

Local / State

Campus Names Area credit needs evaluated

By MICHELE ROWLAND
Battalion Reporter

Nine Texas A&M University undergraduates have been awarded assistantships enabling them to research plastics one-to-one with a faculty member.

Companies interested in development of the joint Texas Engineering Experiment Station — College of Engineering Plastics Engineering Program provides funds for the awards.

Two awards, sponsored by the Soltex Polymer Corp., went to Dennis Cox, a senior in mechanical engineering from Grand Prairie and Steve Stanley, a mechanical engineering senior from Big Spring. The Phillips Chemical Co. granted three assistantships to Alan Mosley of Pasadena, Rock Morille of Houston and Andy Leach of Houston — all mechanical engineering seniors.

Monsanto Chemical Co. will sponsor John Umetis, a senior from Houston and Kyle Fluegal, a mechanical engineering junior

from Amarillo. And Union Carbide Corp. will sponsor Ed Oberthier, a senior from Conroe and Larry Earles, a senior from Ennis.

Texas A&M architecture graduate students took three of the top seven spots in a national design contest sponsored by the American Railway Engineering Association that attracted more than 500 entries.

Winning second place and a \$500 prize in the contest to design a railroad office building and passenger station was Jonathan Bailey of Hurst. Honorable mention awards and \$100 prizes went to Andrew Lawrence of Raleigh, N.C. and Nick Pickle of Dallas.

Texas A&M professors Howard L. Furr, Robert M. Holcomb and

M. Drahn Jones recently were designated life members of the American Society of Civil Engineers Brazos Branch at the organization's Engineer of the Year banquet.

Furr has been on the University faculty since 1962 and is a research engineer and manager of the Major Highway Structures program for the Texas Transportation Institute. Holcomb has been in the civil engineering department at Texas A&M since 1947 and in 1976 received the Centennial Award for Outstanding Professor from civil engineering students at Texas A&M.

Jones has been on the civil engineering faculty at Texas A&M since 1966, is head of the Public Works Engineering and Administration Division of the Civil Engineering Department and is associate research engineer for the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

For this reason the students will be calling low- and middle-income families specifically, Ellis said.

Through the results of the survey, the College Station Bank hopes to gain some indication of what financial services people need, said Thomas H. Aughinbaugh III, executive vice president.

"This will serve as a base for self-examination," Aughinbaugh said. If the results show that the bank has not been responding to community needs, it will make every effort to improve its responsiveness, he said. If feasible, the bank will try to offer whatever services are requested.

The students' survey will also be considered by federal regulatory agency examiners in their evaluations of the bank's compliance with the CRA.

Failure to comply with the act could cost a bank its charter renewal and any chance for expansion.

The act affects approximately 19,000 institutions in the United States: all federally insured banks, mutual banks and savings and loan associations.

The College Station Bank is only one of several area financial institutions sponsoring the stu-

dents' survey. Among the sponsors are First Bank and Trust, Bank of A&M, Farm and Home Savings and Loan, Citizen's Bank, Commerce National Bank, and University National Bank.

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Hughes' estate only valued at \$460 million

United Press International
CHICAGO — The late Howard Hughes, long believed a possible billionaire, actually left only a

\$460 million estate, it was reported Saturday.

The Chicago Tribune reported in its Sunday editions, a compre-

hensive Internal Revenue Service audit, which valued everything from Hughes' Las Vegas casinos to the cardboard box containing \$5 gambling chips found in his last hotel room, revealed the estate was much smaller than believed.

The IRS issued a tax bill to Hughes' cousin, William Lummis, for \$274,714,977 last June 19, but the details were kept secret under the Privacy Act until Lummis' attorney's filed an appeal with the U.S. Tax Court in Washington.

Lummis and other Hughes estate executors claim the estate is worth only \$180 million. The IRS, however, claims the executors devalued everything.

Death taxes on the Hughes estate are a whopping 77 percent because the tycoon died in 1976 without leaving a will.

Hughes' Summa Corp. is a holding company with interest in four hotels, six casinos, a helicopter company, Hughes Air West, real estate, mines and other businesses.

UH assistants stop sickout for money

United Press International
HOUSTON — Citing "hard money offers" from the University of Houston, graduate teaching assistants have ended their four-day sickout.

The university had threatened to fire any of the assistants who failed to return to work Friday.

"We've got in writing some hard money offers," English professor John McNamara, negotiator for the protesters, said Friday.

The number of assistants involved in the sickout was estimated to number from 60 to 200 out of a total of 1,200.

The deadlock that led to this week's sickout — the second within little more than a month — was broken Thursday in a meeting of McNamara, Chancellor Barry Munitz and Board of Regents Chairman Leonard Rauch.

The university had been

threatening the protesters with dismissal if they did not return Thursday. None did.

At the Thursday meeting, Munitz extended the firing deadline to Friday and showed written plans to try to raise teaching assistants' \$350-a-month salary to \$500 or \$600 next year and possibly \$700-a month in 1982. Munitz invited the protesters to participate in developing a program for higher pay.

The Teaching Assistants, Teaching Fellows and Lecturers Association Friday unanimously approved formal ratification of their leadership's recommendation that they return to work and resume negotiations with the university.

Seminar features solar home design

Local residents can learn how to use solar design features when building new homes at a seminar tonight sponsored by the Texas Energy Extension Service.

Paul Woods, a solar designer and faculty member in the Building Construction Department, will discuss passive solar design and how it can be applied in the Bryan-College Station area.

A slide presentation will accompany the discussion.

The seminar is at 7:30 p.m. at Oakwood Middle School. It is free and open to the public.

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