonable person would enforce a law that strictly.

Eisenstein said another disputed point is that all non-conforming signs erected prior to the passage of the ordinance must be replaced by 1978.

Ralph Brower, president of the State College Chamber of Commerce, agreed with her, saying "Merchants with perfectly good signs that don't comply, but don't create a hazard to the public, should at least be compensated."

According to Carl Fairbanks, municipal manager, the proposed amendments are to come before council April 5, although it is unlikely they will be voted on because of opposition.



Weather

Don't worry—those snow flurries will be out of here by the time the weekend rolls around. Variable cloudiness, windy and sharply cooler today with rain and snow showers roaming the area. High 45. Partly cloudy, breezy with those showers ending. Low 30. Tomorrow partly sunny and pleasant. High 57.