

# The Battalion

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## Cherry Blossoms at A&M?

No, the white trees surrounding the Academic Building mall have not turned white. With the use of infrared film, the photographer captured a dif-

ferent spirit of A&M on a bright sunny day like yesterday.

Battalion photo by Steve Reis

## J. Paul Getty had more money

# Hughes not a billionaire, public accounting shows

LAS VEGAS—Howard Hughes was not a billionaire or even close, according to a court-ordered tally of his wealth that is filled with puzzling entries reducing the size of his fortune.

It pictures Hughes as a run-of-the-mill eccentric who had only \$168.8 million, less than 10 per cent of the \$2.5 billion or more he was reputed to be worth.

By comparison, the estate of Jean Paul Getty, a contemporary often mentioned with him as among the world's richest men, runs to more than \$3 billion, 20 times the reputed size of Hughes' fortune.

The day Hughes died, April 5, the cash on hand, \$1,799, would not have bought a

Volkswagen, but he did have more than \$671,000 in bank accounts.

The first public accounting of the Hughes fortune, filed yesterday with the Clark County Clerk's Office for use in settling his estate, was made by the investment banking division of the prominent brokerage, Merrill, Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith.

A final report is expected in three or four weeks, but the total is not expected to change much, said attorney William Morse, who filed the appraisal on behalf of the administrators of the estate — its caretakers until a Probate Court decides who inherits it.

The complicated appraisal does not re-

veal what happened to the \$546 million Hughes received for his interest in Trans World Airline in the mid 1960s and \$142 million for the oil tool division of Hughes Tool Co., which alone would be more than four times the total given.

It values his personal 22 per cent of Hughes Air West airline at \$850,000 appraising the whole airline as worth \$3.8 million — a fraction of the \$41 million Hughes paid for it.

The Silver Slipper Casino in Las Vegas, for which Hughes paid \$5.5 million, was listed as worth one dollar.

The value of the Summa Corp. — the corporate umbrella which held much of his holdings — was lumped with the Hughes Television Network at \$110.7 million. Summa lawyers have told Nevada courts within the past year that corporation alone was worth more than \$450 million.

Summa and the television firm between them control six Nevada hotel-casinos, the Hughes Helicopter Co., the other 78 per cent of Hughes Airwest and vast land holdings including most of the undeveloped land on the prosperous Las Vegas hotel "strip" and 40 square miles west of the city.

The Hughes Aircraft Corp., estimated to be worth \$800 million, was not included. The accounting said it is owned by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute of Miami, a nonprofit institution.



Battalion photo by Steve Reis

## Different View

Not all the eyes were on the baseball players last Friday. Some people were watching other sights during the pleasant afternoon game. This is one of the Diamond Darlings who attempted to add a little more interest to the game.

## Math professor emeritus died last week after Houston surgery

Dr. John T. Hurt, professor emeritus of mathematics at Texas A&M University, died Thursday evening in a Houston hospital following surgery.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, with burial in Cedar Crest Cemetery in Baytown.

Hurt, 68, retired from A&M in 1974 after 38 years on the faculty. Most of his career was devoted to mathematics instruction, but he taught for three years in the electrical engineering department.

He joined the University faculty in 1936, one year after receiving his Ph.D. from Rice University where he had earned

a B.A. in 1931 and an M.A. in 1932. He was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and held membership in numerous professional organizations, including the American Mathematics Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Hurt, who was born in Waco, resided at 804 Lazy Lane in Bryan with his wife, Mrs. Ches Lee Hurt.

Other survivors include a daughter, Mrs. Maxine Fisher of Baytown; a brother, W.J. Hurt of Houston; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## President tries to keep promise

# Carter begins 'close to people' trip

WASHINGTON — President Carter, continuing his effort to fill a campaign promise to stay close to the people, headed for a New England town meeting tonight on the first major trip of his presidency.

Before leaving, Carter scheduled meetings with Japanese Ambassador Fumihiko Togo and Irish Foreign Minister Garrett Fitzgerald.

Carter will ride Air Force One for the first time as President on the overnight trip taking him to a private home in Clinton, Mass., the coal country of Charleston, W. Va., and New York City. His wife, Rosalynn, will remain in Washington.

His previous out-of-town trips were by helicopter to Pittsburgh during the winter cold, and by an Air Force command plane for his only trip home to Georgia. He has ridden Air Force One once — in Georgia soon after the election as a courtesy from Gerald Ford.

Carter's appearance at a town meeting was one of the suggestions made during the transition period when Carter sought ideas on how he could stay close to the American people.

He goes first to Clinton, an old textile mill town of 13,000 near Boston, to spend 90 minutes at a town meeting. As he did frequently during the presidential primaries, he will spend the night in a private home.

He will stay with Edward and Katherine Thompson, parents of eight whose big house was chosen because it was close to the town hall.

