

Graduation speakers highlight ceremony

See page 4

Faculty workshop planned for January

See page 3

Charitable Aggies should be cautious

See page 4

# The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol. 80 No. 71 USPS 045360 14 pages

College Station, Texas

Monday, December 10, 1984

## Falwell not libeled by publisher

United Press International

ROANOKE, Va. — Sex magazine publisher Larry Flynt did not libel the Rev. Jerry Falwell by printing an advertisement parody marking the evangelist as an incestuous drunk, but he did intentionally inflict emotional distress, a federal jury decided Saturday night.

The jury ruled there was no libel because the ad's claims, published in the sexually explicit Hustler magazine, were too outrageous to be believed, but it said Falwell was entitled to \$100,000 in actual damages for emotional distress and \$100,000 in punitive damages for what it said was a malicious parody.

Flynt's lawyers planned to ask U.S. Judge James Turk to set aside the award and said they were prepared to appeal to the Supreme Court if necessary.

The jurors deliberated about six hours in reaching their verdict on emotional distress and actual damages, then resumed work to determine the punitive damages.

The jury said Flynt, Hustler magazine and the publication's distributor must pay \$100,000 in actual damages, then ordered Flynt and the magazine to pay an additional \$50,000 each in punitive damages. The distributor was not ordered to shoulder any of the punitive damages.

"I consider it a victory in many ways," Flynt said. "He was asking for \$45 million, and we feel there's enough error in the case that it will be set aside on appeal."

Flynt claimed the jury's rejection of the libel charge upheld his First Amendment right to poke fun at hypocrisy in sex, politics and religion.

Arch enemies for a decade, Falwell and Flynt had never met until the trial. Both said Saturday they plan to continue their legal battle to the Supreme Court.

"The jury made it clear that Larry Flynt and the other sleaze merchants of America can no longer maliciously attack public figures and get away with it," Falwell said.

