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The Weather

Today		Tomorrow	
High	80	High	77
Low	50	Low	47
Chance of rain	20%	Chance of rain	10%

Interim measure axed by board committee

By DENISE RICHTER
Battalion Staff

An interim measure to alleviate space shortages in the College of Engineering previously approved by the Texas A&M System Board of Regents, was axed Sunday by a committee of the board.

In September, regents authorized a \$2.8 million conversion of the basement of the Engineering Laboratory Center to academic laboratories and office space. The basement of the center, now under construction on the south side of the Zachry Engineering Center, was originally designed for parking.

However, System Chancellor Frank H. Hubert recommended Sunday that the Board consider completing the Engineering Laboratory Center according to its original plans and that space in the Engineering and Physics Building be converted to academic laboratories instead.

The cost of the 141,000-square-foot Engineering and Physics Building, located on the south side of the Cyclone, is an estimated \$17.5 million. The building is scheduled for completion in the fall of 1983.

The conversion of the Engineering Laboratory Center changes the original design and design of a building, which already had been agreed upon and ... come out with converted space that is a hand-aid to the problem (of over-crowding)," Hubert said.

Laboratory space could be included in the Engineering and Physics Building at a cost of 12 to 14 months (additional time)," Hubert said.

The advantages of moving in this direction far outweigh the disadvantages of time lost," he said.

Committee Chairman H.C. Bell of the board said the committee would recommend the acceptance of Hubert's suggestion.

Discussion concerning a \$50,000 appropriation for the detailed design of the Transportation Center expansion

fueled a debate over Texas A&M's venture into the bus business.

The proposed \$1.3 million building would provide service and maintenance areas, parking space for 34 buses and space for future expansion.

The appropriation was undebated; however, several of the regents voiced opposition when they learned that the original cost of the 32 buses had been underestimated and that an additional \$200,000 would be needed to pay for the buses.

Board Chairman H.R. "Bum" Bright of Dallas said, "Anything would be cheaper than trying to do this — this is a big mistake."

Regent Joe C. Richardson of Amarillo asked whether the Board's attempt to

services department to receive larger food shipments by train instead of by truck.

The committee also discussed a \$60,000 appropriation for the detailed design of an expansion of the University's electrical capabilities. Wesley E. Peel, vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, said the expansion will provide a back-up source of power and will fulfill Texas A&M's electricity needs through the year 2000.

The \$5 million expansion calls for the campus to receive additional power from the Brazos Electric Power Cooperative.

In an previous interview, Joe J. Estill Jr., director of the Physical Plant, said the maximum electrical power now available from the Brazos Cooperative is 20 mega-watts. Under the new system, the maximum power available will be 40 mega-watts initially and eventually will reach 120 mega-watts, he said.

In other action, the committee recommended the following items to the full board for approval:

— a \$1.7 million contract to the Belco Construction Co. of Temple for the construction of the Animal Science Pavilion

— a \$133,600 contract to the J.W. Cox Construction Co. of Alta Loma for the relocation of the dishwashing area in the Memorial Student Center

— a \$35,000 appropriation for design of the first phase of the Systems Building renovation. Total cost of the renovation is an estimated \$950,000.

The Planning and Building Committee meeting resumed at 8:30 a.m. today to discuss a proposed special events center and appropriations for the preliminary design of the Biological Control Facility.

The full Board will act on the committee's recommendations at their meeting Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in the MSC regents quarters.

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improve bus service by owning and operating its own fleet wasn't just "picking up more headaches."

The University plans to operate its own fleet of buses starting in the fall, when the present contract with Transportation Enterprises, Inc. ends.