Carter is likely to use an energy-environment round table tomorrow in Charleston W. Va., deep in coal country, to boost conversion from natural gas to

coal, which will be an important part of his comprehensive energy plan to be revealed April 20.

Carter will speak in the United Nations later Thursday — an appearance, said Press Secretary Jody Powell, dating back to transition planning.

Powell said it was thought "at this point into the administration it would be wise to present to the American people and the

world at large a general view of this administration's priorities and attitudes in foreign policy."

Powell said yesterday the "broad brush variety" speech would not be an attempt to announce new initiatives or departures from present policy. He said the speech would contain at least some discussion of human rights, the dominant theme so far of the Carter administration.

Earlier yesterday, Powell told reporters Carter personally approved shipping emergency supplies to Zaire in response to that country's appeal for aid, but is giving "no thought or consideration to sending ground troops there."

He said there were no weapons in the \$1 million shipment of supplies Zaire requested to meet a reported invasion from Angola.

## Senate committee passes bill to give the terminally ill euthanasia choice

AUSTIN — A Senate committee has voted to give terminally ill persons the right to decide if their lives should be continued by artificial means.

The Senate Jurisprudence Committee passed the bill yesterday and sent it to the full Senate after emotional arguments in which opponents said it was nothing more than "passive euthanasia."

"This bill opens the door to massive abuse of the unwanted elderly," said Lewis Berry Jr. of Houston. "It's aimed at facilitating relatives who would like to encourage unwanted elderly to make a death decision."

"We're not talking about Dr. Frankenstein-like devices or Rube Goldberg-type machinery. This would allow the withholding of any medical treatment."

Bill Buckner, a Georgetown attorney and minister, said proponents were not being candid about the bill.

"Let's call it what it is — voluntary, passive euthanasia," Buckner said. "One could withdraw food — intravenous feedings — from a comatose patient and let them starve to death under this bill."

Among those speaking in favor of the bill was Sally Tullos of Austin, a 31-year-old victim of acute leukemia. She urged approval of the bill so she could be sure her life would not be prolonged indefinitely while she is dying.

"I believe in the quality of my life versus the quantity," Ms. Tullos said. "I just don't want to be prolonged by machines."

Dr. Harold Skaggs Jr., an Austin neurologist, said many patients express concern at the prospect of being trapped in machines which would prevent them from dying in peace and exhaust their financial resources in futile medical treatment.

"The fear of dying is much greater than the fear of death," Skaggs said. Zorena Bolton of Austin, a social worker

and teacher, said the bill would permit the natural process of dying to take place without intervention. She said it will not permit mercy killing.

"For most of us more fearful than death is the period of time when we are neither dead nor alive but lingering," she said.

## Weather

Sunny and windy today and tomorrow. Clear and cool tonight. High today in the low 80s, low tonight in the mid-50s. Winds out of the northeast 10-15 mph shifting to the southeast tonight, 5-10 mph. No precipitation predicted.

## Regents may increase dorm, apartment rent

By LEE ROY LESCHPER JR.  
Texas A&M University students will pay more to live on-campus this fall if the Board of Regents approves recommendations to raise dormitory and University apartment fees.

The board will consider the recommendations, which would raise dormitory fees 7.2 to 8.8 per cent, in their 8:30 meeting Tuesday morning. According to their agenda, that would mean an increase of from \$12 for the most inexpensive dorm room (\$135 to \$147) to \$28 for the most expensive dorm rooms (\$390 to \$418).

Married students would pay \$5 to \$13 more per month in rent for University married student apartments.

Also to be considered will be a \$5 per semester increase in the price of shuttle bus tickets.

Citing increased enrollment, a need for more buses and an anticipated increase in operating costs, Howard Vestal, University assistant vice president for business affairs, has asked the board to raise individual student tickets to \$20 per semester, student husband-wife tickets to \$30 and faculty-staff tickets to \$25.

The Regents will also decide whether to issue \$9 million in permanent University fund bonds this summer. The bond sale, if approved, would be made in conjunction with a similar University of Texas System bond sale.

The A&M and UT Systems have made

joint bond sales since 1958 to keep one system from receiving a better bond rate than the other.

Patent rights for three inventions developed by A&M researchers may be awarded during the Regents' meeting to the scientists responsible.

Under the University's patent agreement, if approved, the researchers receive the right to obtain a patent for their invention. In exchange, he must recognize the Agricultural Extension Service's role in developing the invention, allow the University free use of the invention, and share any money he receives for the invention with the extension service.

Construction contracts the Regents may award Tuesday include: \$730,000 for improvements in Duncan Dining Hall; \$251,000 for construction of sidewalks on campus, and \$126,000 for construction of greenhouses at the Texas Forest Service research center in Lubbock.

