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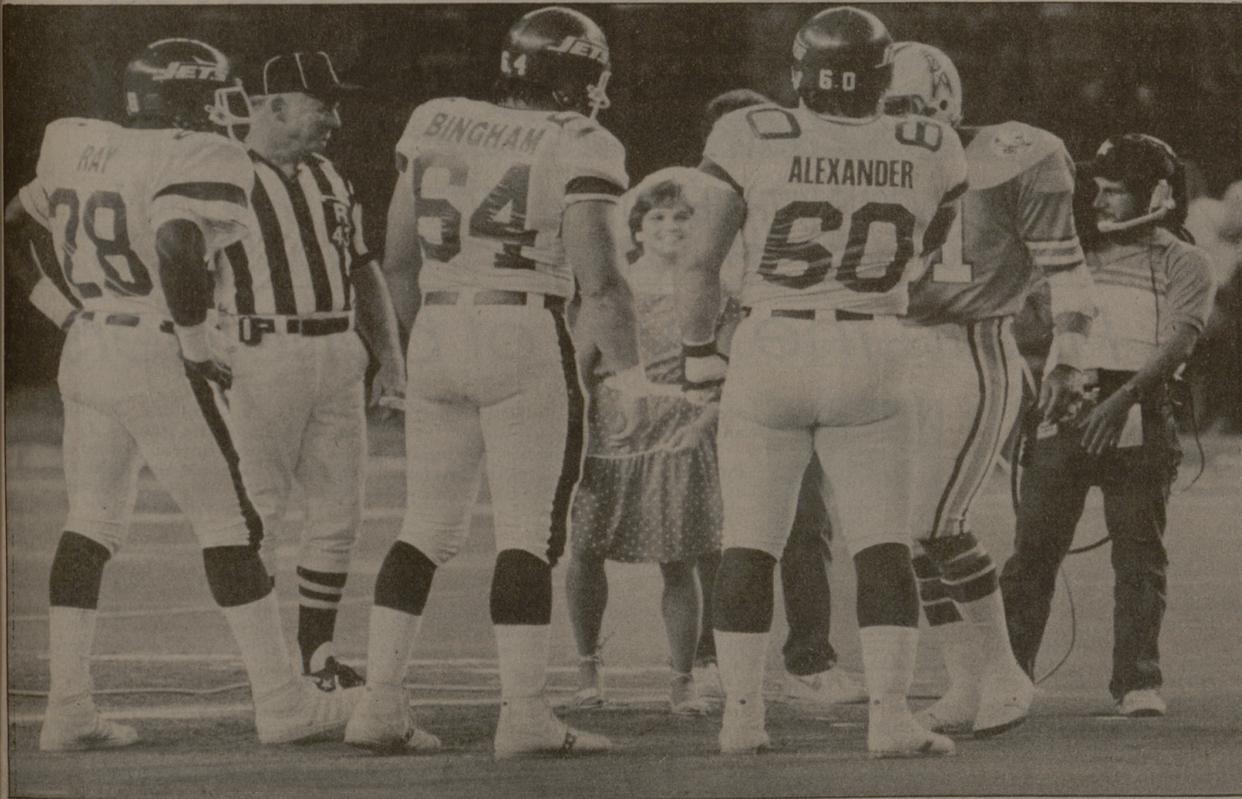
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Gymnast flips — coin

Photo by PETER ROCHA

Olympic gold medalist Mary Lou Retton meets members of the New York Jets and the Houston Oilers before last Saturday night's game in the Astrodome. Retton, who is 16, re-

turned to Houston, where she trains, after finishing the Olympics in Los Angeles. She flipped the coin before the game and received an ovation.

Dorm check-in/out starts Friday

By KARI FLUEGEL
Staff Writer

Beginning Monday morning, residence halls that have stood vacant for three months will open for the fall semester. However, before the halls can be open for the fall, the students living in dorms for summer school must check out.

All summer halls will close Friday. All students must be moved out and checked out by 6 p.m., Tom Murray, housing services supervisor, said.

