

THE BATTALION

USPS 045 360
Phone 845-2611

Monday, December 17, 1979
College Station, Texas

Vol. 73 No. 74
14 Pages

Campus United Way drive hits 63 percent

The final amount collected by the 1979 Campus United Way totaled \$47,279, according to a release from Don Hellriegel, campus chairman. This amount is 63 percent of the \$75,000 for the campus.

Shah move to Panama angers Iranians

United Press International
CONTADORA ISLAND, Panama — The deposed shah of Iran spent his first day in a Panamanian exile Sunday on Contadora Island, a millionaires' hideaway that once was the setting for Panama Canal treaty negotiations.

Angered by the shah's departure, the United States is holding 50 Americans hostage in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran said Saturday. The hostages would definitely be paraded before an Islamic court as spies.

Sources said the exiled monarch, his wife and eight others had moved into the holiday home of Samuel Lewis, the brother of Gabriel Lewis, Panama's former ambassador to Washington.

The sources said the residence was one of the best belonging to wealthy Panamanians on the remote tropical Pacific island, 35 miles west of Panama City, with a permanent population of only some 200 people and one 10-room luxury hotel.

The island, sources said, is promoted as a haven for snorkeling, scuba diving, sailing and fishing. The island also has casinos, golf courses and tennis courts.

The chief of security for Panama's National Guard, Col. Manuel Antonio Noriega, in charge of guarding the shah, moved a contingent of soldiers to the island, authorities said.

Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi left San Antonio's Lackland Air Force Base Saturday and flew to Panama, ending a two-month visit to the United States that led to

the seizure of 50 hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

Iran's revolutionary Islamic government announced Sunday that as a result of the shah's departure from the United States, trials of the hostages as spies would begin sometime before Christmas or New Year's.

Panamanian President Aristides Royo Saturday said his country had granted political asylum to the shah "to contribute to the solution of the world crisis."

"He (the shah) comes to Panama without restrictions as to time and without conditions from Panama and his stay will not cost the Panamanian people anything. Panama is a hospitable country and the shah will be well received. He will not be a cause for problems in Panama," Royo said.

The shah, in a television interview, thanked authorities for his invitation, saying, "I hope that your country will always have a future of happiness with prosperity and progress."

Panama's decision to accept the shah followed a marked improvement in relations with the United States after the Oct. 1 turnover of the Panama Canal.

The shah had lived in Mexico for five months, from June 10 to Oct. 22, when he went to New York for cancer treatments. But Mexico's sudden Nov. 29 announcement that the shah was not welcome to return left the fallen monarch without a home in exile until Panama accepted him.

The shah, accompanied by his wife, Empress Farah, flew out of Texas secretly

Saturday morning and by mid-afternoon he had settled into a hotel on the Pacific Island of Contadora — 35 miles from Panama City.

"The government of Panama has stated its hope that the provision for a place of residence for the shah in Panama will help to bring about a peaceful resolution of the present crisis," White House spokesman Jody Powell said.

Although administration officials indicated they hoped the departure would mean freedom for the 50 Americans still at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iranian militants holding the diplomats said it now is certain they will be put on trial for spying. The final authority on the matter,

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however, was Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, and he had no immediate comment.

Pahlavi's dramatic departure occurred just as the World Court at the Hague ruled unanimously that Iran must release the hostages.

The court has no power to enforce its ruling, but it is part of the United Nations and a statement issued at the White House said the United States hopes the U.N. Security Council will "deal with any failure by Iran" to comply with the decision.

The deposed monarch arrived in New York from Mexico Oct. 22 for cancer treatment and gall bladder surgery. His arrival

sparked the seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and the taking of American hostages by radical followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The radicals demanded the shah's extradition as ransom for the hostages, saying Pahlavi must be tried for crimes against Iran. But President Carter refused to talk with the Iranians about the shah until the American hostages are released.

The Iranian students released some black and women hostages, leaving 50 Americans captive at the embassy. Iranian students staged demonstrations in the United States, and angry Americans shouted them down in counter demonstrations as tensions grew over the crisis.

The shah was moved to Lackland Air Force Base Dec. 2 amid tight security and secrecy.

The official Pars news agency quoted the militants as saying that spy trials for hostages held captive for the past six weeks are now "inevitable" because the shah's departure meant the United States could no longer be forced into extraditing him to Iran to face trial.

In the first reaction by a government official, Finance Minister Abol Hassan Bani Sadr, considered the Islamic regime's most moderate figure, also said, "We must hold this trial."

