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Midterm panes

John Stahl (9th-agronomy) finds Pattee Library is still the best place to practice that ever-grueling ritual: preparing for midterm exams.

Photo by Lynn Dudinsky

Vatican report of Pope's death arouses suspicion

VATICAN CITY (UPI) — Roman Catholic cardinals, upset over burgeoning rumors of foul play, reportedly ordered the Vatican Monday to publicly clarify the circumstances surrounding the sudden death of Pope John Paul I.

With the conclave to choose a new pope only five days away, the moderate Turin daily Stampa Sera said the cardinals were deeply displeased with the way the Vatican's secretive bureaucracy, the Curia, had handled John Paul's sudden death.

The cardinals were particularly angry, Stampa Sera said, about the very brief official announcement the Curia released after the death and over the fact no medical certificate was obtained pinpointing the exact cause of death.

Stampa Sera said the Curia had been ordered to rectify the situation and answer all "questions aroused in public opinion" before the start of the conclave of cardinals begins Saturday to elect the next pontiff.

Father Romeo Panciroli, the official Vatican spokesman, said he was unable to comment on the reports at this time.

Father Jim Roach of Chicago, the Vatican's English language briefer, said he had been told the story "is without foundation."

Several cardinals have privately criticized the Curia for allowing suspicions over John Paul's death to reach such a peak.

Pope John Paul died of an apparent heart attack alone in his bedroom Sept. 28 — after only 34 days on the papal throne.

Despite the urging of most major Italian newspapers, the Vatican decided not to conduct an autopsy on the pontiff's body. The Vatican said such post-mortems were not contemplated by Church law.

A search of Vatican archives, however, shows that an autopsy was performed on at least one pontiff, Pius VIII, who met an untimely death in 1830.

Some Italians have expressed suspicions that John Paul was "done in" by Curia officials who feared his warm, informal style threatened the loftiness of the Vatican. Cartoons depicting the pope being poisoned have become a favorite subject of Italian satirists.

The conservative Civiltà Cristiana, which claims 50,000 members in 41 nations, has demanded that the Vatican prosecutor conduct an investigation into the pope's death and hint it has evidence to back up possible charges of "murder by persons unknown."

The controversy was fueled by contradictory reports on such minor details as what the pontiff was reading when he died and who found his body.

The Vatican at first announced John Paul was reading the "Imitation of Christ" by Thomas Aquinas but later said he was reading over "some personal writings."

The first Vatican announcement said John Paul had been discovered dead by his Irish secretary, Father John Magee. Later reports said his death was discovered by a nun bringing him an early morning cup of tea.

The College of Cardinals will cast their first ballot for a new pope next Sunday. The dean of the College of Cardinals, reflecting widespread sentiment, was quoted as predicting the election will be brief and easy.

The congregation of cardinals, running the church in the period between popes, decided that the 111 cardinal-electors will precede the secret conclave Saturday by jointly celebrating a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica at 10 a.m. — 5 a.m. EDT — calling on the Holy Spirit to help them elect a pope.

At 4:30 p.m. — 11:30 a.m. EDT — the princes of the church will form a procession and file into the Renaissance splendor of the Sistine Chapel, the door locking behind them.

Carter to open peace talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter will personally open the Mideast peace talks beginning here Thursday between the defense and foreign ministers of Egypt and Israel, a White House official said yesterday.

Carter, whose popularity rose dramatically after the Camp David accords were announced Sept. 17, will participate in the opening of the conference "to underline the importance that we place on it and our continuing role in it," the official said.

The official, who declined to be identified, also left open the possibility that the president would meet at the White House with members of the Israeli and Egyptian delegations before the session.

Israeli Defense Minister Ezer Weizman said Monday that Israel and Egypt have "lots of detail" to negotiate before signing a peace treaty.

"Both sides are very experienced in war, but this is the first time we are dealing in peace treaties," Weizman told reporters in Tel Aviv as he prepared to leave for the Washington conference. "We have lots of detail ... a lot on the

essence of good neighborliness." Although some members of the Israeli and Egyptian delegations have said they expect the peace talks to last two or three weeks, the White House official said, "That is not something we can control."

