



Kidnappers release second American hostage

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) — American hostage Frank Reed was freed Monday after being held for 43 "endless" months, much of the time blindfolded, by Shiite Moslem kidnapers in Lebanon. He was the second American freed in nine days.

"I'd like to tell my family, especially my son Tarek, that his daddy is well. He is a little skinny, but he will be home very soon," the 57-year-old educator from Malden, Mass., told state-run Syrian TV after his release.

In the Boston suburb of Malden, Reed's Syrian Moslem wife, Fahima "Fifi" Reed, 39, saw her husband on television and exclaimed, "He looks great! He's in a suit. ... I want to see everybody happy as I am now."

Reed, who lived in Beirut since 1977, converted to Islam to marry

Fahima. Tarek is their 9-year-old son.

He was freed in Beirut at 8:30 p.m. (12:30 p.m. CST), Syrian officials said, and was driven to the Syrian capital, where Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa turned him over to U.S. ambassador Edward Djerejian.

He left Damascus at 2:22 a.m. Tuesday (6:22 p.m. CST Monday) on a U.S. military transport plane headed for the U.S. Air Force Base at Wiesbaden, West Germany, where he will undergo medical checks and a debriefing by a State Department team.

President Bush hailed Reed's release as he welcomed former hostage Robert Polhill to the White House, another U.S. educator who was freed in Lebanon on April 22 after

39 months in captivity. Bush thanked Syria and Iran for their help in securing the releases and said "things seem to be moving," but that there could be no rest "until all hostages are free."

There are still 16 Westerners, including six Americans, held hostage in Lebanon.

"I hope this is a forerunner to the release of the other American hostages and the others from other countries held against their will," Bush said.

The Iranian newspaper Tehran Times said Tuesday that unless Washington answers the latest releases with goodwill gestures, no more Americans will go free.

Sharaa said at a ministry briefing featuring Reed, "I hope this second

gesture of good will will be met with a similar gesture of good will during the process of releasing the rest of the hostages."

Djerejian thanked Syria for its "active role" in Reed's release and made special note of the help from Iran.

Reed's kidnapers, who called themselves the Organization of the Islamic Dawn in a communiqué Sunday that promised Reed's release within 48 hours, said he would carry a message to the U.S. government.

Reed appeared pale and smoked a cigarette following his release.

At a briefing at the ministry, he said he could not answer some questions out of concern for the other hostages — "I do not want to say anything that could harm them."

The freed captive appeared in reasonable health. He was clean-shaven, and wore a dark suit and a blue tie. His voice was husky.

He said he hoped "the other hostages" will be freed soon, but would not say if he saw any of them in captivity. However, Reed referred to "we" while describing the conditions of his captivity.

"We had adequate fresh food, and the opportunity to bathe and shower, and were given clean clothes," he said.

He told the briefing that although he was fed well and had warm clothing, "I was not very happy, of course."

Reed spoke haltingly at times, his eyes downcast. "I haven't talked much" as a hostage, he explained. "I

feel I'm well in terms of the basic organs I have in my body."

He said he did not hold the Lebanese people responsible for his ordeal, and that "I want to thank the Syrian government for all their efforts in helping me become a free man."

He had an opportunity to bathe, Reed reported, and was offered the chance to watch TV occasionally, except for newscasts — but he refused.

"I hope, Godspeed, that my colleagues ... somehow will be released soon," he concluded.

"I'm very happy to be free ... and I hope my fellow hostages will be freed very soon. I want to say to my family, especially to my son Tarek: 'Daddy is well ... and will be home very soon.'"

