



# THE BATTALION

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## Sen. Hutchison indicted again on ethics charges

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, was indicted for a second time Wednesday on ethics charges stemming from her 21/2-year tenure as state treasurer.

Assistant Travis County District Attorney Steve McCleery said a grand jury handed up indictments alleging the same charges as a previous grand jury did on Sept. 27.

Hutchison, 50, who became the first woman senator from Texas by winning a special election June 5, had been indicted in September on four felony counts and one

misdemeanor charge.

She was accused of using Treasury employees to perform personal and political chores on state time and of attempting to cover up the activity by destroying computer records containing the employees' work files.

On Oct. 26, those charges were dropped after Hutchison's lawyers discovered that a grand juror who investigated her case faced an outstanding theft charge, thus making him ineligible to serve on the panel.

Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle took the case to the second grand jury, which also



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*—Kay Bailey Hutchison, U.S. Senator*

handed up four felony charges and a misdemeanor count.

Also charged for a second time were two former aides to Hutchison, Mike Barron and David Criss. They were accused of official mis-

conduct. Their earlier indictments also had been dismissed.

Hutchison has denied any wrongdoing and called the investigation a Democratic plot to weaken her re-election chances.

She filed Friday to seek a full, six-year term in next year's elections.

"This is a sad day for Texas and its political system. At least, I am relieved that we can finally get to court. The truth will reveal that no wrongdoing occurred at the Treasury during my tenure there," she said in a written statement.

"A fair and nonpartisan jury will agree, and the political motivation of this prosecution will be exposed," she said.

McCleery insisted that the investigation had nothing to do with politics.

"This case is not about politics. This case is about ethics and hon-

esty in government. As the evidence comes out in trial, that will be apparent," he said.

The charges against Hutchison carry a maximum of 51 years in prison.

Hutchison's lead attorney, Dick DeGuerin, said he would seek to start the trial before Christmas.

The indictments allege Hutchison used state employees and equipment for political and campaign purposes and then destroyed records in a coverup.

She was indicted on charges of official misconduct, tampering with evidence and tampering with governmental records.

## 'We're almost home free' Hubble space telescope repairs nearly complete

The Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston — With its new eyeglasses installed, the Hubble Space Telescope's repairs were nearly complete Wednesday and spacewalker Jeffrey Hoffman exulted: "We're almost home free."

Only a few tasks remained for the fifth and final spacewalk overnight — the third for the team of Hoffman and Story Musgrave.

Happy NASA managers planned to mark the end of the sky-high repair effort with two events as symbolic as they were vital: raising the telescope's orbit slightly and spreading its new solar wings.

"We've got basically a new telescope up there," said Hoffman, an astronomer. "It's going to be real exciting for the astronomical community and for the whole world to see what Hubble really can do with a good set of eyeballs."

Hoffman and Musgrave were to install an electronics unit for one of the solar panels put in place Monday and another electronics box. The job was time-consuming because of the difficulty of making electrical connections with clunky space-gloved hands.

The astronauts also had an unforeseen task, installing a cover, handmade inside the Endeavour cabin from an insulated blanket, for a magnetometer, which helps guide the telescope by measuring Earth's magnetic field. Two sides of the magnetometer enclosure, high on the telescope, came off in Hoffman's hands when he worked with it earlier.

Toward the end of their work in the cargo bay, a ground command was to unfurl the solar panels installed earlier in the week. The wings, as wide as the telescope is tall, are made of huge sheets of fiberglass-reinforced Teflon held in place by metal struts.

They gather energy from the sun and channel it to batteries that power the telescope's instruments.

Shuttle commander Richard Covey had been so stingy in his use of shuttle fuel that enough was left to carry the telescope to an orbit four miles higher — 369 miles.

The Hubble, which is to be released from the Endeavour early Friday, has no propulsive power of its own. The boost is desirable because its altitude degrades over time.

## Aggies shock UNLV, 68-62



Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

Damon Johnson, a junior forward on the A&M basketball team, celebrates an Aggie victory over UNLV with some fans at G. Rollie

White Coliseum Wednesday night. The Aggies battled back from a 16-point deficit to claim the win. See story on Page 3.

## FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Friday, December 10

7:30-9:30 a.m.	Classes meeting MW 5:45-7 or later
10 a.m.-12 noon	Classes meeting MWF 8
12:30-2:30 p.m.	Classes meeting TR 9:35-10:50
3-5 p.m.	Classes meeting TR 11:10-12:25

Monday, December 13

8-10 a.m.	Classes meeting MWF 9:10-10
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Classes meeting MWF 12:40-1:30
1-3 p.m.	Classes meeting TR 8-9:15
3:30-5:30 p.m.	Classes meeting MW 4:10-5:25

Tuesday, December 14

8-10 a.m.	Classes meeting MWF 10:20-11:10
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Classes meeting MWF 3-3:50
1-3 p.m.	Classes meeting TR 3:55-5:10
3:30-5:30 p.m.	Classes meeting MWF 1:50-2:40

Wednesday, December 15

8-10 a.m.	Classes meeting TR 12:45-2
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Classes meeting MWF 11:30-12:20
1-3 p.m.	Classes meeting TR 2:20-3:35
3:30-5:30 p.m.	Classes meeting TR 5:30-6:45 or later

## Gunman 'brimmed with racial hatred'

### Jamaican citizen targeted Asians, Caucasians in subway shooting spree

The Associated Press

MINEOLA, N.Y. — The gunman who turned a commuter rail car into a terror train brimmed with racial hatred and targeted the suburbs because he didn't want to embarrass New York's black mayor, authorities said Wednesday.

