

# THE BATTALION

Vol. 71 No. 179  
10 Pages

Wednesday, July 26, 1978  
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611  
Business Dept. 845-2611

## Inside Wednesday:

- Dr. Clinton Phillips to serve as acting dean of the College of Business Administration - p. 3.
- Picture page on the Firemen's Training School - p. 6-7.
- Pete Rose hits new NL record - p. 9.



## New dormitories get go-ahead vote

By LEE ROY LESCHPER Jr.  
Battalion News Editor

New dormitories to house 500 Texas A&M University men students have come a step closer to reality. The University System Board of Regents appropriated \$20,000 Tuesday for design of two women's dormitories. The fabricated construction dorms could probably be completed by August, 1979, University officials said.

During a board committee meeting Monday several regents also said they wanted to consider construction of another dormitory complex similar to the University's Krueger-Dunn-Ashton complex. But any action on such a complex is some time away, they said.

The two new women's dorms will be built west of the University's All-Faiths Chapel.

The board also voted to grant the city of Prairie View an easement to lay a sewage line across Prairie View A&M University's campus to the university's sewage treatment plant. A dispute between the city and university had developed over the sewage line the city had laid across the campus earlier this year. That dispute culminated in Prairie View's mayor ordering Prairie View A&M President A. I. Thomas arrested for having the line disconnected.

But the city and Prairie View A&M have resolved most of their differences, and granting the easement is a "show of good faith," System Attorney James Bond told the board. The city and university still have to agree on a rate structure under which the university will treat the city's sewage.

During its meeting Tuesday the board approved sale of bonds worth more than \$41 million in four bond issues. Those bonds will finance construction of health and physical education facilities, expansion of the Kyle Field football stadium, and retirement of previously-issued Texas A&M and Prairie View A&M bonds.

The board approved two formal policy statements that will have long-range effects on the University system. Those statements were: the updated 5-year master plan for Texas A&M growth and development; and a formalized University system investment policy.

The master plan, required by the State Coordinating Board of Colleges and Universities, outlines Texas A&M's goals, plans and guidelines for operation and growth over the next 5 years. The investment policy, established in principle by the regents at their last meeting, gives System Chancellor Jack Williams authority over almost all investments made within the system.

Before that investment policy was revised, the president of each of the system's universities had had authority for investment of the funds connected with his university.

The regents appropriated \$13,000 for design work on converting the stadium lights from to be removed from Kyle Field to use as a lighting system for the intramural sports fields on the University's west campus.

The board also granted a \$6 per semester price increase in Texas A&M's optional laundry fee. Officials from the Bryan firm handling the University laundry service had said in requesting the increase that rising costs make the price increase necessary.

## West Texas town pays few taxes, cuts spending

United Press International

IRAAN — Until a year ago, this town — the home of Alley Oop, one bank and two schools — was a city without a tax.

Now the West Texas town of 1,050 has a one percent sales tax that contributed about \$17,000 to city coffers the first eight months it was collected.

This town was incorporated in the early 1930s. We survived until now without any tax at all," Mayor John Kniveton said.

But what is preventing a taxpayers' revolt is that while residents pay a small property and school tax, they don't pay a city property tax. Kniveton said the community gets along fine without it.

"We just don't believe in spending more than we've got available," he said. "The people pay for what they want. If it's un-

productive, we don't have it."

Iraan is among about 25 cities in the state that the Texas Municipal League says has no city property taxes such as those that sparked the controversial Proposition 13 vote in California to trim government spending.

Economics was the reason the budget-conscious town opted for the sales tax rather than a property tax when it needed more money.

"The sales tax is automatic," Kniveton said. "The state collects it for all cities. It doesn't cost anything to administer."

Except for the sales tax, the \$220,000 annual budget is derived from city-owned utilities. Volunteers also run the Fire Department and ambulance service.

