

## Bakker found guilty of fleecing flock

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — PTL evangelist Jim Bakker was convicted Thursday of using his television show to defraud followers of \$3.7 million, money the jury foreman said corrupted a minister who started out to do good.

"He was called by God. But eventually the money became too much for him," said foreman Ricky Hill, who said during jury selection that he was a Christian. "We kept looking for something from the defense and we never saw it."

Bakker faces a maximum sentence of 120 years in prison and \$5 million in fines. The U.S. District Court jury convicted him of all

24 counts in the indictment, which charged he oversold lodging guarantees, called "lifetime partnerships," at his Heritage USA religious retreat.

"The message is you can't lie to the people and use television and the mails to get them to send you money," prosecutor Deborah Smith said. "It doesn't matter who you are or how well known you are, you simply can't do it."

Defense lawyer George C. Davis said the verdict would be appealed.

Prosecutors said Bakker diverted \$3.7 million in ministry funds for personal use while knowing PTL was in financial trouble.

He used money from PTL for vacation homes in California and Florida, a lake-front parsonage, a houseboat, Rolls-Royce and Mercedes cars and more peculiar luxuries such as an air-conditioned doghouse.

Bakker's wife, Tammy Faye, said she and her husband would return to Orlando, Fla., where they moved the die-hard remnants of their ministry.

"It's not over until it's over," added Tammy Faye during a news conference after the verdict. Hundreds of Bakker faithful and the lunchtime curious flocked around the courthouse, and Tammy Faye serenaded them with a hymn.

"On Christ, the solid rock, I stand. All other ground is sinking sand," she sang.

Bakker was freed later Thursday on \$250,000 bond imposed by U.S. District Court Judge Robert Potter. The judge set sentencing for Oct. 24.

"I'm going to keep my faith in God and I'm going to go see Tammy now. I feel sad but encouraged in God," Bakker said, smiling in a brief midafternoon statement to reporters. He said he was "still innocent of the charges against me."

Potter said he granted bond reluctantly because Bakker faithful had a "Jim Jones

mentality" and might help him flee the country.

Davis declared the reference to the 1978 murder-suicide of 900 followers of Jim Jones' cult in Jonestown, Guyana, "horrible, absolutely uncalled for."

The jury foreman said he was unswayed by Bakker's testimony, in which he defended his earnings as reasonable for someone who raised millions of dollars for the work of the Lord.

"He was a man of God," Hill said. "He got corrupt and I feel sorry for the man." Hill said that in the day and a half of jury deliberations, "The most disagreement was when the fraud started."

## Agents secure cocaine seized in South Texas

HARLINGEN (AP) — Two heavily guarded rental trucks Thursday hauled the nation's second largest cocaine seizure out of south Texas to a more secure location in the state capital, while agents continued to search for the owner of a house where the nine-ton cache was found.

Three Mexican citizens arrested at the house Wednesday were arraigned Thursday morning on charges of engaging in organized criminal activity and aggravated cocaine possession, Justice of the Peace Leo Longoria of Harlingen said.

Longoria said he ordered the three held without bond in the Cameron County Jail in Brownsville because of the magnitude of the case and because as foreigners they are considered high risks for fleeing the country.

The three arrested were identified as Hermenegildo Rivas Sosa, 51, of Matamoros, Mexico; Alfonso Tristan Gonzalez, 36, of San Antonio; and Guadencio Garcia, 38, of McAllen. All three hold resident alien status in the United States, Longoria said.

But officials said they believe them to be only low-level employees of the drug organization.

"These are basically just the people that are hired to repack and transport," said Lt. Waylon Bullard, with the Narcotics Service of the Texas Department of Public Safety in Harlingen.

Armando Ramirez, resident agent in charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration office in Brownsville, said Thursday that federal charges probably would be filed in the case. Charges could include conspiracy to import, possess and distribute the drug, Ramirez said.

The 17,950 pounds of cocaine taken Wednesday west of Harlingen with an estimated street value of \$1 billion brought to 35 tons the total cache of the drug in three raids in five days.

Earlier Wednesday, the Coast Guard made what it called the largest cocaine seizure at sea and the third largest in U.S. history when it boarded a Panamanian supply vessel and uncovered 11,500 pounds of cocaine worth an estimated \$525 million.

The two hauls came just five days after agents entered a suburban Los Angeles warehouse and found 20 tons of cocaine — the world's largest seizure — worth between \$2 billion and \$20 billion, depending on the

In Harlingen, agents late Wednesday night said they were nervous at having \$1 billion worth of cocaine parked in two large Ryder trucks behind their local office.

"This, according to our headquarters in Austin, is the largest cocaine

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Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

### Hooked on horns

Dennis Brophy, a graduate student from Powell, Wyo., adjusts one of the 10 chrome-plated horns on his late-model

Chevrolet pickup. Part of the truck's unusual name comes from Brophy's major — psychology.