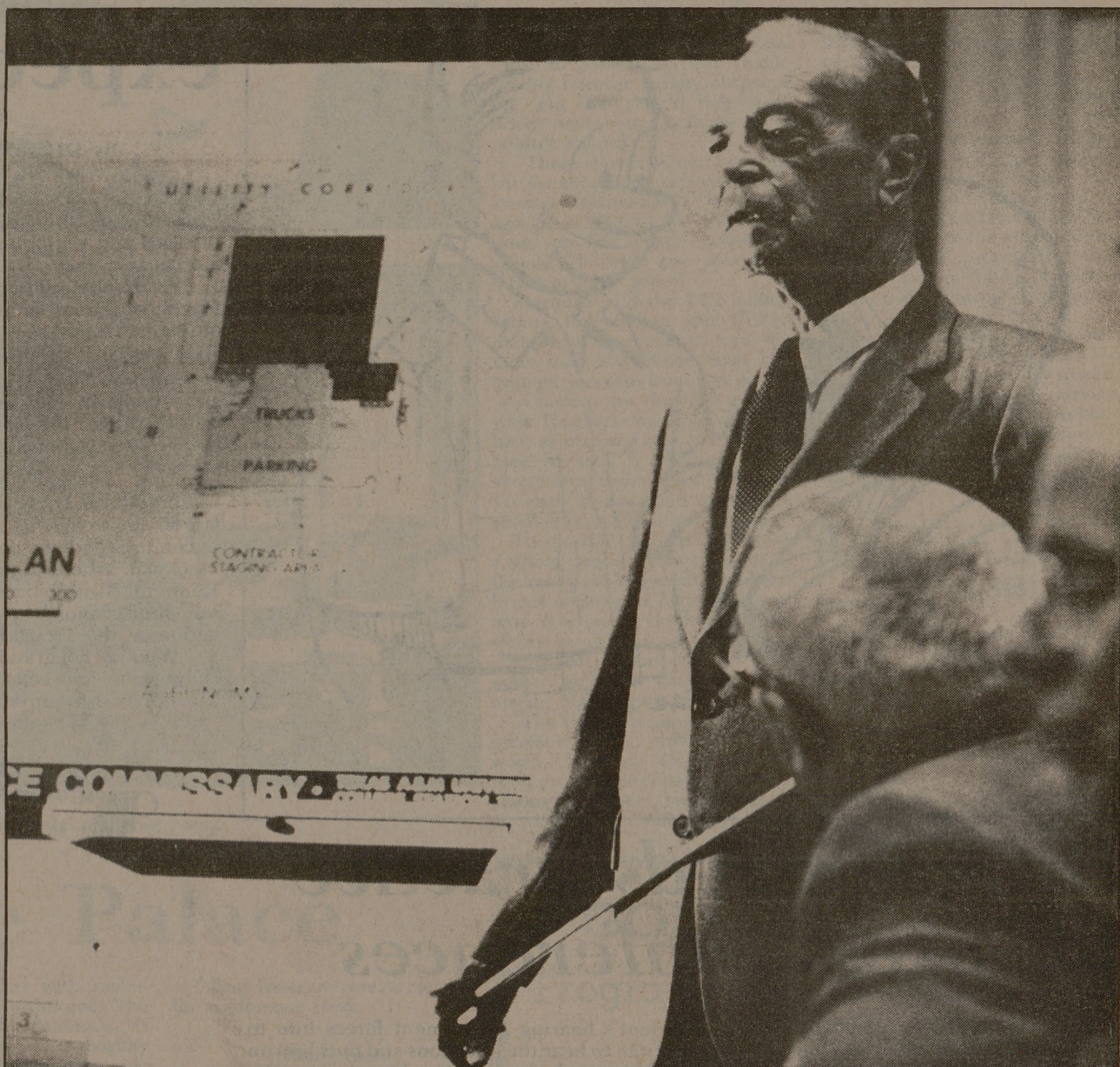
Vice President for Business Affairs Howard Vestal told the Board that the buses had not been ordered and the program could be stopped at any time.

Bell then suggested discussion of the bus system be tabled.

The committee also discussed the appropriation of \$142,000 for the detailed design of the food service commissary, to be constructed on the east side of Agronomy Road.

A model of the commissary was presented by the project's architect-engineer Fred Buford, of Fred Buford and Associates. According to the model, a railroad spur will be constructed to link the commissary to the main railroad line.

Bell said, "This is the building that is going to save us \$1 million a year ... and will pay for itself in four or five years." The commissary will enable the food



Staff photo by Dave Einsel

As System Board of Regents Chairman H.R. "Bum" Bright looks on, architect-engineer Fred Buford presents a site plan of the proposed Food

Service Commissary. The plan was presented during Sunday's meeting of the Planning and Building Committee.

Reagan vetoes emergency bill

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, carrying out his pledge to fight "budget busting" by Congress, today vetoed a \$427.9 billion emergency spending bill, forcing an unprecedented shutdown of "non-essential" government operations.

Reagan issued the veto — the first of his presidency — nearly 12 hours after the bill, hammered out by a House-Senate conference committee during the weekend — received final passage by the Senate.

The measure gave Reagan only about \$2 billion of the \$8.5 billion in budget cuts he requested.

In his veto message, Reagan said he had offered to meet Congress halfway, but the compromise that reached the White House only this morning represented neither fair compromise nor responsible budget policy.

"The failure to provide a reasonable resolution means that some citizens may be inconvenienced and that there

is a possibility of some temporary hardship," Reagan said. "Nevertheless, a far greater threat to all Americans is the sustained hardship they will suffer by continuing the past budget-busting policies of big spending and big deficits."

The president, who had used his veto threat in an effort to persuade Congress to shave more spending from the bill, immediately convened an emergency Cabinet meeting to discuss how to close down government agencies that ran out of money at midnight Friday. It was estimated about 400,000 government workers — 8 percent of the federal workforce — would be laid off without pay Tuesday.

On Capitol Hill, lawmakers who openly defied the president were angered by the veto, and the House prepared to try to override it — an unlikely possibility in view of the narrow margin by which the spending bill was sent to Reagan on Sunday.

"I suppose the president intended all

along to use this for a confrontation with the Congress," House Democratic leader Jim Wright of Texas told NBC News.

"Every member of the conference committee — House and Senate, Republican and Democrat, had the full expectation and was led to believe the president would sign the bill," Wright said.

House Democratic leaders prepared another stopgap measure that would keep spending at its current levels until Feb. 25.