Frameworks for the peace treaty were announced Sept. 17 by Carter, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat after 13 days of intense negotiations at Camp David, Md.

At the time, Begin and Sadat both praised Carter's extensive role in winning the accords, and the president's ratings soared in public opinion polls.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance is heading the U.S. delegation to the talks beginning Thursday, but is scheduled to leave Saturday for South Africa and Moscow. A State Department spokeswoman said, however, that senior U.S. officials would be involved at all times.

Meanwhile, Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, who is heading the Israeli delegation, urged other Arab nations on Monday to join the peace process. But he

defended Israeli control of all Jerusalem and Jewish settlement of the West Bank.

Egyptian Defense Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, who with Acting Foreign Minister Boutros Ghali heads the Egyptian delegation, said in Cairo that he is carrying a draft treaty to the Washington conference. He said he expects the negotiations here to last two to three weeks.

The accords drafted by Sadat, Begin and Carter at Camp David would end hostilities between Israel and Egypt, establish diplomatic relations and give Israel security guarantees in exchange for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Sinai Peninsula.

They also drew up a "framework for peace" agreement between Israel and all its Arab foes, but the other Arab governments have rejected both agreements.

The talks beginning Thursday will focus on the timetable for withdrawal of Israeli forces in the Sinai and the demarcation zones in which Israeli, Egyptian and United Nations troops will be stationed at each stage of the withdrawal.

Snipers mar Lebanese truce

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — Fierce sniper fire peppered the main civilian escape route from Christian East Beirut yesterday, but a tenuous cease-fire between Syrian troops and Christian militiamen held for the second day.

Lebanese President Elias Sarkis flew to Saudi Arabia from Damascus to seek urgent Saudi help in making the truce permanent.

Bursts of rifle and machine gun fire on civilians fleeing toward north Lebanon marred the cease-fire and a radio for the Israeli-armed Christian rightist militias charged, "The Syrians are escalating the situation."

Rightist radio said at least seven people were killed and 20 wounded in the firing, centered on two bridges linking East Beirut with northern Lebanon. Witnesses said most of the sniping came from the Syrians, but it appeared both sides were firing.

Three corpses lay for hours on the Karantina Bridge, one of the twin links to the north, witnesses said.

A right-wing radio station, "Radio

Free Lebanon," charged Syrian troops also were violating the truce by reinforcing their positions, kidnapping and by preventing food and medical supplies from reaching Christian areas.

Sarkis — with virtual unanimous opposition to his peace plan from both Syria and inside Lebanon — wound up what newspapers called a "Camp David-type" marathon summit in Damascus with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Apparently unable to reach agreement with Assad, the Lebanese president flew to Saudi Arabia and began talks on the Lebanese crisis with Saudi Crown Prince Fahd, radio reports said.

Sarkis hoped to enlist Saudi help in ending the fiercest round of carnage in three years of Lebanese warfare and reach a long-term compromise between the Syrian-dominated peacekeeping force that ended the 1975-76 civil war and the Christian militias who now want the Syrians out.

Syria provides nearly all of the 30,000 troops of the force, but small contingents also come from Sudan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf nations foot virtually all of the bill for the Arab force.

Assad indicated that the Syrian-Lebanese summit failed to reach agreement on all issues after four days of discussions.

With much of the once-posh East Beirut littered with the debris of crumpled apartments and homes, officials said they could still not give an accurate casualty toll for six days of round-the-clock fighting that ended late Saturday.

Christian radio estimates ranged as high as 1,300 dead. Police estimated the figure at about 500, and Red Cross officials also agreed the Christian figure was "exaggerated."

Police said at least 68 bodies had been taken from damaged buildings in the heart of East Beirut since the cease-fire took hold.

Rapid rise

After a frosty start because of high clouds, sunshine will cause the temperature to soar up to a high of 65. Tonight will be partly cloudy and seasonable with a low of 45. Partly sunny skies are on tap for Wednesday.