To check out students must have their room checked by their resident advisors, return the keys and sign an inventory card. Each student must check out with the resident advisor. One roommate may not check out for the other.

Graduating seniors may stay in their rooms Friday night, but must check out with their head residents by 10 a.m. Saturday.

Students who have been living in the residence halls during the summer sessions will be allowed to check into their fall spaces from 1 to 8 p.m. Friday. Only students who have been living on campus during the

summer will be allowed to check in early, Murray said. No exceptions will be made.

If summer school students are not checked into their fall rooms by 8 p.m., they will have to wait until the halls open at 10 a.m. Monday.

Residence hall staff also will allow freshmen attending Fish Camp C to put their belongings in their rooms from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Sunday.

"This will not be an official check-in," Murray said. "They won't get their keys yet."

Fall dormitory check-in officially begins Monday at 10 a.m., Murray said. Students have until 5 p.m. Aug. 27 to claim their rooms or they will forfeit their spaces.

To check in, students should report to their assigned dorms and present their paid fee receipts.

Murray said the busiest and most hectic time to check in is Monday or Tuesday.

"If you can wait, come later," he said.

The first time room and hall change requests will be accepted will be Aug. 24. Requests will not be ac-

cepted before that time for several reasons, Murray said.

First, students who turn in requests early in the week often change their minds about moving after meeting people in their dorm. Secondly, the housing office cannot act on room requests until final housing numbers are available after check in ends.

Check in closes at 5 p.m. Aug. 27 which also is the deadline for room and hall change requests. Cards for room changes will be available from the head residents and cards for hall changes will be available in the area offices.

The housing office will begin to notify students of room and hall changes and permanent assignments for students in temporary spaces the evening of Aug. 29. Approval cards will be distributed by the head resident or resident advisor. Students should not change rooms or halls without proper authorization, Murray said.

Students moving to a different

room or hall must be out of their original space by 5 p.m. Aug. 31.

After assigning spaces to students in temporary situations, the housing office will begin assigning spaces to walk-on applicants.

Signing the walk-on list does not guarantee that any space will be available, Murray said. If spaces do become available, they will be assigned in priority order according to the date of the student's application for housing.

Students will be able to sign the walk-on list from Aug. 22 to Aug. 30 starting at noon.

Beginning at 9 a.m. Aug. 31, students will be able to find out if they have been assigned a space. If the walk-on student has not claimed the space by 5 p.m. Aug. 31, it will be re-assigned.

It is the student's obligation to claim check with the housing office to claim his or her space, Murray said.

GOP platform committee nixes tax hike

United Press International

DALLAS — Rebellious conservatives ignored opposition from White House watchdogs Tuesday and re-wrote the Republican Party platform to prohibit President Reagan from raising taxes after election day.

Reagan aides who thought up to the last moment they could forge a compromise that would give Reagan a loophole in case of emergencies, caved in after a unanimous subcommittee vote went against them.

"We can live with it," said former Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis, Reagan's chief operative at the platform drafting. "He will not have to repudiate the platform."

The rest of the platform, which Reagan can ignore as Republican and Democratic presidential contenders have frequently done in the past, went straight down the conservative White House line.

The document made no mention of the Equal Rights Amendment, proposed a constitutional amendment banning abortion, called for a hardline stance toward the Soviet Union and demands a continuation of Reagan's military buildup.

Lewis said the White House likely will not fight against the tough anti-tax language on the floor of an otherwise coronation-like Republican National Convention that opens in Dallas next Monday.

The administration suffered a series of setbacks in the economic subcommittee which also inserted language calling for a modified flat tax that would tax most incomes at the same rate. The committee had to roll back on a proposal to stop taxing income from saving account interest when they were told by the administration it would add \$7 billion a year to the deficit.

The determination of conservatives was voiced by Rep. Vin Weber of Minnesota, who told reporters: "I believe we should have an unequivocal, absolute, ironclad statement against taxes and I'm not going to back away from that until the convention is over. I don't want to compromise."

