

Iran officials apologize, free captured U.S. citizens

United Press International
TEHRAN, Iran — Embarrassed officials of Iran's new government freed scores of U.S. citizens Monday and Tuesday rounded up by overzealous gunoting followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The youthful guerrillas also shot up the Hilton and Intercontinental Hotels — favored by visiting Americans and other foreigners — threatened Americans at gunpoint in the streets, and pillaged the U.S. Communications Agency, where they tore apart pictures of President

Carter and looted office equipment.

"Are you an American?" menacing youths asked foreigners. Anyone who said yes was taken to Khomeini headquarters where revolutionary officials offered apologies and released them. The U.S. Embassy estimated that a total of about 50 Americans was detained.

"Some Americans were brought to us by our Islamic Police but they were immediately released," a rebel official said.

"They couldn't apologize enough when we showed up at rebel head-

quarters," said Robert McKinnon, vice president and general manager of Bell Helicopter Co.'s Iran operations.

McKinnon, a retired U.S. army general, and five other Bell Helicopter employees were detained for four hours after rebels shot up the Hilton Hotel housing 350 people, most of them Bell employees awaiting evacuation to the United States.

Armed youths robbed rooms of jewelry, boots, hats and cameras, but later returned some of the loot. No one had anything robbed from his person.

One American suffered a flesh wound in the arm and a burn wound on the wrist from blazing bullets. Another was kicked in the stomach. None suffered more than superficial injuries.

The Intercontinental Hotel, housing 200 U.S. and other foreign journalists also was shot up in a skirmish between rival factions jockeying for the responsibility of policing the hotel against possible looters or rioters.



Misty and proud owner

Sherry Caftan, decked out in appropriate attire, displays her horse Misty at the Equestrian 4-H Show Club eighth annual Open Horse Show Saturday. Malcolm Calaway from Victoria judged the show. A weekend

training program for 4-H'ers and adult leaders on poultry and rabbit projects is planned for Saturday and Sunday at the Texas 4-H Center in Brownwood.

Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

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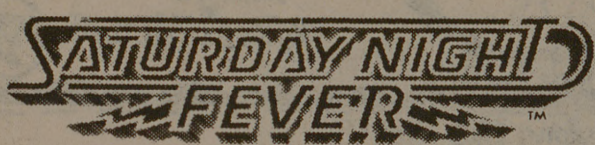
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Don't Delay!

Painters perk-up subways

United Press International
NEW YORK — If you think Michelangelo had it tough painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, think of the artists who have to work for cover every time a New York City subway car barrels into the "studio" at 45 mph.

Working at night doesn't make any easier — the city's subway system is a 24-hour-a-day operation. But the subway painters have at least one advantage over the artist: they're painting by numbers.

The brush-wielding is going on at 84 of New York's most heavily used subway stations as part of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's \$10 million "Operation Face Lift" program, timed to coincide with the subway system's 75th anniversary.

Phyllis Cerf Wagner, the wife of humorist Bennett Cerf, who now married to former Mayor Robert Wagner, picked the 12 artists from which various design schemes for the stations are being developed.

Among the dozen shades chosen to perk up the drab stations are satin, eldorado and beechwood. Paul Katz, the Transit Authority's chief architect, laid out his design plans for each station on a blueprint, which helps the painting contractors work by the numbers.

As the painters brush away, a flagman stands at the end of the platform, ready to alert the motorist of an approaching train that a new art is in progress. In a matter of moments, the painters clear tracks of their ladders and bring the train pass and go back to work.

Michelangelo had at least one advantage over the subway painter: more time. The Italian artist's work on the Sistine ceiling completed in about four years, the subway face lift, announced September, is slated for completion July 1.

Needed study costly for foreign students

By BONNIE HELWIG
Battalion Reporter

For some of the 1,125 foreign students attending Texas A&M University, learning English is made easier by the English Language Institute (ELI).

However, this study is often unexpected and places a financial burden on the student, said a graduate student from India who wished not to be identified.

The ELI offers English proficiency studies to help international students meet language requirements necessary for admission, said Jean Erb, coordinator of the institute.

International students are required to take an English proficiency test when they enroll at Texas A&M, even if they have received a previous degree from another university in the United States, said Corkey Sandel, until recently international student adviser.

If it is necessary for a student to have additional knowledge of English, he must enroll in the institute as a full-time or part-time student, said Erb.

The institute is financially independent of the Texas A&M University although it is housed in University facilities, said Dr. Ann Elmquist, director of ELI.

It costs approximately \$900 per semester for a full-time student to attend, said Erb, and the tuition and fees pay for the complete operation of the institute.

If an international student is required to enroll full time in the institute, it is necessary for him to postpone a semester of academic work at the University, the student said.

This causes him to delay his college work and makes his stay in the United States longer than expected, he said.

There are 62 full-time students enrolled in the institute this semester with 130 part-time students, said Erb.

Some of the faculty of Texas A&M have taken courses at the institute to improve their English, said Elmquist.

Not all the people who attend the institute are college students. Some countries have sent people to learn English at the institute and families of students and faculty have also attended, Erb said.

ELI has been in operation for five years, beginning as a summer program to prepare students for the fall semester. Now the program is year-round and is steadily increasing in size, said Elmquist.