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Mystery man dead

Billionaire businessman Howard R. Hughes, 70, pictured above in 1951, died yesterday en route to a Houston hospital.

Recluse Hughes succumbs

HOUSTON, Tex. (AP) — Howard Hughes, the phantom financier, who ruled a business empire valued at more than \$2 billion from a series of secret hideaways, died yesterday en route to a hospital here for treatment. He was 70.

The aviation pioneer died aboard a chartered ambulance jet half an hour before it landed in Houston, according to spokesmen at Methodist Hospital.

"We've no idea" of the cause of death, hospital vice president Larry Mathis said. But in Los Angeles, an attorney who said he had represented Hughes for 25 years said the billionaire died of a stroke. The attorney, Greg Bautzer, refused to identify his source.

The hospital disclosed Hughes' death in one brief statement: "Today at 1:27 p.m. en route from Acapulco, Mexico, to Houston by air, Mr. Howard R. Hughes expired."

Mathis said the hospital learned about 9 a.m. that Hughes was coming to Houston for treatment. A medical team in an unmarked ambulance met the jet when it landed at Houston International Airport about 2 p.m., but Hughes was already dead, Mathis said.

In death, Hughes was shrouded in the anonymity he had sought in life.

Shortly before the plane landed, its crew alerted airport officials to get

ready "to service a bed patient in a diabetic coma," U.S. Customs spokesman Charles Conroy said.

Customs agents did not know who the patient was until the plane landed and a doctor said that the patient was dead and his name was Howard Hughes, Conroy said.

An unidentified Customs inspector caught a glimpse of the body as it was carried off the plane.

"She said he looked emaciated, thin and aged ... his hair appeared matted," Conroy said.

Hughes reportedly had lived at the Acapulco Princess Hotel in the Mexican seacoast resort since early February. Since 1970, he had lived in a series of tightly guarded hotel suites in North America, the Bahamas and London.

Hughes was a man of many passions — for power, perfection, pretty faces and fast planes. But his greatest passion was for privacy.

He shunned publicity and had not been seen in public for two decades.

Despite his eccentric reclusion, his

name made headlines around the world on several occasions in recent years.

In 1971, writer Clifford Irving announced that he was writing an authorized biography of Hughes. A man who said he was Hughes, in a conference telephone call with reporters, denied he okayed the book. Irving and his wife, Edith, went to prison for fraud.

Last year, Hughes' name surfaced in disclosures that the CIA had used his mystery ship, the Glomar Explorer, in an attempt to salvage a Russian submarine from the floor of the Pacific Ocean off Hawaii.

Hughes built a family oil-drilling business into a diversified complex that over the years included manufacturing of planes, helicopters, spacecraft and electronics devices.

He produced movies and owned studios, owned airlines and became a major economic force in Nevada with purchase of hotels, casinos, land and mines valued at \$300 million.

He began building his financial empire in 1923 when he inherited three-fifths

interest in the Hughes Tool Co., founded by his father and valued then at \$500,000.

Two years later, when he was 21, Hughes gained sole control. He used the Houston-based tool company as a nucleus and began the job of building a \$2-billion empire which made him one of the world's richest men.

Exhibiting a Midas-like touch, Hughes gained financial success as a manufacturer of aircraft and oil drilling tools, a major stockholder in an airline, owner of a brewery and a movie producer.

His contributions to the advancement of aviation, such as new designs and speed, ranked him with the outstanding air pioneers.

He left Nevada Thanksgiving Eve 1970 after four years of residence in a guarded Las Vegas hotel room for a similarly guarded suite in the Bahamas, leaving behind orders to fire the boss of his gaming operations.

Rights law still hot issue

By LEAH ROZEN
Collegian Staff Writer

State College Municipal Council's hottest issue last year, the proposed Human Relations Ordinance which would ban all types of discrimination, returned to the limelight at last night's Municipal Council meeting.

Almost a year ago, the council postponed action on the ordinance, charging Mayor Jo Hays with collecting complaints of discrimination and to report them to council a year hence.

Last night's meeting found the mayor reporting that he had not received a single, properly filed complaint. He said that he had received two oral complaints, but that neither one was properly followed up by the initiator.

Councilman Dean Phillips said that he had received complaints of "real discrimination" and blamed the mayor's lack of complaints on "lack of publicity" about his task.

Phillips proposed a resolution, similar to last year's ordinance, to ban

all types of discrimination "based on race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age, sex, national origin, marital status and sexual preference" in State College.

