



WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Partly sunny, warmer
HIGH: 82 LOW: 56

Horak convicted; gets 40-year sentence

By Kelly S. Brown

Of The Battalion Staff

A 12-panel jury came back with a 40-year prison sentence Wednesday for former Texas A&M student Harry Louis Horak, who was convicted on two felony counts of entering his ex-fiance's dorm room with the intent to murder her, and physically assaulting her roommate.

District Attorney Bill Turner said Horak, 20, will have to serve at least seven-and-a-half years before being eligible for parole. A flat one-fourth of the sentence must be served before parole is considered because a deadly weapon was involved in the case.

The jury placed a 30-year price tag on the charge of burglary of a habitation with the intent to commit murder, while a 10 year prison term was handed down for the aggravated assault charge. The sentences will run concurrently.

The two charges stem from incidents occurring March 21 where, the prosecution concluded, Horak went to his ex-fiance Trisha Sexton's dorm room heavily armed and dressed like "Rambo" and had every intention of killing her. The verdict of guilty also was given to the charge that Horak assaulted Sexton's roommate, Sandra Alcalá.

Turner said the question really

came down to 'What was going through Horak's mind that night and morning?' State evidence showed 'goodbye' notes and a newspaper article found in Horak's room that might have displayed better than anything else the gruesome possibility that the incident had been well-planned.

Horak testified to the rapid events that unwound that early Tuesday morning, insisting murder was not his intention. Rather, he said he went to Sexton's dorm room intending to make her listen to him. He said he then planned to kill himself in front of her.

When he entered Sexton's room around 3 a.m., Horak said he had two rifles strapped to his body, a knife in a sheath, 134 rounds of ammunition, pieces of cloth and rope. He said he took off his trenchcoat, turned on the lights, leaned over to Sexton's bed and told her to get up.

Alcalá awoke and saw Horak standing with a rifle (a .30-06-caliber Remington Model 78 hunting rifle); she jumped up and grabbed the barrel. Shots were fired. Sexton arose and tried to disarm Horak. The three struggled throughout the room and the woman's hands were burned several times because they had been on the barrel when the gun was fired.

After the rifle was knocked to the floor sometime during the commo-

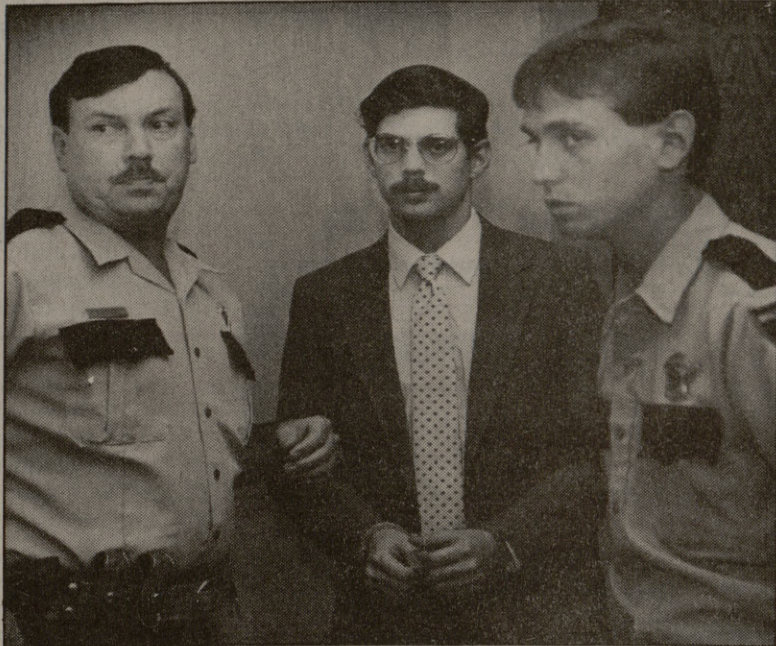


Photo by Jay Janner

Harry Louis Horak is led to his cell after being convicted of burglary of a habitation with intent to murder.

tion, Horak said he grabbed his .223-caliber Ruger "Mini 14." The struggle continued and Sexton managed to tug the gun away from him, as Alcalá grabbed him from behind and gauged his eyes.