Movin' out

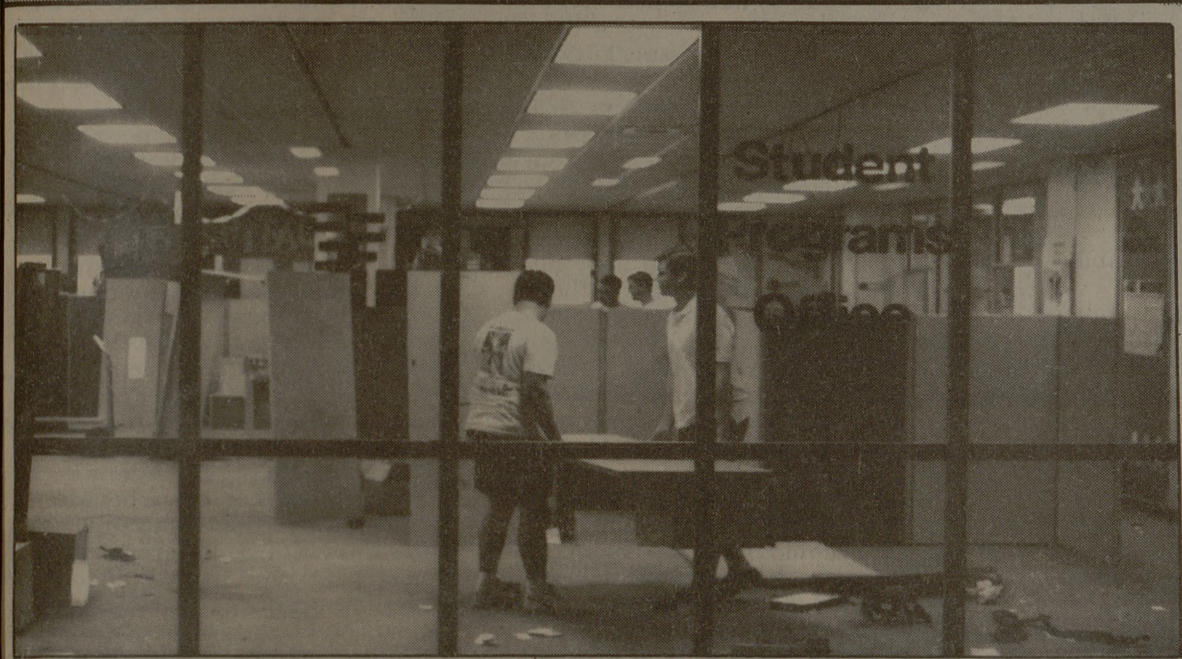


Photo by Steven M. Noreyko

Students help clear desks and partitions out of the Student Programs Office in the MSC Monday

afternoon. Construction on the MSC forced student organizations to clear the office.

Ribbon-cutting ceremony opens new joint site Combined B-CS landfills will lower sanitation fees

By MIKE LUMAN
Special to the Battalion

The cities of Bryan and College Station begin joint landfill operations today to reduce costs and comply with pending Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

The joint landfill is under the name of Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency.

Jim Smith, College Station sanitation superintendent, said the Bryan landfill is full and the College Station site on Rock Prairie Road will be used by both cities.

"We started talking with Bryan about 18 months ago about joining landfills because of the cost-effectiveness both cities could see," Smith said.

"We were looking at all costs from every angle to see what would be best for the community," he said.

Smith said the decision means reduced sanitation fees for Bryan-College Station residents.

He said as the size of a landfill increases, it costs less to maintain while still keeping with EPA requirements. A large portion of a landfill's expenses are based on compliance with EPA regulations.

Upcoming EPA regulations require a lining of impermeable material under the waste, daily covering of new waste, and increased environmental monitoring.

"The College Station landfill was opened in '81 and we have continually brought it up to standards with the new regulations in anticipation," Smith said. "(The new EPA regulations) won't affect us."

Smith said cities, including Madisonville and Navasota, will have to upgrade or close their landfills.

"We were anticipating some laws and legislation from the states saying they want us to regionalize landfills, so that one large landfill could serve the population of several counties,"

he said.

Smith said the College Station site will be good for 10 years. Tentative plans are in the works to expand the Bryan landfill and bring it up to date, which would give the cities another 10 years of use.

Smith, however, downplayed its importance.

"It's 10 years down the road," he said. "Who knows what we'll be doing in 10 years. We may be burning, to generate energy. We're leaving ourselves open to all the options that we have."

