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The Battalion

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Party hosts responsible for guests

By LYNN RAE POVEC
Staff Writer

No doubt parties will be a part of the fast-approaching holiday celebrations, and planning ahead can keep the good time from being spoiled.

If a host serves alcohol at his party and a guest later is injured or killed in an alcohol-related accident, the host could be sued for damages. The host also could be sued if the drunk guest injures someone else or causes damage to another's property.

In a New Jersey case about eight months ago, a judge found the host of a party liable for damages later caused by his intoxicated guest, said Kirk Brown, president of the local chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Drivers and a member of the Texas A&M faculty.

Brown and Jan Winniford, assistant director of student affairs at A&M, suggest some steps a host can take to keep guests from over-indulging:

• Don't make drinking the primary focus of a party. Provide activities like games and dancing to cut down on the number of people standing around.

• Make sure non-alcoholic beverages are available to guests. Let the guest choose whether or not to drink, and honor his decision. Also, don't encourage drinking by proposing toast after toast.

• Serve snacks that are high in protein rather than salt. Potato chips usually make guests thirsty, but high-protein cheeses and vegetable dips slow the rate at which alcohol is absorbed into the blood.

• Toward the end of the party, serve less alcohol and more food. A desert, like cake with coffee, will turn guests attention from snacks and drinks.

• Serve alcoholic drinks yourself, and don't serve doubles. Some people count and pace their drinks, and serving singles will cut down on their consumption. By serving guests yourself, you can monitor the proportion of alcohol in a mixed drink.

• Finally, take responsibility for guests. Designate drivers, those who will not drink, at the on-set of the party. If a guest is too intoxicated to drive, get him a ride or a taxi, or invite him to stay the night.

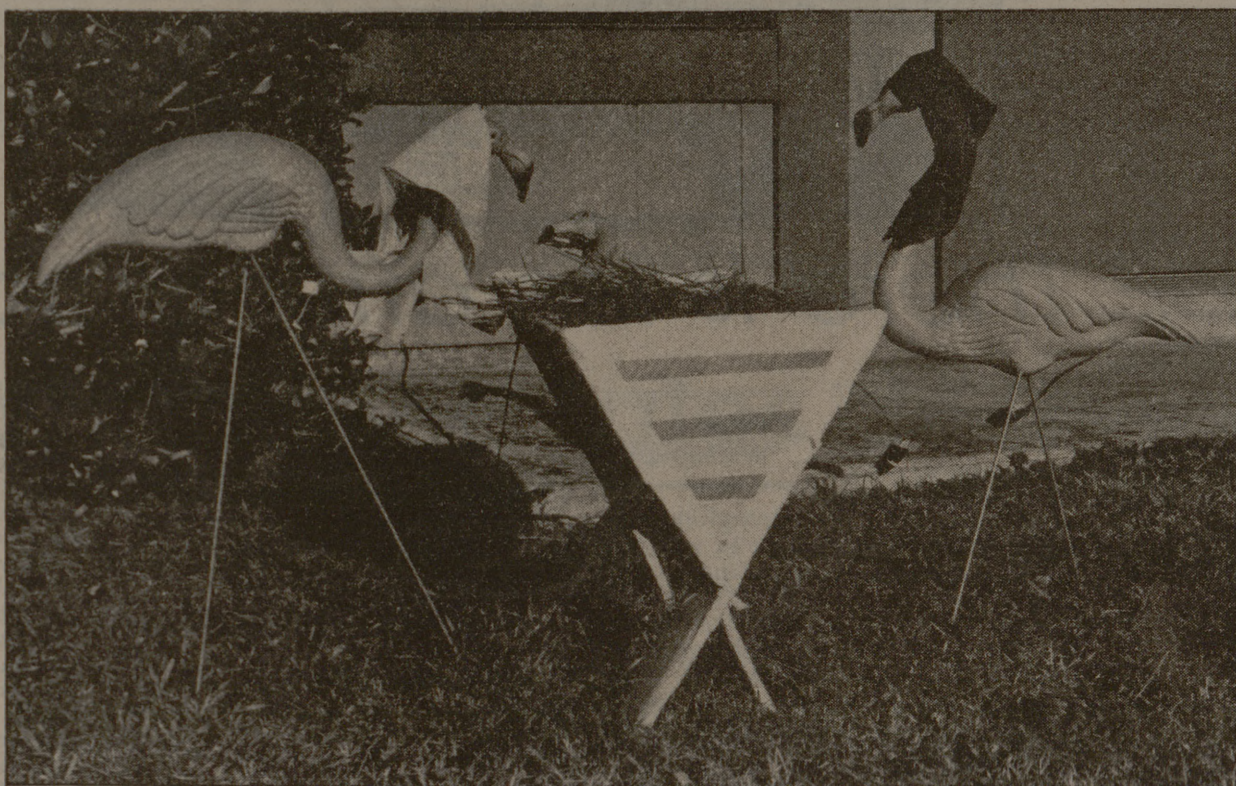


Photo by KATHERINE P. HURT

What flamingo is this?