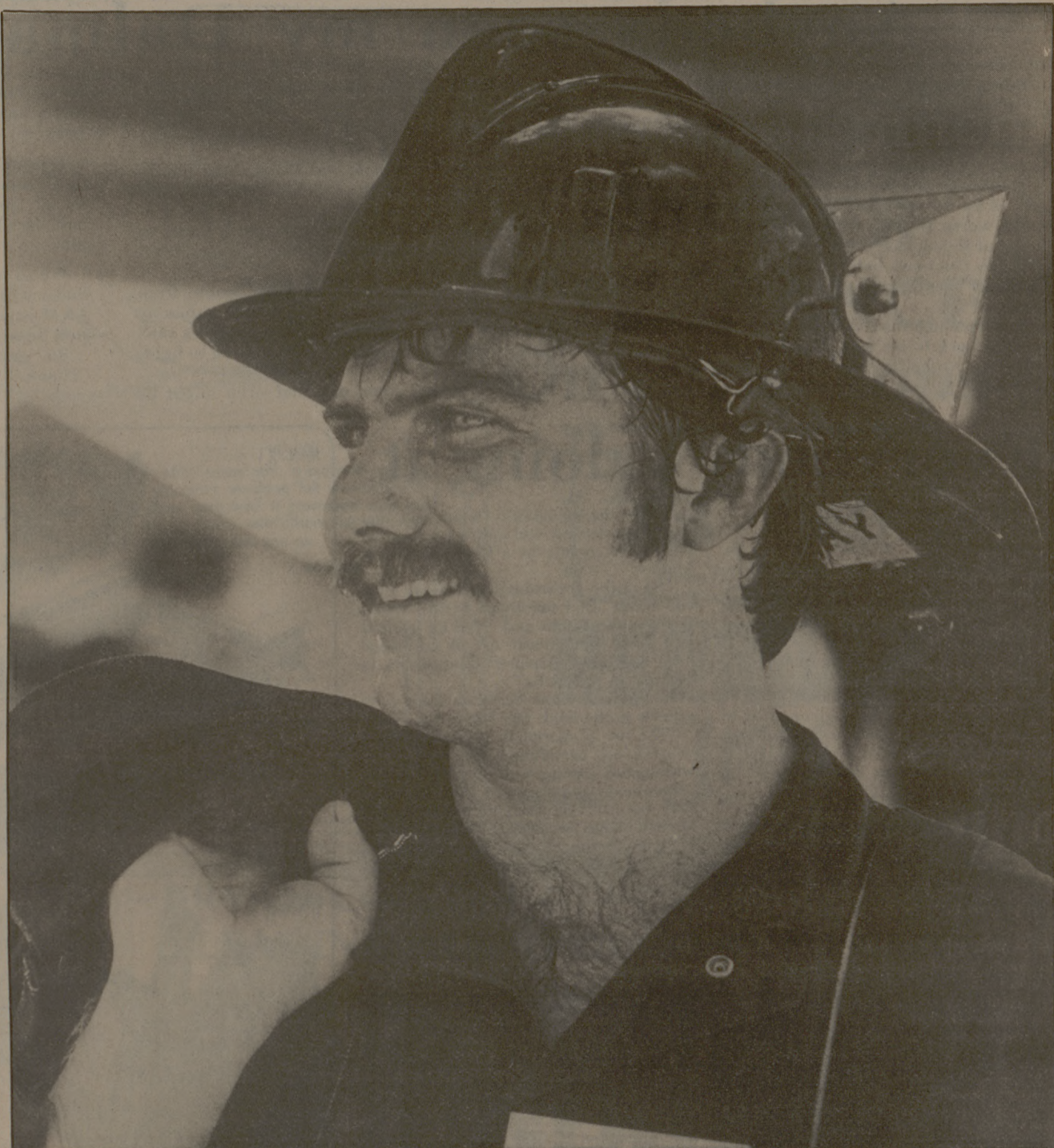
Pecos County sits atop one of the na-

tion's largest oil fields. The \$250 million forwarded each year to the county by the petroleum industry helps keep school taxes low.

V.T. Hamlin was working in Iraan as a newspaper reporter during the oil boom days when he had the idea for the comic strip "Alley Oop."

Kniveton said folks in Iraan are "thrilled" about passage of Proposition 13 because it indicates a trend toward what they have operated all along — efficient government.

