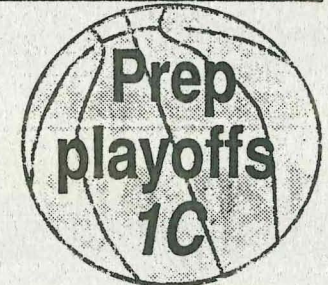


# The Mobile Press



61st year — No. 312

Mobile, Ala. 28 pages — 4 Sections

★ ★ Final

## Jury awards \$2.5 million

A federal court jury awarded \$2.5 million Monday to the father of a man who died while cleaning an elevator shaft here in 1984.

The jury deliberated for two hours before finding in favor of William Paul Lakeman Sr., as administrator of the estate of Donald Eugene Lakeman. The judgment was against Pittsburgh Plate Glass Industries Inc.

U.S. District Judge Anthony Alaimo from the Eastern District of Georgia presided over the week-long trial.

Attorney Buddy Brown said Donald Lakeman was working as an elevator service man for Otis Elevator Co. at the time of his death

in August 1984. Brown and Mike Worel represented Lakeman.

**BROWN SAID** Lakeman, 22, was cleaning an elevator shaft at the Coastal Training Institute in Mobile when he "fell into a coma like sleep because of vapors" from the cleaner he was using.

"In an attempt to dissolve grease and oil in the bottom of the shaft he used a cleaner, but the container had no information on it with respect to the actual chemical content of the material nor information on the particular hazards that were known to the manufacturer but not conveyed to the user," the attorney stated.