

# THE BATTALION

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## Hotard Hall to close for spring term?

By CAROL HANCOCK  
Battalion Reporter

When Hotard Hall residents move out of their rooms for Christmas break in December, they won't be coming back. Not until next fall, anyway.

Texas A&M University President Jarvis Miller gave the Department of Student Affairs the go-ahead early last week to close Hotard during the spring semester for possible renovation.

Although no formal renovation proposal has been presented to the Board of Regents, some members of the board and Chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert looked at the dorm after viewing nearby construction.

The board has recognized Hotard's need for repairs and has been discussing the idea informally, said Robert Cherry, assistant to the chancellor and secretary to the board. There is, however, no renovation item on the agenda for the November board meeting, he said.

The Department of Student Affairs has drawn up a proposal that includes renovation plans for Hotard — basically the same as those done to Legett Hall last spring. "What we really want to do is make it a nice, livable place," said Ron Sasse, associate director of student affairs.

The proposal suggests all new furniture, new doors and locks, aluminum windows, air-conditioning, phones, carpeting, a drop ceiling and new roofing. The dorm would also be waterproofed and repainted. The bathrooms would be totally redone and some areas would be converted into study rooms.

The proposal has been sent to the Department of Business Services to arrange the financial aspect of it. Howard Vestal, vice president for business affairs, was un-

available for comment as to when the proposal would be submitted to the board.

Cherry said there is ample time for the proposal to be presented to the regents before the meeting in November. There is also a possibility the board will have a special meeting in early November to discuss the idea, he said.

There have been definite indications Hotard will be renovated, Sasse said. Approval for the dorm closing from President Miller and the board's interest in the proposal point toward the regents' approval of the plan, he said.

Many things were considered before the request for permission to close Hotard was submitted to Miller, Sasse said.

If Hotard is renovated, he said, work will have to begin in the spring in order to complete the dorm in time for the fall 1980 semester.

Room reservation cards for the spring semester must be turned in next week, Sasse said.

"Even though the proposal has not been approved, we would hate for us to sign up for Hotard and then have to move them out if the proposal was accepted," he said.

Another factor in the decision to close Hotard was the inconvenience Hotard residents would have to put up with as the two new modular dorms were built.

The construction of the two dorms parallel to Hotard is extremely noisy, Sasse said. The noise would increase in the spring, he said.

A high amount of dust and dirt can collect in the rooms. Windows are usually left open because the dorm is not air-conditioned.

Nolen Mears, area coordinator for Hotard Hall, said all the discomfort and

noise might promote lower grades.

"With all things considered, I think we took the best approach to the problem," he said.

Another inconvenience is the relocation of water, sewer and electrical lines. Each service will have to be cut off when relocated for the modular dorms.

Hotard residents have mixed feelings about the dorm renovation proposal. The immediate reaction was negative. Slowly they're beginning to accept the idea, Mears said. Head resident David Bergen is all in favor of the idea.

"Hotard is physically in worse shape than any (dorm) on campus," he said.

Jeff Buzek said he wished Hotard could be renovated during the summer.

"It's going to be a big hassle having to move out," he said.

Alan Gragg, fourth floor resident adviser, said he thought the dorm physically needed renovation but feels the people in Student Affairs are unconcerned about the opinions of the students.

"They have good intentions but it's apparent we residents have been caught up in the budget game," he said.

One suspicion Gragg and others have is the possibility that Hotard might be made into a women's dorm if it is renovated.

Mears said the men in Legett were told the dorm would be made a women's dormitory after renovation. There has been no proposal to make Hotard a women's dorm.

Mears said Hotard residents will be given first priority to dorm room vacancies in the spring. There is no guarantee there will be spaces where students want them, he said, but all head residents are working with Student Affairs to reserve spaces and keep roommates together.



Battalion photo by Sam Stroder

A hallway on a landing of Texas A&M University's Hotard Hall shows the need for renovation. President Jarvis Miller gave the Department of Student

Affairs the go-ahead to close the dorm in the spring for possible renovation. A&M's Board of Regents has recognized the need for repairs in Hotard.

## New campus fire alarms still 'getting the kinks out'

By ANGIE JONES  
Battalion Reporter

A new campus fire detection system is almost finished. Although it is safer, a few false alarms are inevitable.

Records from the Physical Plant, in charge of campus maintenance, show 20 fire alarms have gone off on campus between Oct. 1 and Oct. 21. Harry Stiteler, safety and health officer at the Physical Plant, says an average of one alarm per day is not unusual, considering the number of buildings on campus and the sensitive fire equipment being installed.

Last year only 35 buildings had fire alarm systems, Stiteler said. So the Physi-

cal Plant business office recommended that the systems be upgraded. The proposal was approved and now 85 buildings will have had some form of added fire detection by December.

Every building is connected to a main monitor, called "Hawkeye," which registers a signal at the Physical Plant and at the University Police dispatcher's office when an alarm goes off. A campus policeman is sent to the site and if there is a fire, the College Station Fire Department is called.

