

1980

ADIRONDACK MUSEUM
BLUE MOUNTAIN LAKE
NEW YORK 12812

1-2-80

The Voice of the
Tri-Lakes — Lake Placid,
Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake

Adirondack Daily Enterprise

Weather
Cloudy tonight with
showers likely
Flurries Wednesday

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PHONE: Saranac Lake 891-2600

TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Captives' health rather good and their food sufficient

By The Associated Press
One of two International Red Cross representatives who visited "one by one" all the American hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran said today he found their health to be rather good and their food supplies sufficient.

Dr. Bernard Liebeskind, a Geneva physician, talked to reporters as he arrived at the Geneva airport from Iran carrying a bagfull of personal messages from the Americans, now in their 164th day of captivity.

Liebeskind and Harald Schmid de Grunck, the Red Cross' chief delegate in Tehran, spent more than nine hours with the hostages Monday in the first visit to all of the captives by independent observers.

Liebeskind said of the hostages: "They look a bit pallid, and they do not have much exercise." The two Swiss visitors took bananas with them, he said.

It was the most extensive visit by any foreigners to the captive Americans since militant young Iranians seized the embassy and its staff last Nov. 4. It was also the first time any foreigners were reported to have seen all the prisoners.

The Red Cross, apparently by agreement with the militants, would not confirm that the Americans total 50 in number, as the State Department says. But Schmid de Grunck said they made a list of all the hostages and their home addresses and this along with their messages would be forwarded to the United States.

"You can imagine those people have been there under rather difficult, psychological conditions and they did appear in good shape," the Red Cross man told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

"Of course, there are some people — this is just human — who support less

than others those conditions, but still I want to emphasize there is no very grave problem.

"We were able to take the names of those hostages, to take the address of their family in the States, and their telephone number and on top of this — and I do believe this is most important to reassure the families in the States — we were able to get from each hostage a message, a Red Cross message, which (will be) sent to his family."

Schmid de Grunck said a Red Cross doctor would take the messages and the other information to the Geneva headquarters of the organization today "and from there they will be sent to the States, so I guess the families there should receive them in a couple of days and this should reassure them, I am sure."

A Red Cross spokeswoman in Geneva said the messages would be transmitted to the families by the American Red Cross.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Hodding Carter said the Red Cross visit could be helpful to the hostages and their families, but it was "a palliative ... a mask for the central reality that they are being held. Our objective is their release."

Hojatoleslam Mohammad Moussavi Khoeni, the spiritual leader of the militants, told reporters in Tehran they would be willing to allow the hostages' families to visit them if President Carter would not try to make propaganda out of the visits. He said Carter's words and his use of the hostage issue in the American presidential campaign "raised obstacles" to such visits.

The mother and stepfather of the youngest hostage, Barbara and Kenneth Timm of Oak Creek, Wis., left New York Monday night for an attempt to visit her son, Sgt. Kevin Hermening, 20.



Edward Conzola photo

YOUNG ACTIVIST — Kim Finnegan of Saranac Lake makes her views known about a money saving plan which could include the closing of the Mount Pisgah Ski Area. Kim was joined by a number of other persons, many of them adults, who fear that the

necessity of cutting \$80,000 from the village budget will result in the closing of the ski slope. The village board last night heard a number of suggestions as to where the village might save money.

Carter interview reinterpreted

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Carter's weekend interview with European television reporters left a "misimpression" over what the United States expects of its allies, State Department officials say.

The officials, who requested anonymity, said Monday that the president had not set a deadline for those allies to begin sanctions against or break relations with Iran.

Saturday, Carter told the European correspondents: "We have sent to the heads of nations, all those represented by you, a specific date at which time we would expect this common effort to be successful."

When reporters asked whether this meant a deadline for the allies, they were told by officials, who asked not to be identified, that it did.

But officials of several nations expressed puzzlement at those remarks and by Monday sources in some capitals were saying the administration had not issued any deadline for moves designed to pressure Iranian authorities into releasing the 50 American hostages held since November.

Some foreign officials said a deadline would make it more difficult for their governments to cooperate with the United States because it would leave the impression they were taking orders from Washington.

And by late Monday afternoon, administration officials themselves were agreeing that the allies had, in fact, not been given a deadline to act.

Speaking privately, they said Carter had left a "misimpression" about his intentions that they wanted to correct.

"What the president referred to was our feeling that we can give the Iranians roughly another month to release the hostages or take concrete steps toward that end," one official said.

In other words, the "specific date" Carter referred to was aimed at the Iranians, not American allies.

Yet some confusion remained about even that point. While Carter wants action from Iran by mid-May, the officials said, he has not yet set an exact date after which the United States might take further steps aimed at securing the release of the hostages from their militant Iranian captors.

If the Iranians refuse, the officials said, the administration will take more severe measures against Iran that could endanger European oil supplies.