## Florida court eases abortion regulations

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A law requiring pregnant girls to get parental consent before having an abortion was struck down by the state Supreme Court on Thursday, just five days before lawmakers were to consider restricting access to abortions.

The split decision said Florida's constitutional guarantee of privacy outweighed the 1988 statute requiring consent of a parent, guardian or judge for a minor's abortion.

Attorney General Bob Butterworth immediately said his office

would petition the court for a rehearing.

"The challenged statute fails because it intrudes upon the privacy of the pregnant minor from conception to birth," the court wrote. "Such a substantial invasion of a pregnant female's privacy by the state for the full term of the pregnancy is not necessary for the preservation of maternal health or the potentiality of life."

The court heard the case of a 15-year-old Lake County girl, identified in court records only as "T.W." She

was denied permission for an abortion by a local judge, but her appeal wound its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, which returned the case without comment to the Florida Supreme Court.

In the decision, the Florida court noted the U.S. Supreme Court "has made it clear that the states, not the federal government, are the final guarantors of personal privacy."

"We can conceive of few more personal or private decisions concerning one's body that one can make in the course of a lifetime," the

court determined in upholding a 5th District Court of Appeals decision.

The court's ruling came just five days before a special session of the Legislature called by Gov. Bob Martinez to consider further abortion restrictions.

"I'm going to work to make certain that somehow parental consent comes back," Martinez said. He also is seeking fetal viability tests; a ban on use of public funds, personnel and facilities for abortions; tougher abortion clinic standards; and a notice to women seeking abortions on the development of their fetuses.

"If the Florida Supreme Court will not protect children, and parents cannot, then the Legislature must, by passing new abortion clinic regulations," Martinez said.

Senate President Bob Crawford said he planned to ask Martinez to postpone the special session in wake of the court's decision.

"I hope the Florida Legislature will look to this ruling next week and understand the implications in regard to the governor's ill-conceived plan to restrict access to abortion," said Janis Compton-Carr of the Florida Abortion Rights Action League.

## Culture center in L.A. provides scholarship for study in Japan

By Melissa Naumann

Of The Battalion Staff

You don't have to dig a hole to get to the Orient to study.

Instead, the U.S. - Japan Cross Culture Center in Los Angeles is offering scholarships to study Japanese at the Inter-Cultural Institute of Japan.

Applicants for the scholarship must be U.S. or Canadian citizens, but the Inter-Cultural Institute, located near Tokyo, has students of all nationalities, Greg Golley, education director for the Center, said.

In fact, most students are college students and businessmen, who recognize the advantage of learning Japanese, Golley said.

The institute's program, taught by Japanese instructors, is accelerated, teaching all three Japanese writing systems: katakana, hiragana and kanji, he said. Kanji, the system that consists of pictographs, originated in China and is the most difficult of the three, but is necessary for mastering Japanese, Golley said.

"In order to read a newspaper, you need to know at least 3,000 characters," he said. "It's kind of fun to learn because there's little pictures. Plus the calligraphy behind them is an art."

Golley said three different scholarships are offered — one covering tuition for a full year, one covering two-thirds of the tuition and one covering one-third of the tuition.

He estimated that a full year at the Institute, without a scholarship, would cost \$10,800, including tuition, housing and other living expenses.

The Institute, which has about 800 students, sponsors students for cultural visas, allowing them to work about 20 hours a week to alleviate the financial stress. Golley said many American students tutor Japanese students in English.

Applications for the term starting in October 1990 are due April 31. For more information, contact the Center at (213)617-2039.

## STS conference to come to Rudder

By Mia B. Moody

Of The Battalion Staff

A five-day national Science-Technology-Society (STS) Conference hosted by Texas A&M will show readers from five states ways to discuss topics such as world hunger, nuclear technology and water contamination to students in kindergarten through high school.

Dr. Bob James, a science education professor, said the conference at Rudder Tower will feature specialists from across the country who will teach STS concepts to represen-

tatives from state education agencies and school districts.

"We need to prepare our children to become informed decision-makers," James said. "because many of today's problems can only be solved through informed decision-making at the ballot box, workplace and home."

James said after participants learn STS concepts on issues such as acid rain, hazardous waste disposal and consumer safety after genetic modification of food animals and plants, they will teach these methods to science and social studies teachers in their school districts.

Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico and Louisiana will be represented at the conference, James said.

Dr. Paul Thompson, an associate professor of philosophy and humanities, will speak on biotechnology and risk management.

Dr. Anthony Stranges, an associate professor of history, will discuss historical perspectives on science, technology and human values from 1850 to 1900.

Dr. Carol Stuessey, assistant professor of science education, will speak on infusing concepts across the curriculum.



Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

### Camping Out

(Counterclockwise) Thomas Deeny, Pete Gamez, Mike Thomason, Larry Hubbard, Christina Kessie and Alan Riley camp out for

R.E.M. concert tickets that go on sale Saturday morning. Riley is the first person in line.