

Confusion surrounds hijacked ship passengers

By The Associated Press

Palestinian pirates last night held more than 400 hostages under threat of death on a captive Italian cruise liner, floating in the Mediterranean with no where to go. A man who said he was the captain reported by radio all aboard were safe and pleaded against rescue attempts.

In Washington, National Security adviser Robert McFarlane said late last night he believed the vessel was anchored off the coast of Syria and he expected "some movement" today. He declined to say in which direction.

President Reagan yesterday called the hijacking "the most ridiculous thing," and the White House said the United States was working with other governments "to bring about an end to this act of terrorism."

The message from international waters in the Mediterranean, purportedly from the captain, contradicted unconfirmed reports that the hijackers, who demand that Israel free 50 Palestinian prisoners, had killed two American passengers.

"Please, please, don't try anything on my ship," he shouted into the radio from the Achille Lauro, which was reported to be off Cyprus at the time, according to port officials in Lebanon.

The Palestinian hijackers were said to have a large supply of explosives, and vowed soon after seizing the vessel Monday night that they would blow it up if military air or naval forces tried to interfere. Flotta Lauro, the shipping line, said 413 people were aboard, including 331 crew members.

The ship sailed west from the Syrian coast after it was denied access to Syrian territorial waters outside the port of Tartus. A Western diplomat in Damascus said it was bound for Cyprus, and Beirut port officials said it was in international waters off the coast of Cyprus. But a Cypriot government source said the ship would not be allowed to dock there.

Italy's defense minister, Giovanni Spadolini, said after a late-night emergency session with Premier Bettino Craxi and Foreign Minister Giu-

lio Andreotti that Italy had not established contact with the hijackers and said there would be no negotiations for prisoner "that are not in our hands and over whom we have no power."

Andreotti said the Syrian government had said it would allow the ship to dock at a Syrian port if the Italian and the U.S. Governments asked for such a move.

Onda Pesquera, a monitoring station in San Sebastian, Spain, said radio reports circulating among ships in the area of the Achille Lauro indicated some type of agreement might have been reached with the hijackers, and they might leave the ship. The station could not determine who was making the reports or get specific details.

"There haven't been any solid developments," said an Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman this morning. Spokesmen for the shipping line said they had heard of no agreement.

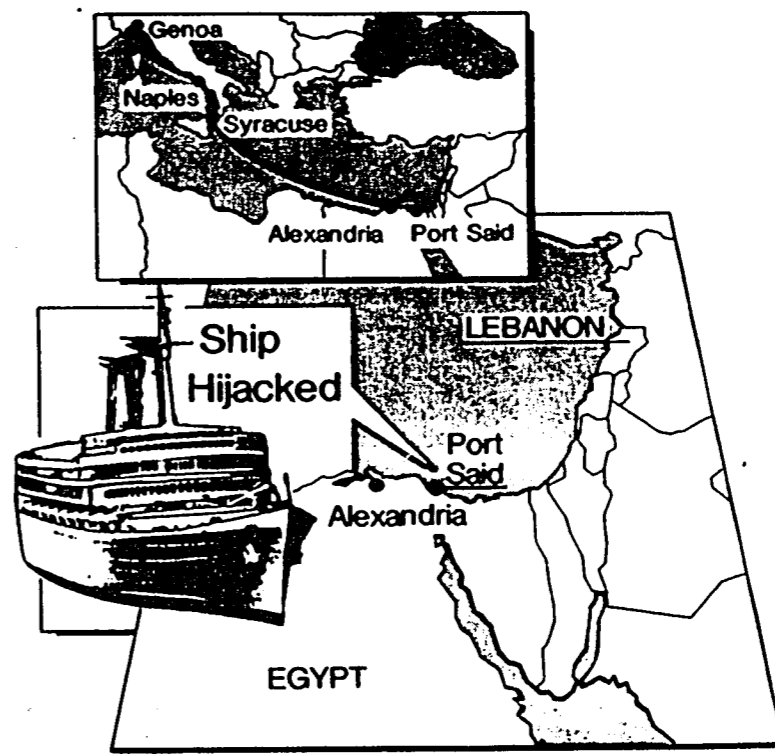
In Tunisia, the No. 2 man in the Palestine Liberation Organization, Salah Khalaf, said the PLO had taken

