

# Sign Language

South San Gabriel,  
Los Angeles county

The sign is weatherbeaten after standing on a street corner in the sun and rain for more than three years. But now its days are numbered.

Probably some time next month, a 32-year-old Air Force major who has never seen the sign will lead a group of friends and relatives in demolishing it.

"Hanoi — release John Nasmyth," the sign says.

It was erected before the Nasmyth home on the day in 1969 when his family heard that Major Nasmyth, who had been shot down over North Vietnam in September, 1966, was alive and a prisoner of war.

They promised themselves that no one but John Nasmyth himself would take the sign down.

"We're toying with the idea of burning it down," said his mother, Mrs. John Nasmyth Sr., of the sign.

"Or maybe sawing it down. But he is going to take it down. We'll all help, but the whole point is for him to take the damn thing down."

There may be a party, she said. "At first, you know, maybe just a little thing for the people he knows best. Then later, if he's for it, a wild party for everybody.

"I tell you, everybody is going to bawl and squall."

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