

local

Gramm calls for cut in federal spending to balance budget

By LAURA CORTEZ
City Staff

The U.S. budget must be balanced and the only way to do this is by cutting federal spending, Congressman Phil Gramm says.

At a Saturday morning press conference, Gramm said that there is already so much growth in the federal budget that merely containing the

growth of new federal programs will not lead to a balanced budget.

"We've come down to the sad state of affairs whereby in order to balance the budget, it's not going to be sufficient to tell new people who want something from the federal government 'no' — we're going to have to go back and look at the growth we've built into existing programs and cut

some of these programs," Gramm said.

But he said he feels that there is a realistic chance to balance the budget this year because it is an election year and because inflation has "flamed out of control."

Gramm said he is working on a bipartisan coalition, which he and Congressman Dave Stockman of Michigan established, to cut federal spending, and it has already come up with cuts that range between \$15 billion and \$30 billion.

He said he is also working with House Majority Leader Jim Wright to change the rules of Congress in order to force the government to "live on a balanced budget like everyone else."

Gramm said that he and Wright co-sponsored an amendment to mandate a balanced budget during peacetime and to require Congress to submit a balanced budget each year. He said that if changes in the economy occur in the middle of a fiscal year and the budget moves out of balance beyond congressional control, the treasurer would be required to report to the president an across-the-board cut in all federal expenditures that would be necessary to

achieve once again a balanced budget.

He said there will be an opportunity to vote on some version of this proposal in the 96th Congress.

"Having the majority leader as an ally in this represents real progress," Gramm said.

Concerning energy, Gramm said the country is facing a long, hard struggle.

"We have planted seeds that over the next decade will yield fruit, but right now we are in a position where we are being blackmailed by foreign nations, and our dependence on foreign oil is dictating our foreign policy. We've got to take some actions today to invest in producing energy here at home at a price the consumer can afford to pay."

He said that steps are being taken in the right direction in the form of a synthetic fuel bill, a realistic nuclear energy policy, the windfall tax bill and the fast track energy bill (designed to cut through red tape.)

Gramm also addressed the issue of draft registration, and said he supports the president's decision to reinstate it. He said that it is "prudent policy" to reduce the amount of time it would take to call up an army

if the United States were to enter into a war.

But Gramm said he does not support mandatory registration for women.

Gramm said that the draft is no substitute for building up the nation's defense, and he is concerned that the United States is falling behind the Soviet Union in conventional and nuclear forces. He said that even though money is tight now, the United States must build new hardware because "our nation's survival depends on it."

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A&M professor receives grant

By MERIL EDWARDS
Campus Staff

Dr. John A. McIntyre, a Texas A&M University physics professor, has received a \$208,762 grant from the American Cancer Society — the largest amount ever awarded to a single Texas researcher by the ACS.

The two-year grant, which began Jan. 1, will be used for research in the improvement of computer assisted tomography (CAT) scanners.

A CAT scanner is a sophisticated X-ray machine that produces precise pictures of the body's internal organs. The CAT scanner inventors won the 1979 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine.

"The CAT has revolutionized the field of medicine," McIntyre said. "Pictures of slices through the live human body can be obtained with X-rays that are comparable to those previously obtained by taking pictures of slices from human cadavers."

McIntyre said he was awarded the grant to work toward developing a gamma ray CAT scanner that will give pictures as sharp as an X-ray scanner.

"A CAT scanner using gamma rays will give even better pictures once perfected," McIntyre said. "X-ray instruments determine only density of the body, like showing the ribs, while the gamma rays determine the location of the radioactivity in the body."

"So we can tag chemicals with radioactive atoms then inject them

into the bloodstream and trace their progress. And we're able to see where the malfunction occurs."

McIntyre said the time factor in detecting disease is important. He said the motion of radioactive chemicals in the body will be affected by the growth of a tumor, for example, before the tumor has grown enough to change significantly the density of the body to where it will be visible by X-ray.

"But gamma ray pictures are 10 times fuzzier than those with X-ray," he said. "So what we're trying to do is get a clearer picture."

McIntyre and graduate student James Follin are testing ideas and working on technical details on a gamma ray model with the ultimate goal of developing a CAT scanner that uses radioactive chemicals instead of X-rays.

"We want to make sure, and so does the Cancer Society, that our ideas will work before investing a lot of money in building a scanner," McIntyre said.

"M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston wants a model big enough for a mouse when we're through. That will be probably be about two years from now."

A physics professor from Baylor University, Dr. Ken-Hsi Wang, will join McIntyre in June as associate research scientist to help construct the gamma ray instrument for cancer diagnosis. Wang, who will be involved with the research at Texas A&M for 15 months, was a student of McIntyre's at Yale University in the early 1960s.

Book has home cures for common ailments

By SHERRY WOODARD
Campus Reporter

The most common ailments of students who have visited the health center this year have been sprained ankles, jammed fingers and the common cold, said Dr. C.B. Goswick, Beutel Health Center director.

For relieving these and other ailments students may have from time to time, here are some good old grandma-approved home remedies which appear in "The Dictionary of Medical Folklore."

To relieve the common cold there's the common cure: plenty of rest, lots of liquids (nonalcoholic) and aspirin. But another not so common, and probably not so popular, cure listed in "The Common Cold and Common Sense" is to eat garlic and onions. Raw onions contain elements which are antiseptic, while the oils in garlic have the ability to kill unhealthy organisms, without attacking organisms that are vital to the body.

Jogging or softball enthusiasts may be happy to know ice is a good treatment for sprains or jammed fingers, which can happen if a ball is caught the wrong way. Soaking sprains in Epsom salts and water is also a good treatment.

Another occasional discomfort of many students is indigestion. When it happens, instead of running to the store for some "plop, plop, fizz, fizz,"

try baking soda — it's a natural antacid.

And for those headaches — commonly called hangovers — which usually result from intakes of too much alcohol, try hot coffee and aspirin. Aspirin can relieve the pain, while the warmth of the steam from the coffee can help to relax facial and neck muscles. Also, the stimulating caffeine in the coffee serves as a pick-me-up.

A cup of tea can be just the thing at the end of an exhausting day. It has fatigue-relieving properties. And students who have over-indulged in the recent sunny weather might want to save the tea bags. Cool wet tea bags contain an acid which can soothe burned, irritated, or itchy skin — unless, of course you are allergic to tea.

A problem that probably not too many students suffer from is sleeplessness. But for those who do, try counting sheep. A study by two psychologists at Harvard University indicated it really works. Visualizing sheep (or whatever you prefer) jumping over a fence requires the energies of the right side of the brain where sleep-preventing thoughts occur. Therefore, with this side of the brain occupied with sheep counting, no other bothersome thoughts can be created.



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