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Board of Regents approves \$19 million building design

by Karen Schrimsher

Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M Board of Regents completed their three-day meeting Tuesday with the approval of the design of a new \$19 million chemistry building.

The building, which will be built on the corner of Ross and Spence streets, will house all undergraduate chemistry laboratories with the exception of the large freshman chemistry program.

The six-level building will add 116,000 square feet of laboratory, classroom and office space to the existing chemistry facilities.

The building will feature a study room inside a courtyard area between the new building and chemistry laboratory building.

Pierce Goodwin Alexander of Houston, an engineering firm, will begin to draw detailed sketches of the interior of the building for the approval of the board. Once the sketches are

approved, bids for construction will be solicited.

Bids were accepted for the following:

- Approximately \$2 million worth of modifications on the Veterinary Medicine Complex. Three laboratories are to be renovated, and additional laboratory furniture and equipment will be purchased.

- An agricultural engineering research laboratory to be built to replace the metal shop which burned in Dec. 1982.

- Renovations of the dining hall at Tarleton State University.

- The physical plant and transportation center complex at Prairie View A&M University.

In other business, the board voted to approve the purchase of \$1 million worth of malpractice insurance for the faculty, staff and students of the College of Veterinary Medicine at a cost of \$25,000 per year.

The title of Professor Emeritus was granted Professor Albert John Druce

of the Department of Electrical Engineering.

The board approved the establishment of a \$200,000 Benz Chair in Floral Design in the Department of Horticultural Sciences, named after the late M. "Buddy" Benz. Benz, a member of the Class of '32, left the University the Benz School of Floral Design, his collection of antique silver, the copyrights of his publications, a fine arts collection and the proceeds from the sale of his Houston home.

The board also approved a proposal to establish a quasi-endowment fund in the name of late James M. and Ada S. Forsyth to support the graduate fellowship program in the College of Engineering. The funds for the endowment will come from a \$200,000 pooled-life income fund which Forsyth established in 1971.

James Forsyth, a graduate of the College of Engineering, expressed an interest in enhancing engineering education.

The highlight of the meetings was Monday's presentation of a proposal to build a bell tower—a gift from Ford D. Albritton, Class of '43. Albritton and his wife Martha plan for the tower to be completed by September 1984.

Albritton, a former regent, is the founder of Albritton Development of Dallas. He said he gave a great amount of consideration to the gift, and decided that a bell tower would stand as a constant reminder of the academic excellence at Texas A&M.

The tower will be located of the Academic Building between the YMCA and Coke buildings.

A 10-foot diameter clock will be set in each of the four sides of the structure. The tower will house 35 electronically controlled bells which will play traditional and seasonal music.

The planning and building committee will meet again on Oct. 13 to discuss the traffic-flow study.

Dean retires after 34 years

by Karen Schrimsher

Battalion Staff

Although Dr. George W. Kunze is looking forward to his Aug. 31 retirement, he speaks with pride of the many changes that have taken place in Texas A&M graduate programs since he became dean of the Graduate College in 1968.

"In 1957, there were 500 graduate students, and in 1967 when I became associate dean, there were 2,265," he says. "This fall, there are about 6,200."

Eighty percent of all Texas A&M doctoral degrees have been awarded during the 16 years Kunze has served as dean. The 1,000th doctoral degree was awarded in 1968, and now the college is approaching the 4,500 mark for degrees awarded.

Kunze began working at the University 34 years ago as a graduate research assistant in the agronomy department. He worked his way up to professor in the agronomy department in 1952 and in the soil and crop sciences department in 1960.

He was asked to assume the position of associate dean in September of 1967 and was named dean in 1968.

"I set myself the goal to get 40 years toward my retirement," Kunze said. "I felt after 40 years would be a good time to stop off if I'm going to

do it at all."

As dean of the graduate college, Kunze is responsible for all the graduate programs and policies. His office monitors the admission of applicants by checking Graduate Record Examination scores and grade-point ratios for past two years of study.

"The quality of our programs has increased significantly over the years, along with the quality of our students and our faculty," he said.

There's a direct relationship between the improvements, he said, because the faculty is what makes the programs work.

There has been a significant increase in out of state applicants largely due to recognition of the excellence of Texas A&M graduate programs, he said.

Still a large number of students remain at Texas A&M for their graduate studies. Kunze said 35 to 40 percent of the graduate students received their undergraduate degrees from Texas A&M.

Almost every University department has a graduate program, and proposals for doctoral programs in political science, anthropology and medicine are being evaluated now.

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Advisory board joins students and officials

by Karen Schrimsher

Battalion Staff

The newly formed Chancellor's System Student Advisory Board met for the first time this week to attend the Texas A&M Board of Regents Meeting.

The purpose of the board, established last spring, is to encourage active participation of students in system-wide concerns, and to further cooperation between students and administrators.

The representatives will meet regularly with Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen to represent student views and positions on system-wide issues.

Representatives ideally will have the opportunity to present student input on issues to the Regents at their meetings.

The student body presidents of each university within the system will be included as board members. The remaining members are selected by a panel consisting of two student representatives chosen by the university president and confirmed by the student government, plus a representative of the administration and a representative of the faculty.