Some of the buildings which have just been connected to the Hawkeye system

Eighty-five buildings will have had some form of added fire detection by December — Harry Stiteler, safety and health officer at the physical plant.

are going through a "burning in" period. This is the time it takes to "get the kinks out of the equipment," Stiteler explained. Rudder Center is going through its burning in period; three false alarms have gone off there.

The Soil and Crop Center has had two real fires. One began in the hay sampling room and another was caused by a faulty light fixture.

University police have determined that five fire alarms were set maliciously by

people either burning the heat detectors, removing them or pulling the alarms where fire extinguishers are located.

Capt. Elmer Schneider, University Police dispatcher, said a false fire alarm is a Class A misdemeanor. The penalty is a fine not to exceed \$2,000, or a jail term not to exceed one year, or both.

John White, coordinator of special services, said if a student is caught tampering with fire alarm equipment he will be billed for the damages.

A different type of fire protection system is being installed in the Data Processing Center, though it is still connected to the main Hawkeye system.

The Halon Fire Protection system disperses pressurized liquid halon through a network of pipes when a fire is detected. The halon costs \$7 per pound, Restivo said, and there are 6,072 pounds of the gas in the system here.

Because of the high cost of the gas, the fire detection system is designed with a two-step alarm signal. The heat detector sends a signal to the control panel in the computer room. Here the signal stays in a "holding pattern" in case of false alarm. At the same time a signal is sent to the Hawkeye monitor. If the first signal is not voided a second signal releases the gas after 30 seconds.

## F.Y.I. ... Miscellaneous notes

### 'Fall back'

It's time to change the clocks again. Sunday at 2 a.m. we will officially go off Central Daylight Time and back to Central Standard Time.

So set your clocks one hour back — i.e., to 1 a.m. If this confuses you (as it does most people), just remember you're getting an extra hour of sleep.

### Freshman elections

Votes from Wednesday's freshmen elections have been counted, but results aren't official yet.

Some top vote-getters may not qualify for office because of low mid-term grades. Bruce Russell, student government election commissioner, said grades were to be checked today.

### Q-drop: last chance

Students have until Monday to drop classes with no penalty.

A student's record will show a "Q" for classes dropped through that day. A "Q" does not figure into the grade point ratio.

Students who drop a course after Monday will receive an "F" unless unusual circumstances exist.

To drop a course, students must first see their academic advisers.

## Change in grading system possible this semester

By ELLEN EIDELBACH  
Battalion Reporter

Texas A&M University's student senate will recommend a change in the University grading system before the end of the semester.

The Academic Affairs committee will consider several different proposals to alter the present four-point scale of grading before making a recommendation to the senate, said John C. Calhoun, student government vice president for academic affairs.

Senators heard one such proposal at Wednesday's meeting, presented by Dr. John A. McIntyre, professor of physics.

Under McIntyre's system, students would receive grades beginning at 0.0, or the equivalent of a 55, and ending at 4.5, which would be equal to 100.

Every point in between 0.0 and 4.5 would relate to the numbers 55 through 100 on an increasing scale. For example, a 56 would be 0.1 and a 57 would be 0.2.

"The trouble is now, the man who made the 98 gets the same grade as the man with a 92," McIntyre said. "I'm not changing the scale at all I'm just making it finer, so it'll represent what the student did."

There is not much difference between a student with an 89 and one with a 90, but

there is between a B and an A, McIntyre said. The new system would point these differences out.

This grading system proposal and others are being considered by student senators in an effort to improve the present one.

"What we're trying to do is get a more accurate grading system," Calhoun explained.

Another item being considered by the rules and regulations committee would ban bicycles from the central campus from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

"The number of bicycle accidents has been going up lately," Paul Bettencourt, vice president for rules and regulations, explained. "I've heard of eight to 10 accidents happening a day."

Bettencourt added that any bill would be a recommendation to the University Traffic Panel if it is passed.

In other action, the senate passed three bills which would:

— provide staplers and scissors for student use near copying machines in the library

— change student seating for baseball games to both upper and lower decks on the first base side of Olsen Field (Presently, students occupy all of the upper deck only)

## B-CS gas stations plan to stay open through SMU-A&M game weekend

By SANDRA SEFCIK  
Battalion Reporter

Even though area gasoline dealers won't get their allocation figures for November until the first, most are going to be open the weekend of the Texas A&M-SMU game.

Most of the station owners said they are eager for the football weekend to arrive. They are planning to be open all weekend, although on a regular weekend some close at noon on Saturday or all day Sunday.

Bryan-College Station is one of the few

areas in Texas where gasoline prices have not risen to over \$1 per gallon.

According to an American Automobile Association survey released October 18, average gasoline prices for premium unleaded in Texas reached \$1 a gallon for the first time. Gasoline was over \$1 at many full-service pumps in Austin, Beaumont, Port Arthur, Waco and Midland-Odessa, the report said. However, availability has improved over last month.