"It's everybody's money," Kniveton said. "Who is the government? It's all of us. I think that's what we've lost sight of. You individually and I individually know there's a limit to what we can afford and what we can have."



### It's been a long day

Thoughts of a cold beer, a long shower or a little rest dance through Fireman Aaron Younger's head. Younger, from Marshall is tired after a hard day's

training at the Firemen's Training School. See related photos on pages 6 and 7.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

## Run on traveler's checks expected

# Americans abroad feel pinch as dollar value falls to new low

United Press International  
LONDON — Americans at home may shrug when the dollar tumbles against foreign currencies. Americans abroad

wince. They were wincing hard Monday. Tourists as well as Americans who live overseas took an immediate financial beating when foreign exchange dealers decided yet again that the "Almighty Dollar" wasn't.

"Americans were shocked at the rate when exchanging over the counters Tuesday," said an American Express spokesman in London.

"From what you can hear," echoed an official of equally thronged Thomas Cook, "most of them think the rate will go lower still."

Sooner or later the dollar's slide will hit pocketbooks at home. Everything imported will cost more, everything made or transported using imported oil will go up.

Overseas the impact is now. "This is lousy," said Stan Greenfield of

Brooklyn as he peered at the Italian lire he had just received for his dollar checks in Rome. "The rate was supposed to be a lot better than this. But what can you do?"

An American in London will pay \$8.30 for a seat at the National Theater. Last week it was \$8.11. In Germany, the stein of beer which cost \$4.84 last week was \$4.90. A bowl of Italian pasta which could be had last week for \$1.17 was about \$1.20. A Japanese tape recorder that cost \$123 in Tokyo a year ago costs \$157 now.

Americans who live abroad and are paid in dollars — all servicemen, for instance, or employees of American corporations — faced the fact that their rents have jumped, their local taxes have gone higher, everything they buy "on the economy" costs more.

Most European countries reported no instant run on dollar assets like traveller's checks. But some said this may be because tourists haven't yet gotten the word.

"It usually takes a day or two before U.S. tourists realize what's going on," said

an American Express official in Vienna. "They learn of changes in the dollar rate with a certain delay."

From early morning onward, any tourist with eyes in London knew of Monday's dollar plunge. Notice boards at newsstands on all main streets shouted "Dollar Falls to 34-year Low," and banner headlines in London newspapers backed up the boards.

So the usual places to cash traveler's checks were extra busy.

"We always have big queues after the weekend, but today there seemed to be a few more getting rid of dollars," the American Express spokesman said.

Vienna reported tourist dollar-changing business "lively," Rome about normal. No other capitals recorded tourist stampedes.

Nor did every price go up instantly.

"We are not changing the dollar price of our rooms or souvenirs," said a spokesman for an American hotel chain in Stockholm. "It wouldn't pay to change prices after jumps in exchange rates."

## Senior citizens' population boom expected next century

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Thirty years ago, nearly half of all men 65 and over were employed or seeking jobs. Today, among people 65 and over, only one man in five and one woman in twelve are in the workforce.

But two Cabinet members and other experts question whether the nation can afford the trend toward early retirement — especially when the people born in the post World War II baby boom become senior citizens.

Witnesses at recent hearings of the Senate Special Committee on Aging testified on the percentages of those working over 65 and expressed concern about the Social Security costs and the loss of skilled workers to early retirement.

Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Joseph Califano told the committee other changes also are taking place which may require a reconsideration of the whole U.S. policy on work and retirement.

"People are living longer, he said. In 1940, the average life expectancy at birth was 63.5 years — now it is 69 for men, 77 for women. Three-fourths of the population now reaches 65 and, once there, lives the average to 81.

"We are at the dawn of the first four-generational society in the history of our

nation," said Califano.

The baby boom following World War II, Califano said, will become a "senior boom" in the early 21st century. In 1940, seven percent of the population was 65 or over; today it is 11 percent; by 2030 it will be nearly 20 percent.

