

# Hinckley case examined



Staff photo by Irene Mees  
Stuart Taylor talks with Jeff Danuhger, a sophomore history major from Houston, before his speech.

by Shellee Bratton  
Battalion Reporter  
The jury found Hinckley not guilty of shooting President Ronald Reagan and three other men by reason of insanity, but Stuart Taylor, the legal correspondent for the New York Times said they should have found Hinckley guilty but mentally ill.

Taylor, who spoke Monday night at Rudder Forum, covered the Hinckley trial from beginning to end and still entertains a correspondance with him. He explained that although Hinckley was obviously mentally ill, he knew the difference between right and wrong and made a conscious decision to shoot President Reagan, and thus was not insane.

"Hinckley's mind was as much evil as it was sick," Taylor said. "He had knowledge of what he was doing no matter how bizarre his motives were."

The ambiguousness of the insanity clause was a major factor that contributed to Hinckley's acquittal, Taylor said. Although the insanity clause is so broad that it "undermines the idea of free will that the legal system is based upon," he doesn't think that it should be abolished. Instead, he offers three alternatives that would prevent it from being so manipulated again.

First, the burden should be on the defendant to prove his own

insanity. It is now the duty of the prosecution to prove that the defendant is sane and responsible for his own actions. The problem with this, Taylor said, is that it is difficult to prove that anyone is sane beyond a reasonable doubt.

Taylor also recommended that the legal definition of insanity should be narrowed and made clearer. He called the present definition a "linguistic bowl of mush," and added that he didn't think that the jurors in the Hinckley trial understood it when they passed their verdict.

Taylor said that the jurors were limited by the three possible verdicts of guilty, not guilty, and not guilty by reason of insanity. He suggested that the verdict of guilty but mentally ill should have been added to the choices. Under this verdict, as proposed by Taylor, a defendant would be subject to psychiatric treatment, and would face a prison term after being "cured." Under the not guilty by reason of insanity verdict, a defendant can be allowed back into society once he is pronounced cured.

Taylor said if Hinckley acts normal, he could probably be out of the institution and back in society in five years. If that is the case, Taylor said, Jodie Foster will constantly have to have body guards with her.

# Program ups student loans

by Jennifer Carr  
Battalion Staff  
R.M. Logan, director emeritus of student financial aid at Texas A&M University, has started a program which will enable local banks to finance more guaranteed student loans.

The Southeast Texas Higher Education Authority purchases loan notes from local banks, enabling the banks to use that money for more loans, said Logan, who directed the student financial aid office for 18 years before he retired.

Through the Guaranteed Student Loan program, the federal government assumes responsibility for paying student loans interest until the student leaves school.

Banks receive only the interest on the loan until the students begin to repay the principle. In the new program, the federal interest goes to the Authority to cover interest on bonds used to finance the program. A student can borrow money his freshman year and not begin to repay it until after his doctorate, Logan said.

Most local banks are small, Logan said, and do not have the

funds to finance all the long-term student loan applications they receive. When banks sell loan notes to the Authority, the money becomes available for more student loans, Logan said.

The Authority, which is governed by eight members of a board of directors, then notifies the student and continues to service the loan until the student pays in full.

The program operates through sale of the bonds,

Logan said. Although the group was authorized two years ago, market conditions and changing government rules have made bond sales unfeasible until this year.

Logan said the group sells the bonds to an underwriter, who sells them on the open market. The money from the first 5,000-bond issue at \$5,000 each totaled \$25 million. It will be used to purchase notes over the next three years, he said.

Logan said the Authority is not involved in the loan application process. To receive a loan, a student must take an application, available from the student financial aid office, to a lending institution which participates in the GSL program.

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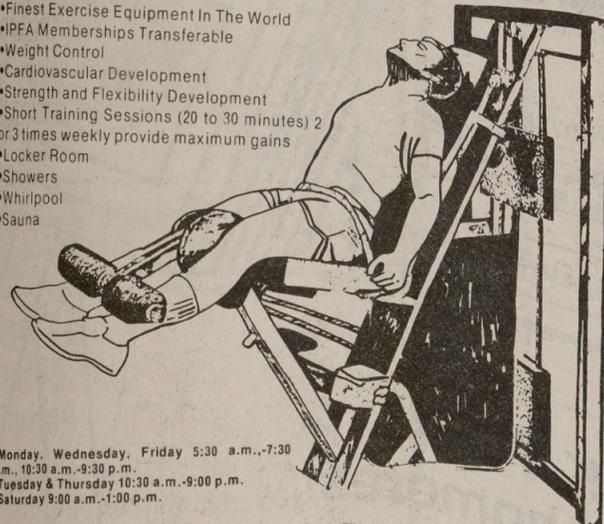
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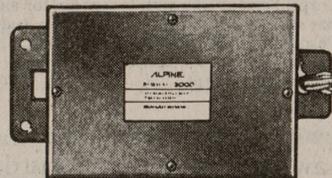
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