Voter registration

This marks the final day students will be able to register to vote in the Nov. 7th elections. Students should go to 203 HUB (the Undergraduate Student Government headquarters) before 4 p.m. today.

Registration forms must be sent out shortly after the deadline so it is important that students apply before 4 p.m.

Senate removes block to tax bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate voted Monday to bar all non-tax amendments from a bill that contains tax cuts for most Americans. The action clears a big hurdle to passage of the tax bill and adjournment of Congress this week.

By a 62-28 vote, two more than necessary, the Senate invoked parliamentary limitations that will make it impossible for senators to add their favorite non-tax proposals to the tax-cut measure in the closing days of the 95th Congress.

That vote could end any chance of final congressional action this year on such high-priority items as the Humphrey-Hawkins full-employment bill and legislation to control hospital costs.

Democratic Leader Robert C. Byrd had said earlier that if the effort to rule out non-tax amendments failed, Congress might have to abandon plans to adjourn for the year on Saturday.

Because of its political appeal, coming shortly before the November elections, passage of the tax cut has become the No. 1 priority for the Senate in the closing days of the session.

Meanwhile, an amendment by Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., that would have given elderly persons a tax credit of up to \$75 to help pay rising fuel costs was thrown out because it exceeded the budget.

On a 65-22 vote, the Senate upheld the

parliamentarian's ruling that, because of other tax reductions already added, there was no room in the budget resolution for the fuel credit. It would cost up to \$1.2 billion a year.

Before the tax bill can be passed, senators must find a way to trim the measure, which now totals nearly \$30 billion, to fit the budget ceiling set by Congress. And some of the most controversial items, such as taxes on capital gains, have yet to be considered.

Once the bill is passed by the Senate, it will go to a conference committee with the House which will reconcile differences between the \$30 billion Senate measure and the \$16.3 billion tax cut voted by the House.

Group's status to be determined

Decision to fund PIRG delayed

By MARC TECHNER
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

A scheduled Associated Student Activities budget meeting to decide on funding for Students for PennPIRG has been pushed back until Thursday, after the Undergraduate Student Government Supreme Court determines the group's status.

The court will decide tonight whether Students for PennPIRG, now a "provisionally registered student activity" will become a "fully registered student activity," thus qualifying for ASA funding.

Mark Bell, chairman of the ASA Budget Committee, said last night that he pushed back Students for PennPIRG's hearing because he was unsure it would qualify for funding through ASA.

"If we gave them a hearing and then

they were denied status as a fully registered student activity, we would have funded money to an organization we weren't allowed to fund money to," Bell said.

PIRG, acronym for Public Interest Research Group, is a student-run organization which would employ professional people, such as lawyers and engineers, to assist in consumer and public-interest related research. The organization would also be able to file suit in the public name.

In a related development, Students for PennPIRG received an endorsement from the College of Education Student Council last night, bringing to 14 the number of student organizations which support establishing a PennPIRG.

Students for PennPIRG Coordinator Jeff Goldsmith said the council's support is very important for his group.

"We consider this endorsement to be very significant because the main thing we have been pushing since the outset of this effort is the educational value of PennPIRG," Goldsmith said.

Goldsmith said he is confident that the court will sanction PennPIRG as an official student organization.

He said he will request \$1,375.83 from ASA on Thursday to finance the distribution of 30,000 fact sheets and 20,000 brochures, balloons, a half-page Daily Collegian advertisement and PIRG stickers for signers of a petition due to be circulated Oct. 19.

The petition would elicit the signatures of supporters for the establishment of PennPIRG at the University among the student body.

Approximately 50 percent of the student body must sign in order for the Board of Trustees to consider

establishing PIRG at the University, Goldsmith said.