The veto followed a weekend of long hours and occasionally flared tempers as Congress worked to renew funding for a government cut off.

Elephant Walk set for Tuesday

Seniors will gather in front of the Academic Building Tuesday at noon for the annual Elephant Walk.

The event, previously scheduled for Wednesday, was moved to Tuesday to allow ample time on Wednesday for final preparations on the Bonfire. Director of Student Affairs Ron Blatchley said.

Head Civilian Redpot Mike Thomas said ax handles will not be allowed on the walk except for symbolic hand-

les carried by members of the Bonfire Committee.

The seniors will wander through the campus to Kyle Field, through the north area and then to the Corps Quadrangle and hold a final yell practice at the Bonfire site, Thomas said.

Head Yell Leader Mike Thatcher said this year the seniors will stay away from the academic building to avoid disturbing classes.

Overprogramming, ticket costs raise questions about concerts

By NANCY WEATHERLEY
Battalion Staff

Overprogramming and high ticket costs by the MSC Town Hall Committee have prompted questions concerning how Town Hall brings entertainment to Texas A&M University.

Town Hall is responsible for bringing the University contemporary entertainment through a variety of concerts and theater performances.

This semester, the organization has presented eight shows: Hall and Oates, the Commodores, Best Little Whorehouse in Texas, Chuck Mangione, Charlie Pride, Pablo Cruise and Sugar Babies. Michael Murphy will perform after bonfire.

With so many shows in one semester, four of which were in October, and with tickets that range from \$2.50 to \$15.50, many students have not been able to afford to attend all the performances. Consequently, members of the MSC Council and Directorate recently discussed the possibility that Town Hall may be overprogramming.

However, Richard Reynolds, assistant director of the MSC, said he doesn't think Town Hall has overprogrammed this year because it has offered a greater diversity of entertainment to the Texas A&M campus than in past years.

The committee's prime goal is to offer a show the weekend of each home game, Lauren Pennington, Town Hall committee chairman, said.

This semester, shows like the Commodores, Best Little Whorehouse in Texas and Sugar Babies added to the variety of programs offered, but they were included at the last minute because they were only available for the fall semester, Reynolds said.

"We felt an obligation to present these shows even though we knew they would play during the fall semester," Reynolds said.

In most instances, the risk worked. Sugar Babies, even though a hit on Broadway, was the only show that wasn't a financial success. Reynolds attributed this to high-priced shows falling within 15 days of each other, right before Sugar Babies played.

"We do realize that students are limited (financially)," he said.

To help Town Hall members decide which acts to get, the committee sends out a survey each spring semester which contains a list of artists in the entertainment field.

"We derive the list by going through the trade publications to find out what artists are doing well with their album sales and how much airplay they're getting in different radio markets," Reynolds said.

A selection committee, picked by the Town Hall chairman, looks at the returns and lists acts they would like to come to Texas A&M.

"We use the list to find out if the groups are available, if the entertainers are going to be out," he said. "If they are out, we start talking to the agents to find out how much they're going to (cost), what time of year they'll be through our area, what the technical requirements are."

But, shows like Charlie Pride and Pablo Cruise, which were selected because they did well on the survey, didn't do as well as Town Hall would have liked. Reynolds said tastes change and this fall people just weren't interested at the time.

A major problem in getting acts to come to Texas A&M is the G. Rollie White Coliseum, where major concerts are held, he said.

For example, some students say they would like for more rock and new wave bands to come to Texas A&M. But, even though Town Hall is trying to book these acts, Reynolds said, the problem has been get-

ting the highly technical and large stages, common to bigger-name acts, in the coliseum.

"Realistically, we try to go for the biggest-name acts possible, the Cars, Kenny Rogers, the Commodores, the Rolling Stones," he said.

"G. Rollie White is an old facility and it's just not capable of handling the technical aspects of some shows," Reynolds said.

The small seating capacity of the coliseum is another problem Town Hall encounters. G. Rollie White holds 8,500 people. And when equipment or a large stage starts taking away seating space, the size of the coliseum can shrink to 5,500 seats.

The shortage in seats can lead to higher ticket prices, which might take away a percentage of the audience, Pennington said.

"When the price goes over \$10, you start to compare with Austin and Houston," she said. "We've learned students are wary of ticket prices and they'll usually pay from \$5 to \$10."

Reynolds said they like to keep ticket prices one-third the cost normal promoters ask.

Pennington said the committee looks seriously at shows with \$10-plus ticket amounts and will only use those that they think will stand up to the price and be successful.

But even with the more expensive acts, Pennington said ticket prices only reflect what it costs Town Hall to put on the show.

"Town Hall is non-profit and is only trying to break even," she said.

Even though some of their shows haven't been successful this year, Reynolds said the huge successes of Whorehouse and the Commodores have balanced the budget.



Staff photo by Rose Delano

Fish detail

Steven Thompson, right front, helps other freshmen unload Drum Corps equipment for the performance at the Texas A&M-Texas Christian University football game. James Morris, left front, looks on as Wendall Skolaski, left back, and John Ripley help in the process.