Council postponed action on his resolution, sending it to the Human Services Committee for further study. The resolution will go back before council at next month's meeting.

About 15 protesters, carrying signs with slogans like "Discrimination is Real" and "Help Let Me Out of the Closet" demonstrated in front of the Municipal Building before the meeting and filled the council's chamber during the debate. They represented organizations including Homophiles of Penn State, National Organization for Women and University Coalition.

Council also adopted the revisions to the existing sign ordinance proposed by the special committee which drew them up. Council, however, deleted the definition of a sign from the revision on grounds that it was confusing.

Councilman Ingrid Holtzman, who

suggested the deletion, said, "I think we can encourage the business community, within a time limit, to remove unsightly window signs."

In other business, the council:

- approved the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that it not repaint the bicycle lane lines on South Allen Street, which would cost \$5,000. "It does not improve the safety of the streets," councilman James McClure said. "It may even add to the illusion of safety."
- decided to hold a public work session to review preliminary office location proposals for the new Municipal building, including the location and size of the council's new chambers.
- adopted an ordinance establishing a five-member Shade Tree Commission under the home rule charter and approved the appointment of Emory Ensore to the Centre Area Transportation Authority and Phillip Hallock to the Building and Housing Code Board of Appeals.

Riots, arrests hit Peking

HONG KONG (UPI) — Chinese security forces this morning arrested "several hundred" persons who participated in a day-long rampage by tens of thousands in Peking's Tien An Men (Gate of Heavenly Peace) Square, Peking residents reported.

In the worst outbreak of violence in the Chinese capital since the chaotic Cultural Revolution almost 10 years ago, the mobs yesterday set fire to at least three vehicles and a large building apparently in protest against the removal of wreaths honoring the late Premier Chou En-lai, who died last January.

They ransacked the building while Wu Teh, chairman of the Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee, appealed for calm and order, the residents said.

The disturbances began after security

forces took down the wreaths placed at the Martyrs' Monument in the center of the square in honor of Chou.

However, Wu Teh said the mob activity was connected with the current power struggle among the top Chinese leadership.

He called the disturbances "destructive activities by anti-revolutionary elements aimed against Chairman Mao Tse-tung and the Communist party."

The disturbances which defied police, soldiers and militiamen apparently were an outgrowth of the current power struggle between Chiang Ching, wife of Communist party Chairman Mao Tse-tung, and supporters of former acting premier Teng Hsiao-peng, the man who delivered Chou's funeral eulogy and had been expected to succeed him.

Political slogans, shouted and written on wreaths, appeared to connect the disturbances with the power struggle.

Teng, who also is a party vice chairman and acting chief of the general staff of the armed forces, has not appeared in public since he delivered the eulogy Jan. 15.

Some demonstrators read Teng's eulogy aloud, a gesture taken by political analysts as an indication of support for Teng who returned to power after being purged during the Cultural Revolution of the late 1960s.

Security forces cleared away wreaths which had been placed at the Martyrs' Monument in tribute to Chou. The wreaths were laid Sunday, a traditional holiday called Ching Ming honoring the dead.

Calls emissions, wastes 'lethal'

Physicist questions nuclear safety

By PAT McKENNA
Collegian Staff Writer

Nuclear physicist William A. Lochstet said last night that the safety of nuclear reactors deserves more public investigation.

Lochstet presented a program and slide show on the problems involved in operating nuclear power plants. "There is a lot of disagreement as to how safe nuclear reactors really are," Lochstet said.

During the slide presentation, Lochstet illustrated the difficulties in maintaining safe conditions in a nuclear plant. The main problem is the safe disposal of potentially lethal waste products of nuclear power production, he said.

Several methods are now used to dispose of these materials, but Lochstet

contends that none of them are totally fool-proof. Most of these methods rely on the transportation of waste material by truck to disposal centers, where it is buried underground in barrels.

"The amazing thing is that disposal problems existed in 1945 and nobody started to do anything about it in 1946," Lochstet said.

During the program, a debate developed between Lochstet, Frank Wolfe, a 1975 graduate of Penn State and a nuclear engineer at the Dresden Power Station in Morris, Ill., and Henry Collins (graduate-nuclear engineering). The debate concerned the amount of dangerous emissions a nuclear plant produces.

The average person is exposed to 102 millirems of radiation per year, a millirem being the standard measure of

radiation. Lochstet cited as dangerous the Humboldt Bay, California plant which spews an additional 1000 millirems into the air. Next to the South Bay Elementary School, these radioactive emissions can cause cancer, Lochstet said.