Horak was pushed into the closet with Alcalá, who ended up sitting on top of him until help came.

The commanding officer of their outfit (Squadron 14) helped Alcalá out of the closet. They then opened

their entrance door wide open, enclosing Horak in the closet.

Alcalá kept her body against the door until Albert Jarrell, a senior building construction major, ran in the room and took over holding the door until police arrived.

Higginbotham said that if Horak had wanted to kill the woman he had ample opportunity when he first came into their room.

But instead, Higginbotham said, he intended to wake up the women, bind and gag them and "essentially exert full control over them so he could make Trisha listen to him, then turn the gun on himself."

The defense attorney said that when Horak's control-attempt failed, he just sat in the closet crying, "while he could have used the knife he had against the women."

Turner questioned why, if Horak was just going to kill himself, he had two rifles and 134 rounds of ammunition. Horak said he didn't know.

"How many bullets does it take to kill yourself Mr. Horak — 100? 50? 40?" Turner asked.

Horak said, "I don't know."

Turner asked if it was possible that Horak had intended to come to the women's dorm room, bind and gag them, tell them what he was going to do to them, shoot them and then maybe open fire on whatever might be outside of the window in

the early hours on a college campus.

"You were going to go out with a bang, weren't you?" Turner quipped.

Horak said that was never his intention.

"I didn't want to kill them or anything," Horak said, fighting back tears. "I just wanted to kill myself. I feel pretty bad about it. It was a big mistake and I'm sorry I did it."

Higginbotham said Horak was depressed and tried to get help, but never received it.

"You can tell from his demeanor, the way he acts, looks and talks, that Harry Louis Horak is a troubled young man," Higginbotham said. "He yelled for help, but no one took him seriously."

Higginbotham said there were many questions Horak might not ever be able to answer.

"Why did he use two guns and so much ammunition?" Higginbotham said. "He doesn't know, you don't know and no one probably ever will."

Higginbotham said to understand Horak's pattern of thinking, one would have to look at Sexton and Horak's history.

The early part of their relationship is a common tale among

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Texas A&M students to be swapped with Germans in exchange program

By Todd Connelley

Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M University and Georg August University in Gottingen, West Germany, will "swap" students next year in a joint effort to increase cultural awareness.

Ten students from A&M will be chosen to bring the distinct flavor of Texas to the Rhineland, while 10 students from Germany will experience Brazos County firsthand, as part of an MSC Jordan Institute for International Awareness program.

When in Gottingen, students will stay with a host family and experience college life in Germany. Be-

cause the trip is strictly cultural, no class enrollment is required.

However, Dr. Stephen P. Biles, director of the institute, said students will be given the opportunity to attend classes if they wish.

"In Germany, if you want to attend a class, you just go," Biles said. "It's a lot more relaxed over there."

Once students get to Georg August University, they will discover that college life is quite different from that at A&M, Biles said.

"There are no residence halls, no student unions and the populace is very heterogeneous," he said.

The 300-year-old university is rich in German history and boasts

many prestigious alumni, such as noted German scientist Max Plank, he said.

The last time German students came to A&M, in February 1988, they made some interesting observations of the culture, Biles said.

"They commented on our lack of trees and flat landscape," he said.

"They were very impressed with how friendly and hospitable American families are.

"It was amazing to them how different the families they stayed with were from a stereotypical TV family."

The trip is being sponsored by the Student Exchange Program, a spe-

cial committee of the Jordan Institute.

David McGough, director of the Student Exchange Program, said students will be responsible only for travel expenses to and from Gottingen, as well as other incidental expenses, which are estimated at between \$1,000 and \$1,250.

Fluency in the German language is not a prerequisite, but students selected are encouraged to take a German language course in Spring 1990, he said.

Applications are available in the MSC Jordan Institute office in 223G of the MSC Browsing Library and are due Oct. 9.

