

Warped

by Scott McCullar

DAY 11 - THE LIBRARY CLOCKS ARE COVERED BUT STILL BROKE!



Hungry?

Amherst College students end second day of fast

United Press International
AMHERST, Mass. — Nine Amherst College students Wednesday started feeling the effects of their four-day hunger strike but vowed to continue their "desperation move" to protest a proposal to abolish fraternities.

"We're all a little bit hungry," said Keith Dawson, 19, a sophomore from New York City. "I feel a little light-headed and I'm kind of edgy. But that's to be expected."

The students began fasting Tuesday and vowed to subsist only on fruit juice and water until Saturday, when the board of trustees of the prestigious liberal arts school meet in New York City to discuss banning fraternities.

About 240 of the 1,523 students live in fraternity houses, whose members have come under fire for vandalism to college-owned buildings, rowdiness and mischievous initiation rites. Another 385 students also belong to the fraternities.

The two female and seven male fraternity members fasting have been attending classes and met each day at 1 p.m. in the campus dining hall to give each other moral support, talk about the fast and try to get other students involved.

"From what we hear the trustees still haven't made up their minds. So if we can make our presence known, hopefully it will make a difference," said Dawson.

Dawson and Aaron Scharf,

20, of New York City, Tuesday resigned from the school newspaper, the Amherst Student, after an editorial criticized the fast for creating bad publicity.

Taylor Wilson, 20, of Dallas, said he also planned to resign Wednesday. "I'm fed up with the way the newspaper has been run. They signed my name to something without consulting me," said Wilson, who was not fasting but is a fraternity member and supported the action.

About 300 students staged a peaceful sit-in in the college administration building Monday to support the fraternities. But the fasting students said they have received mixed reactions from other students.

"There is very mixed reaction on campus," said Robert

Hecht, 19, a sophomore from Grand Rapids, Mich. "A lot of people somehow feel these types of things should be reserved for things like Vietnam that are global issues. But this is a desperation move on our part."

A 10th student who planned to fast dropped out because he was not feeling well, said Bradley Whitman, 19, a sophomore from Livingston, N.J.

Trustee Chairman George Beitzel said he was uncertain what effect the fast would have on the board's decision. College spokeswoman Terry Allen said no action would be taken against the students.

Delegation receives new MIA information

United Press International
BANGKOK, Thailand — The highest level U.S. delegation to visit Vietnam since the end of the Indochina War returned from Hanoi Wednesday with new information on some of the 2,490 American servicemen still listed as missing.

Ann Mills Griffiths, the only civilian in the delegation led by Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage, said Vietnam turned over data that could help determine the fate of several servicemen.

Griffiths, executive secretary of the privately funded American League of POW-MIA Families, gave no details but said the information would be made public "very soon," after the families of the missing servicemen are notified.

She said the delegation's three-day mission left the

United States in a better position to resolve the MIA issue than at any time since she became involved in it 17 years ago.

But despite repeated denials from Hanoi, she reiterated her belief that the Vietnamese may still be holding American prisoners of war.

"My personal opinion is that some Americans may be held," she said. "However, more importantly, the official position of the U.S. government is that information in possession precludes ruling out that possibility."

She said during talks with Vietnamese officials, Hanoi agreed to resume without conditions quarterly technical meetings with the United States suspended last year amid deteriorating relations between the two countries.

"I think there is a serious intent on the part of the government of Vietnam to increase their efforts in a substantial way," she said. "They (the Vietnamese) were very sincere. They made no demands and no linkages."

Griffiths said a "positive climate" prevailed in talks with Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and other Vietnamese leaders, who refrained from the political rhetoric that marked a lower level meeting she attended in Hanoi last September.

"I believe Vietnam now realizes that it is in their interests to accept the sincerity of the U.S. government," Griffiths said. "It eliminates an obstacle to improved relations between the U.S. and Vietnam."

TSTA says educational reforms will fail without new proposals

United Press International
AUSTIN — The president of Texas' largest teacher group Wednesday predicted "dismal failure" for sweeping educational reforms unless a blue-ribbon committee reconsiders proposals for teacher competency tests and modifies plans for four-step salary increases.

Dale Young of the 95,000-member Texas State Teachers Association said the group supported many of the preliminary recommendations presented to the Select Committee on Public Education, but he said other proposals "doom the entire reform package to dismal failure."

"Teachers are most concerned about the confusion surrounding the proposed testing of all teachers," Young said at a Capitol news conference.

... Trying to decide whether or not teachers can teach from the results of a quickie exam is absurd. It is equally absurd to suggest that principals can't simply tell us who is literate and who isn't by just looking at the blizzard of paperwork teachers submit every day."

Young blamed the testing proposal on "cloudy political gamesmanship" by committee members.

TSTA offered its own plan for evaluating teachers that called for professional educators and input from TSTA into evaluation criteria.

Plans for a "career ladder" — a four-step plan that would boost teacher salaries based on experience, continuing education and standardized testing — also drew fire from TSTA.

Young said the \$15,200 beginning base salary within the

ladder still was too low. He recommended a minimum starting salary of \$16,000 and a maximum of \$32,000.

He also said he feared teachers would become "baby sitters" if the committee adopted a proposal to lengthen the school day for mandatory tutoring for failing students and optional "life enrichment activities" for all students.

Proposals to add 10 days to the current 175-day school year also were criticized, with Young claiming the longer day would

cost the state at least \$200 million.

He urged H. Ross Perot's select committee, which will meet next month to draft its legislative recommendations on education, to seek greater input from TSTA and other teacher organizations.

"No other professionals are so systematically deprived of meaningful opportunity to be involved in the decisions that affect their professional lives" Young said.

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