The armed militants occupying the U.S. Embassy issued a brief statement through Pars saying that spy trials for the Americans would be "the minimum step" taken

against the United States for allowing the shah to go to Panama instead of sending him back to Iran.

"Now that the ex-shah has left the U.S.A. for Panama, the trial of the U.S. hostages in Iran is inevitable," a spokesman for the embassy militants said.

"This is the minimum step we will take," the spokesman said, adding further communications would be issued later.

Despite the militants' reaction, diplomats said the final word on whether or not the Americans will be tried as spies — a charge that carries the death penalty — would have to come from Khomeini himself.

Sheikh Sadeq Khalkhali, Iran's senior Islamic judge, told reporters earlier Saturday Khomeini had not yet decided whether to try the hostages as spies.

But he added if the trials be held then "the trials of the hostages will be the trial of President Carter."

Iran, which boycotted the U.N. court's hearing, did not immediately comment on its ruling, which it had served notice in advance that it would not heed.

The anger over the shah's departure appeared to upset what diplomats earlier said were hopeful signs that Khomeini and the militants in the embassy might be softening their position on the crisis, which dragged into its 42nd day Saturday.

Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh meanwhile reported in a letter to Khomeini Saturday that preparations were going

ahead to convene an international commission of "anti-imperialists and anti-zionists" to "investigate" alleged American spying activities in Iran.

He reiterated Iran's intention of dragging at least some of the hostages before that panel for interrogation. The purpose of that questioning, he said, would be "to inform the world about the extent of America's crimes and expose the corrupt morality of international expansionists."

For the captives themselves, there was a bit of Christmas cheer — several thousand pounds of it in fact — but it was waiting at Tehran's Intercontinental Hotel to be delivered.

Christmas cards by the thousands — sent by Americans of all ages and from throughout the United States — poured into the hotel, where reporters covering the Iranian crisis said they would collect and begin delivering them to the embassy on Monday.

The cards came from children, from elderly people, from students, teachers and Americans from all walks of life.

Nearly all were addressed to "Our fellow Americans" and they all expressed the hope that the hostages would be home for Christmas.

A card designed and signed by Ray Kish, who said he was 10, summed up the feelings of Americans young and old.

"Dear fellow Americans," Ray wrote, "I hope they let you go for Christmas, cause if they don't it won't be Christmas."

Halbouty tells 935 graduates not to let others think for them

By LAURA CORTEZ

Battalion Staff
Michel T. Halbouty, consulting geologist and petroleum engineer, told 935 Texas A&M University degree candidates Saturday democracy in the United States will only exist as long as people participate in public and political affairs.

"This country is crying out for leadership at all levels of government. You owe it to the country to use your prestige and intelligence," he said in his commencement address at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Halbouty, a recipient of the Texas A&M University Distinguished Alumni Award, urged the graduates not to let "the other fellow" do their thinking for them.

He also said that the concentration of power is destructive. "Never underestimate the influence of an individual or of an organization in public affairs," Halbouty said.

During the last decade, he said, federal agencies increased more than 400 percent, and that has resulted in the federal government becoming more involved in the affairs

of society and of the economy. Halbouty urged the graduates never to forget "the law is made for the people and not the people for the law."

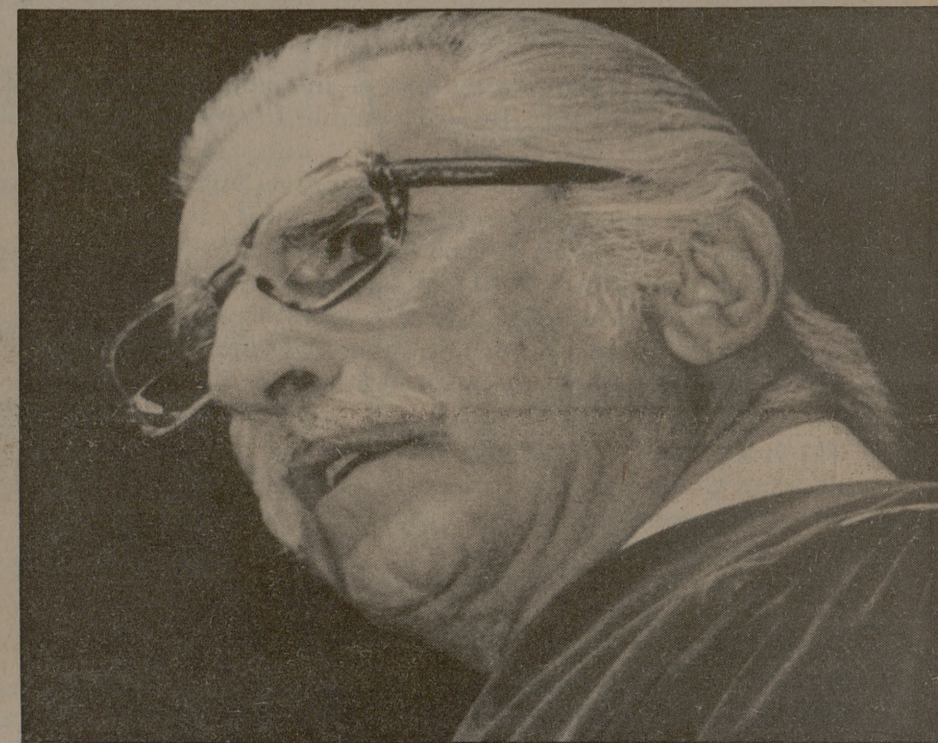
In ceremonies Friday night, Texas A&M President Jarvis Miller conferred degrees upon 995 graduates, making the total number of December graduates 1,930.

