

Burford resigns from committee

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
 Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Former Environmental Protection Agency chief Anne M. Burford bowed to a storm of criticism and withdrew from the chairmanship of a federal advisory panel yesterday, less than a day before her scheduled swearing-in.

Her move followed overwhelming votes in both houses of Congress urging President Reagan to rescind his selection of Burford as head of the National Advisory Committee on Ocean and Atmosphere.

The furor over Burford reached a crescendo over the weekend following publication of her comments deriding the committee a "nothing-burger . . . a joke."

Her resignation "was the second-best thing Anne Burford has done for the country in the past 3½ years," commented Jay D. Hair, executive vice president of the National Wildlife Federation. "The best was her resignation as head of the EPA."

"For the long-term success of (the committee) it is probably desirable that she has resigned," said John A. Knauss of the University of Rhode Island, an oceanographer whom she was to have succeeded as head of the panel.

Rep. James H. Scheuer, D-N.Y., who was the chief sponsor of the House resolution calling for her removal, said: "Mrs. Burford is at last showing more good sense than those who proposed her appointment. I am sure her decision will come as good news to Republican political strategists, and to environmental leaders in both parties."

Rep. Guy V. Molinari of New York, ranking Republican on the House Public Works and Transportation subcommittee, one of the half-dozen congressional panels that investigated the EPA under Burford's stewardship, agreed she did the "proper thing" in stepping aside.

"It did provide the Democrats with a political issue," Molinari said. "They used it to their best possible advantage, and by her resigning she effectively removed that issue from the political sphere."

Announcement of her appointment to the advisory group had come in a routine announcement July 9, and Burford was to have been sworn in as chairman this morning.

In Santa Barbara, Calif., Deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes said Reagan was notified of Burford's withdrawal early yesterday and had accepted it.

Attempts to contact Burford through her husband's office at the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management were not immediately successful. Her home telephone is unlisted.

In the letter to Reagan, Burford said she was withdrawing "to avoid any further disruption of a thoughtful discussion" of environmental issues.

"In recent weeks, there has been an unwarranted furor created around my appointment," she wrote. "This debate does a grave disservice to your outstanding record on the environment. The people of the United States must be given the opportunity to make a fair and objective analysis of your accomplishments on environmental issues."

The House on Tuesday voted 363-51 to urge the president to withdraw Burford's appointment. The Senate had voted 74-19 for the identical resolution last week.

But the votes were not binding, and Reagan said a week ago that he did not plan to rescind the appointment.

Burford resigned from the EPA in March 1983 under fire for her management of the agency and her selection to head a committee that advises the government had outraged Republicans, Democrats and environmentalists.



Anne Burford

Diane MacEachern, spokeswoman for the environmentalist Sierra Club, said yesterday that Burford's decision to withdraw shows that "neither she nor the president was prepared for the groundswell of outrage that swept the country . . . it illustrates that the environment is an extremely high priority for all Americans."

"Why it is that we ever got to this point in the first place is beyond me," said Rep. James J. Florio, D-N.J. "I don't know how she could have taken the job after describing it as a joke. It would have been demoralizing for the other commissioners."

University firmly bound to Affirmative Action

By BILL FERRELL
 Collegian Staff Writer

The idea that affirmative action benefits only women and minorities is a misconception, the University's newly appointed Affirmative Action officer said last week.

Suzanne Brooks said Affirmative Action not only protects women and minorities, but also benefits veterans, disabled people and the over-40 age group.

Brooks assumed the position of Affirmative Action Officer on June 11.

Affirmative Action is collectively those activities that an institution carries out to assure equal access to services, Brooks said. In addition, it takes a step beyond — to actively recruit people who have been discriminated against historically.

However, Affirmative Action does not mean establishing quotas for people who are not qualified to be admitted or employed, she said.

Affirmative Action is inherently beneficial to the entire community, Brooks said. It also helps the University to meet its legal obligations.

Although the University is committed to comply with Title VI, Brooks said she believes University President Bryce Jordan would be just as committed to minorities without the provisions of Title VI.

