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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Jury finds Time guilty in defamation case

NEW YORK — A federal jury decided Wednesday that Time magazine defamed Ariel Sharon in a cover story about the massacre of Palestinian civilians, then resumed deliberations to determine whether the former Israeli defense minister was libeled.

The finding meant that the jury had decided in favor of Sharon on the first of three issues, all of which must be resolved in Sharon's favor for him to win his \$50 million libel suit.

Just after 11 a.m., the jury of four women and two men announced in court that the Feb. 21, 1983, Time story defamed Sharon because it meant he "consciously intended" Christian Lebanese militiamen to massacre Palestinian civilians in 1982.

"In other words, your answer to the first question is 'yes?'" asked U.S. District Court Judge Abraham D. Sofaer.

"Yes," said jury foreman Richard Zug.

The jury, which met for 15 hours — minus meal breaks — over three days, went back to the jury room immediately to deliberate on the remaining issues of falsity and malice.

A small smile cracked Sharon's face when the ruling was announced. His beaming wife, Lili, turned to the reporters across the aisle and winked. One of Sharon's ever-present Israeli security guards also turned and smiled at his boss.

Later, on the courthouse steps, Sharon said, "I'm pleased that we won on this point. I was sorry that Time magazine is charging that the jury did not understand plain English."

Ray Cave, Time's managing editor, said, "Time continues to believe, totally believes, its story is correct."

The story over which Sharon sued said he reportedly "discussed" revenge for the assassination of Lebanon's Christian president-elect, Bashir Gemayel, with Phalangists a day before the Christian militiamen massacred hundreds of Palestinians in Israeli-occupied West Beirut.

Sharon has denied discussing revenge "with any Lebanese."

The jury decided unanimously, "by a preponderance of the evidence," that the Time article, "read in context," had defamed Sharon. Based on that finding, the jury then decided a key paragraph of the story meant Sharon "consciously intended" to allow the Phalangists to take revenge, including killing non-combatants.

The jury did not rule, however, that the paragraph meant Sharon "actively encouraged" the massacre.

The jury's ruling Wednesday was the first of three that Sofaer required of them in his lengthy charge on Monday.

The jurors, having determined that Sharon was defamed, must now decide first whether the article was false and then rule if Time knew the story was false when it was published and if the magazine did so with "actual malice" or "reckless disregard" for the truth.

## IRS ruling of tax deductions affects local organization

By DAINAH BULLARD  
Staff Writer

A 1984 ruling from the Internal Revenue Service could spell a decrease in donations to charitable organizations nationwide, including the Aggie Club.

The ruling, which states gifts to charitable organizations must be made without adequate compensation in order to be tax deductible, could affect organizations ranging from university athletic clubs to symphony orchestras. This would include any organization which offers bonuses such as preferred seating to donors.

With a membership of about 3,500 and annual donations of about \$2 million (which is channeled into athletic scholarships), the Aggie Club has a lot riding on the outcome

of the IRS ruling. However, Harry Green, executive director of the Aggie Club, said he believes Aggies will continue making donations to the University's athletic club, even without the bonus of a tax deduction.

The Aggie Club offers donors the option of purchasing (for \$104) a season pass in the preferred seating area of Kyle Field. Green said the practice of offering preferred seating to donors is very common among the nation's university athletic clubs.

Donations to the Aggie Club range from a minimum of \$100 to a maximum of \$2,500, Green said. The preferred seating sections at Kyle Field are the center sections on the second and third decks in the west stadium. As a donor builds up seniority, he or she has the option of

buying seats closer to the 50-yard line, Green said.

The IRS ruling was made after a taxpayer paid \$300 to become a member of a university's athletic scholarship program. The membership allowed him to buy a space for home football games in the preferred seating section of the university's stadium. The cost of the season pass in the preferred seating section was \$120.

Because there were 2,000 people waiting for a chance to become members of the athletic club, the IRS ruled that the option to buy a season pass in the preferred seating area was more valuable than the annual \$300 membership fee. Therefore, no charitable deductions would be allowed.



Rainy Day Biker

Photo by PETER ROCHA

Wednesday's rain and cold made getting around campus an unpleasant task for bicyclists as well as pedestrians. Today's forecast calls for more rain.

## Hazing in the Corps not a new Aggie tradition

Editors note: This is the second article in a three-part series on the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets.