steps with the Italian and Egyptian governments "for the liberation of the hostages and the peaceful solution of the affair." He said the PLO, which has condemned the hijacking, had sent envoys to the Egyptian cities of Port Said and Cairo and had called on the hijackers to return the vessel to Egyptian waters.

The pirates said they were from the Palestine Liberation Front, one of eight guerrilla groups that comprise the Palestine Liberation Organization.

An Italian Foreign Ministry official said the PLO in Tunisia told Italian authorities that five to seven hijackers, using false South American passports, boarded the vessel in the northern port of Genoa, where the ship began its Mediterranean cruise.

Most of the Americans who had been on the Achille Lauro cruise were among about 600 passengers who disembarked in Alexandria, Egypt, before the Palestinians seized the ship about 30 miles west of Port Said. Reports indicated about a dozen Americans still were aboard.



Columbia, Delaware divest from S. Africa

From staff and wire reports

The University of Delaware's faculty senate Monday passed a resolution urging the divestiture of more than \$47 million in stocks and bonds in companies doing business in South Africa, as Columbia University became the first Ivy League school to support divestment.

Columbia University's board of trustees voted to sell, over the next two years, virtually all the university's \$39 million in stock in American companies tied to South Africa, according to *The New York Times*.

Delaware's resolution, passed on a 26-25 vote, calls for total divestment in companies with holdings in South Africa. The university's investments in those companies represents 40 percent of the university's portfolio, according to an ad hoc committee report.

The resolution will go to the university's board of trustees, which does not have to take action on it. The board's next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 13.

Werner Brown, chairman of the board's finance committee, would not comment on the resolution but said the board already practices "selective divestment" by buying stock only in companies that follow the Sullivan Principles, a code to im-

prove working and living conditions for company employees.

Columbia's South Africa-related holdings involve only 4 percent of the university's \$900 million total investments. The companies from which Columbia will divest by October 1987 include American Express, Mobil Oil and Sperry.

