

History

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O'Shea later recovered from his wounds and received \$35,290 in damages from the Feher estate.

Iranian Hostage Crisis

Ending the 444 day Iranian hostage crisis, 52 American hostages were released from the American embassy in Tehran on Jan. 21, 1981. The freedom of the prisoners came as a result of an agreement between Iranian revolutionaries and members of the Carter administration. Although the release of the Americans was met with relief and acceptance by most people, some University students and faculty were of a different opinion.

Believing the American press exaggerated the seriousness of the hostage crisis, members of the Iranian Student Association, along with American Marxists, reportedly said they did not believe in the credibility of the hostage reports.

"The media has blown the whole situation out of proportion," Amin, an Iranian student, told the Emerald. "The media manipulated the American people."

Meetings, discussing the media's responsibility in the hostage crisis, did occur; however, the attendance of the sessions was reported to be small.

Assassination attempt

President Reagan was shot by John

Hinckley Jr., a Colorado native, on March 30, 1981. Receiving a wound to his side, Reagan reportedly missed having his heart hit by one inch. Despite his injury, Reagan was able to regain his presidential duties in a week and make a complete recovery in a few months.

Besides shooting Reagan, Hinckley also seriously wounded press secretary James Brady. Brady, shot in the head, suffered irreparable physical and mental damage.

Hinckley was acquitted of the crimes charged against him and was later sent to a psychiatric hospital in Washington, D.C. where he still remains.

In an article written the day after the assassination attempt, the Emerald interviewed Prof. Richard Brown, the chair of the University's history department and one of the nation's leading experts on American vigilantism and violence.

Brown told the Emerald that he believed the shooting did not come as a surprise to him because presidents have historically been the targets of assassination attempts.

"It's like a tree drawing lightning," Brown said. "The biggest target you can find in the United States is the president."

Draft Registration

Protest rallies against the draft registration were common at the University in the

early 1980s. Claiming the registration process was unconstitutional because it excluded women, more than 800,000 18- and 19-year-old men failed to register in 1982.

In an editorial, the Emerald stated its belief that the registration protests should be made for the right reasons.

"By arguing against the draft and the draft registration on the grounds that it does not include women, we are implying that we won't mind so much if women are registered," the Emerald reported. "The fact is, we are opposed to the registration, period."

Despite the protests, Reagan did not abolish the draft registration, and women were never included in the program.

Normally, men who did not register were faced with a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. However, Reagan allowed for a 30 to 60 day grace period for those individuals to register.

AIDS

During the 1980s, people became increasingly aware of the significance of the AIDS epidemic, and with that awareness came fear. Discrimination against homosexuals increased, and donations to blood banks decreased, reportedly because of people's lack of knowledge about the disease.

To help educate people about AIDS and to provide support for AIDS victims, the

University established the AIDS task force in 1985. Despite its initiation, though, Dr. James Johnson, who worked at the University Health Center, said people did not attempt to learn more about the epidemic.

"I think students need to realize that AIDS is everyone's problem, not just those in the high risk groups," Johnson said.

Johnson said he believed people did not attempt to learn more about AIDS due to fear of being labeled as a homosexual.

Shuttle explodes

The space shuttle Challenger exploded shortly after takeoff on Jan. 25, 1986, killing all seven crew members on board. With the destruction of the shuttle, thousands of Americans began to question the safety and validity of NASA's space program.

At the University, mixed reactions to the explosion were recorded. Some people said the space program was unnecessary, while others said they valued NASA's achievements.

In an editorial, the Emerald expressed its wish to see the continuance of space exploration.

"Despite the dangers, the space shuttle program should and will continue," the Emerald reported. "Humans should remain undaunted in their quest to reveal the universe's secrets."

APASU

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aiming to share experiences that are common to many Asian-Americans, said Ryan Suda, a member of the group.

"I like being able to reach a lot of people and to talk about controversial issues with the crowd," Suda said. "We tell our own stories and we talk about issues that affect us."

In an attempt to educate people about homosexual issues, the group performed skits about wet

dreams and homosexuality. Two male actors kissed each other on stage and removed each other's shirts while rolling on the floor during a 10-minute performance.

Reactions to the skit were mixed; however, most people seemed to be supportive of the message being taught.

"They talked about their performances afterwards and they made people aware of the hate and ignorance that exists within themselves,"

said Jim Sather, APASU co-treasurer and co-coordinator for the show.

Lana Mak, a junior education major, said she also liked the message the actors promoted. She said the controversial acts, along with the stories told by the actors, were each effective and educational.

"They taught about issues that haven't been brought up, such as homosexuality, and they discussed common misconceptions about Asian-Americans," Mak said. "I

think my favorite part was when the actors told their personal stories. They shared a part of themselves with the audience, which I thought that was really moving."

Many audience members also enjoyed Pinay, the second performing group of the evening. The four member Filipino band sang a mixture of R&B and pop, eliciting hollers and tapping feet from the crowd.

"Their music is really soulful," said Brian Akizaki, a University

graduate. "Their love songs express what many people feel but can't find the words to say."

Jason Mak, APASU co-director and co-coordinator for the show said he was pleased with both the turnout and the audience's reception to the performances.

"I'm glad people showed up and enjoyed themselves," Mak said. "People were able to understand more about Asian-American life, even if it was just a glimpse."

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