In his commencement address, Harold J. Haynes, board chairman for Standard Oil Company of California, told Friday's graduates that over-regulation has become the "Achilles heel" of our economic system.

"To revitalize the tremendous productive potential of this great nation, America will need the spirit symbolized by the 12th man — the willingness to participate if called upon," he said.

Haynes graduated from Texas A&M in 1947, and is a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Seventy-seven of the graduates received military commissions from Rear Admiral Paul C. Gibbons Jr., U.S. Navy Chief of Naval Education and Training, in ceremonies Saturday.



Michel T. Halbouty

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.



A graduate student gives his opinion.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

The night-time exam blues

Use of standardized tests at Texas A&M broadening in freshmen and sophomore level course

By JETTIE STEEN

Battalion Reporter
Standardized exams in freshman and sophomore level courses at Texas A&M are nothing new — in fact their use is broadening.

Standardized or common exams are of two types, one of which all the questions are exactly the same and the other which measures the same abilities on an equivalent difficulty level but questions are not identical.

The math and biology departments have implemented common exams into their freshman course curricula this fall. However, the chemistry department at A&M has used the standardized exam system for over seven years in their first year program.

Due to the large number of students in generalized freshman courses, said Dr. Rod O'Connor, professor of chemistry, there isn't any other kind of exams one can give. He said it is not a matter of choice but one of necessity.

The necessity stems from there not being enough manpower to grade individualized exams and no budget allocations to grade the exams other than by computer.

"I'm not sure you could find enough people qualified to grade the exams if you did have the money," O'Connor said.

This fall there are approximately 5,000 students in Chemistry 101, 102 and 106. These students are given exams that test abilities on equivalent difficulty levels.

According to O'Connor, there are 18 forms of each exam with 26 variations of each type of exam question used on the 18 forms.

Standardized testing doesn't make the course material any easier for students, O'Connor said. It does, however, make it easier for some people to get a better grade than they would otherwise because, "a lucky guess is just as good as knowing what you're doing," he said.

O'Connor said some students do poorer on the multiple choice exams because they can't get any partial credit. They may set up a problem right and punch wrong numbers on a calculator. They miss the question as much as the guy who didn't know anything, he said.

O'Connor said to justify giving common exams, one must clearly specify what students are to be responsible for, to spell out the objectives of a course.

If students are willing to work they can learn the right material for a particular exam in a reasonable amount of time. Otherwise, a student may have so much material due to undefined objectives, he ends up spinning his wheels and learns nothing, O'Connor said.

Students could learn more if an individualized exam could be used but that is an impossibility, he said.

The math and biology departments have also found giving individualized exams impossible due to increasing course loads. These two departments began using common exams this fall in their introductory courses.

Dr. William L. Perry, associate professor of math here, said the mathematics faculty came up with the plan, however, it is not new as it is used in many different universities.

"We decided to implement the system because we noticed a difference in difficulty of exams across sections and we thought it would be fairer to the students if everyone took the exact same exam," Perry said.

"There are 1,800 students enrolled in Math 102, college algebra, and if you are going to give a common exam you don't want to be giving one at 8 a.m. and one at 4 p.m. because there could be statistical difficulties."

Therefore, a common time had to be set for which the exam would be given. Perry said this is a major drawback of the system as many students work at night and there are many courses now being offered at night.

"We have to give the exam at night because so many hours of the day are used up and there is no one place large enough and available to give the exam in the daytime," he said.