A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. today at the

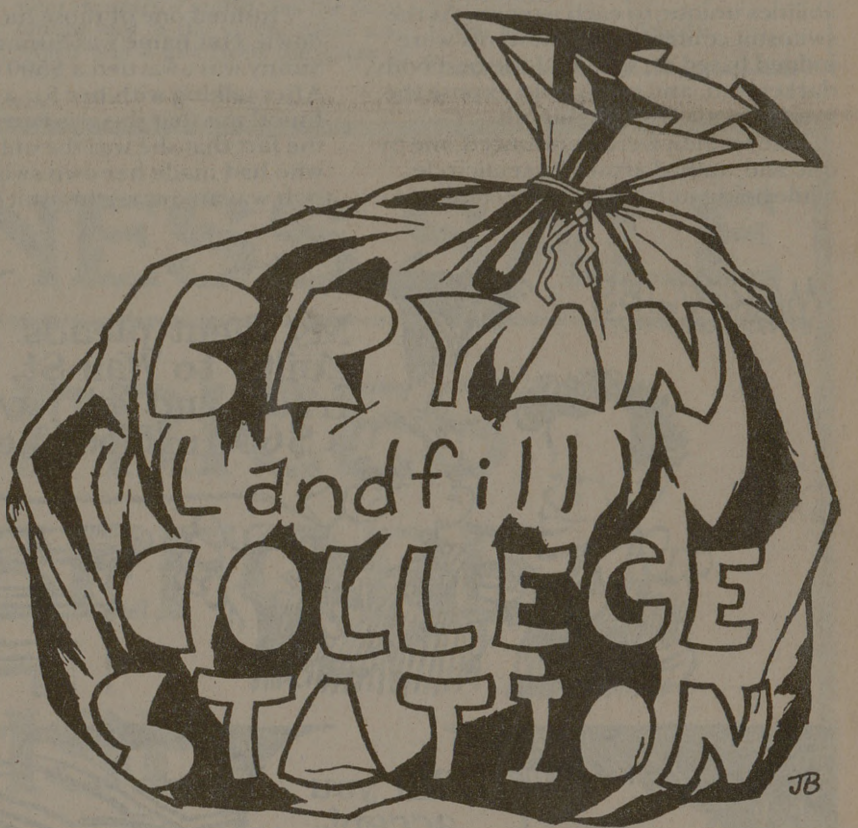
College Station landfill.

Bryan Mayor Marvin Tate and College Station Mayor Larry Ringer will speak.

Peggy Calliham, College Station public relations and marketing manager, said the event marks a new level of cooperation between the two cities.

"It is a big deal from the standpoint of the cities joining their efforts and figuring a way to have landfill space for the next 20 years," Calliham said.

"A lot of communities are worried about where they're going to put their trash."



Texas teachers demonstrate opposition to Clements' promised veto of reform

AUSTIN (AP) — Angry teachers chanting "do the right thing" picketed the Governor's Mansion Monday, the eve of a hearing on the state's apparent failure to enact a school finance reform plan as ordered by the Texas Supreme Court.

"I think teachers are very angry and very upset and very frustrated," said John Cole, president of the Texas Federation of Teachers, whose group organized the march that drew about 300.

The teachers protested Gov. Bill Clements' promise to veto a proposed half-cent sales tax increase designed to fund a \$555 million school reform plan favored by the Legislature.

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"One, two, three. Education is not free," they chanted as they circled the mansion.

Clyde Hemminger, a sixth-grade social studies teacher from Fort Worth, shook the locked iron gates and hid of Clements, "He's obviously locked the doors to the mansion; we'd like to keep the doors to the schoolhouse open."

Many of the signs brandished by the protesting teachers attacked Clements' veto promise.

"Hey Bill! Exercise your mind, not your pen," said a sign, a reference to the governor's remark earlier in the day that by marching the teachers "will get a lot of bad exercise."

Clements wasn't at the mansion. He started the day in Dallas, where he delivered a speech, then flew to Arkansas for a Republican political fundraiser.

In Dallas, Clements repeated his pledge to quickly veto the sales tax increase when lawmakers send it to the Legislature.

6½ cents on the dollar.

However, Clements said, failure to enact a school finance plan by Tuesday's Supreme Court deadline won't have any immediate impact on the state's 1,100 school districts. More than \$400 million in the April state aid payments went to schools last Wednesday.

"We don't really have a problem," the governor insisted. "We have ample funds, and the funds are in hand to pay the teachers until, I believe, it's the last two days of the school year."

Comptroller Bob Bullock, meanwhile, said he would comply with the Supreme Court order and freeze education payments, including nearly \$2.7 million in payroll checks due Tuesday for the 1,036 Texas Education Agency employees.

"At the stroke of midnight ... state funding for public education stops unless the governor has signed the bills passed by the Legislature," Bullock said.

The Supreme Court last year ruled that the state's finance system was unfair to property-poor school districts and ordered the Legislature to overhaul it by Tuesday. The current \$13.5 billion a year method relies on a combination of state and federal aid and local property taxes.

The governor insists no additional taxes are needed, saying other money in the state budget could be used to fund a less-expensive reform plan.

With no school plan in place, state officials will appear before District Judge Scott McCown, who is overseeing the case, to explain why no reforms were enacted by the Supreme Court's deadline.