Board members will represent the student bodies of the System's universities in recognizing, researching and presenting issues relating to students.

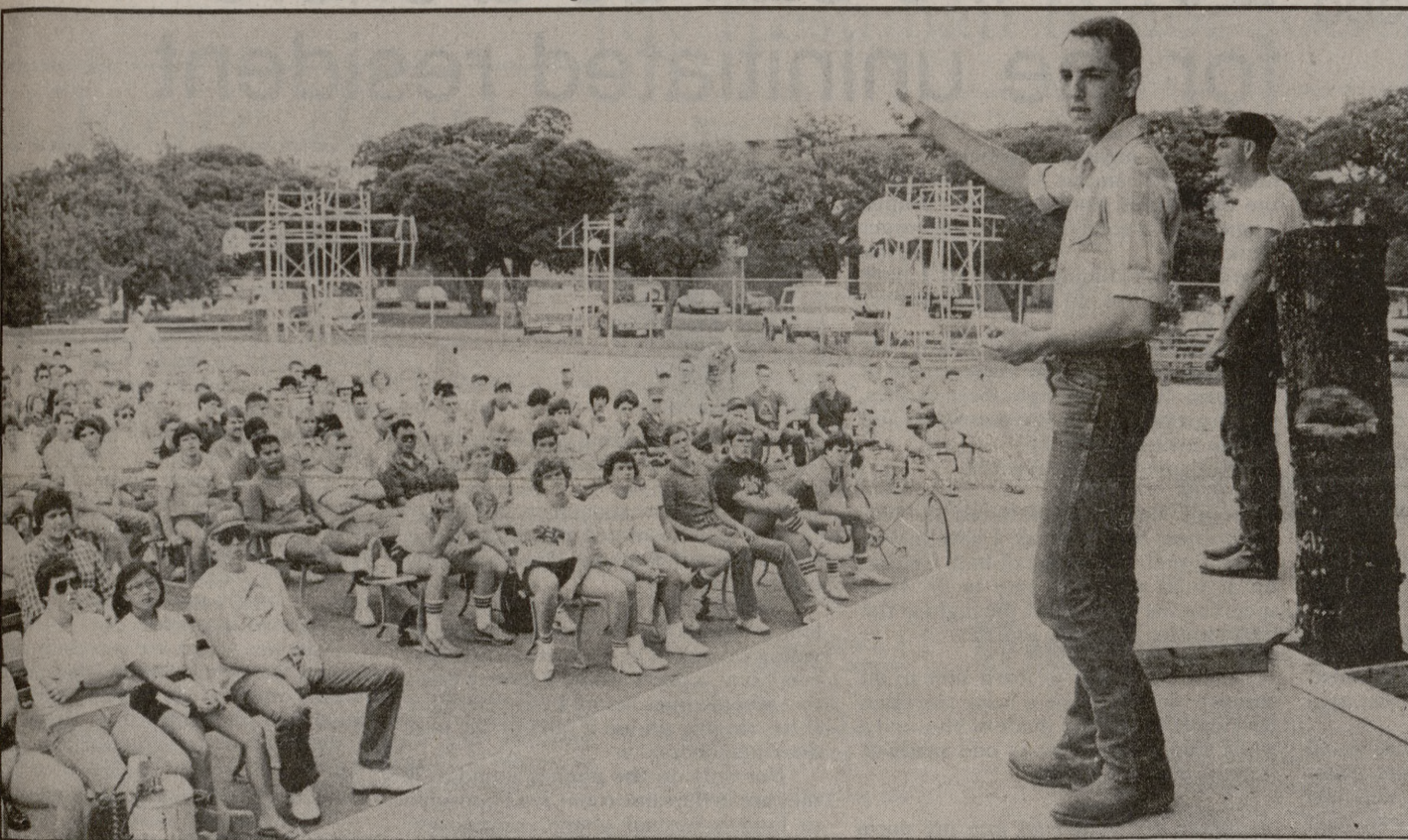
Representatives from Texas A&M University are:

- Fred Billings, chairman of the Board. Billings is a senior agricultural economics major from Houston.
- David R. Alders, a junior agricultural economics major from Nacogdoches.
- Teresa Brashear, a junior biochemistry major from Desoto.
- Student Body President Joe Jordan, a senior physics major from Beaumont.
- Madelon Yanta, a sophomore finance major from San Antonio.

Texas A&M University at Galveston is represented by Skeeter Braun and Ed O'Donnell.

Tarleton State University is represented by Mark Kaiser, Scott Golemon and Todd Searcy.

The members from Prairie View A&M are Jerald Wright, Willie Mae Roaches, and Donna Shanks.



staff photo by John Makely

Last cutting classes today

The final bonfire cutting classes will be held today at 4 and 7 p.m. at the Grove. Jim Cline, a Civil Engineering senior from Richardson, and Karl Joeirs, an

Environmental Design junior from San Antonio are shown demonstrating safety techniques on Tuesday. Company C-1 is in charge of cutting classes.

