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STRETCH

Your Dollars!

WATCH FOR

Page 8 **The Battalion**

Wednesday, March 8, 1989

UT faculty backs Rushdie against Iran

AUSTIN (AP) — The Faculty Senate at the University of Texas has approved a resolution supporting British novelist Salman Rushdie and opposing "intellectual terrorism in all its forms."

The resolution says the university's "discharge of its intellectual re-sponsibilities" has been threatened by the Iranian death sentence against Rushdie over "The Satanic Verses;" bookstore decisions not to display or sell the novel; and "attempts to prevent people from de-ciding for themselves what they may wish to read or think."

Rushdie and his wife have been in hiding under police guard in Britain since Feb. 14, when Ayatollah Ru-hollah Khomeini, the spiritual leader of Iran, pronounced him a heretic and called for his death.

The book has been attacked by some Moslems as blasphemy for its portrayal of the prophet Mohammed

Richard Pells, a history professor at the university, told the Faculty Senate that it should not expect that he resolution "is going to strike fear in the heart of the ayatollah."



RUMBLE

WALDO HAS FOUND THE BUT CAN HE ESCAPE FROM THE TEMPLE OF GLOOM? DIABLO STONE



WASHINGTON (AP) - An air ambulance piot for Houston's Hermann Hospital told a Sen-tte committee Tuesday he was "blackballed" afate committee Tuesday he was "blackballed" at-ter complaining about unsafe flying conditions, including helicopter doors that came off in mid-air, faulty radios and frequent near-wire strikes. William Donald Wright said he suffered "pro-

essional, personal and financial devastation beyond my wildest dreams" after complaining about having to work four consecutive 80-hour weeks in what is already a physically, mentally and psychologically stressful job.

"I was told that if I valued my job I would keep juiet about safety problems and not discuss any ssues with the medical personnel or the Federal Aviation Administration," Wright, 39, told the senate subcommittee on labor, which is investiating the consequences faced by whistleblowers.

Wright, now a helicopter instructor pilot at the Army Aviation Center in Fort Rucker, Ala., said each Hermann Hospital emergency medical services pilot who refused to bow to pressure from management has suffered for complaining

"I lost my job, my reputation, my ability to ob-tain comparable employment due to being 'black-balled,' my savings and my home," Wright testified.

Hermann spokeswoman Christine LeLaurin said Wright was not fired for whistleblowing and was not blackballed. She said she could not discuss the circumstances surrounding his 1986 firing because the matter is still in litigation.

LeLaurin said Hermann has "the best safety record of any air ambulance service in the U.S. We've flown over 35,000 accident-free missions." Several state and federal agencies investigated

the allegations and found them "to be without merit," she said, adding that reasons for Wright's

firing "relate solely to work performance." Wright said he and 14 fellow pilots first tried to work within the system by taking their safety concerns to the hospital's president of administration.

"When all avenues had been exhausted, we 'blew the whistle' in order to protect ourselves, our medical crew members, our patients and the public," Wright testified. "That action has cost us more than financial loss. The personal degradation for some of us has rocked the very core of our lives.

Wright, who went to work at Hermann in 1984, said that under the best conditions, the 15 helicopter pilots at the private, non-profit teach-ing hospital could expect to work a minimum 56hour work week.

Although each case was a "life or death" mis-sion, Wright testified "inoperable and faulty radios in the aircraft were a frequent occurance.

"It was not until a patient almost died because the physician on board the aircraft could not talk to the hospital and make his needs known that any action was taken to solve the radio problem," No Wright said

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He said numerous mishaps also occurred with the aircraft, including doors coming off in fligh blade strikes, frequent near-wire strikes, and me chanical problems that forced the aircraft to make emergency landings.

"Due to the limited number of pilots on the schedule, we were required to violate the correst requirements established by the Federal Av ation Administration on a regular basis," Wrigh said

And although all 15 pilots suffered back into ries from lifting patients into the aircraft, Wight said, they could not convince the hospital to in-stall a patient loading system.

After taking their case to the hospital administration, Wright said invidivual pilots were "sigled out, intimidated and harassed." Within year of writing the letter to the hospital administrator, nearly half of the pilots were fired a forced to leave undefeat at A&M forced to leave.

Wright said he was fired by the day befored National Labor Relations Board was scheduled hold a hearing in the matter and that the NL® has not addressed the firing. The hospital, however, settled with the NL®

he said.

Judge rules railroads conspired Regents to delay construction of pipeline (Continued from page 1)

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BEAUMONT (AP) — Santa Fe Railway Co. and other railroads conspired to delay construction of a coal slurry pipeline by a now-defunct pipeline project, a federal judge has ruled.

U.S. District Judge Robert Parker told the jury of his partial verdict Monday shortly before final arguments began in the trial of a multimillion-dollar lawsuit against Santa Fe.