Wolfe took exception to that example, saying it was not a fair representation of the entire industry. He said a meter in his office on the plant grounds showed no significant rise in radiation since the plant has been in operation.

According to Lochstet, an accident at a nuclear power station may be devastating. In a study done by the Atomic Energy Commission in 1965, it was revealed that the pollution resulting from the melted fuel core of a nuclear reactor would cover an area about the size of Pennsylvania and kill

as many as 45,000 people.

The report is incomplete in that it does not consider the likelihood of such an accident taking place, Lochstet said. The Commission kept the report secret until Ralph Nader threatened to bring a freedom of information suit against the agency, he added.

There are presently 56 nuclear power plants operating in the United States, four in Pennsylvania. Ninety new plants are now being built across the country, with seven of those being built in the Commonwealth.

"The nuclear power process must be examined from beginning to end, not just in the reactor stage," Lochstet said, adding that the public must be aware of the various options it has in the production of power and how to make it safer.

Demos predict more primary wins

By the Associated Press

Three Democratic candidates, in the final countdown to another primary day, spent yesterday trying to parlay their pre-election predictions into post-election claims of success whatever the actual results.

Sen. Henry Jackson was in New York, where he has predicted victory as part of his strategy to sweep the Northeast industrial states. Rep. Morris K. Udall and Jimmy Carter did their last-minute campaigning in Wisconsin, scene of today's other primary.

Both Udall and Carter say they will win in Wisconsin and polls there indicate a close race between the two, with the former Georgia governor holding a slight lead in the latest. Carter has said that if he wins in Wisconsin and finished a strong second in New York, he could be unbeatable.

Udall, who has not yet won a primary, needs a victory in Wisconsin and a good

showing in New York to begin overtaking the early momentum Carter built by winning five of the first six Democratic contests.

Ronald Reagan, meanwhile, began a tour of Texas as part of his Sun Belt strategy to wrest the Republican nomination from President Ford.

Reagan, winner in North Carolina two weeks ago, did not campaign in Wisconsin, depending instead on the nationwide address he made last Wednesday. Aides say they do not expect him to defeat the President there. Ford campaigned in Wisconsin over the weekend and has predicted victory.

Jackson has been aiming for New York since before the Feb 24 New Hampshire primary, first stop on the nationwide caravan that will end June 8 in California, Ohio and New Jersey. Jackson has received considerable support from labor from regular Democratic leaders and from Jewish groups who favor his stands on the Mideast and Soviet treatment of Jews.

The Washington senator first predicted a landslide, and later modified that to say he would win more than half the 274 delegates at stake. The modification came after the state legislature approved a law allowing the names of the candidates to appear on the ballot with the delegates pledged to

them.

However, Donald Manes, president of the New York City borough of Queens and the senator's New York campaign manager, now downgrades that from 35 to 40 per cent and said the earlier figures were used to "rally the troops."

An additional factor is some uncommitted slates in upstate New York, the strongest in the Buffalo area backed by Erie County chairman Joseph Crangle. They are believed leaning toward Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, who is not a candidate.

Udall has been helped in New York by the withdrawal of Indiana Sen. Birch Bayh, many of whose delegates have now switched to the Arizona congressman and given him a boost with New York City's numerous liberals. Udall, who originally had slates in 21 of the 39 congressional districts, now has 37 and says he will give Jackson "a run for his money" in the state.

Carter has been touring the state denouncing the primary system and the fact that there is no statewide popular vote as such. He claimed that his polls showed him leading by a 2-1 margin in selected upstate regions and running even with Jackson in the New York metropolitan area.