Texas A&M students David Restivo, Allan Joy and Walter Smith got creative with their

nativity scene this Christmas. This scene is at 409 Aurora Court in College Station

MSC spraying to go on for about 2 more weeks

By KARLA K. MARTIN
Staff Writer

The parking inconvenience caused by the roof spraying of the Memorial Student Center should end in about two weeks, says Dennis Busch, assistant manager of the University Center.

The old MSC roof, which is about 10 years old, is being replaced because of water leakages. The roofs of Rudder Tower and Rudder Theater were also replaced.

Busch said that the new roofs are made with a new type of chemical foam that dries in seconds.

"It's sprayed on three or four inches thick," Busch said, "and we

see that the strong winds could be a big problem blowing that foam around.

"If cars parked next to the building and the foam landed on them before the it dried," Busch said, "then the only way you could get it off would be to chip it off, and when you chip off the foam, you would probably chip off the paint too."

This \$750,000 project, done by the CIA Roofing Construction Co., began in June and was expected to be finished by October, but bad weather slowed down its completion.

Maj. Mike Ragan, assistant chief of the University Police Department, said there has not been too big of a

problem with blocking off part of the road and the drive in front of the MSC.

"For a while, the buses had problems maneuvering between the barrels (set out to block the parking spaces)," Ragan said. "But we finally got the barrels adjusted just right to where they can drive through easily."

"On the whole, people have honored the barrels and not parked there."

While no complaints of car damage caused by the roof spraying have been reported, Busch said the parking still remains an inconvenience.

Hostages say Iran supplied hijackers guns

United Press International

Two Americans freed from a hijacked Kuwaiti airliner headed home Tuesday as other hostages charged that Iranian authorities supplied the hijackers with guns, ropes and handcuffs during six terror-filled days at Tehran airport.

The Americans, scarred and bruised from beatings and torture at the hands of the hijackers, arrived in Kuwait with other hostages aboard a Kuwaiti jetliner that picked them up in Tehran, the official Kuwaiti News Agency said.

Meanwhile on Tuesday, in Washington President Reagan's spokesman charged Iran "clearly encouraged extreme behavior" by hijackers who murdered two Americans and warned the Khomeini government it must bring the sky pirates to justice.

Deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes said Reagan "has a sense of outrage" that the terrifying drama continued for six days. "Many aspects of the government of Iran's handling of this situation raise profound and disturbing questions, to which we are seeking answers," he said.

Nonetheless, Speakes said, "We've seen enough to justify our conclusions" that Iran failed to act promptly or humanely.

Speakes noted that under an anti-hijacking treaty that Iran has signed, the government of the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini "has an obligation to submit the hijackers' case to prosecutorial authorities or to extradite them to another country for trial."

He warned that the "American attitude and actions toward (Iran) will be conditioned on whether it meets its obligations and by our assessment of its role during this tragic incident."

As Reagan ended a meeting with President Seyni Kountche of Niger, he was asked whether he planned to retaliate against Iran. "We're waiting to talk to our people when they get back and understand" what happened, he said.

"Even if they weren't in collusion, the Iranians could have done a better job," Reagan said at the White House.

The Americans on board the hijacked plane were Charles Kapar, a U.S. Agency for International Development auditor from Arlington, Va., and John Costa, 50, a New York businessman. Both were treated at a medical center in the Iranian capital.

Two Britons, presumably Kuwait Airways pilot John Henry Clark and flight engineer Neil Beeston, four Kuwaiti officials and several passengers from Tanzania and Middle Eastern countries also were on the plane, the news agency reported.

Two Americans, both AID officials, were killed by the air pirates, who seized the plane with 166 people aboard last Tuesday after it stopped in Dubai en route from Kuwait to Pakistan.

The ordeal ended Sunday when Iranian security guards stormed the Kuwait Airways jet and seized the hijackers and freed the last hostages.

The return of the hostages coincided with charges from two released passengers in Karachi, Pakistan, that Iranian authorities supplied the four Arabic-speaking hijackers with ropes, handcuffs and weapons.

"They had silver-colored pistols when they hijacked the plane and they had nothing except that," said Sheik Abdul Hafiz, 50, a Kuwait Airways catering officer.

"After two days, they had 38 revolvers, iron handcuffs they put on the American passengers and nylon ropes by which they tied me and other passengers," he said.

Speakes said Kapar and Costa would be flown to Frankfurt, West Germany to meet with U.S. officials. The bodies of the two Americans slain by the hijackers were flown earlier to Frankfurt from Tehran.

They were believed to be AID officials Charles Hegna, of Sterling, Virginia, and William L. Stanford, a resident of Karachi, Pakistan. Positive identification of the bodies was expected to be made in Frankfurt.