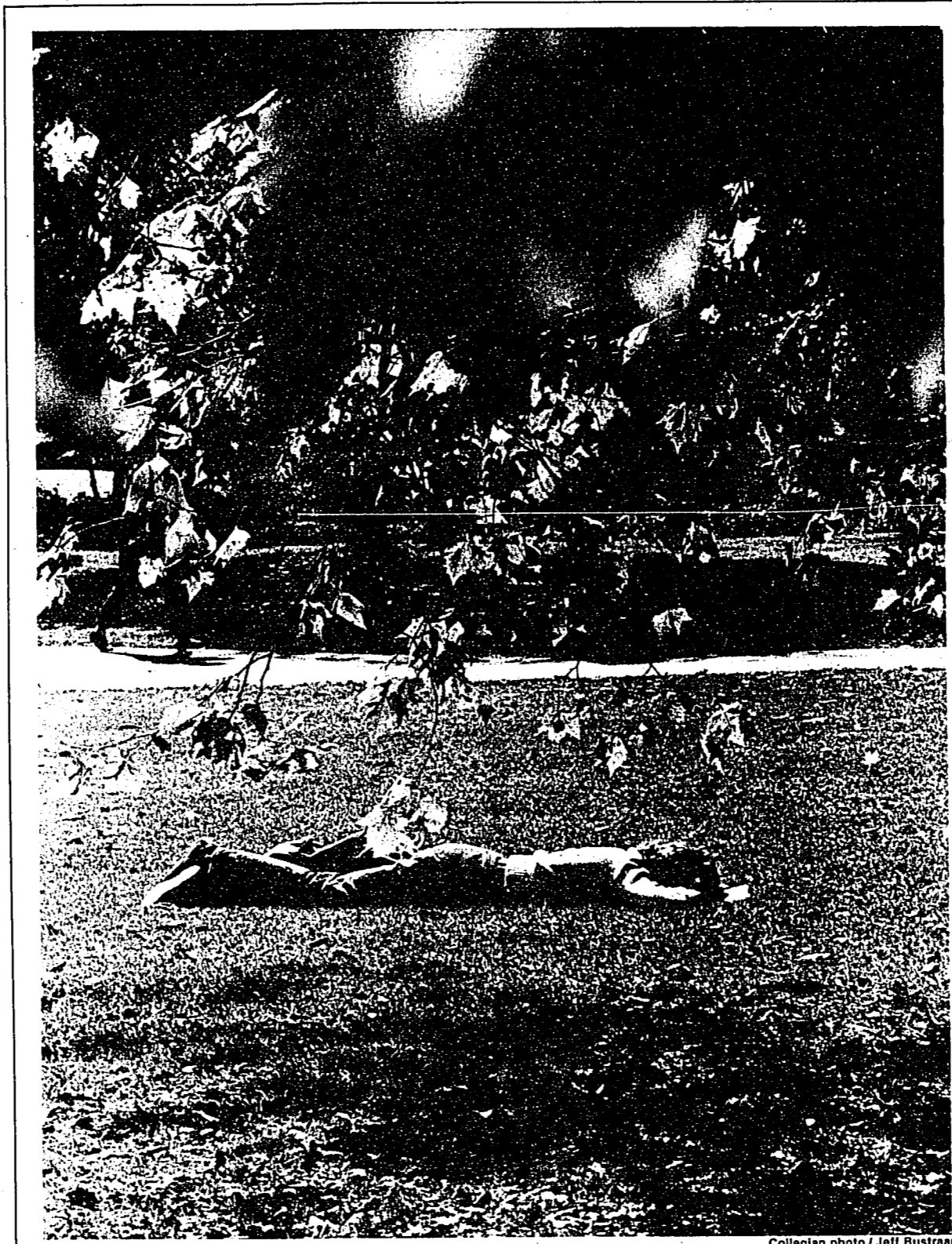
Both decisions came six months after a wave of anti-apartheid protests erupted at campuses across the country and follow a summer of violence in South Africa.

Some of last spring's most bitter demonstrations took place at Columbia, where hundreds of students blocked a campus building for three weeks to attract national attention to their cause. But the Columbia trustees said their decision had nothing to do with the protests.

"We are expressing our abhorrence of apartheid and the South African government's obdurate adherence to it," said Samuel I. Higginbottom, the trustees' chairman.

"We are in the fortunate position of having only a small fraction of our endowments in companies doing business in South Africa, and so we can divest without imposing a heavy burden of transaction costs on our faculty, students and staff," Higginbottom added.

Please see DIVEST, Page 16



Rip Van Vogeley?
Fall leaves continue to gather while Barbara Vogeley (senior-individual and family studies), aided by yesterday's afternoon sunshine, takes a break from her reading on the lower part of the HUB lawn.

Strict alcohol rules linked to problems

By JOHN KING
Associated Press Writer

PROVIDENCE — Universities that permit underage drinking have fewer alcohol-related disciplinary problems than schools that strictly enforce state drinking laws, a study by a national students' group says.

"Severe or prohibitive policies do not produce a lower incidence of alcohol-related problems on campuses," the study by the American Association of University Students said. "The approach of a student as a responsible citizen appears to have a better impact" on curbing alcohol abuse, the study asserts.

The group polled administrators at 32 schools nationwide and found schools that do not enforce drinking age laws had fewer cases of vandalism, assault, harassment and disorderly conduct.

"By de-emphasizing the prohibition and strict enforcement, universities with permissive policies develop stronger alcohol education programs, alternative programming and send messages of concern and respect to the students to make their own responsible choices," the study said.