There are 274 delegates at stake in New York, making it the second largest

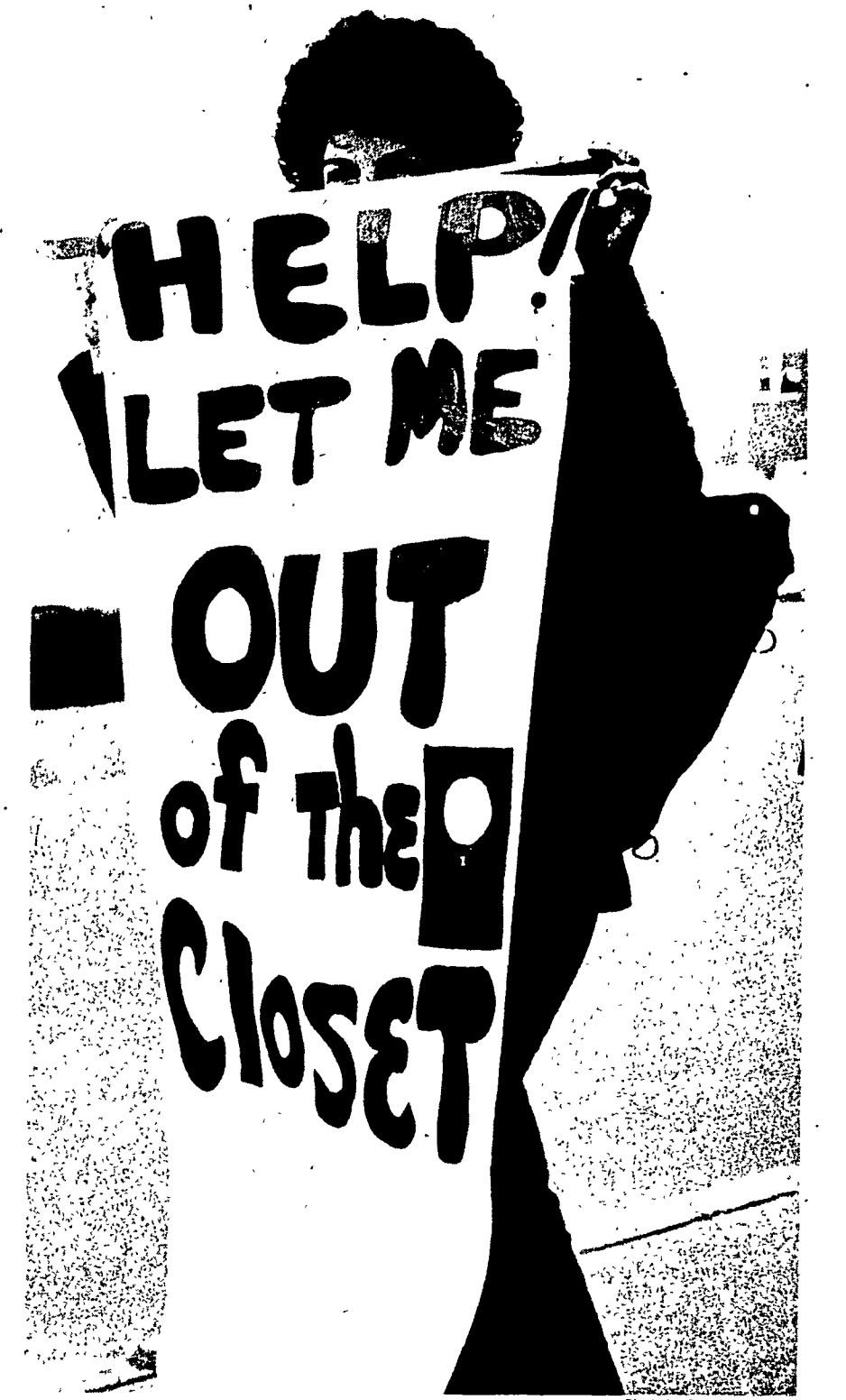
delegation at next July's Democratic National Convention. Voters will select 206 and the other 68 will be assigned at a state convention in proportion to the vote accumulated by each candidate.

But the voting procedure is cumbersome. Only three weeks ago, the legislature approved the law placing the names of the candidates on the ballot with the candidates pledged to them. None of the Democrats has full slates in all congressional districts because of challenges that disqualified a flock of potential delegates.

In most of New York, an uncommitted slate believed leaning to Ford, is uncontested on the Republican ballot. There are Reagan slates in four districts, but the former California governor's name is not on the ballot because the law on that applies only to the Democrats.

Some 117 Republican delegates will be selected today. An additional 37 at-large delegates, all of them uncommitted, have already been picked.

Wisconsin's primary is more traditional in form. There will be a statewide popular vote and the 68 Democratic delegates will be apportioned according to the popular vote. There are 45 delegates at stake in the Republican contest.



Peeking protester
Protesting outside the State College Municipal Building preceded controversy over the ordinance at municipal council's meeting last night. See related story page 3.

Weather

It's going to be basically dry, windy and pleasantly cool the next few days in town. Partly cloudy, breezy, and milder today. High 58. Mostly clear and frosty tonight. Low 31. Abundant sunshine and cool tomorrow. High 55.