The board will also review construction earlier approved by W.C. Freeman, system executive officer, including \$6,400 spent to move the sign in front of the College of Veterinary Medicine. The sign had blocked the view of traffic on Hwy. 60 from vehicles leaving the vet school parking lot. The Regents will also consider a bid for \$29,720 which Freeman awarded in January for construction of two shelters at shuttle bus stops on campus.

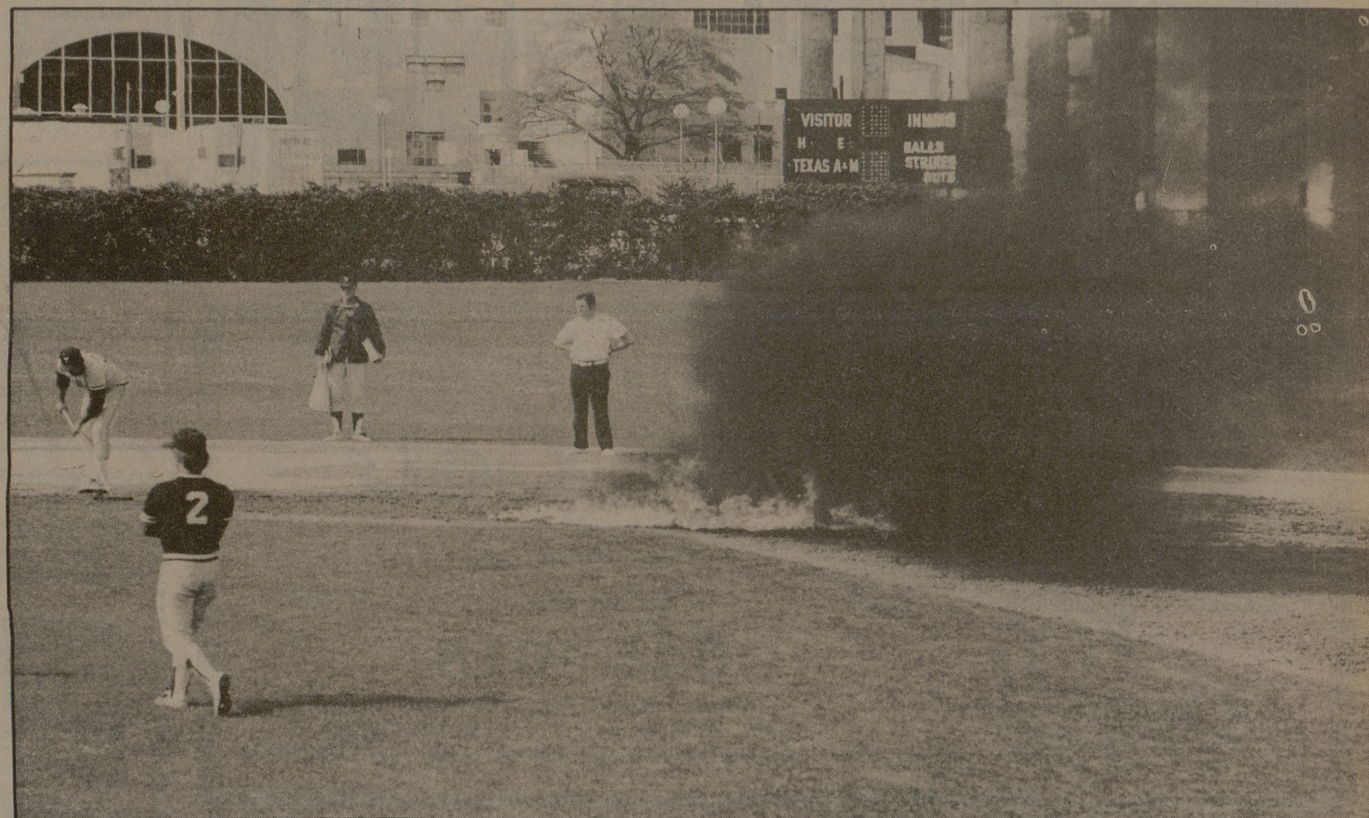
Students will be able to purchase next

year's A&M campus directory when pre-registering for fall classes if the regents approve a recommendation to make the directory an optional item on student fee slips. The directory would cost \$3 if bought then, \$3.50 if bought over the counter later.

The first summer school sessions ever at A&M's Moody Campus in Galveston will begin this summer if the Regents approve such action.

Most board decisions will have been made the preceding Monday during one of the board's several committee meetings. Of these, the planning and building committee will meet at 8:30 Monday morning, the committee for academic campuses is at 10:30 a.m. and the executive committee at 1:30 p.m. The official meeting Tuesday in the Board of Regents' room adjoining the Memorial Student Center is open to the public. The committee meetings Monday are not.

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## Burning the Baseline

Members of the Aggie baseball team helped dry the infield last Friday before the game with SMU. Under the watchful eye of coach Tom Chandler,

they dried the playing field and then proceeded to beat SMU during the first in a three-game series.

Battalion photo by Steve Reis