World

Hunger strike approaches 58 days in Northern Ireland — Robert Sands, the 27-year-old member of the Irish Republican Army who was elected to the British Parliament while confined to a prison outside Belfast, is reported to be near death as a result of a hunger strike. Northern Ireland's Roman Catholic militants are on the brink of a violent confrontation with the British Army; violence is generally anticipated if Sands dies.

Fighting increases in southern Lebanon — The Israeli Air Force attacked targets in southern Lebanon yesterday, killing 13 and wounding 60. The Israeli military command said that set of their planes had executed a raid on suspected Palestinian guerrilla posts. All of the planes had returned safely. In Damascus, however, a Syrian military spokesman said that two Israeli jets and one Syrian fighter had been shot down.

d'Estate wins first round of French presidential election — President Valery Giscard d'Estaing and Socialist leader Francois Mitterrand emerged victorious from the first round of the French presidential election yesterday. The two will again confront each other in the final round on May 10.

Nation

Reagan lifts grain embargo while Haig says all Soviet trade will be cut if Poland is invaded — President Reagan lifted Friday the controversial embargo instituted by President Carter 15 months ago during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Critics claimed that the Soviets were able to obtain grain elsewhere and that the embargo hurt only American farmers. Saturday, however, Secretary of State Haig said "there's no question" that trade with the Soviet will be cut if Poland is invaded. Haig called the Soviet Union the greatest source of international insecurity and danger to the world.

Reagan's budget garners support — Congressional Republicans appeared close to passage of Reagan's economic package. A vote may come as early as today, when the President addresses a joint session of Congress. The Reagan budget seems to be gaining strength as a result of his recent surge in popularity and heavy deflections among Democrats.

Universities ask for $1 billion from Pentagon — Presidents of four major universities have asked the House Armed Services committee for $1 billion to help revitalize the nation's scientific and technological programs. Members of the Committee agreed that it is time for the Defense Department to boost its share of support of university research. Several Committee members did, however, express concern that students would oppose an increased military presence on campus as they did in the 1960's.

Campus

Big Screw results announced — The Alpha Chi Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega, the national service fraternity, announced the results of its annual "Big Screw" contest. According to the chairman of the contest, Jeanne Munson '82, the results are as follows:

- Mathematics Instructor Theodore Shiffin — $279.63
- Professor of Political Science George Wilkins — $72.67
- Associate Professor of Earth Sciences Peter Melman — $67.63
- Associate Dean for Student Affairs Robert Shrewed — $61.93
- Professor of Physics Thomas John Greyski — $32.73

The record-setting $1,003.34 raised will be donated to the charity of Shiffin's choice.

Dreyfus building wins architecture award — MIT's Dreyfus Laboratory Building has won this year's Harvard Parker Medal. The medal is given annually by the Boston Society of Architects to the Boston building for good design. The lab was designed by the I.M. Partners, a firm that has won the medal three times.

NationWatch

Hearings held on when life begins

By Tony Zamparuti

A bill under consideration before a Senate Judiciary subcommittee would legislatively define that human life begins at conception and would make abortion the legal equivalent of murder. The bill was proposed by Senator Jesse Helms of North Carolina and Representative Henry J. Hyde of Illinois, both of whom are Republicans. Seven of the eight medical doctors who testified before the subcommittee supported the bill. Dr. Michelle Matthew-Roth, a Harvard University Research Associate, declared that "it is scientifically correct to say that an individual human life begins at conception." Dr. Leon E. Rosenberg, Chairman of the Department of Human Genetics at Yale Medical School, opposed the legislation, testifying that there is not "a single piece of scientific evidence" to determine the beginning of life. "There is no single, simple answer," he noted.

Many different groups have questioned the constitutionality of the proposed legislation. Senator Orrin G. Hatch of Utah, an opponent of abortion, questioned whether "Congress has the authority under the Fourteenth Amendment" to pass the bill. The legislation is "an attempt to exercise unconstitutional power" according to a letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee from 11 constitutional scholars.

The bill is a "backdoor" method to overturn the 1973 Supreme Court ruling that legalized abortions, admitted Dr. Hyde. The Court decided in Roe v. Wade that the beginning of human life was not known scientifically and that abortions could be performed legally until the end of the second trimester of pregnancy. Only one day of hearings on the bill were planned, but Senator John P. East, Republican of North Carolina and a supporter of the measure, has decided to hold further hearings after May 20 that would last into June. "All points of view will be heard," East maintained.

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