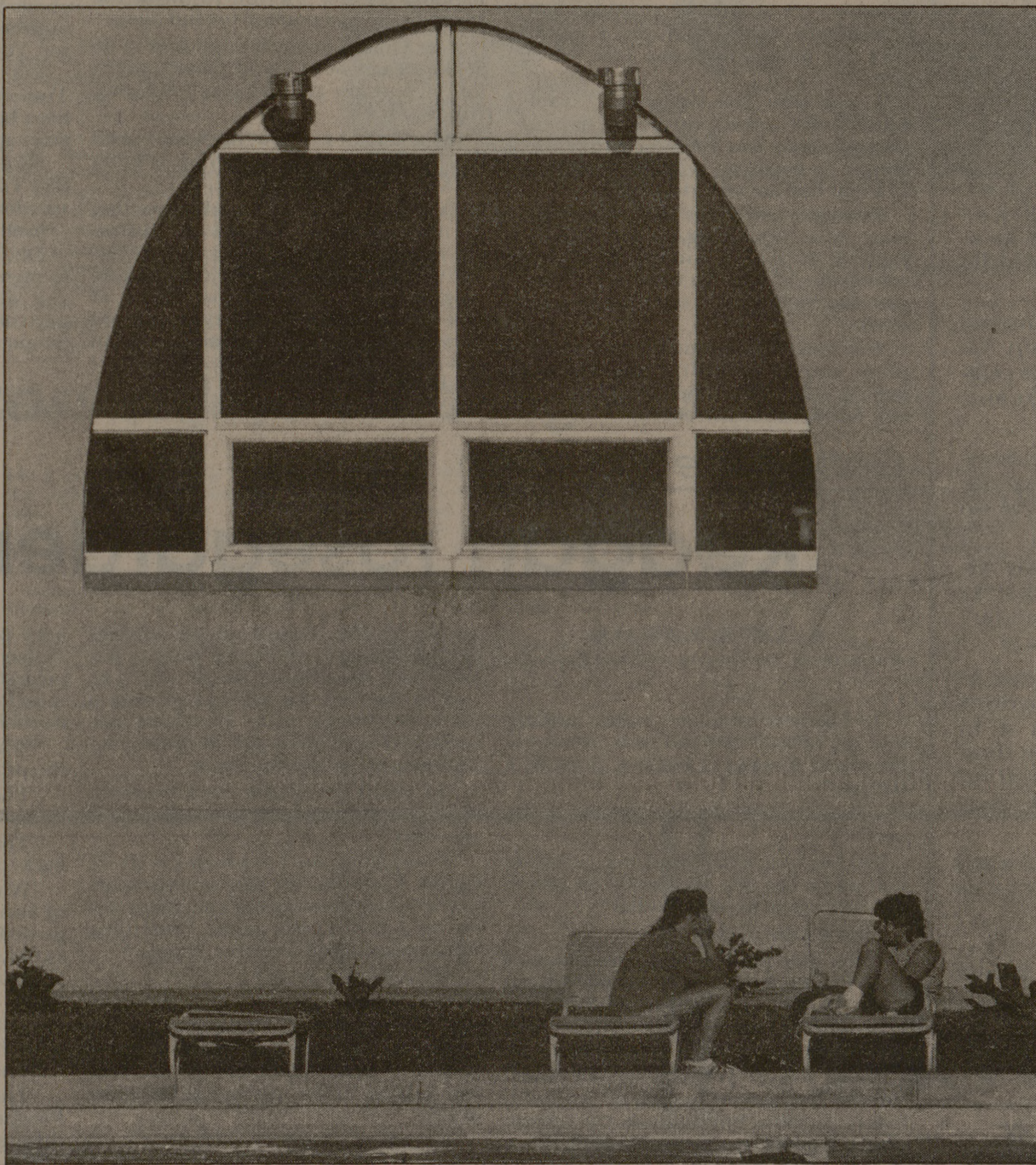


Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Along these lines

Cathy Smith and Michele Hawkes take advantage of warm weather by sitting under

the lines of the Down's Natatorium window to follow their own lines of conversation.

## Hijack ends as Iranians storm airliner

United Press International

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Iranian security men disguised as cleaners stormed a hijacked Kuwaiti jetliner in a blaze of gunfire in Tehran Sunday, freed nine hostages and captured the four air pirates who had threatened to blow up the plane with everyone on board, Iran said.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said the nearly six days of terror at Tehran airport ended with the Arabic-speaking hijackers and the hostages seen leaving the plane with their hands raised.

Businessman John Costa, 50, one of two Americans reported freed, described the rescue operation as "excellent," the agency reported in a dispatch monitored in Beirut. The British pilot also was released.

"The operation went by so fast and unexpectedly that I didn't notice it," Costa told IRNA from a hospital bed.

The agency said Costa, whose hometown was not given, was being treated for bruised eyes in the Iran Air medical center at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport.

The unidentified air pirates were reported to have terrorized the hostages with beatings and death threats at gunpoint, at one point threatening to put the Americans "on trial" for their life.

The Foreign Ministry in Tehran said the rescue began after a top Iranian official announced Iran's plans in an airport meeting with the charge d'affaires of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia and the ambassadors of Syria, Pakistan and Switzerland.

IRNA said the hijackers "are said to have been severely beaten up during the raid. But latest reports have not indicated if they were also suffering from gunshot wounds."

Iranian security men stormed the

Kuwait Airways A-300 Airbus at 11:45 p.m., seven hours after the hijackers told the control tower they had packed the plane with explosives and were saying their "final prayers" before blowing up the plane with all aboard, IRNA said.

"The hijackers had asked for service men to clean up the plane," IRNA said. "When they (security men) arrived in disguise, they grabbed one of the hijackers and pushed him down the stairs."

IRNA said the operation was carried out "swiftly enough to prevent any counter actions by the armed hijackers. Seconds later, everyone inside came out while bursts of gunfire were being heard all around the plane," IRNA said.

Just hours before the plane was stormed, the hijackers freed seven crew members, including the British flight engineer, but then radioed the control tower and repeated their threat to blow up the plane.

Asked before the jetliner was stormed whether he thought the hijackers would have blown up the plane, flight engineer Beeston said, "Yes. They were planning to blow the plane up. Yes. Whatever they say, they will do."

The hijackers seized the jetliner Tuesday shortly after takeoff from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, with 166 people aboard on a flight to Karachi, Pakistan, and forced the pilot to fly to Tehran's Mehrabad Airport.

Once in Tehran, the hijackers demanded that the Kuwaiti government free 17 people convicted of carrying out a wave of bombings of U.S. and French facilities in Kuwait last December.

## Campus check-cashing limited to MSC

# Large checks difficult to cash

By KENNETH SURY

Reporter

"How am I supposed to get cash these days?"

That's been the question on the minds of many Texas A&M students this semester since the fiscal office stopped cashing checks in the Coke Building.

Many students have wondered why this handy service for getting cash was suddenly stripped away from them, for no apparent reason. Bob Piwonka, manager of Student

Financial Services, said there was a very good reason for the cancellation of the service.

"We had a physical space problem here the last seven and eight years," Piwonka said. The biggest problem caused by the long lines, he said, was the inability to help the students who needed to pay their fee slips or take care of any financial aid problems.

"Everybody has to pay fees," Piwonka said. "We just want to help them get in and out." The long lines to cash checks at times really pressed

students for time, he said.