Luce plans to fight drugs, unemployment if elected governor

By Mia B. Moody

Of The Battalion Staff

A Dallas lawyer seeking the Republican nomination for governor said he has real solutions to drug, education and unemployment problems in Texas.

Tom Luce, speaking Wednesday at Easterwood Airport, said, "Every candidate for the 1990 election will talk about the problems that exist in Texas, but I will talk about solutions."

Luce said he believes these problems are linked.

"For instance, if we improve the education system, then 102,801 people will be better equipped to get jobs," Luce said. "Once people have jobs and are more educated, then they will probably be less likely to get involved in the drug scene."

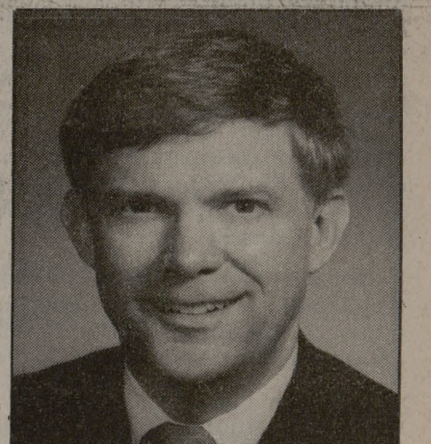
Luce said he is ready to launch what he calls "round two" on drugs by implementing a system in which people who do drugs also do time.

"I want to end the cycle that allows 500 prisoners to be released every time 500 prisoners are sent to jail," Luce said. "I believe people who do wrong should have to serve full sentences."

Raising taxes is not the solution to education reform, Luce said.

"The government has a habit of adding programs without making changes," he said. "Instead, I believe we need to work with what we already have."

Luce said he would improve the education system by offering incentives that would make good teachers want to continue teaching.



Tom Luce

"Based on contribution and performance, teachers would be given raises," he said. "I don't believe the career ladder, the system used now, is successful because every teacher is usually ranked excellent, which is unlikely."

Luce said he has shown he is willing to work for Texas by serving on committees.

He served as chairman of the committee which pushed for funding for the Superconducting Super Collider and on the committee which pushed through the Legislature House Bill 72, the "no pass, no play" education reform bill. In addition, Luce is a member of the Texas War on Drugs Committee.

Luce said he is working to persuade American Airlines to build a maintenance facility in Tarrant County, which he said would provide 5,000 jobs.

Grand Canyon crash leaves 10 sightseers dead

TUSAYAN, Ariz. (AP) — A sightseeing plane making its final approach for landing veered into a wooded hill near the Grand Canyon Airport on Wednesday, killing 10 people and injuring the other 11 people aboard, eight critically.

The aircraft's wings were sheared off by tall Ponderosa pines but some passengers survived because the fuselage of the de Havilland DHC-6 Twin Otter remained largely intact, said Cochise County Sheriff Joe Richards. The two crew members were killed, he said.

National Park Service Ranger Paul Crawford, who was among the first to reach the wreckage, said some of the passengers were walking around when he arrived at the scene on a small ridge about 300 yards east of a runway.

"They were shellshocked. They had that empty, dazed look," he said.

The twin-engine Grand Canyon Airlines plane

was on its second flight of the day and making its final approach to the airport when the accident occurred, said Ronald L. Warren, the airline's vice president and general manager. He said it was cleared for landing.

"Preliminary reports indicate the aircraft touched down normally on the runway, became airborne again, and veered to the east side of the airport," he said.

Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Elly Brekke said the plane was about 1,500 feet down the 9,000-foot runway when it veered to the right, then to the left and into an open space where it descended into trees and crashed, flipping over.

Warren said the plane had left the airport at 9 a.m. for the one-hour scenic flight, which covers about 100 miles, and was on schedule for its arrival when it crashed at about 9:55 a.m.

All 19 passengers were Americans, he said. Several were from California and many were from the East Coast. Two of the dead were Modesto, Calif., City Councilman John Sutton and his wife, Donna, said Modesto Mayor Carol Whiteside.

The airport is located about five miles south of the Grand Canyon. Ten of the injured were taken by ambulance, airplane and helicopter to the Flagstaff Medical Center about 75 miles away.

