

The best and the brightest boy's basketball players from the Mountain & Valley Athletic Conference are featured today as part of the Press-Republican's annual MVAC All-Star team. For the complete story, see page 19.



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Spring invitation

Plattsburgh State University College students streamed the walking paths beneath the Kehoe Administration Building, Thursday. Many students traded

in their coats for a pair of shorts as the temperatures reached a high of 52 degrees. Thursday was the first day of spring. (P-R Staff photo by John Kho)

USSR shunning SALT terms

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Russia is refusing to discuss SALT II even though the pact requires Moscow to dismantle more than 250 missile launchers by next Jan. 1, U.S. sources disclosed Thursday.

Government sources said the Russians probably should have started the dismantling process already if they plan to meet the deadline as promised.

The treaty requires the Russians to limit their arsenal of inter-continental rockets and bombers to 2,260 by next January. Since they have 2,504 of these, they must eliminate 254 older systems.

The United States, having fewer missiles to begin with, already is in compliance with the provision.

The treaty, which President Carter and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev signed in June 1979, has not been ratified by the U.S. Senate.

Carter has asked that no action be taken on it for the time, since the Russians have invaded Afghanistan and American feelings against the Kremlin are running high.

U.S. officials said the lack of American action probably is behind the Russian refusal to discuss the pact.

The opportunity to talk about the treaty — and what steps the Russians are taking to comply — arose Wednesday in Geneva, Switzerland, when representatives of the U.S.-Soviet Standing Consultative Commission met for semiannual talks.

On Thursday, American officials said the refusal was not too im-

portant because there are other channels for discussing the pact. They reaffirmed that the United States intends to abide by the SALT provisions even though the treaty has not been ratified.

The Soviet Union also has signaled it will do nothing to contradict the SALT II provisions, at least for the moment.

Last week, Carter raised the possibility that White House determination to adhere to the treaty terms may be weakening.

At his March 14 press conference, Carter said he might renounce the treaty if consultations with Senate and House leaders suggest it no longer suits U.S. interests.

Officially, SALT II provisions do not take force until after both the U.S. Senate and the Soviet parliament have ratified the accord.

U.S. calls for action on hostages

By United Press International

The United States asked the World Court Thursday to demand the immediate release of the hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, saying there is no way of knowing whether Iran will keep the 50 Americans "for a month, a year or a decade."

In a summation reflecting Washington's frustration after more than four months of conflicting signals from Tehran, State Department legal adviser Robert B. Owen told the International Court of Justice that Iran might have no intention of freeing the Americans held captive for 138 days.

While Owen completed the U.S. case before the highest judicial body of the United Nations in The Hague, Netherlands, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini admonished the losers in Iran's parliamentary election to stop complaining.

"If you have been defeated, you should not say that the entire Iranian nation is wrong," Khomeini said. "Just because someone wishes to become a deputy, and has not been elected, he should not pick up his pen and write certain things against the elections as a whole."

Khomeini's statement was apparently aimed at silencing critics, including Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, who complained of instances of fraud and coercion in last week's election for the parliament that Khomeini has charged with deciding the fate of the American hostages.

Because of inefficiency and disorganization delaying vote counting — and thus the start of a second round of balloting next month — the 270-member parliament was now not expected to convene until late May.

But Owen told the World Court that there was no assurance that the parliament would decide, or would be allowed to decide, to free the hostages.

"The signals now coming out of Iran suggest that the detention of the hostages may continue in-

definitely and no one in this courtroom has any way of knowing whether the Ayatollah Khomeini will continue to hold the hostages in captivity for a month, a year, or for a decade," he said.

Owen said the United States "continues to view" the United Nations and its world court as the "most promising hope" for releasing the hostages and he asked the 15-judge panel to "press forward to judgment as rapidly as possible."

Court sources said the justices would probably take several weeks to review the case and reach a verdict. But although a strong judgment against Iran would give the United States ammunition to seek sanctions in the U.N. Security Council if Khomeini refused to free the hostages, it cannot in itself force Iran to obey international law.

