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WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM



Activists face off with University of Chicago police officers at a pro-Palestine encampment at the Hyde Park campus Tuesday morning. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

CTU's role in debate beset by questions

Johnson heads to state Capitol to plead for more school funding

By Rick Pearson and Jeremy Gorner Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD — The Chicago Teachers Union's role in the debate over legislation that would extend for two years a moratorium on closing public schools in the city — including selective enrollment and magnet schools — has raised questions about the powerful union's credibility in Springfield for some lawmakers.

The CTU's biggest ally, Mayor Brandon Johnson, is headed to the state Capitol on Wednesday to plead for more school funding from the state amid negotiations over a new teachers union contract and on the same day a Senate committee hearing is scheduled on the moratorium extension, which was approved by the House last month.

The legislation is the latest test for a teachers union that exerts tremendous influence in Chicago, where it helped elect a governmental neophyte as mayor, but whose extreme progressivism under President Stacy Davis Gates finds a better fit with the City Council than with the broader geographical and ideological universe of Springfield.

"Springfield is just incredibly different than City Hall," said state Rep. Margaret Croke, the House sponsor of the school closing moratorium bill.

The measure to extend an existing school closings moratorium until 2027 was overwhelmingly passed by the House in a 92-8 vote on April 18, with all eight "no" votes coming from

Turn to Legislation, Page 5

U. of Chicago police clear pro-Palestine encampment

School president says 'where appropriate, disciplinary action will proceed'

By Rebecca Johnson, Zareen Syed, Caroline Kubzansky and Nell Salzman Chicago Tribune

After the University of Chicago police cleared a pro-Palestine protest encampment in a brief early morning raid, the main quad was calm Tuesday afternoon with almost no trace of the student activists who had occupied it hours before. Rain fell Tuesday morning as

students and faculty walked to class, passing through the South Side campus dotted with discolored grass, marking the empty spaces where tents had been set up nine days ago.

"The quietness (of the quad) is deafening," said Jeffrey Sun, a U. of C. student. "And it's interesting because I think maybe four or five weeks ago, before the encampment, I would have been very happy on the quad, but it's something where once you know what it could be, you can't look at

it again in a different light."

Around 4:30 a.m. Tuesday, about 50 UCPD officers began dismantling the encampment — knocking down tents and posters, and removing barriers set up by students who had anticipated the raid after the university said it was prepared to "intervene" to remove the protesters from the school's main quad days earlier.

There had been no arrests in the police action, according to the school's President Paul Alivisatos, but, "where appropriate,

disciplinary action will proceed."

"There were areas where we were able to achieve common ground, but ultimately a number of the intractable and inflexible aspects of their demands were fundamentally incompatible with the university's principled dedication to institutional neutrality," he said in a statement.

For around a week, there was little to no police intervention at Chicago-area campuses, even

Turn to Encampment, Page 4

INSIDE



EILEEN T. MESLAR/TRIBUNE

Kamilla Cardoso's WNBA debut delayed

The new era for the Sky will be set back at least another month as the No. 3 draft pick suffers a shoulder injury Friday. Chicago Sports

Dolton mayor vetoes hiring of Lightfoot

Trustees wanted to hire the former Chicago mayor to conduct a probe into the mayor and village finances. Chicagoland, Page 2

Stormy Daniels tells of Trump encounter

Porn star describes meeting in hotel, hush money effort

By Michael R. Sisak, Jennifer Peltz and Eric Tucker Associated Press

NEW YORK — With Donald Trump sitting just feet away, Stormy Daniels testified Tuesday at the former president's hush money trial about a sexual encounter the porn actor says they had in 2006 that resulted in her being paid to keep silent during the presidential race 10 years later.

Jurors appeared riveted as Daniels offered a detailed and at times graphic account of the encounter Trump has denied. Trump stared straight ahead when Daniels entered the courtroom, later whispering to his

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Stormy Daniels, second from left, exits the courthouse in New York on Tuesday. Daniels, whose real name is Stephanie Clifford, testified about her alleged sexual encounter with Trump in 2006. SETH WENIG/AP

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 77 Low 51

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 18

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Jewel Osco advertisement for Mother's Day featuring roses, lobster tails, and wine for \$10.99.