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## Research projects destroyed in fire



Smoke pours from the Agricultural Engineering Research Lab

by Beverly Hamilton

Battalion Staff
More than \$1 million worth of research projects on the Texas A&M west campus were destroyed Monday night when the building in which they were housed was gutted by fire.

The experimental engine equip-ment which was destroyed was being used to test alternative fuel sources, said Dr. Edward Hiler, head of Texas A&M's Agricultural Engineering Department. Several other alternative fuel projects and a water project being conducted by graduate students also were destroyed.

Hiler said the fire quickly spread throughout half the building after it apparently started in the south end. He said the fire could have been fueled by the foam insulation in the

He said the other half of the building was badly damaged by smoke.

The cause of the fire, which started about 6 p.m. in the Agricultural Engineering Research Lab on Agronomy Road has not been determined, said Charles Yeager, College Station assistant fire chief.

the south end of the building including projects and equipment," Yeager

Yeager said the building contained several drums of oil, cylinders con-taining experiments and alcohol propane. All of the eurothane foam insulation on the building burned, he said, as well as wood and storage con-

They had quite a bit of combusti-

bles in the area," he said.

College Station firefighter Jon
Mies was taken to St. Joseph Hospital
for heat exhaustion and smoke inhalation. He was treated and re-

Several other firemen were treated at the scene of the fire for smoke inhalation and heat exhaustion. No one was in the building when

the fire erupted, Yeager said.

"The major loss was to some of the graduate students," Yeager said.
"They had a year or two tied up in those projects.'

College Station firemen were investigating the scene of the fire today sistant fire chief. and expect to determine the fire's cause by later in the week.



A College Station fireman takes an oxygen break

## Hearing set on proposed tax increase

by Hope E. Paasch

Battalion Staff
The 1983 Brazos County Appraisal District budget was disapproved Monday night by College Station school board trustees. Earlier this month the board approved the

Board members said they voted for the disapproval at least partially because they were concerned about the rationale behind the 47 percent increase over the 1982 budget. Since property reappraisal was supposed to

have been completed in 1982, trustees said they did not understand the increase requested in the 1983 budget. The proposed budget calls for six additional employees, including four appraisers.

Trustee John Reagor said the appraisal district has not provided the board with enough information to justify the budget request.
"We have asked (the appraisal dis-

trict) for the information and we haven't received it," he said. The information sought by the board includes estimated expenditures for 1982, reasons for the wide range in salaries of field appraisers, basis for car allowances and documentation of other appropriations.

Several board members said they wanted to disapprove the budget because the appraisal district has not been cooperative in completing a certified tax roll.

Trustee Bill Wasson said: "This is a vindictive vote on my part. I don't care if they get a budget at all. As far as I'm concerned, they can go to the

district judge for their budget — and is not approved, the appraisal district in the Oakwood Middle School lib-I understand that is one of their op-will have to take its budget request to rary.

For the budget to be nullified, three of the five taxing entities in Brazos County must vote for disapproval. The City of Bryan has voted for disapproval, and Reagor said he expects the City of College Station to withdraw its approval of the budget, too.

If the budget is nullified, the appraisal district will have 30 days to submit another budget. If that budget

will have to take its budget request to the district judge for approval.

In other business, the board voted to hold a public hearing for a proposed 19.5 percent increase in tax revenues. To gain the extra revenue, which is needed to balance the school district's budget, the tax rate would rise from 77 cents per \$100 to 92 cents

The board also adopted a policy for drug-sniffer dog use for possessions of school district employees and visitors. A policy regarding sniffer dog searches of student possessions was adopted by the board in August and board members said it was necessary to have a similar policy for others who may be on campus.

The policy authorizes the use of the dogs to locate alcohol and drugs on school property.

### Reagan cutbacks force PBS to look elsewhere for funds

Battalion Staff
Cutbacks in federal funding for public broadcasting have forced many stations to find additional sources of revenue.

KAMU-TV and KAMU-FM, Texas A&M's educational television and radio stations, are no exception. Nationwide, the budget for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting will fall from \$172 million to \$137 million in October, the start of the new federal fiscal year.

It will fall to \$130 million in 1984. And the Reagan administration has proposed elimination of all public

broadcasting funding by 1986. At KAMU-TV, \$70,000 was cut from the station's budget this year

and \$10,000 was cut from KAMU-FM's budget. KAMU plans to make up its losses with fund-raising activities.

"We increase our goals in other areas that provide income," said Mel Chastain, director of educational broadcast services at KAMU. Auctions, on-the-air appeals, contract production and underwriting are methods used to raise money.

The radio and TV stations are funded differently, Chastain said. The TV station requires almost \$1 million a year to function; the radio station has a yearly budget of more than \$100,000.

members' salaries

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a year from the University to operate. The current community grant — federal funds — for KAMU-FM is

\$30,000. This leaves about \$70,000 to be raised to pay for staff members' Chastain said the radio station has

four on-the-air appeals during the year. Underwriting and contract production also provide funds.

KAMU-TV receives a community

service grant — also federal funds of about \$250,000. This leaves almost \$300,000 to be raised by the station.

The TV station holds an auction and three on-the-air appeals or festivals to raise money. Underwriting of programs and contract production also provides funds.

Because of federal budget cuts, goals for monetary donations have been increased.

Chastain said the goal for the three festivals is \$50,000. During these festivals, viewers call in and pledge contributions to the station.

One such festival held in August raised almost \$11,000 despite numerous telephone malfunctions, Chastain The festival's goal was set at \$15,000.

The goal for the April auction is \$47,000, he said.

