

# Gamblers trying to beat the odds help revitalize Atlantic City

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Tony Cassiani, a retired recreational therapist with a cool grand in his pocket, parlayed his winnings at a West Virginia dog track into a one-day, round-trip jetliner joy ride to the craps tables in Atlantic City, N.J.

Linda, an Ohio factory worker unemployed for four months, flew to the Boardwalk with \$480 in her purse, hoping a hot streak at the slot machines would finance a trip to "the better casinos" in Las Vegas.

They were among the 90 serious gamblers and dreamers of fortune from the Pittsburgh area who recently invested \$119 in a 300-mile chartered flight to Atlantic City's gaming tables and slot machines.

They were deposited back in Pittsburgh some 15 hours later.

Gamblers like those aboard the Emerald Air DC-9 have helped turn the once-dying seashore resort into the nation's most popular recreational destination.

Atlantic City, with 12 casino hotels, attracted 33.1 million visitors last year, most of them repeat day-trippers who gambled, according to the New Jersey Expressway Authority.

But only 1.3 percent arrived by air. Most came in cars or buses.

Apex Travel, the suburban Murrysville agency which organized the one-day flight from Pittsburgh, runs the trips monthly "and some-

times we turn people away," said owner Mary Ann Sood.

"One day's enough," Cassiani said. "I figure if I can't get lucky in one day, that's it."

"You can go through a lot of money in three days in Atlantic City."

The casino hotels reported gamblers like Cassiani lost a total of \$2.73 billion last year, according to the New Jersey Casino Control Commission.

Cassiani said his bachelorhood and "a good state pension" from a suburban state mental hospital allows him to bet on greyhounds four times a week, the horses now and then, play the Pennsylvania Lottery

for \$5 a day, and make a bimonthly flight to Atlantic City or Las Vegas.

Banking on experience from back-room games in Pittsburgh, Cassiani bet the dice for four straight hours, riding as much as \$40 on a single roll and at one point losing as much as \$250.

On previous trips, Cassiani has lost as much as \$500 and has won as much as \$375.

This day, he recovered his \$250 and figured he walked away \$72 ahead.

Linda, 38, of Youngstown, Ohio, asked that her last name not be used. "I guess I really shouldn't gamble if I'm not working," she said.

A divorced mother of a 12-year-

old daughter, Linda plays cards at home with girlfriends for \$2 a hand and bets on horses occasionally.

She plays Ohio Lottery numbers with bookies. "The odds are better and they come and get your money for you," she said.

In Atlantic City and Las Vegas, she plays slot machines, roulette and blackjack with a passion.

"I love gambling," she says. "I just have it in me."

"I was married in Vegas in '76, so that's why I was a loser in love, I guess."

"I still pay my bills," Linda says. "I'm still not in debt. But I'm not working, so I shouldn't gamble. I'm not compulsive-compulsive."

On this day, Linda intently bet the quarter, half-dollar and dollar slot machines.

She treated herself to a \$15 prime rib dinner at Caesars Hotel Casino and bought \$60 worth of souvenir sweat shirts, caps and jewelry.

Thinking ahead, Linda did not bring her bank credit cards for fear of the temptation to get extra money from casino cash machines in the heat of gambling.

On the flight home, Linda figured her purse was about \$280 lighter.

"That's not too bad for all day, is it?" she asked.

"I enjoyed it. I laughed with my girlfriends. I had a good time."

## INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

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### FOOTNOTES

- Softball Playoffs Started Sunday, April 9.
- Monday, April 10 Pretrip Meeting for the Intermediate Kayak Workshop.
- Thursday, April 13 Penberthy Softball Tournament Captains Meeting 6 PM 164 Read.
- Friday, April 14, 4:45 PM Opening Ceremonies for Penberthy Softball Tournament at Penberthy Intramural Complex.

### RAINING???

Call 845-2625 to see if your game has been rained out.

### ALL UNIVERSITY CHAMPIONS

#### SWIMMING

M. Ind. *Upstreamin' Seamen* Corps K-2 Fish SQ-2  
M. RH. *Puryear* W. RH. SQ-14 W. Ind. *Spence*

Recreational Sports would like to thank all of those who helped make the 1989 Swim Meet a success.