"What we're saying to the allies is, 'If you're really concerned about your oil and you want to forestall those next steps, then climb on board now with sanctions in the hope that a united front will convince the Iranians to let the hostages go,'" one official said.

The administration hopes the allies will act to impose economic sanctions, similar to those Carter announced last week, well before mid-May. Officials said they would like to see sanctions imposed by the major European nations after the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Common Market on April 21.

Southerners battle persistent floods

By The Associated Press
Communities across the Deep South were awash today as rain-swollen rivers continued to rise, driving thousands of people from their homes.

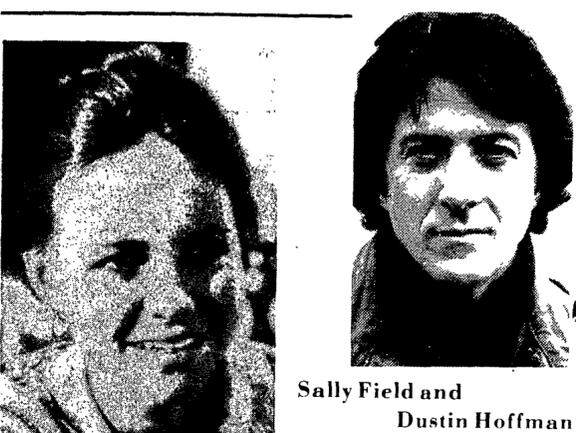
One official battling floodwaters in the low country around New Orleans compared it to trying to "pump out the Gulf of Mexico."

About 800 families were driven out of their homes in Hattiesburg and Petal, Miss., when the Leaf River last night climbed more than 12 feet above flood stage, surrounding about 3,000 structures with up to 5 feet of water, civil defense officials said.

The police department was patrolling flooded neighborhoods in boats, but no injuries or looting was reported.

David Duke, a Forrest County civil defense volunteer, said about 350 persons took refuge at a shelter in Hattiesburg and others were staying at a high school and several churches in Petal.

In Jackson, Miss., the Pearl River which sent water to the rooftops of hundreds of homes a year ago, appeared to have crested today at about 35.7 feet, more than 7 feet above flood stage. But officials warned the 1,000 residents who have fled not to return to their homes



Sally Field and Dustin Hoffman

Field and Hoffman judged best actors

HOLLYWOOD (AP) — On a tranquil night for Oscar, Dustin Hoffman and his bitter child custody battle "Kramer vs. Kramer" earned the best of the 52nd annual Academy awards, while Sally Field's portrayal of a union militant in "Norma Rae" brought her best actress honors.

"Kramer" won five major awards Monday night, including best picture, best screenplay and directing (Robert Benton), best supporting actress (Meryl Streep) and best actor — the often-nominated but never-before chosen Hoffman.

Bob Fosse's "All That Jazz," a self-inspired musical about a stage producer's frenetic and eventually fatal drive, won four Oscars — film editing, art direction, adapted score and costume design.

"Apocalypse Now," Francis Ford Coppola's Vietnam War epic, collected for sound and cinematography. "Norma Rae" was the other multiple winner of the night, garnering Oscars for best song — "It Goes Like It Goes" — and for Miss Field's performance.

Hoffman's ambivalent acceptance and a verbal sparring match with reporters backstage provided the evening's only hints of spontaneous drama, commodities of which Oscar is usually in ample supply. Monday night was an exception.

Hoffman joked a bit as he accepted his Oscar, then turned serious, making reference to

his being "critical of the Academy, and for reason."

Backstage, he expanded: "I guess what I'm trying to say is that I do think that art is competitive ... but it is for the artist to do the competing. There's just no way to arbitrarily draw the line on good work."

Not at all ambivalent was Sally Field, who struggled for years with her cutesy "Gidget" image before getting roles worthy of Oscar performances. Her portrayal of the diminutive, tough-minded union organizer, Norma Rae, earned her a best actress Oscar in a difficult field that included such heavyweights as Jane Fonda and Marsha Mason.

Melvyn Douglas, who at 79 was competing in the supporting actor category against 8-year-old Justin Henry, was a predicted and popular winner for his role as the craggy capitalist in "Being There."

Douglas, who has continued working despite weakened health, was the only winning actor not in attendance at Monday's ceremony.

The other supporting role award — to Meryl Streep for "Kramer" — was not unexpected, either. The only surprise came weeks ago, when Miss Streep, who played Hoffman's estranged wife in the movie, was nominated in the supporting, rather than lead category.

Steve Tesich won an Oscar for his charming, free-spirited "Breaking Away" script, a tale of growing up in a Midwest college town.

Hearing draws Pisgah backers

BY E.J. CONZOLA II

SARANAC LAKE — Over 100 people, many of them children, jammed the fire station meeting room last night in a show of support for the Mount Pisgah Ski Area.