U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim flew to Washington Thursday to meet with several senators and confer with Secretary of State Cyrus Vance on the hostage crisis. Waldheim, whose personal efforts to end the crisis have met with no more success than Washington's, has said he still believes Iran will free the hostages but that it may take time.

It was believed that Waldheim was counseling patience to the senators following an angry senate speech Wednesday by Sen. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., who called for a naval blockade of Iran and accused President Carter of "bungling" the crisis. He was joined by Sen. S.I. Hayakawa, R-Calif., who introduced a bill permitting the detention of Iranian diplomats in the United States as "enemy aliens."

They were reacting in part to Owen's disclosure, in the second day of The Hague hearings, that the militants who stormed the U.S. Embassy Nov. 4 had psychologically tortured their American hostages, playing Russian roulette with a woman prisoner and blinding and bullying others during "gruelling interrogations."

Live-in handyman pleads innocent of killing mayor

ST. ALBANS, Vt. (UPI) — A 61-year-old handyman pleaded innocent Thursday to the first degree murder of St. Albans Mayor Janet Smith who was shot down in her home Sunday morning less than a week after she was sworn in.

The handyman, Tauno Jurva, a Worcester, Mass., native, entered the plea in Franklin County Superior Court. He was unable to meet the bail of \$100,000 and was returned to the Chittenden County Correctional Center. Jurva was ordered to undergo a psychiatric examination.

Mrs. Smith, 66, the city's first woman mayor, was shot twice — in the chest and stomach — at her Congress Street home. She died of the abdominal wound 30 hours later

at the Northwestern Vermont Medical Center.

Before she lost consciousness, Mrs. Smith told police Jurva shot her. Jurva was arrested later the same day without a struggle in his car near the Smith home.

Funeral services were scheduled Friday, and this city of 7,500 prepared for a day of mourning. City offices and the elementary school were ordered closed for the afternoon.

Acting Mayor Floyd Handy, defeated by Mrs. Smith March 4 by just 134 votes, said bells would ring at the city's churches as her funeral cortege makes its way from City Hall to the First Congregational Church.



Wheels of fortune

The Shrine Circus bills baby Tarra as the world's only roller skating elephant, and a real attraction among spectators. Her trainer claims she has never fallen but is accorded right-of-way privileges on any sidewalk. Here she skates down the streets of Seattle to publicize a circus appearance there. (UPI)

3 'Mao-ists' take Alamo predicting a revolution

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (UPI) — Three persons calling themselves the "Revolutionary May Day Brigade" scaled the walls of the historic Alamo Thursday, took down the U.S. and Texas flags, raised their own banners and threw down leaflets protesting the "vicious oppression of Chicano people."

The two young men and a woman were arrested about 30 minutes later by local police, who surrounded the Texas shrine and used ladders to climb its walls and remove the shouting trio.

With their hands raised in their air, the three threw leaflets from the roof of the Alamo and shouted slogans to an angry crowd of about 200 gathered outside. Their words, however, were drowned out by the sound of a police helicopter hovering overhead.

Within minutes, police handcuffed the three, led them down the ladders and away. At least four other young people joined in the chanting as the three were led away.

The trio, identifying themselves as "Mao-ist," said a revolution would begin in America on May 1 and the streets "would be flaming."

Persons from the same organization last weekend in Beckley, W. Va., held a demonstration and "dialogue" with coal miners. They were arrested and charged with misdemeanor treason for carrying red flags by Beckley police.

Members of other "brigades" were arrested earlier this week in Beckley, W. Va., following a "dialogue" with coal miners that erupted into a scuffle. Two other people were arrested earlier this month in Birmingham, Ala., after briefly occupying a statue.

Sewage plant back in the news

PLATTSBURGH — Plattsburgh's sewage treatment plant is in the news again after almost half a decade of tranquility. The state is requiring more from the plant's performance than the plant is designed to provide. Studies are about to be launched into joint city-town sewage plans and what can be done to the plant as it now exists. Meanwhile, the city administrator hopes the state will relax its standards. Explanations are on Page 24.

Good morning!

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