ETSI Pipeline Project and Energy Transportation Systems Inc. filed the suit in 1984 against Burlington Northern Railroad Co., Union Pacific Railroad Co., Missouri Pacific Railroad Co., Kansas City Southern Railway Co., and Chicago and North Western Transportation Co. Santa Fe was added to the suit a few months later.

All the railroads except Santa Fe had settled out of court at undisclosed sums that reportedly totaled several million dollars.

Houston Lighting and Power Co. intervened in the lawsuit against Santa Fe and the other railroads, contending it would have benefited from cheaper transportation costs if the pipeline had succeeded.

In closing arguments of the seven-week trial, HL&P lawyers asked the jury to consider damages totaling \$540 million.

Lawyers for the pipeline contended the project, if completed, would have had a net cash flow of about \$11 billion over 35 years. A "reasonable estimate" of dam-ages on their part is \$1 billion, pipeline lawyers had ar-

The project was a joint venture of Bechtel Petroleum Inc., a subsidary of the construction giant; Texas East-ern Corp.; InterNorth Inc.; and K-N Energy Co.

The 1,800-mile, underground pipeline would have extended from Wyoming to Texas and was abandoned in July 1984 after a series of delays the pipeline companies alleged were caused by the railroads

The railroads were accused of delaying the project by using complex legal procedures before federal and state regulatory agencies, organizing farm and environmental groups in opposition, and not granting rights-

of-way through railroad property. ETSI attorneys said the delays occurred during a pe-riod of high inflation and increased the cost of the pro-ject from \$689 million in 1974 to \$3.5 billion in 1984.

Abusive

(Continued from page 1)

the victim, Spence said the threat of more serious danger is always present

"Often the more serious stuff happens when the relationship becomes committed in some way. 'she said. "Many people say, 'Well if that happened to me, I certainly wouldn't put up with it. I'd get right out of the relationship.' Well, sometimes it's not that easy because the longer they're in the relationship, the more possibility there is that it will be dangerous for them to get out of it.

"Often the partner will say, 'If you leave me, it'll be the last thing you ever do,' and often it is.

"During our presentations, we hear so many stories about how violent partners can become when faced with the thought of separation. One resident adviser at a school said she broke up with her boyfriend, and one night when she happened to not be there, he got in her room through the window on the 12th floor and threw everything out

-even the furniture.

Although a stereotype suggests women are always the victim and men the abuser, Spence said statis-tics prove differently.

'Punching and hitting are things that the statistics suggest that more women do to men than vice versa." she said. "With more serious abuse such as sexual assault and assault with a weapon, however, statistics suggest that men have a tendency to do this more to female partners than vice versa.

Despite these statistics, Spence said more than 50 percent of all women will experience at least one

abusive relationship. Heterosexual relationships aren't exclusively touched by this problem, Spence said.

"There are studies that suggest that it's not just in heterosexual relationships that abuse goes on," she said. "It's also very prevalent in gay relationships."

Although young love is difficult to deal with, Spence said, using good judgment can prevent abusive relationships.

"If you can be on the lookout and

you can say, 'Oh, I'm just massively in love with this person but let me just step back and give it more time,' you will save yourself hurt and pain if you spot the problem before it overtakes your life.

Spence said several alternatives are available to people in abusive relationships.

"We refer people to support groups and psychiatric services," she said. "A lot of people think talking to a psychiatrist makes them crazy, but it's not true.

"However, sometimes coming to the realization of how painful a relationship is involves nothing more than seeing a film or reading a book that the victim can identify with and learn from.'

Although statistics show men are affected by abusive relationships, Olona said Student Counseling Services does not have a group for men.

"We did run a men's group for a while — it wasn't specifically for abused men — but we did have one, and we didn't have enough interest in it. However, we do offer individual counseling for everyone.'

"I think, quite clearly, the racial and gender makeup of Texas being what it is and the student bod ies being what they are, an al white Board is not a good thing The Texas Faculty Association on record as being concerned about that.'

Although Margerison said Tuesday regental boards should be representative of the state population, he said he is not in favor of quotas. Instead he support a bill that is expected to be proposed later this week. The bil would create a 24-member adv. sory board that would accumulate a list of persons whom the governor would choose from when selecting regent nominees.

Regents for Texas universities are nominated by the governor and require the confirmation of the Senate. Gov. Bill Clements was criticized for appointing three white males to the University of Texas Board. After one nominee for the UT Board withdrew his name from consideration, Clements appointed a Hispanic to replace him.

Clements appointed a Hispanic and a white male to the A&M Board, but was criticized for not appointing a black person to the Board to represent Prairie View

A&M University. All five of the regents selected by Clements are Republicans.

Margerison said the advisory board would try to steer clear of selecting candidates strictly on the basis of party affiliation. "I think the way the bill is

stated, it would say political affi-iation would not be a criteria for selection," he said. "However, people could be politically active and that would not bar them from being selected. What that means is that you would not pick someone because they were a Republican or a Democrat, you would pick someone because they would be good at the job. If they happen to be a very active Repub-lican in the process, that's fine. But that wouldn't be the criteria on which he was picked.