Today six active workers support one in retirement. By 2030, the ratio is expected to be 3-to-1, and under present trends, the federal government will have to spend \$635 billion by 2025 — up from \$112 billion this year — for Social Security and other pensions, Medicare, welfare, food stamps and various other services for the elderly.

This would be a growth from 24 percent to 40 percent of total federal outlays.

Dr. Harold Sheppard, director of the Center on Work and Aging of the American Institutes for Research, said the coming senior citizen boom means that by 2000, there will be eight million Americans over 80 — 1.7 million more than had been projected as late as 1971.

How will the increasing proportion of Americans in their early 60s in the next century support these octogenarians if they themselves are retired, he asked.

Labor Secretary Ray Marshall said it may be difficult to ensure older Americans a comfortable retirement by shifting money through Social Security, welfare

and other programs.

He said it will be necessary to expand employment opportunities for the elderly.

Congress took one step in that direction last April when it raised from 65 to 70 the age at which a private employer can require a person to retire solely because of age, and removed the upper age limit of 70 for most federal workers.

It also agreed to allow older Americans to earn larger amounts of money without losing Social Security benefits, and to increase a worker's retirement benefits by three percent for each year of work past 65.

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## College graduates failing professional licensing tests

United Press International

AUSTIN — Up to 75 percent of the Texas college graduates are failing professional licensing tests, a Galveston senator said Tuesday.

Sen. A.B. Schwartz, D-Galveston, questioned four appointees to the State College Coordinating Board about statistics he said showed 50 percent of the graduates of Texas colleges who take the examination to be licensed as architects had 75 percent who take the certified public account test had failed.

"We're finding out that four-year universities in this state are doing a lousy job

of educating people," he said. "If you base anything on a testing average, they're not accomplishing what they're supposed to be accomplishing."

Harvey Weil of Corpus Christi, who has been on the Coordinating Board since its creation, said he was unaware of any testing device to determine the effectiveness of instruction at state colleges and universities.

"I do know we have a reputation nationwide for having a very good university system," Weil said. "I'm shocked to learn some of them are not doing well."



### Making a mess of a mess

Construction workers seem to be piling the rubble even higher. These workers are on the crew renovating Sbis dining hall this summer with heavy equipment including an oversized air hammer.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

## Blackjack 'counter' sues Las Vegas casino

United Press International

DENVER — An attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union is handling the case of a Nevada blackjack player who filed suit against a Las Vegas casino that barred him from gambling tables because he played the game too well.

The case of Mark Estes is set for oral argument on Dec. 12, 1979, before the Nevada Supreme Court. Attorney Stephen Pevar of the Mountain States Regional Office of the ACLU said he has filed a motion to expedite the hearing.

Pevar said Saturday the suit contends the Las Vegas Hilton wants only losers gambling in its casino, not winners.

The Nevada district court recently ruled that the casino, as a private business, could exclude anyone it pleased — as long as it didn't discriminate against them on the basis of sex, race, or creed.

Estes, a Las Vegas resident, was ejected in November 1976 from the gambling tables at the Hilton for "card counting." He was arrested and spent the night in jail.

Card counters use a system devised by mathematics professor Edward Thorp of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1972, Thorp used a computer to come up with a system for winning at blackjack.

In his book, "Beat the Dealer," Thorp explained his system of memorizing cards dealt to the player and adjusting bets according to the number of "good" and "bad" cards remaining in the deck.

Normally, the house wins about five percent of everything bet, said Pevar. A good card counter can reduce the odds to about two percent and a superb card counter may get the odds two percent in his favor, said the attorney.

Pevar, who lives in Denver, said "The Hilton is saying that a blackjack player can't use his mind when he is placing bets." He filed suit saying Estes had been discriminated against.

"There is something inherently contemptible in the Hilton's exclusion of card counters, allowing only those persons to play who are more certain to lose," said Pevar in his court brief. "It is akin to a major league baseball team refusing to play all but minor league teams."

Pevar is appealing the case to the Nevada Supreme Court, arguing casinos must comply with constitutional mandates of due process and equal protection under the law because they are so closely connected to the state which licenses and supervises them.