The hijackers had demanded the release of 17 comrades jailed for bombing the U.S. and French embassies and other U.S. commercial interests in Kuwait on Dec. 12, 1983. Kuwait refused to consider the demand, a decision praised by Reagan.

Probation difficult to overcome

This is the final article in a three part series on scholastic probation at Texas A&M.

By SUZANNA YBARRA
Reporter

Most students say the hardest thing about scholastic probation is getting off.

Philip Beard remembers his bout with scholastic probation in 1974 quite well. Beard, manager of University Bookstore, was placed on probation after his first semester here. Although he earned a 1.91 GPA — a grade point average that almost 4,000 students below a 2.0 here would envy — Beard says that

first semester's grades haunted him all the way to graduation.

Why does Beard think he did so poorly? His reasons are common. "The college was so much different from high school," he says. "I got up here and didn't know how to study and didn't apply myself." He attended help sessions but didn't know where to go for outside help.

Beard says his worst fear if he didn't meet his probation terms was getting kicked out of married student housing.

"I probably couldn't afford to live anywhere else," Beard says. "Rent was \$45 a month in the fall of '74."

He feared he would have to go to work full-time to support his wife Sandra. If he did that, he would never finish school.

Beard says he was all on his own when it came to studying. His wife tried to help, but his studies went past what she had had in high school.

Michael Foderetti gives his fiancée Lenette Mandola much of the credit for helping him overcome his grade problems. Foderetti, a manager trainee for Luby's Restaurants in San Antonio, transferred from Youngstown State in Ohio in 1981.

He says moving down from Ohio

by himself and learning to adjust to college life away from home were some of the reasons he posted a 1.8 his first semester here. He started working while going to school, which added an extra burden, and he says Texas A&M is more difficult than Youngstown State.

"What turned it around was I put a lot more time into studying," Foderetti says. "Lenette helped out a lot. It was through her studying habits that mine increased. Her major made her study so much that it rubbed off on me. I wanted to spend

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Town keeps Christmas spirit all year

United Press International

CHRISTMAS, Fla. — Cards and packages are flowing into the post office, lines are forming and strangers are finding their way around town.

It's Christmas time in Christmas. The atmosphere around Christmas hardly resembles a picture-book Christmas — the town in central Florida is 4,000 miles from the North Pole and snow would scare the residents to death.

But Santa Claus is alive and well in Christmas and so is the Christmas spirit.

"We always greet people with a

smile," said Joy Chittum, the postmaster. "We try to make them feel good, and we want them to leave in good spirits. The Christmas spirit."

Chittum's tiny post office, adorned with orange shutters and Christmas greens, is the center of holiday activity in Christmas.

Residents from all over Florida and tourists from all over the world — in central Florida to visit Walt Disney World or other attractions — flock to the post office each December to mail their cards and packages for one reason: the Christmas postmark.

People drive miles out of their

way to stand in line at the post office. "With all the crowds we have and the long lines, we very, very rarely have anybody grumble or complain," said Chittum. "They come here in the right frame of mind."

Others who can't make the trip mail their cards in boxes to the post office for the postmark. Mail seeking the Christmas mark comes from as far away as Germany and Japan.

Chittum expects her five-person office will handle more than 150,000 pieces of mail this Christmas season. On some particularly busy days, the postal workers might handle 20,000

pieces of mail — 40 times the normal daily workload.

The town has such street names as Reindeer Road, St. Nicholas Street and Antler Street, and a 40-foot "permanent" Christmas tree stays decorated year-round across the street from the post office.

Christmas was named during a siege on Christmas Day 1837 when soldiers fighting the Seminole Indians occupied a log fort and called it Fort Christmas.

A community grew up around the fort, which still stands, and many current residents are descendants of those settlers.

Koldus receives award for service

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

Dr. John Koldus, Texas A&M vice president of student services, has been named recipient of the regional Fred Turner Distinguished Service Award for outstanding administrative service to students.

The award, presented annually by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Inc., honors Koldus as the top university student administrator in the Association's region III, which is comprised of 11 Southeastern states. NASPA is divided into six regions in the United States.

"It's nice," Koldus said of the award. "It's nice to be recognized by your colleagues."

The award is given to NASPA members who make "contributions above and beyond the normal service required by a position of leadership," said Becky Tinker, a graduate student and NASPA member at the University of Louisville.

Other requirements include 10 years of NASPA membership and nomination by three association members who are in leadership



Dr. John Koldus

roles. Koldus joined the Association in 1967.

"It's very prestigious," said Jan Winniford, A&M assistant director of student services and a member of NASPA. "It's a great honor to receive it."

Koldus also has been nominated for the award at the national level. The national Fred Turner Distinguished Service Award will be awarded in March at the Association's annual conference. Koldus said he plans to attend the conference.