Under the Title VI desegregation plan adopted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the University is required to reduce the disparity between the number of black freshmen enrolled and the number of white freshmen enrolled within the five-year period of the plan by 50 percent, William W. Asbury, executive assistant to the president, said.

Title VI not only applies to Penn State, but also to all of the state-funded universities, he said.

The University administration plans to reduce this disparity by 100 percent, Asbury said. In other words, the University's goal is to double the number of blacks enrolled within the five-year period.

"I see no reason why we won't achieve that goal, given our commitment," Brooks said.

The refurbishing of Walnut Building and its official name change to the Paul Robeson Cultural Center are examples of

the University's commitment to Affirmative Action, Brooks said.

In addition to the minority recruitment programs, the University also has a number of retention vehicles in place, Brooks said.

The Equal Opportunity Planning Committee, the Developmental Year Program and student services are all cooperating in the retention effort, she said.

Title VI is not the only reason behind the minority recruitment effort, Brooks said.

Ebony and Ivory weekend is an example of an activity that could not have been mandated by a state court, she said.

"We are changed and I think permanently so," Brooks said.

As more black University students graduate, more black alumni will be available to recruit minorities to the University, she said.

The University also has a strong black and minority faculty who are very dedicated to the recruitment of minority students and faculty, Brooks said. Black faculty members also provide role models for black students.

"The efforts being made now are not simply to increase numbers. Penn State would not be the forward looking institution that it is if it were simply trying to increase numbers," Brooks said.

Penn State does not seem to have some of the problems that many other universities experience, he said. For example, the graduation rate of black athletes at the University is very high.

Brooks said she accepted her position because the work is not only challenging but it is also in the interest of people.

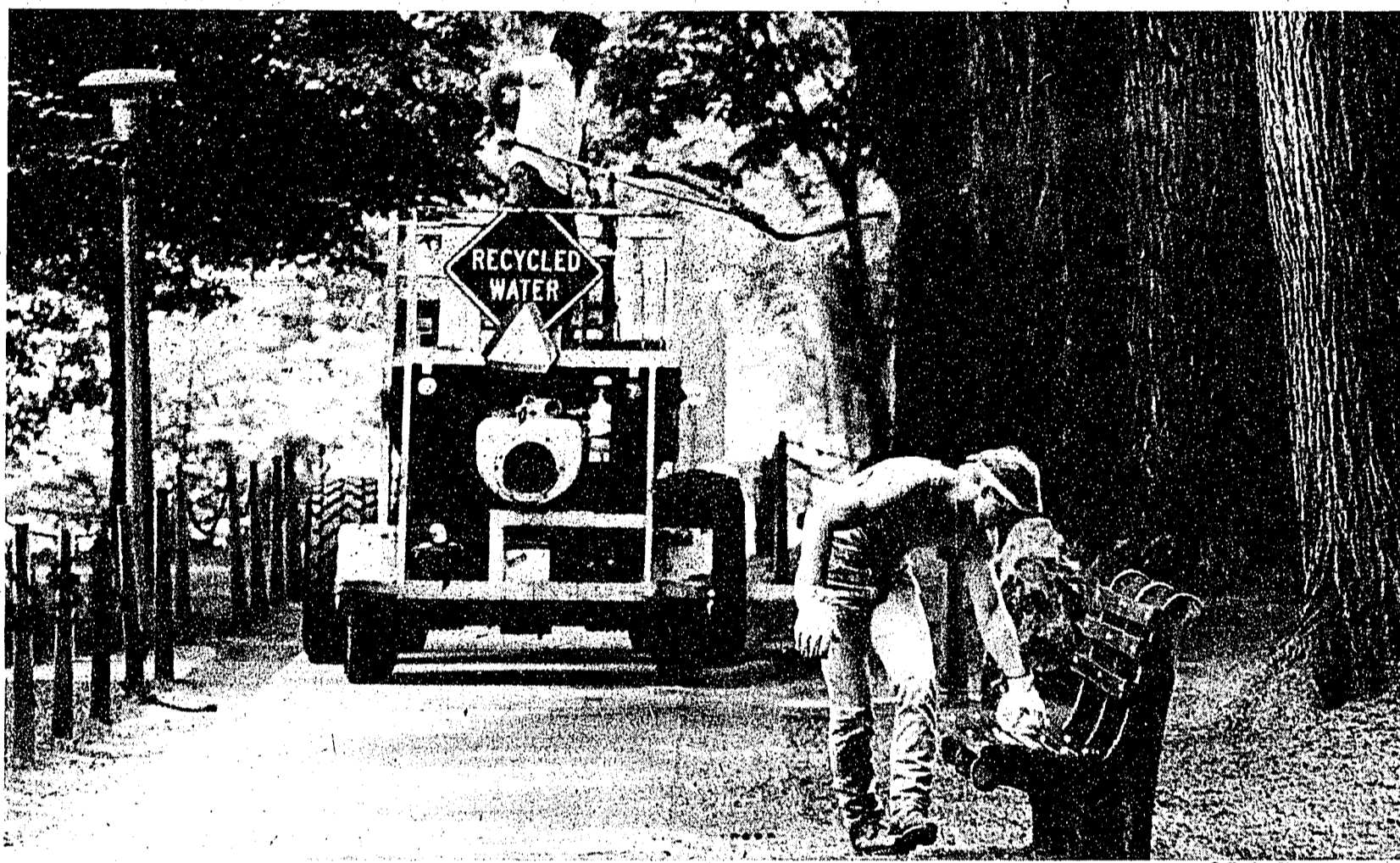
Originally from Philadelphia, Brooks said coming to the University is like coming home.

