New health center planned

A&M soon will be able to boast e of the most up-to-date ealth facilities of any university

ealth Center originated in Janary, 1970, says Howard S. Perry. The talk phase began with mmittee meetings and discusons. A New Hospital Advisory ommittee was made up of four udents and four members of e university staff and faculty. In the summer of 1970, the mmittee listed requirements and desired objectives. The unirsity hired an architect to draw p the preliminary designs. ese were approved by the oard of Directors.

The final plans were submitted and approved and the board auorized the committee to seek ids for the proposed center. A ntract was awarded in Februry, 1972, to Thurmond and ance, a local contractor curntly doing some other con-

"Hopefully the center will be plete for the 1973 school ear," Perry said.

ruction on campus.

be built where the remains of itchell Hall now stands.

Perry explained that the basent will contain space for the ood service, the X-ray lab and great deal of storage space.

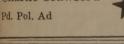
The out-patient clinic will be cated on the ground level floor, continued. Here will be the issions desk, the doctors' exining rooms, an eye, ear, nose nd throat clinic, various labs. eatment rooms and an ortho-

The second floor will house the patient area. In-patient rooms, acute room, an isolation ward nd a mental health area are in e plans. Each of the 20 intient rooms will hold two per-

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resident staff will also be on this

Perry said the health center will have space available for The idea of a new Student seven doctors, although that number will not be hired for the first year. As the university grows and the need arises, staff additions will be made. "The plans are designed to serve an ultimate enrollment of 22,000 here at A&M," he added.

For the initial school year, there will be a director and an associate director. Counting the director, there will be four fulltime staff positions, all medical

"Three M.D.'s are being employed and we have four or five applications for the other two positions," Perry said. He added that a couple of the applicants specialize, but no decisions have been made about hiring them.

The hospital will have space for an orthopedist, a psychiatrist, a gynecologist and an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist, but not all can be hired with the center just beginning.

Contract physicians from Bry-It will be a two-story struc-an with a full basement. It is an will also be employed parttime at the center.

At the present facility, all but the director are contract physicians Perry said that a gynecologist comes out to the hospital two days a week. Other specialists and a surgeon make routine calls each week and are on call as needed. A psychiatrist also is on call.

The new center will have registered nurses, licensed vocational nurses and nurses' aides. The current night duty staff consists of one registered nurse and a few nurses' aides, as well as an on-call physician. In comparison

sons. The living quarters for the the new center will probably have two registered nurses plus the aides on that shift. "However," Perry said, "this may depend on the patient number and the demand."

The new center will have its own cooks. Thus, special diets

can be prepared on location. The food will not be the prepackaged frozen dinner type that some hospitals serve, Perry said.

"The new center will be one of the best of its kind around. It will not be a full-fledged hospital as such because major surgery will not be performed," he explained.

A&M now offers more health services without extra charge than do many other schools, Perry said. Part of the student service fee required of all students covers such services. Included are: medical and minor surgical care, in-patient care up to 10 days, unlimited consultations during clinic hours, lab services, routine X-rays, most medicines and 24-hour nursing and ambulance service. Most schools charge for labs, medications, Xrays and for patient rooms.

Perry said the current hospital services are good. "The trouble is that one does not hear about the good—just about those who feel they were mistreated," he

All students will be able to use the new center. The university staff and faculty will not use it except for some physicals which they will pay for and in emer-

"The Student Senate voted in the fall for a \$3.50 per semester building use fee to build the center. The money collected is to retire the bond indebtedness of the hospital, not to operate it," Perry pointed out.

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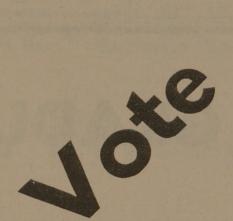
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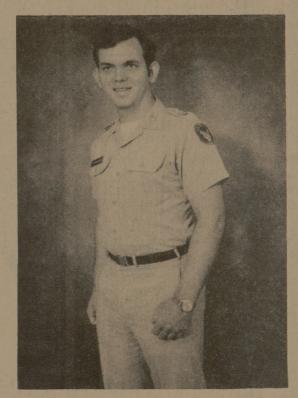
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