Reported syphilis cases increase 46 percent in Brazos County

by Mary E. Macan

Battalion Reporter

The number of reported syphilis cases in Brazos County has increased 46 percent from 1982 — an additional 25 cases, but health department officials are unsure of the reasons.

"We really just don't know," Bart Jennings, public health representative, says. "We have some maybes but we don't have any hard data."

However, he did cite some possible reasons. Better communication between doctors and the health department may

be causing more cases to be reported and investigated, he said. Doctors are required by law to report all cases of venereal disease to the health department.

In addition, Jennings' predecessor left last September and Jennings began working in January leaving about four months in which there were no follow-ups on cases.

The rapid growth of Bryan-College Station also may be a factor, he said.

And syphilis isn't choosy, he said. It can afflict professors, whites, men, professionals, blacks and women. Venereal

disease also is increasing among students, he said.

"Venereal disease is usually found when a person has a premarital blood test or a check-up," he said. "Ninety percent of all women who have gonorrhea don't even know they have it until they take one of these tests."

A muted strain of gonorrhea, penicillinase-producing neisserial gonorrhea, has been diagnosed in Brazos County, Jennings said.

PPNG is resistant to penicillin, but can be killed with the use of another drug, he said.

"It's very important for a per-

son who is sexually active to get check-ups and if they are found to have venereal disease they should be frank with their doctor so that people they may have infected can be contacted.

"Then, once a person has been treated he or she should receive a test of cure, or recheck, to make sure the disease has been killed," he said.

As of Friday, 70 cases of venereal disease have been investigated this year, he said.

Jennings said he is trying to stimulate public awareness of syphilis and gonorrhea by giving speeches and appearing on radio and television programs.

Santa Fe, Southern Pacific to merge

United Press International

CHICAGO — Santa Fe Industries Inc. and Southern Pacific Co. Tuesday announced an agreement to merge, bringing together two railroads that virtually built the Southwest.

The deal is the sixth in a line of "mega-mergers" that one expert said typifies a "new golden age of railroads."

Under the agreement, the two companies will become subsidiaries of a newly formed holding company, Santa Fe Southern Pacific Corp.

The Southern Pacific is the direct descendant of the Central Pacific railroad, one of the two joining the eastern and western United States at the driving of the "Golden Spike" at

Promontory Point, Utah, in May 1869.

Established in 1865 to build a rail line from San Francisco to San Diego, Calif., the Southern Pacific was eventually the first railroad to cross the Southwest.

Santa Fe Industries is the parent company of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe railroad, made famous in the 1940s song of the same name—a favorite of Glenn Miller and his orchestra.

The Santa Fe began as a trunk line between Kansas and Chicago in 1888 and quickly expanded to challenge the Southern Pacific for rail business in the West.

The merger, announced by John J. Schmidt, chairman and chief execu-

tive officer of Santa Fe Industries, and B.F. Biaggini, chairman and chief executive officer of Southern Pacific, is the latest in a list of rail mergers that began with the junction of New York Central and the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1969.

At a news conference at his company's headquarters in San Francisco, Biaggini said the "merger of equals" will produce "one of the world's largest and strongest companies."

"It is good for the stockholders, good for the employees and good for the public we serve in many ways," Biaggini said.

Upon consummation of the merger, each outstanding share of South-

ern Pacific will be exchanged for 1.543 shares of common stock in the new holding company. Each share of Santa Fe stock will be exchanged for 1.203 shares of the new holding company.

Schmidt will be the company's chairman, and R.D. Krebs, president of Southern Pacific, will be chief operating officer after the merger, which should be completed by the end of the year — and which should create more jobs.

The merger will allow both companies to consolidate considerable holdings in timber, farm and industrial acreage.

Regents deny students' query

by Karen Schrimsher

Battalion Staff

As the Texas A&M Board of Regents meeting was drawing to a close Tuesday, three students requested permission to speak to the board concerning impending changes in the Texas A&M first year chemistry program.

Chairman of the Board H. R. "Bum" Bright denied permission and told Becky Bailes, Kathleen Macchio and Joe Calao that they would have to go through the proper channels to address the regents "just as anyone else has to."

Bailes, a sophomore electrical engineering major and spokesperson for the group, said she was representing 5,000 students who signed a petition in May 1983 to support the first year chemistry program as it was at that time under the direction of Dr. Rod O'Connor.

O'Connor resigned from the directorship last May after a disagreement with review committee recommendations.

"We support the goals of the program as it was presented to the students," Bailes told reporters after the regents adjourned. "It seems to us that the program has been railroaded. The good points of the program were automatically dropped."

Bailes said she was concerned with changes in the application deadline for the directorship. Bailes said she believed the deadline was moved from May 1984 to January 1984 and finally to Friday, Sept. 30, 1983.

Dr. George Natowitz, head of the Department of Chemistry, said the only deadline ever set for applications was Sept. 30.

Under O'Connor, Chemistry 101 and 102 were taught in a centralized manner — tests were standardized and students were allowed to attend any professor's lecture at any scheduled course time.

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forecast

Partly cloudy skies with a chance of rain. Highs in the mid 80s with a low tonight of 68.