#### TEAM BOWLING

Men's A *Beerfarts* Men's B *No Pins Left* Men's C *Dorks*  
Women's A *Strikeouts* Women's B *Pin Busters* Women's C *Generics*  
CoRec A *DSS #1* CoRec B *Peanuts* CoRec C *Strike Force*

#### PUTT PUTT GOLF

CoRec *Kim Trees 37* *Robin McCord 37*  
*Women's Doubles* *Kathy Craig 45* *Cindy Alvear 52*  
*Men's Doubles* *Charles Rugh 33* *Justin Binks 35*  
*Men's Singles* *Blain Pellard 33* *Women's Singles* *Kathy Craig 41*

### TAMU-OUTDOORS

**Climb A Rock At Enchanted Rock State Natural Area**  
Intermediate Climbing Trip  
April 28 - 30

Registration: April 10 - 24

Join us at the Rock and experience the thrills of rock climbing and rappelling! This intermediate climbing trip is open to those who wish to learn more advanced climbing skills and techniques. More challenging climbs and rappels will be introduced. The \$30 (\$35 non A&M) fee for this adventure includes rental of group camping equipment, climbing equipment, camping permits, and experienced instruction. The trip is offered to intermediate climbers and is limited to 10 participants.

**Canoe the Guadalupe River April 22 - 23**

Registration: April 3 - April 17

The Guadalupe River is the most popular canoeing river in Texas and is famous for its exciting whitewater and scenic beauty. Spend the weekend camping on the banks of the river and testing your whitewater skills. The \$30 (\$35 for Non A&M) fee for this weekend adventure includes rental of canoes, shuttle costs, instruction before the trip and while on the river, and experienced guides. This trip is offered for beginning and intermediate canoeists and is limited to 14 participants.

**Backpacking Sam Houston National Forest April 14 - 16**

Registration: March 27 - April 10

Enjoy exploring part of the Texas Big Thicket with piney woods, hardwoods, and spring-fed streams. We consider this the best time of the year to visit Sam Houston National Forest. The \$35 (\$45 Non A&M) for this backpacking adventure includes rental of camping gear, backpack, food and experienced guides. This trip is geared for the beginning and intermediate backpacker.

**Intermediate Kayak Workshop on the Guadalupe River April 15 - 16**

Registration: March 27 - April 10

Spend the weekend improving your kayaking skills. Emphasis will be placed on refining technique, braces, eskimo rolls, and learning how to play rapids. The \$55 (\$60 for non A&M) fee for this workshop includes transportation, group camping equipment, kayak equipment, camping permits and experienced instruction. Sign up early because class size is limited.

**Kayak Roll Instructional Clinics**

Date: April 20, 6:15 - 8:30 PM Registration: April 3 - 17

Learn the mechanics of the Eskimo roll! Experienced guides will be on hand to instruct and assist you in sessions at the Outdoor Pool. The \$8 (\$10 non A&M) fee covers instruction, kayak rental and pool time. Limited to 10 participants. The next clinic is scheduled for April 20. Registration begins April 3.

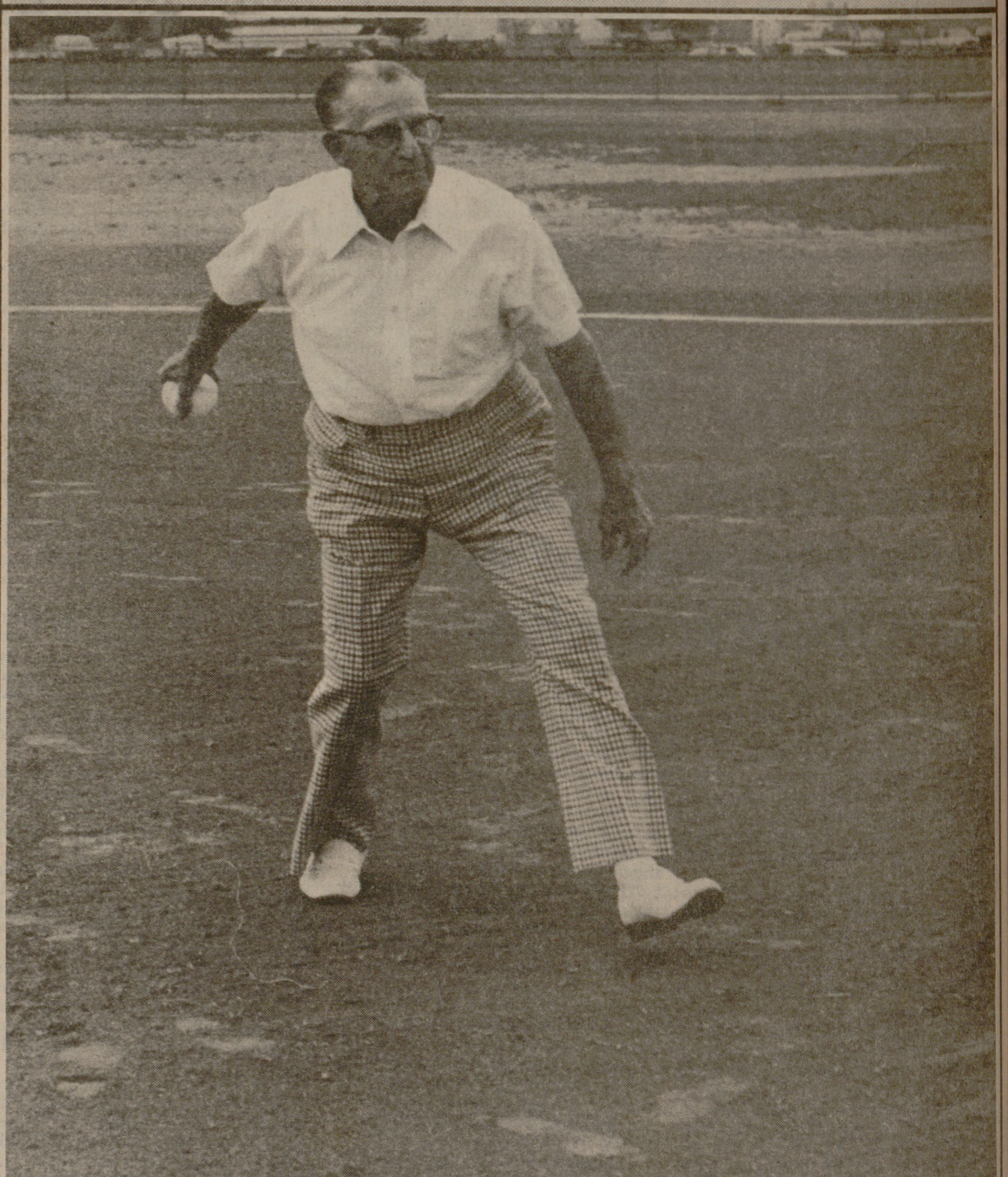
Register for these trips in the Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read Bldg. For more information about these trips or TAMU Outdoors, contact Patsy Greiner, 845-7826.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored in the Battalion by your local McDonald's Restaurant at University Drive, Manor East Mall, Hwy 21, Texas Ave. at SW Parkway and Post Oak Mall. Stories are by Steve Harding, graphics are by Paul Irwin and photos are by Mark Figart and Lynda Bottos.