The demonstration came at a public hearing called on the tentative village budget for the 1980 fiscal year. The village is in a tight financial situation, and it had been suggested that closing Pisgah, a perennial money loser, could help alleviate some of the burden.

Brian Hanlon, president of the Saranac Lake Ski Club, presented the village board with a petition circulated last week in favor of keeping the ski area open. Hanlon said that over 1,400 signatures were collected.

Hanlon suggested several ways to reduce the cost of operating the slope, including reducing hours, increasing rates, and cutting staff. It was also suggested that North Country Community College students in the Ski Area Management Program could be induced into helping run the slope for credit.

A number of people charged that many people use the slope without paying for a ticket, and suggested tighter

controls on its use. Approximately half those in attendance said that they knew of at least one instance where a person had managed to use the slope without paying.

Several members of the audience defended Pisgah, saying that it provided one of the few family oriented activities in the village. One person pointed out that many people are dissatisfied with life in the village, because there is little to do. Another pointed out that Pisgah offered something constructive for young people to do.

"The cost of running the mountain is a lot cheaper than rehabilitating someone," one audience member commented.

Board members pointed out that no decision would be made at that time, that the public hearing was only to get an idea of what people in the village felt should be done to reduce the budget by an additional \$80,000.

"We're going to have to make some unpopular decisions, but we'd like to make them based on what you people have to say," Village Manager E. John Lawless said.

\$80,000 must be cut

SARANAC LAKE — "Where do you want us to cut this \$80,000 from?" Village Manager E. John Lawless asked the audience at a public hearing on the tentative 1980 village budget Monday night.

Lawless said that although the village board has already trimmed \$31,000 from the proposed budget, an additional \$80,000 must be taken out to bring the budget in line with projected revenues.

The department heads submit realistic budgets, Lawless said, then the board sits down with them to trim any area the village cannot afford. In spite of this, expenditures still exceed projected revenues.

"We don't have the luxury of raising taxes this year," Lawless said. "Now you're down to programs or people," he added.

The board had proposed several service cuts, including closing Mount Pisgah Ski Area, dropping supervision in William Morris Park, and turning out every other streetlight. However, village residents had other ideas on where money could be saved.

Village Manager's Post
Lawless' post was one area where village taxpayers felt money could be saved. Nancy Pandolfo noted that other municipalities similar to Saranac Lake do not have a village manager; that

they operate on a commissioner-type government. Under that system, each member of the village board is named a commissioner responsible for one or more departments.

Mrs. Pandolfo said that she thought the voters should be given a choice on whether or not they would like to change their form of government.

As village manager, Lawless earns \$24,246, with additional benefits.

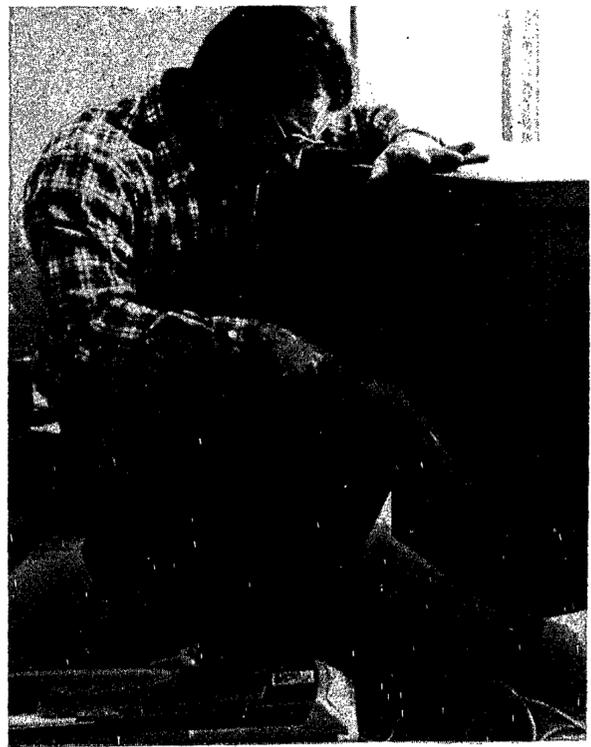
Lawless said that if the manager's position was taken out, the trustees' pay would have to be greatly increased. He said that he felt that after a few years, people would not want the responsibility of a commissioner's post at the money it paid.

He also said that a village manager gave continuity to the village. He said that the lack of a long range plan for Saranac Lake makes a commissioner type system impractical.

Mrs. Pandolfo also suggested the dropping of one position in the highway and snow removal areas. Along with several other members of the audience, she questioned the need for both a supervisor and a foreman in a department with a total of 14 people.

Another person suggested that the village withdraw its funding of the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. The chamber is budgeted for \$15,000 next year.

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Jeff Platky photo

MOVING OUT — Lake Placid Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jon Twichell performs some housekeeping chores in the chamber's new of-

fices which will be relocating from the convention center's second floor to the ground floor throughout this week.