All those shot were white or Asian — two of the groups disparaged in four pages of rambling handwritten notes taken from the gunman after Tuesday's killings aboard the 5:33 p.m. Long Island Rail Road train out of Penn Station.

Colin Ferguson, a 35-year-old naturalized citizen from Jamaica, was held without bail Wednesday after his arraignment on four counts of murder and a weapons possession count. The heavyset black man did not speak or enter a plea at the hearing.

The notes listed the "reasons for this: Adelpi University racism, EEOC racism, Workmen's Compensation Board. Racism of Gov. Cuomo's staff... Additional reasons for this: Caucasian racism and Uncle Tom Negroes." He also cited "Chinese racism."

Without saying a word, he opened fire on other riders just before the train arrived at a suburban Garden City station. Calmly walking

up the aisle, he blasted away for three horrific minutes, pausing only to reload.

"He would turn one way and shoot, then turn the other and shoot, and I thought to myself, 'This can't be happening,'" said Carl Peterson, a banker who was seated near the front of the car.

**"He would turn one way and shoot, then turn the other and shoot, and I thought to myself, 'This can't be happening.'"**

*—Carl Peterson, witness*

When the shooting ended, four people were dead, 19 wounded by gunshots and two others hurt in the crush. A fifth person died Wednesday, and one of the wounded was being kept alive on a life support system.

The gunman unloaded 30 to 50 rounds as he walked through the third car of the train, said Assistant District Attorney Barry Grennan. He had apparently stopped to reload his 9mm Ruger semiautomatic when three commuters jumped and subdued him, authorities said.

One of his captors quoted him as saying, "I've done a bad thing," according to the Daily News.

Grennan said it appeared Ferguson began preparing for the crime more than 15 days ago.

The carnage could have been worse; the gunman brought aboard a small canvas bag filled with 100 more rounds of ammunition for his 16-shot weapon, enough to shoot dozens more of the 90 passengers aboard, authorities said.

Ferguson purchased the \$324.74 handgun in California after complying with a 15-day waiting period, said spokesman John O'Brien of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

"I consider this an outrageous crime motivated by bias," said Nassau County District Attorney Denis Dillon.

The railroad was investigating reports that the train's engineer told conductors not to open the doors when the train stopped at the station, trapping commuters inside, said LIRR spokeswoman Susan McGowan.

Ferguson, who lives in Brooklyn, boarded the train in New York City's borough of Queens, quietly speaking with the conductor at one point about his ticket, said Nassau Chief of Detectives Richard Fiero.

## Post Oak Mall steps up security for holidays

By Jennifer Kiley

The Battalion

Malls attract more shoppers and thieves during the holiday season, and College Station's Post Oak Mall is no exception.

Ann Kyle, general manager of Post Oak Mall, said more security guards are hired during the holiday season to solve this problem.

"We definitely hire more security during December," Kyle said. "We put as many security officers on duty as we can. We also hired four deputy sheriffs."

Raymond McCarver, Post Oak Mall chief of security, said the most common crime committed during the holiday season is burglary of vehicles.

"Customers should lock packages in the trunks of their cars and not leave them in plain sight."

**"We provide constant inside and outside patrol."**

*—Raymond McCarver, Post Oak chief of security*

McCarver also said shoppers can avoid becoming crime victims by not getting overwhelmed by shopping and paying attention to their surroundings and their children.

"If someone is shopping with children, they should make sure the kids are well attended," McCarver said. "We have a lot of lost children during this time of the year."

Kyle said shoppers who are victims of a crime should report the incident immediately.

"If there is a security problem, shoppers

should go to the customer service booth or to a store and have an employee contact security," Kyle said. "Too many people do nothing when they are involved in a crime."

Post Oak Mall also offers services to its customers to prevent crimes.

"We provide constant inside and outside patrol," McCarver said. "If anyone has an abundance of packages, we will escort them to their vehicle. We will do pretty much anything we can to make them feel safe."

Dorothy Miller, shopper and College Station resident, said she is aware of the need for more security during December, but she is not concerned.

"I can tell the security is increased now," Miller said. "That is wonderful. I never worried about being robbed or attacked or anything while I am shopping, but it is nice to see they are working to prevent it."

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