The cities surveyed by the AAA had regular gasoline prices under a dollar, as is

the case with stations in this area.

In addition to lower prices here, there is more gasoline available.

Prices, however, will soon increase, said Dick Broach, an area wholesaler.

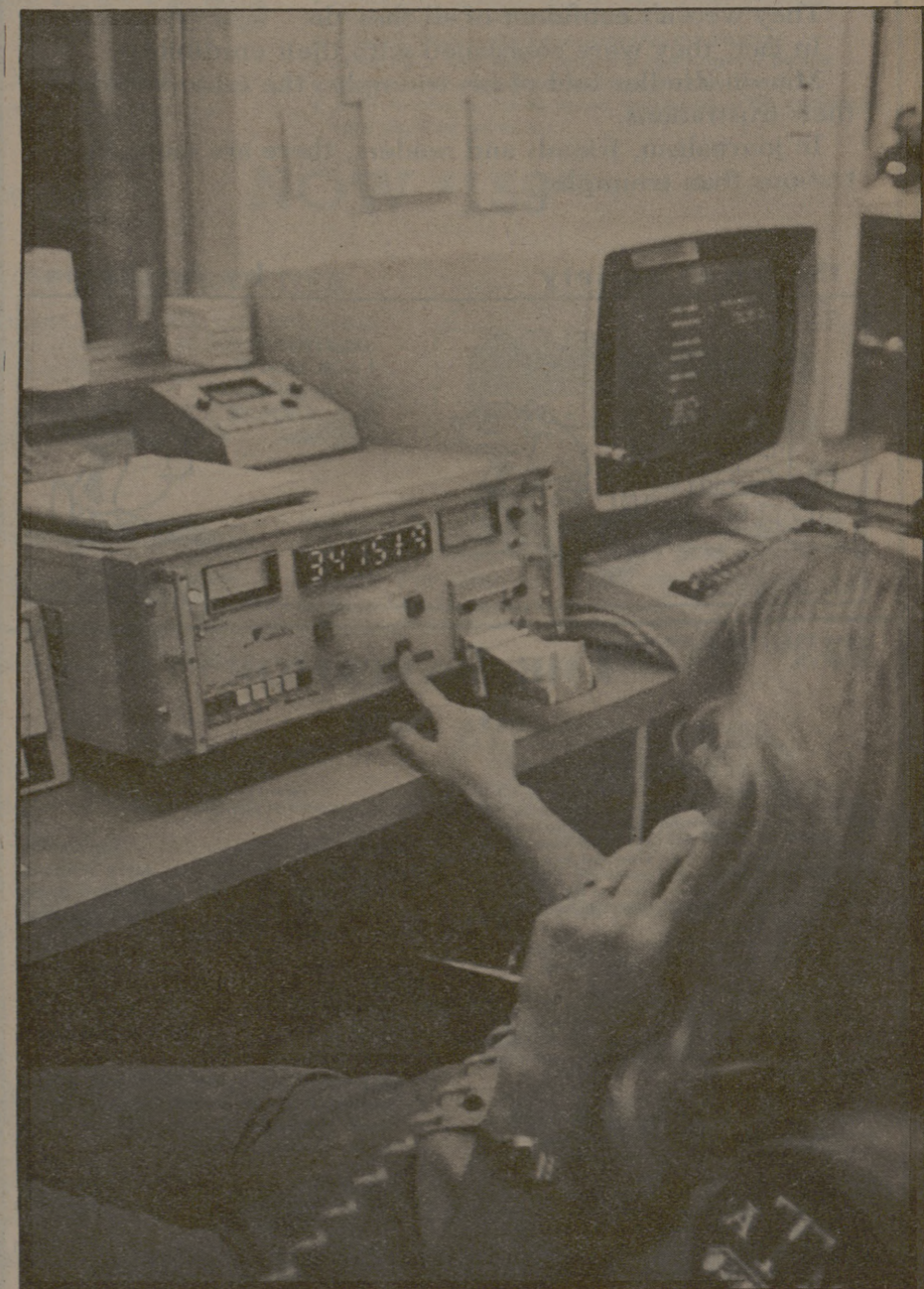
"There is a grim forecast concerning gasoline, but there is gasoline at the pumps," Broach said.

Broach said he noticed prices in Bryan-College Station rose about three cents per gallon this week. He added that the price to the wholesaler rose five cents last week.

"If people don't panic and start filling their tanks and keeping them full, then the shortage won't be felt as much as it was this summer," he said.

There was a definite shortage this summer, Broach said, and people who normally don't fill their tanks started keeping them full, making the shortage more noticeable.

We should be thankful that not all cars run on diesel fuel, Broach said. Diesel fuel prices have increased 10 percent within the last month.



Dispatcher Nicole Marshal operates "Hawkeye," a main monitor to which all campus fire alarms will be connected. Hawkeye registers a signal at the Physical Plant and at the University Police dispatcher's office when an alarm goes off.

Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco