

What's up

Thursday

COMMODORE 128 SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 105 Forestry Science.

Monday

ALPHA PHI ALPHA: will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday at 7:30 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

MSC LITERARY ARTS: is now accepting submissions for "Litmus." Call 845-1515 for more information.

PARENTS WEEKEND COMMITTEE: applications for nominating 1987-88 Parents of the Year are available in the Commons, Sterling C. Evans Library, the Memorial Student Center and the Pavilion.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days prior to desired publication date.

Judge orders tests of hostage-taker's mental condition

FORT WORTH (AP) — Solah Kassem Abou-Kassem, who took a 10-year-old boy hostage at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, has been ordered to undergo psychiatric tests. Abou-Kassem's lawyer contends that Abou-Kassem was insane at the time of the incident.

U.S. District Judge Eldon Mahon on Monday ordered Abou-Kassem to undergo psychiatric exams to determine if he is competent to stand trial on federal charges of hostage-taking.

"We won round one," said the suspect's court-appointed attorney, Michael Heiskell.

"Hopefully, if a trial does take place, we will be able to show convincingly that Mr. Abou-Kassem was insane at the time the incident took place," he said.

An official with the U.S. Marshal's office said the 26-year-old man probably will be transferred within 10 days for testing at the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield, Mo.

Heiskell said the examination could take up to 45 days.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Fred Schattman did not contest the request for psychological tests.

Abou-Kassem, who followed the

proceedings through a court-approved interpreter, had several days' growth of beard and was wearing the same tan suit he wore when arrested Jan. 5 during Monday's hearing before Mahon.

The judge read statements from Abou-Kassem's family saying he has been mentally ill for about two years.

The affidavit signed by his father, Kassem Abou-Kassem Alsafuore, said, "My son . . . began to act strangely by talking to himself for hours."

In a separate Monday hearing based on testimony by FBI agent Larry Allred, U.S. Magistrate Alex H. McGlinchey found that there was probable cause to bring Abou-Kassem to trial if he is found competent.

Allred testified that Abou-Kassem entered the United States in 1984 with a passport and visa belonging to his brother-in-law.

Witnesses say that the man grabbed 10-year-old Michael Caruso Jr. from a ticket line at the airport Jan. 5, put a gun to his head and demanded a flight to Egypt or Syria.

The terminal was evacuated after he fired a single shot.

Abou-Kassem surrendered peacefully after 7½ hours when officials gave him false immigration documents clearing him to leave U.S. borders.

A&M entrepreneurs' group promotes business ventures

By Ed Bodde
Reporter

Ever dream of starting your own business? Does the idea of controlling your salary, hours and company image appeal to you?

Entrepreneurship and New Ventures is a Texas A&M organization designed to promote opportunities for people who want to go into business for themselves.

George Rice, faculty adviser for the club, says the organization's main purpose is to develop ideas for new businesses and prepare people for the responsibilities and risks involved with a new business.

"I think it's the best student organization on campus," Rice says. "It's certainly one of the most successful. Most of the kids are running their own businesses."

Founded in 1982 to allow students the opportunity to sell products and ideas, ENVE now has 50 members.

Rice says the group's members organize their own programs and decide on a variety of speakers. They also trade information and use group meetings to contact other entrepreneurs, he says.

James McAuliffe, president of the organization, said a speaker addresses the group about once a month on issues of interest to the members.

The speakers have included Michael Muse, of Muse Air, and Clayton Williams, a rancher, oilman and

owner of ClayDesta Communications.

McAuliffe says he recommends the group "because of the access and the type of people addressing the students."

The access to information from people with their own businesses or companies is important, he says.

John Flynn, an August 1986 A&M graduate, now owns the Computer Access store on Texas Avenue. Computer Access sells computers and supplies to students and businesses.

After working at Computer Access for a year, Flynn, a computer science major, decided he wanted more control.

"I wanted to go into business for myself," he says, "and I thought it was a fairly low risk as far as my career was concerned."

After getting a loan, Flynn bought the company in August and says he hasn't had a bad week yet.

"I'm making money," he says.

Flynn says he wouldn't want to be working for another company.

"I wouldn't trade it (working for myself) for anything," he says. "I like working for myself. You have more opportunities to succeed. You control if you get a promotion or a raise."

Although the hours are long, Flynn says he's never found himself looking at his watch.

"I work until I'm finished and then I go home," he says.

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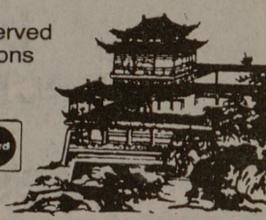
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