Brooks said she spent more than seven years as a Philadelphia police officer in the juvenile aid division.

Before coming to the University, she served as Affirmative Action Officer at the University of Nevada at Reno.

"Suzanne Brooks brings an excellent background to the job (of Affirmative Action Officer)," JoAnne Vanin, director of the Developmental Year Programs, said.

"Suzanne Brooks was the best candidate available to us," Asbury said. Brooks is doing an excellent job in her work thus far, he added.



Collegian Photo / Bill Cramer

Mall repairs

Mark Kresovitch, a University employee, wipes mulch off a bench as his colleague sprays the Mall with "hydro-mulch," in an effort to restore campus flora. The crammed booths and the rowdy crowd at the Arts Festival last month were the main culprits in forcing the University to replenish the trampled turf.

Hijacked French jet still in captivity

By SCHEHEREZADE FARAMARZI
 Associated Press Writer

The Arabic-speaking hijackers of an Air France jetliner carrying 63 people freed four ailing hostages at Tehran airport yesterday and agreed to release 10 more in exchange for passing their demands on to France, Iran's news agency reported.

The hijackers threatened to shoot a French citizen every hour if their demands were not met, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said. It did not say what the demands were. There were believed to be three hijackers.

The news agency first reported the release of a woman and her child, and shortly after quoted Tehran Radio as saying two more passengers had been freed. All four were taken to the medical unit at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport for treatment. Their identities were not given.

Later, it said the hijackers had agreed to free nine women and a child in return for Iran's passing on its demands to the French government and the media. It did not say when they would be released.

The hijackers said France had until 9 a.m. today Tehran time to give a positive reply to their demands, or they would kill a French citizen every hour, the news agency said.

France's charge d'affaires in Tehran then was summoned to the foreign ministry and advised of the demands, said the IRNA report, monitored in London.

It said Iranian officials emphasized that Iran wanted to end the hijacking peacefully, and urged France to cooperate with the Iranian government.

Authorities earlier said the sky pirates had threatened to blow up the plane if they were denied landing rights in Iran.

The plane was commandeered over Luxembourg 22 minutes after takeoff from Frankfurt on a Paris-bound flight Tuesday afternoon. It made brief stops at Geneva, Beirut, Lebanon and Larnaca, Cyprus, before heading for the Iranian capital.