The station also receives revenue from contract production — programs produced for outside commer-The University contributes about cial customers. The station's goal for \$450,000 to KAMU-TV for faculty contract production is \$100,000,

The football series — 11 Aggie games and 2 local high school games shown on KAMU-TV — is fully underwritten by local businesses, Chastain said. Before the show, during breaks and after the show credit is given to those businesses, which provide \$13,000 to \$14,000 for the series.

"Without underwriting, we wouldn't have a series," Chastain said. But he emphasized that under-

writing a show is not the same as a commercial for the business. The underwriter's organization, address and services are given, but it is done in an informational — not promotional way, he said.

Federal spending cuts in other programs also affect the future of public broadcasting.

Budget cuts in programs that sponsor such television series as the National Endowment for the Humanities' "Great Performances" increase the series' costs to each station.

The Stations' Program Cooperative distributes descriptions of programs and their costs. After the show has been underwritten, the remaining costs are picked up by stations that

buy the programs.

When prices become too high, a station will drop out of the bidding for the show.

"That's what happened to us with 'Nova," he said. "Some years we can afford it, some we can't."

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# Quick clinics give fast relief to citizens

by Nancy Floeck

Battalion Staff
When Juanita Montgomery, her husband and their four children moved to Bryan from Tennessee, they left behind a doctor familiar with the children, their asthma attacks and their chronic ear infections.

With little money in a strange town, Montgomery said she panicked the first time her children needed to

"I didn't know where to go," she said. "Every doctor I called had to have the money right away. I couldn't

afford that.' Added to her worries was the high price of emergency room treatment.

"If you go to the hospital, you have to pay an outrageous charge, which I had to because my little girl was having an asthma attack," she said. "It was in the middle of the night ... I took her to the hospital. They charged \$100 just to walk in the door, which is kind of ridiculous.

But they want their money right on hand. People like me just can't

Finally, she took her children to the AM/PM clinic, a minor emergency clinic in Bryan that caters to walk-ins, opens at 7 a.m., closes at 11 p.m. and charges an average of \$23.75 a pa-

"They have given us real good ser-

vice and, really, they're at a minimum price to what other doctors are,"

Unlike Montgomery, Nancy Janczak has a family physician. But she also prefers the convenience clinic.

'I'd rather come here than to a family doctor, because you get in and out twice as fast," she said. "You don't have to wait another two hours for an appointment that was two hours ago. I don't know if it is necessarily

cheaper but my time is money, and that makes a difference. Often called "Docs-in-the-Box,"

the number of minor emergency clinics in the United States has flourished in the past few years, increasing from 50 in 1978 to about 600 today and attracting patients and controversy along the way.

These convenience clinics often can be seen along U.S. highways, conveniently located off exit ramps or in booming cities filled with transients — Houston has 35 convenience clinics - and filled with people who don't want to spend several hours waiting to see a private physician. This is sort of like a 7-11," said Dr.

L.L. Nigliazzo, one of six doctors at the Bryan minor emergency clinic. "We see patients sometimes before their doctors come into the office, when they can't get hold of him, or after he's gone.

"They're walk-in clinics. You don't have to have an appointment. You usually get seen within 15, 20 minutes or less, whereas if you go to a doctor's office, you have to sit all day.'

Broken bones that don't require surgery, minor cuts requiring stitches, burns, rashes, routine shots and physicals, electrocardiograms and removal of small cysts are a few of the medical problems convenience clinics are equipped to handle.

Patients with more severe or urgent medical problems are referred to their private physicians, local emergency rooms or specialists contacted by clinic personnel.

Susan Reem, a spokesman for the National Association of Freestanding Emergency Centers in Dallas, said the cost for medical services - including laboratory work — at a minor emergency clinic averages about \$30

Comparatively, the average cost of an office visit to a private physician often costs up to \$45.

When compared to emergency room rates, the cost differences grow. Reem cited cost comparisons of several typical emergency room ail-

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#### Succeeds brother at post

### Gemayel elected Lebanon's president

United Press International
BEIRUT, Lebanon — Amin
Gemayel was elected Lebanon's new president by an overwhelming majority today, succeeding his brother

brother was assassinated by a bomb. Amin took 77 votes on the first ballot by members of Parliament, easily exceeding the 62 required from the 92 deputies. There were three blank ballots and the rest of the members were absent.

Beshir exactly one week after his

The session opened with five minutes of silence for Amin's slain brother and the chamber burst into applause when Amin's total passed the 62 mark.

Amin was made the overwhelming favorite to take the election when his only serious opponent, former president Camille Chamoun, withdrew from the race Monday.

Amin will succeed President Elias Sarkis, whose term expires Thursday.

er of the National Liberal Party, had backed President-elect Gemayel but originally said he would contest the new vote.

Intensive efforts began immediately to prevent a split in the rightist Christian ranks. The pressure mounted on Chamoun to drop out of the contest when Amin won the endorsement of influential Moslems on

Chamoun told reporters Monday

he was withdrawing because of "my tic sympathy for another member of keenness on preserving the unity of Lebanon and the unity of the Lebanese people."

The Moslem community had initially opposed the parliamentary meeting that elected the slain president-elect, but the 34-year-old leader

quickly won its confidence. Amin was always considered more acceptable to Moslems and in the outpouring of rage over his brother's assassination, there also was automa-

the family.
The Moslems distrusted Beshir be-

cause of his ruthless conduct as a Christian militia leader in the 1975-76 civil war, both toward his enemies and his rivals.

Amin has no such handicap. "I know Amin was never involved in violence," Salam said.

Amin was also believed to have disagreed with his brother's close ties

forecast

Today's Forecast: High of 81, low in the high 60s tonight. Partly cloudy skies, drier, cooler day with less humidity.