The injured suffered fractures, lacerations and head wounds, said hospital spokeswoman Ann Hartman-Kolacky. Eight were listed in critical condition and two were stable. The 11th person wasn't brought to the hospital, apparently because the injuries weren't that bad, she said.

Warren said the pilot was in his mid-40s and had worked for the airline for 4½ years.

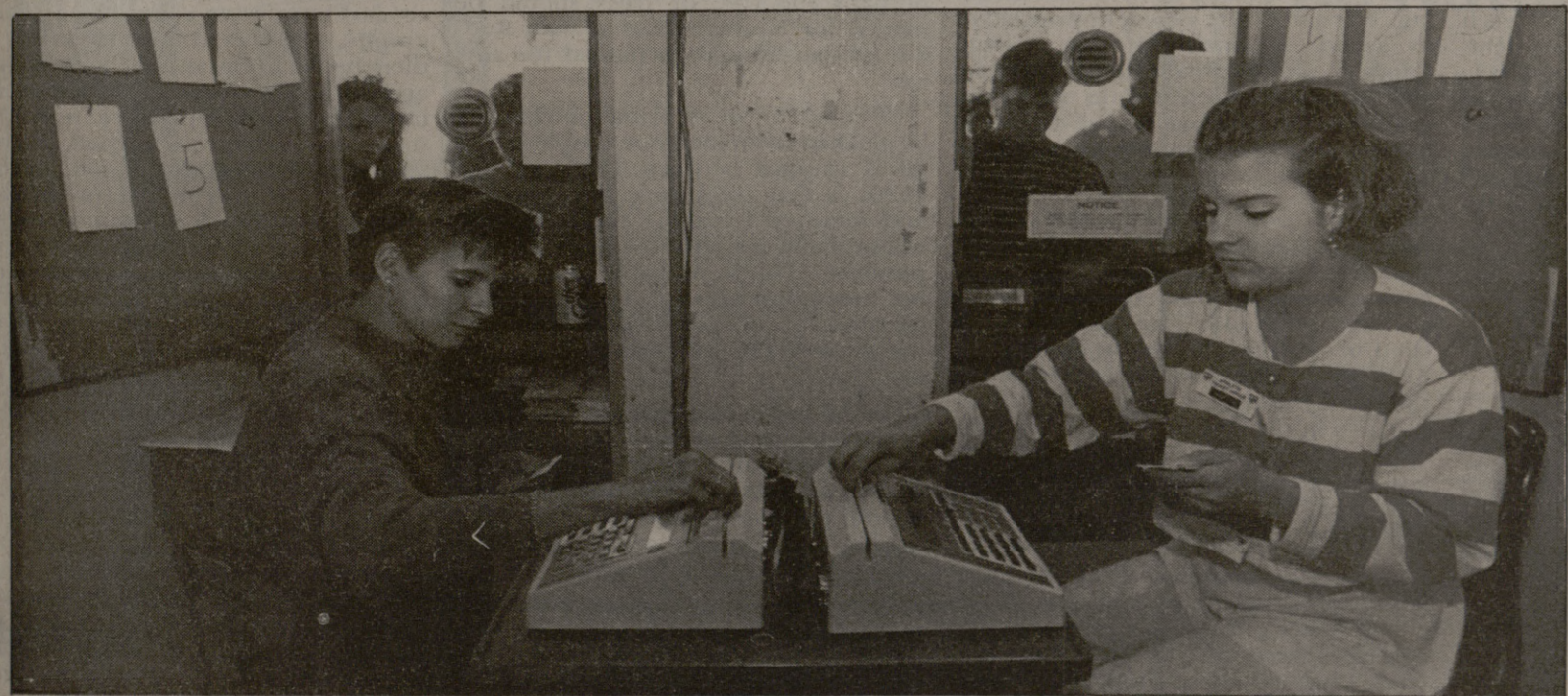


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Second deck, 50-yard line, please

Senior Christina Gonzalez (left) and sophomore Amy Huggins distribute tickets Wednesday morning for this week's game

against Southern Mississippi using the new computerized ticket terminals.