There was no confirmation of what weapons the hijackers carried, but they were reported to have hand grenades and other explosives and knives.

Two anonymous callers to the French news agency Agence France-Presse in Tehran claimed responsibility on behalf of Moslem groups opposed to France's selling arms to Iraq for use in the war with Iran, and its offering of refuge to Iranian exiles.

Nationalities of the hijackers were not known, but a tape of their conversation with a Lebanese official earlier at Beirut Airport showed they spoke with pronounced Lebanese accents.

The hijackers threatened to shoot local and foreign reporters allowed to approach the Boeing 737, which was surrounded by Iranian security forces, Iran's news agency said.

IRNA quoted one of the newly freed woman passengers as saying there were three hijackers, all carrying hand grenades. The woman, who was not identified, said her husband was still on the plane, and that none of the hijackers acted violently.

The news agency quoted a second freed woman as saying the hijackers collected the passengers' passports and that several diplomatic passports were among them, including one American. She said a group of Japanese pilots and co-pilots were among the passengers.

The hijackers also took radios from the passengers to follow events, she was quoted as saying.

Two masked hijackers were seen by the

reporters to be standing at the side of the plane door, IRNA said. They were putting on short sleeve shirts, according to the agency.

The guards stood no closer than 50 yards from the plane, which was on the western edge of the airport tarmac, IRNA said. Ambulances and fire engines stood nearby.

In a tape recording of a conversation between a hijacker and Beirut's airport control tower, one hijacker said: "You must forgive me. I am going to land and if anyone approaches, I shall say 'Welcome oh death' . . . I still have some fuel to circle once or twice over Beirut but no fuel to go to Larnaca. The plane will then come down by itself — no need for a pilot."

An Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, reached by telephone by The Associated Press in Beirut, said shortly after midday that there had been no negotiations with the hijackers. He said, however, that the ministry had provided an Arabic translator at their request. The language of Iran is Farsi.

"We will not open negotiations until they ask for it," the spokesman said. "They have not made any demands because they have not yet talked to us."

Deniel Egea, an Air France steward, escaped when the plane was being refueled at Larnaca, and told a French reporter he thought there were three hijackers. There was a report from Geneva that a passenger had been shot, but Egea said the passengers and crew were calm.

Swiss officials said the pilot told them the hijackers carried hand grenades, but Cypriot authorities said they carried knives and maybe explosives.

IRNA said Iranian warplanes escorted the hijacked aircraft from over Tabriz in northwestern Iran, for 330 miles to Tehran.

Testing laboratories a farce, clean-up operator declares

By PHYLLIS MENSING
 Associated Press Writer

PHILADELPHIA — Government asbestos testing standards are a farce in a multibillion-dollar industry that can operate out of a back room, says a New Jersey asbestos removal operator currently working for the Philadelphia school district.

Anthony Natale, president of the Duall Corp. of Mount Laurel, N.J. is supervising the clean-up of Webster Elementary school in northeast Philadelphia, and co-author, with Philadelphia writer Hoag Levins, of a textbook on asbestos removal.

"You and I this afternoon could start our own testing lab," said Levins, who began investigating asbestos after it caused the death of his wife's grandfather.

"We could go out and buy a microscope and open a lab in our living room." He also said some contractors shop for labs that will give them favorable results.

Asbestos was once a common ingredient in building construction, but health experts gradually became aware of its darker side. The tiny fibers were found to cancer and other serious diseases and by the 1970s, public officials faced the question of how to get it out of schools and other buildings.

In the last decade, asbestos removal has become a multibillion-dollar business.

The microscope is a key area of controversy in asbestos removal.

Some asbestos fibers are so thin that an optical microscope, the main tool recommended by the government in testing, can't spot them.

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weather

Hazy sunshine, warm and humid today and tomorrow with scattered afternoon and evening thunderstorms. The high both days near 85. The low tonight 64.....by Glenn Rolph