Students are assigned to one of two exam periods on Wednesday night according to their section numbers. Students are allowed to change the exam period if they have work conflicts or other valid excuses.

The math departments gives three, one-

hour exams during the semester which are multiple choice, identical question tests. Only the correct answer is acceptable — no partial credit is given because the exams are graded by computer.

These exams are designed by the 12 instructors of the 18 sections of college algebra. In three committees of four members each, the faculty rotates duties of the exam make-up during the semester. One makes up the exam, the second critiques it and the third proofreads the exam, has it copied and at the exam site at the proper time.

"We did not decide to give common exams to lower our Q-drop rate which is probably the highest in the university — we just thought it would be fairer to students," Perry said.

"So far this semester, the scores have been more uniform and we know now that we have all the mechanics of such a system done. The averages across all the sections have not varied more than five points so I think it's been fairer than in the past and in that sense achieved our objectives," Perry said.

As for the improvement of grades due to the use of standardized exams there are conflicting results. The math department is predicting no significant changes in grade distribution. However in the chemistry department, they have experienced a 50 percent cutback in the number of F's and Q-drops.

Both departments claim that common exams are set up to be fairer to students and both said their programs would continue as such as long as they received approval.

To receive approval for a common exam proposal, a department must first file a petition with the dean of that college and then the proposal goes to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. John Prescott.

According to Dr. Charles McCandless, associate vice president for Academic Affairs, Prescott places two stipulations on the proposals before approving them:

— A student has to have released time from regular scheduled classes equivalent to the time of that exam.

— Every student has an option to take a

make-up exam at another time if there is a legitimate conflict such as work or a university excused absences.

"There is a common body of knowledge that should be disseminated among all sections of a course and common examinations increase the probability there will be a uniformity of material covered in all sections," McCandless said.

Farmers' costs rising faster than prices

United Press International
Prospects are bleak for the state's farmers and ranchers in 1980 because production costs are rising faster than the prices producers receive, an economist says.

Dr. Carl G. Anderson, a marketing economist for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service at Texas A&M University, says cow-calf operators may do better than most producers next year, however, because fewer calves are available. Demand, he said, should keep calf prices near levels attained this year.

But Anderson said ranchers battling drought in south and southwest Texas are not expected to share that prosperity and are dispersing their entire herds.

He also predicted a sluggish fed cattle

market in 1980 due to increased pork and poultry competition and a national recession that may decrease beef demand.

An abundance of hogs, broilers and turkeys is expected to depress prices in those markets until latter 1980, when a possible reduction in supply may bolster things, he said. Lamb prices also may be slightly lower than in 1979, Anderson said, because of a sizeable meat supply and an expected slight increase in U.S. lamb and mutton production.

Virtually no price fluctuation is expected for cotton and grains, Anderson said, but soybean prices could dip because an increase in world soybean consumption this year failed to offset a supply increase.

Vegetable, fruit and nut production also

is up, evidence of lower prices to come in those markets, he said.

U.S. farmers paid \$1.16 in 1979 for the same supplies that cost them \$1 a year before.

"For irrigated farming in Texas, the increase will be much higher because of rising fuel and energy costs," he said, adding there is no relief in sight.

"Early this fall, prices paid by farmers for fuels and energy were 44 percent higher than a year earlier. Prices for tractors and other machinery were 11 percent higher, and for building and fencing, prices were up 10 percent."

"Interest rates on farm mortgages had jumped 25 percent during this period," Anderson said.

Federal investigators say high degree of racial segregation exists in Texas state universities

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Federal investigators have found a high degree of racial segregation in Texas state universities, it was reported Sunday.

The New York Times said a 400-page report by the investigators is being reviewed by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Washington, D.C.

The newspaper, quoting officials in Texas and documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, said the investigators found that the student bodies

are heavily white or black at most Texas state colleges.

"At most of the 38 state-supported senior colleges and universities and 47 community colleges in Texas, the student body is either overwhelmingly white or overwhelmingly black," the Times said.

As an example, it said there were only 721 blacks and 2,277 Hispanic-Americans compared to 28,213 white undergraduates during the 1976-77 school year at the University of Texas in Austin.

The newspaper said the minority per-

centages fell far short of actual representation in the population of Texas — 12 percent black and 18 percent Hispanic.

The Times said the report could provide a political dilemma for President Carter, hurting his standing in the state if the administration begins desegregation action against Texas.

Under the law, the government is required to withhold federal funds from segregated colleges. The administration has yet to go that far, but it has forced several states to overhaul their higher education systems.