"Universities which have developed strict prohibition policies seem to be bogged down in the enforcement of policy and notifying students of policy."

Schools allowing minors to "determine their alcohol-consumption levels," such as Stanford University and Yale University, have developed stronger alcohol-education programs than other schools, the study concluded.

It said Stanford in 1984 did not try a single alcohol-related case in its student courts, while the University of Wisconsin, which strictly enforces that state's legal drinking age of 19, reported that 95 percent of its vandalism cases were alcohol-related.

New committee to examine TA training

By CELESTE MCCAULEY
Collegian Staff Writer

Improved training for teaching assistants will be the goal of a new committee designed to implement mandatory training programs throughout the University, the president of the Graduate Student Association said.

Brian DelBuono said the committee, being formed by GSA's academic division and the Undergraduate Student Government's Academic Assembly, is in response to a GSA survey that found almost three-

fourths of TAs polled consider their department's training inadequate.

Recognizing TA training as a major concern, the Faculty Senate in 1981 voted to require TAs who have responsibilities in lectures, recitations or practicums to attend a teaching training program.

The senate defined the content and execution of TA training as "the responsibilities of the deans of the colleges."

"Certainly this has not been followed," said DelBuono, whose organization found last year that 72

Please see TAs, Page 16

Senate retains plus-minus grading

By DAMON CHAPPIE
Collegian Staff Writer

An attempt to repeal the new plus-and-minus grading system failed yesterday as the University Faculty Senate dashed an attempt to preserve the present five-level grading procedure.

The senate sustained the new system, which will add grades A-minus, B-plus, B-minus and C-plus to the current system of grades A, B, C, D and F. The University will begin using the new grading system Fall Semester 1987.

Under the approved system, an A-minus will equal 3.67 grade points; B-plus, 3.33; B-minus, 2.67; and C-plus, 2.33.

The senate had approved the plan at its last meeting of the academic year in April after the idea had been tossed around for nearly two years. But several senators believed the marginal 58-53 passage vote did not reflect the will of the entire senate.

Because that meeting ran long and some senators left before the vote, Cara-Lynne Schengrund, professor at the University's Hershey Medical Center, moved to reverse the decision this year.

But in a relatively brief hour-and-a-half meeting yesterday, the senate voted 79-48 to defeat Schengrund's motion and uphold the new grading policy.

Jay Clark, president of the Undergraduate Student Government's Academic Assembly, said he was pleased with the senate's action.

"They approved it the first time and I was pleased. They've approved it a second time and I'm even more pleased," Clark said.

He said he believes the first vote was representative of the senate's will and the second vote simply reinforced that impression.

Most senators favored the new grading procedure, but several senators including Schengrund said they

would like to see more divisions in grades — especially an A-plus category.

"I don't understand why I cannot give an A-plus when we can give an A-minus," Schengrund said, adding that students wishing to go to graduate school may be hurt by not getting the plus with an A grade.

In a related matter, George Simkovich, professor of metallurgy, proposed a measure that would add grades of A-plus, C-minus, D-plus, and D-minus to the new system.

Faculty Senate President Donald Rung said the measure would be debated at next month's session, but that "perhaps we will have some way of disposing of it before then."

University Registrar Warren R. Haffner said that at Washington State University, which adopted a similar grading plan in 1979, the number of students who received As dropped from 25.8 percent that year to 14.3 percent in 1984.



Correction

Because of an editing error, State College Borough Manager Carl Fairbanks, Solicitor Robert Kistler and council member Felicia Lewis were incorrectly identified in a photo caption in yesterday's *Daily Collegian*.

Fairbanks and Kistler were incorrectly identified as council members and Lewis was incorrectly identified as Council President Mary Ann Haas. Council member Gary A. Wiser, who was also pictured, was correctly identified.

wednesday

index

opinions.....Page 6
sports.....Page 8

weather

Another nice day with mostly sunny skies and a few high clouds. High 73. Tonight, partly cloudy and mild and not as cool. Low 47.....Heldi Sonen