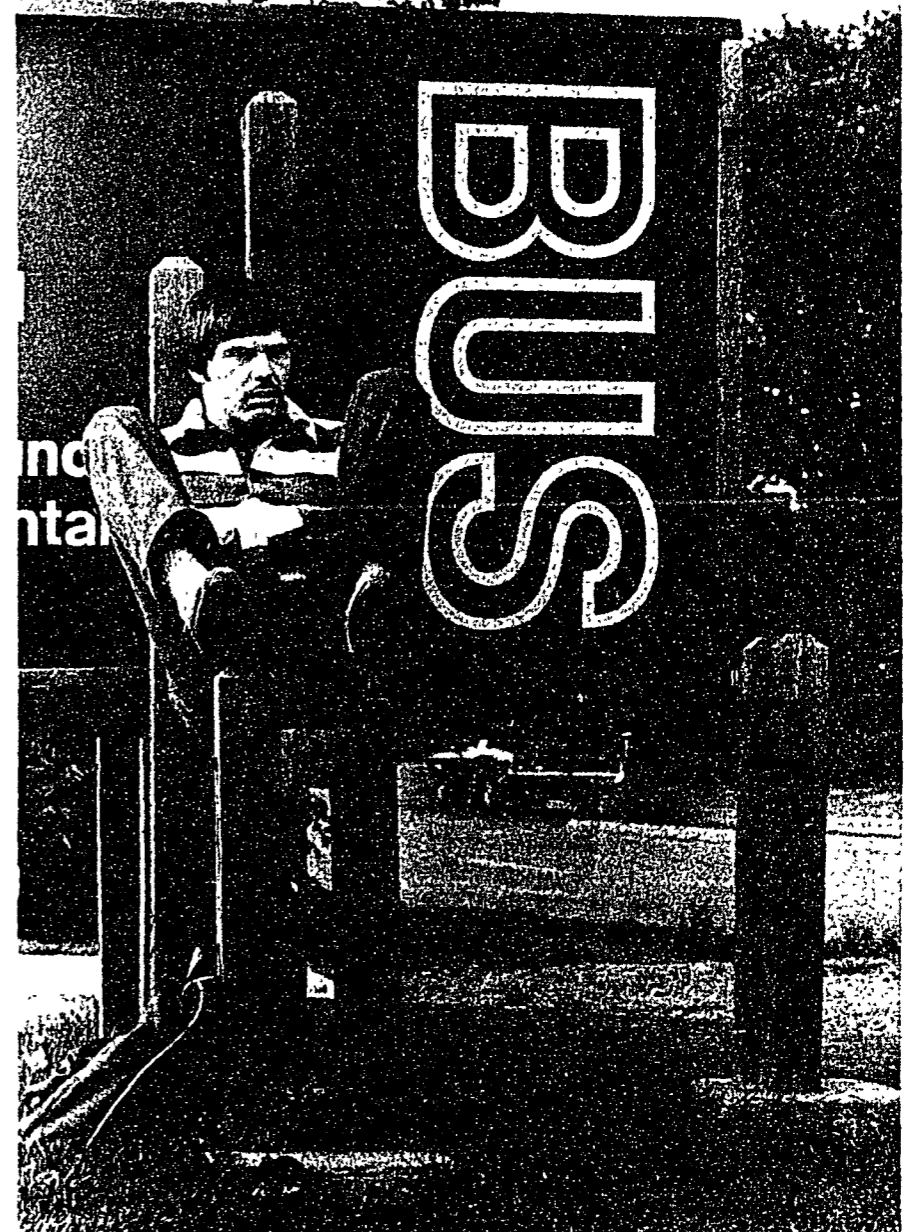
The fact sheets and brochures would describe the function and workings of PennPIRG, Goldsmith said.

The advertisement would kick-off the petition drive and provide needed publicity, he said.

Every student organization must wait 10 weeks, while considered as a provisionally-registered student organization, before receiving final approval as a student activity. This is to ensure the group will last over a period of time.

Goldsmith said that although a backlog in the court prevented his case from coming up and was not the court's fault, it did cause some problems.

"We didn't get office space because we were only a 'provisional organization'," he said.



Bus or bust

John Trurbanik (4th-human development) seems determined to catch a bus as he waits outside the depot along N. Atherton Street.

Photo by Lynn Dudinsky