Lawmakers and the governor have had seven months to deal with the problem. The Supreme Court ruled on

See Teachers/Page 6

Court will decide election case Judge says at-large vote dilutes minority votes

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Judges shouldn't represent small districts because they must interpret the law impartially, lawyers for Texas district judges told a federal appeals court Monday.

"A judge should not be a representative, nor a representative a judge," J. Eugene Clements, representing Harris County Judge Sharyn Wood, told a three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

The court is considering whether to let stand a federal judge's ruling that struck down countywide elections of judges in the state's most populous counties.

U.S. District Judge Lucius Bunton of Midland declared last year that countywide judicial elections in the Texas' nine most populous counties illegally dilute the strength of minority voters.

The appeals court judges did not indicate when they will rule on the case, which involves 172 of 390 district judges — those in Dallas, Harris, Bexar, Tarrant, Travis, Lubbock, Midland, Ector and Jefferson counties.

At least a half-dozen Texas judges were in the courtroom Monday. They arrived early enough to get seats, but about 20 spectators had to stand.

"You can't change the nature of the office" to increase African-

American and Hispanic voting strength, said Assistant Attorney General Renea Hicks.

"It's a policy issue of even having single-member districts, since theoretically a judge is not supposed to represent people directly — only ... to interpret law," Judge Lupe Salinas, one of 59 Harris County judges, said before arguments began.

"A judge should not be a representative, nor a representative a judge,"

— J. Eugene Clements, Attorney

Wood, who also is from Houston, joined the plaintiffs in the lawsuit filed by the League of United Latin American Citizens and other minority rights groups, bringing Harris County's judges into the case.

"Nowhere in the history of the Voting Rights Act ... and nowhere in it ... has it ever limited the Voting Rights Act by the function of the person being elected," argued Wil-

liam Garrett of Dallas, who represented LULAC.

Under Texas law, district judges are elected every four years. They run at-large, with all voters in a county allowed to vote in every race.

Bunton said the at-large elections deny Hispanic and African-American voters an equal chance to elect the candidates they want.

Clements argued, however, that African-Americans and Hispanics make up more than 5 percent of all state district judges but 3.8 percent of all attorneys qualified for the position.

He and other attorneys also argued that it's party affiliation, rather than race, which decides who will win. Blacks have lost because they nearly always run as Democrats, and Republicans, including African-American Republicans, have been winning, they said.

Fifth Circuit Judge Patrick Higginbotham of Dallas suggested that African-Americans who elected a judge to the court from a single-member district would be very unlikely to appear before that judge. Under the current system, the judge at least knows everyone is a constituent, he said.

Gov. Bill Clements failed to add the issue to the agenda of a mid-winter special session, missing the original Jan. 3 deadline.

Final exam schedule announced

The following is the final examination schedule.

Final examinations for classes meeting at times other than those listed below will be scheduled during the week of finals at a time agreed upon by the faculty member and students.

FRIDAY

- 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. — Classes meeting MWF 4 p.m.; MW 4 to 5:15 p.m.; MW 4:30 to 5:45 p.m.; MW 5 to 6:15 p.m.; MW 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. and MW 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.

- 10 a.m. to noon — Classes meeting MWF 8 a.m.

- 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. — Classes meeting TR 12:30 to 1:45 p.m.

- 3 to 5 p.m. — Classes meeting TR 11 to 12:15 p.m.

MONDAY

- 8 to 10 a.m. — Classes meeting MWF 9 a.m.

- 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. — Classes meeting MWF noon

- 1 to 3 p.m. — Classes meeting TR 8 to 9:15 a.m.

- 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. — Classes meeting MWF 3 p.m.

TUESDAY

- 8 to 10 a.m. — Classes meeting MWF 10 a.m.

- 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. — Classes meeting MWF 2 p.m.

- 1 to 3 p.m. — Classes meeting TR 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

- 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. — Classes

- meeting MWF 1 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

- 8 to 10 a.m. — Classes meeting TR 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

- 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. — Classes meeting MWF 11 a.m.

- 1 to 3 p.m. — Classes meeting TR 2 to 3:15 p.m.

- 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. — Classes meeting TR 5 to 6:15 p.m.; TR 5:15 to 6:30 p.m. and TR 5:30 to 6:45 p.m.

For information about places and how to study, staying awake while studying and fun things to do while procrastinating, plus much more, watch for a finals special section in Wednesday's edition of The Battalion.