### IM GAMEPLAN

ENTRIES CLOSE: APRIL 11

**10th Annual Penberthy Softball Tournament** ENTRY FEE: \$40.00 per team (Double Elimination Tournament). TOURNAMENT DATE: April 14-16. ELIGIBILITY: Open to all TAMU students, faculty, staff and spouses. DIVISIONS: Men's A/B, Men's B/C, Men's C/D, Co-Rec A/B, Co-Rec B/C. Divisions must have at least 8 teams in order for the division to make. The Recreational Sports Department reserves the right to combine divisions as they see necessary. AWARDS: Men's and Co-Rec A/B: Top 3 places will receive Penberthy t-shirts and champions will receive a trophy. Men's A/B Champion will also receive a \$200.00 CC Creations gift certificate good for 15 team shirts with 2 color screen and numbers with one hour toward art production. Men's and Co-Rec B/C: Top 2 places will receive Penberthy t-shirts and the champion will receive a trophy. Men's C/D: The champions will receive Penberthy t-shirts and a trophy. RULES: A.S.A Rules with intramural exceptions will apply. T-shirts awards will be limited to 15 per team. TEAM CAPTAINS MEETING: Tournament Brackets may be picked up on Thursday, April 13 at 6:00 pm in 167 Read Building. SPONSORS: Thanks to our sponsors: CC Creations and McDonald's. EXTRAS: All Homerun Hitters will receive a free food coupon compliments of McDonald's. Most valuable player of each game receives a Penberthy player of the game koozie compliments of CC Creations. Rain?? In case of rain, the tournament will be rescheduled for the following weekend. For more information call Tom Reber at 845-7826. \* Food Services Department will have food available throughout the tournament at the Penberthy Intramural Complex.



Mr. W. L. "Penny" Penberthy

**BASEBALL HITTING CONTEST DATE:** Contest will be held April 12, 1989 at 6 pm at Olsen Field. ENTRY FEE: Free !!! ELIGIBILITY: All Tamu Students, Staff, Faculty and Spouses are eligible if they meet the requirements in the intramural calendar. RULES: Copies may be picked up in the Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read Building. FORMAT: Each individual will be allowed 10 swings from the pitching machine. Points are awarded for different distances. EQUIPMENT: Will be provided. Personal bats will be inspected. AWARDS: T-Shirts are offered to champions of the Men's and Women's competition.

### GOLF DRIVING RANGE HOURS

Texas A&M

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By Alan Sember

SENIOR STAFF W

Texas A&M announced Monday a carefully reproduced controversial Unive experiment that re excess energy from nuclear fusion. The A&M scientist duplicate the U which could be through in the effo tely clean, cheap energy source th

A&M chemists 1 in. Dr. Kenneth J Gammon reported 80 to 80 percent w lved a jar of "hea palladium electrodi Marsh, who is d Thermodynamics said they could not energy gain came

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Sena asks

By Kelly S. Brown

STAFF WRITER

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