Piwonka said he feels the automated teller machines near the Memorial Student Center have probably alleviated some of the students' problems in trying to get cash.

Virginia Arnold, manager of the MSC Main Desk, said she also feels the automated teller machines have eased the situation.

Arnold said that when the Coke Building stopped cashing checks she expected to be swamped with students writing checks at the MSC. But

the percentage of checks and the total amount of money given out this October was actually less than the amount given out during October 1983 when checks could still be cashed at the Coke Building, she said.

The MSC main desk cashes personal checks for \$5, \$10, \$15, \$20 and \$25.

The problem of getting cash really hits those students who don't

See Checks, page 12

# Probation a student's nightmare

Editor's note: This is the first article in a three part series on scholastic probation.

By SUZANNA YBARRA

Reporter

Scholastic probation to some students means no more than going to summer school to make up a few bad grades from the regular semester. But to others, probation is a nightmare. They feel like the flunked-out fat boy in the television commercial who comes home on the train, defeated at school because his parents failed to buy him a computer.

Unless students are actually involved in the probation process, they probably could care less about it. More than 4,000 students cared about it last spring. These students each had cumulative grade point ra-

tios of less than 2.0. That doesn't necessarily mean a student is on scholastic probation. That's up to the student's college to decide. But if all 4,000 students had been put on probation last spring, that would have been about one of every 10 students at Texas A&M.

Why do so many students find themselves facing the possibility of probation? The reasons vary as much as the students do.

Samuel M. Gillespie, assistant dean for the college of business, says he sees students who are having love, drug, money, roommate or family problems. Gillespie, who is in charge of the undergraduate students on scholastic probation, says he's heard all kinds of reasons why students are having academic diffi-

culties, but family problems are the most prominent.

"Family unhappiness — most students have difficulty coping with that," Gillespie says. Many students' grades fall when their parents are getting divorced or a family member dies, he says.

Sometimes it's helpful if students come to explain why their grades are slipping, he says. But he usually isn't aware a student is having problems until the end of the semester.

"Some have too much pride," Gillespie says. "They try to work it out for themselves and we're their last resort."

For example, one student jeopardized her grades while she was trying to cope with her roommate's illness, bulimia. She waited like most

students until the end of the semester to bring her problem to his attention.

Bulimia is the abnormal and constant craving for food. Its victims, called bulimics, gorge themselves on food then force themselves to vomit soon after the binge. Sometimes bulimics don't even have to force themselves to vomit; it comes naturally.

All semester the student watched her roommate binge, then vomit — sometimes in their living room and bedroom. She was a bundle of nerves by the time she came to Gillespie's office.

While most students don't have bulimic roommates who help to destroy their GPRs, they probably can-

See Probation, page 12

## Cautionary steps for holiday break

By PAMELA WENTWORTH

Reporter

Due to energy related problems suffered from last winter's below freezing temperatures, dorm residents and apartment renters are advised to take all necessary precautions before leaving for the holidays.

Glen Ferris, housing operations supervisor, said a radiator pipe broke in Walton Hall last year because some radiators were turned off, causing the circulation of water to stop.

"When it got so cold last year, the pipe broke on the third floor," Ferris said. "Nobody knows how many hours the water had been flowing," Ferris said. "It was like a gully of water coming down the stairwell all the way to the floor."

Ferris said Underwood Hall experienced water damage on the first floor last year.

"The power plant shut down and stopped hot water from coming on campus. This caused the coil unit in Underwood to break and parts of the first floor were flooded."

This year, Ferris said housing operations hope to resolve these problems through preventive maintenance.

"As soon as the students leave, a maintenance team will go around to all radiator operated dorms to make sure they are not turned off," he said. "This will allow the hot water to circulate."

In the modular dormitories, Ferris said the maintenance crew will keep the fans at low temperatures to keep the air circulating. Also, maintenance personnel will monitor all residence halls periodically during the holidays to check for any possible damages.

Energy Specialist Charlie Shear said the best way for off-campus students to save energy is to turn off the electricity completely. However, this can cause frozen pipe damage and refrigerator compressor accumulation.

Shear suggests alternative solutions to saving energy while away. Close all windows tightly and make sure the weatherstripping on all doors and windows is securely sealed, Shear said. Newspapers, towels and blankets can be used to stop air infiltration.

If the heater is turned off completely, Shear said it is best to make arrangements with the apartment manager to turn the heater on in case of low temperatures.

However, if the heater is left on, it is best to keep the thermostat on 55 F.

Shear said students not keeping food in their refrigerators should set the temperature at the warmest setting and defrost the freezer.

Other helpful tips include unplugging all small appliances, placing insulation wrap on outside faucets and writing down the electric meter and water meter readings prior to departing.