The anti-tax hike language concludes: "We therefore oppose any attempts to increase taxes, which would harm the recovery and reverse the trend to restore control of the economy to individual Americans."

The key to the sentence was the comma after "taxes" which when inserted, bans all tax hikes. Without the comma the sentence would ban only those tax increases which hurt the economic recovery.

Disciplinary hearings begin in assault case

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

Disciplinary hearings began Tuesday for six Texas A&M students arrested Thursday and charged with an attack on another student.

"The hearing process will probably be completed this week," said Bill Kibler, assistant director of student affairs.

Kibler said no decision has been made about whether the students will be expelled. That decision depends on each student's involvement in the incident. He said he may try to get additional information about the incident from other students.

The students and their lawyers refused to comment Tuesday.

The closed hearings continued for about three-and-a-half hours Tuesday afternoon.

The incident occurred Aug. 5 when the victim was invited to another student's dorm room for a pizza, police said. He reported to police that he was grabbed, stripped of his underwear, bound and gagged,

then taken outside and put in the back of a pickup truck. He told police he was covered with molasses and feathers and left in front of Tinsley's restaurant in College Station after unsuccessful attempts to chain him to a light pole. College Station police found him as he walked down Texas Avenue.

The students have been charged with criminal assault and false imprisonment, both misdemeanors. The county court administrator's office said the students probably will be arraigned later this month.

The students charged in the incident are: Evangelos Lorentzatos, 19, of Houston; Manuel Gardea Jr., 21, of Galena Park; Philip E. Shaw, 21, of Galena Park; John S. McDonald, 18, of Houston and Ernesto Rodriguez, 17, of Houston. Each paid a bond of \$375 Thursday night and was released from Brazo County Jail.

University officials said the victim withdrew from the University Friday.

Banks warn: treat cards like money

Local credit card fraud growing

By Dolores Hajovsky
Reporter

The "plastic money" of today that makes life easier for shoppers also can bring difficulties they can't afford. Credit card abuse is a growing problem because stolen credit cards are so easy to use.

Credit card purchasers seldom have to show identification or proof of ownership, said Angie Scarmardo, bank card manager at First Bank and Trust.

And in most cases, nothing happens to people caught using a stolen credit card unless they confess to the crime, said Lt. Bernard Kapella of the College Station Police Department. Credit card fraud is a third

degree felony, which means if a person is convicted of the crime the penalty is 2 to 10 years in the state penitentiary and/or a fine of up to \$5,000.

Last year 40 cases of fraud with losses totalling \$1,963, were reported to College Station Police. Thirteen of the cases still are not cleared, said Chris Schommer, a records technician for the College Station Police Department.

Last year there were more than \$1 million in stolen card costs reported to First Bank and Trust by its cardholders, and about \$15,000 had to be written off, Scarmardo said.

So far this year there have been 25 cases of fraud, Schommer said — a

67 percent increase over the same time last year. Most of the time it is one or two people who keep using a stolen credit card, she said.

Kapella said people need to be careful when using credit cards so they will not become victims of credit card fraud. He said that after using credit cards the owners should be sure to take the carbon papers along with their part of the receipt. Anyone can learn credit card numbers and card holder names from discarded carbons, and once an account number falls into the wrong hands the bills add up, he said.

Kapella said customers should be wary of giving out credit card numbers over the telephone for pur-

chases. There is no way to tell what happens with the account number after the intended purchase is made, he said.

Kapella said all bills should be checked to make sure purchases equal receipts in hand.

When a MasterCard or Visa card is reported stolen the account number is put in a warning bulletin for 30 days, Scarmardo said. If someone is caught using a stolen card the card is cut apart. It is up to the store to deal with the individual.

Banks that issue cards give this advice: Treat credit cards and account numbers as you would cash and never let them out of sight.

In Today's Battalion

Local

- A Texas A&M architecture professor says Texas is lacking energy efficient building designs. See story page 4.
- A Hindu religious leader will speak Thursday at Texas A&M. See story page 5.

State

- Riding with a load of watermelons, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower drew attention to the state's program to help farmers market their produce directly to food stores. See story page 10.