By MIKE DAVIS  
Reporter

Since the Aug. 30 death of sophomore cadet Bruce Goodrich, hazing has become a major issue on the Texas A&M campus. Though the death of Goodrich is the only recorded hazing-related death, hazing at this 108-year-old University is nothing new.

"Hazing" as defined by University officials and the state of Texas is vague. Even as far back as 1908, au-

thorities questioned certain Corps activities that they called hazing. Students were prompted to strike because of dissatisfaction over a proposal to remove traditional class authority such as the cleaning of dormitory rooms by freshmen, the assessing of demerits to underclassmen and classmates and the requirement that freshmen do personal services for upperclassmen.

Eighty percent of the Corps, lead by the junior class, left the campus. Many cadets later made appeals for return, but nevertheless, later that year President Henry H. Harrington resigned.

Hazing at Texas A&M continued with 27 cadets being dismissed for hazing in 1913, six suspended for "brutal treatment" in 1928, and ten dismissed in 1934.

Another mass movement against the regulation of hazing occurred in 1947 but failed.

Eighteen cadets were suspended in 1966, one cadet suspended for "aggravated assault" in 1974 and eight cadets were dismissed in 1982.

Despite the history of hazing, Gen. Ormand R. Simpson, assistant vice president for student services, said the situation has improved at the University.

"It's a hell of a lot better right now," Simpson, Class of '36, said. "My goodness, I don't think you'd be in the Corps I was in."

Simpson said if it were as easy to get out of the Corps of 1932-36 as it is to get out today's Corps "we might have had 90 percent attrition because the Corps of 1932-36 was a very brutal outfit to be in."

Simpson said much of the attitude toward hazing began to change after World War II.

"Not too long after I left, World War II started," he said. "Everything was torn up then. Nothing really mattered, and that history of the

Corps is sort of blank."

All Corps freshmen were moved out to Bryan airfield in 1948 because of hazing, Simpson said moving the freshmen away from campus worked because no upperclassmen lived at the airfield to haze the freshmen.

"Those freshmen at Bryan airfield didn't come to campus except for football games," he said. "The instructors went out there. That was a little college of its own."

But the movement also had a bad influence, he said.

"What started then was a very bad precedent, which has been contin-

ued," Simpson said. "That is the hazing of sophomores."

The seniors and juniors were furious because there were no freshmen to haze, he said, so they hazed sophomores.

"The sophomores then had two fish years," Simpson said. "And since that time a lot of sophomores have had two fish years."

Simpson said that when he was a sophomore nobody bothered him.

"They (juniors and seniors) called me by my first name and were friendly," he said. "I made better

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## Postage stamps increase two cents in February

By TRENT LEOPOLD  
Staff Writer

That next letter to Mom may cost more than expected when the price of a first-class postage stamp increases from its current price of 20 cents to 22 cents Feb. 17.

College Station Postmaster Clinton L. Matecek said the increase is necessary to keep up with increasing costs the U.S. Postal Service is incurring.

He cautioned people to be sure

the required amount of postage is placed on items when mailing them after the Feb. 17 deadline.

"Mail put in mailboxes after the deadline without the correct amount of postage will either be sent back to the sender for additional postage or be sent to its destination with the remaining postage due," Matecek said. "It will be up to the discretion of individual post offices."

"Mail put in most local boxes on Feb. 16 after about 4:30 p.m. or 5 p.m. will probably need to have the

correct postage on it since the increase goes into effect at 12:01 a.m., Feb. 17."

Matecek said he recently ordered 250,000 two-cent stamps so people can add them to their 20-cent stamps to get the proper amount of postage on their letters.

"The two-cent stamps have been ordered and clerks now have them so people can use them in conjunction with the 20-cent stamps they already have, however we don't have any of the new 22-cent stamps yet,"

he said. "We expect to get them any day now, but the exact date of their arrival is uncertain."

The first 22-cent stamps will be "D" stamps similar to the "C" stamps issued when postal rates were last increased in November 1981 from 18 to 20 cents, Matecek said.

Matecek said the first commemorative stamp probably will be available in late January or February and features the musician Jerome Kern. Matecek expects to receive about 25,000 of these stamps for distribu-

tion in the College Station area.

The Board of Governors of the U.S. Postal Service agreed to the postage price hike late last year. The nine-member board originally asked for a three cent increase.

In addition to the two cent increase on first-class, non-presorted letters, postcard postage will increase from 13 cents to 14 cents and second class mail will increase from 4.1 cents per pound to 5.8 cents per pound.

