

STATE AND LOCAL

A&M to direct international oceanographic program

By LYNN RAE POVEC
Staff Writer

The drilling ship JOIDES Resolution currently is testing her equipment in the Gulf of Mexico in preparation for the first of a series of global cruises that will begin a 10-year research project later this month.

Texas A&M is Science Operator for the project, known as the Ocean Drilling Program which is sponsored by the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

During each of the ship's two-month cruises, scientists will take core samples of the ocean floor in different areas of the world.

"The purpose of making these explorations . . . is to understand not only the composition of the Earth's crust, but the evolution of the Earth's crust under the sea," Robert O. Reid, head of the Department of Oceanography, said Tuesday.

A&M was awarded the contract for the project in March 1984, and the University then contracted with SEDCO for the Resolution.

Before sending her to the gulf for testing, A&M sent the ship to Missis-

issippi where a seven-story structure was erected on the vessel to house about a dozen laboratories. The structure covers an area of 12,000 square feet.

The ship's scheduled departure from Miami on Jan. 28 will be the first official phase of the project, Dr. Lou Garrison, deputy director of ODP, said. The Resolution will spend six weeks off the Bahamas while scientists retrieve core samples from the ocean floor.

Each time a cruise is completed, the Resolution will take a new crew to a new area to do research, Garrison said. The crews will consist of members of JOIDES, or the Joint Oceanographic Institution of Deep Earth Sampling, an international organization of scientists interested in ocean floor drilling.

Members of JOIDES include 10 oceanic institutions in the United States, Texas A&M being one, as well as institutions in England, France, West Germany, Japan, Norway, Switzerland and Canada.

Each country contributes \$2.5 million a year toward JOIDES, and the National Science Foundation provides the rest, Garrison said.

Each cruise of the project will have a crew of about 100, he said. SEDCO employees will make up the drilling crew; 10 marines will run the ship, and about 10 others will cook and care for the ship's quarters.

The project will take the Resolution to the Atlantic Ocean, Spain, the Norwegian Sea, Greenland, the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the Mediterranean Sea, Garrison said.

In the summer of 1986, the ship will travel to the Pacific Ocean, the coast of South America, the Antarctic and the Indian Oceans. At the end of 10 years, the Resolution will have traveled at least twice around the world, he said.

Reid said a practical aspect of the project is that scientists will find out more about the chemical resources within the marine crust, which could have an impact on the oil industry. The marine crust is an environment largely unexplored by the oil industry, he said.

The ODP has the responsibility of organizing the cruises, and its publications department of about 35 people will publish project scientists' findings.

State employees would support tax hike

Workers want pay raises

Associated Press

AUSTIN — State government workers reject the idea of "no new taxes" if it would cost them a pay raise, a major state employee group said Wednesday.

Gary Hughes, executive director of the Texas Public Employees Association, said the group's top priority in the 1985 Legislature is "the passage of a tax bill or bills to fund all necessary pay raises and benefit increases being requested."

His statement came the day after Gov. Mark White, in his state-of-the-state address, urged lawmakers to avoid a tax increase this year.

But Hughes said state employees have been slighted already and deserve an emergency raise this year

and a pay hike in the 1986-87 budget biennium that begins Sept. 1.

Hughes said a 6 percent pay raise, if it becomes effective March 1, would cost the state \$98 million. A similar raise for the 1986-87 budget years would total \$360 million more.

Hughes said the governor's call for a freeze on replacing state workers who quit or retire is a good plan.

"It's something I think they've got to consider," he said, adding that White's proposal "still leaves room for the agencies to replace positions that are critical."

State Comptroller Bob Bullock has estimated that state revenues in the next two years will fall about \$1 billion short of current spending,

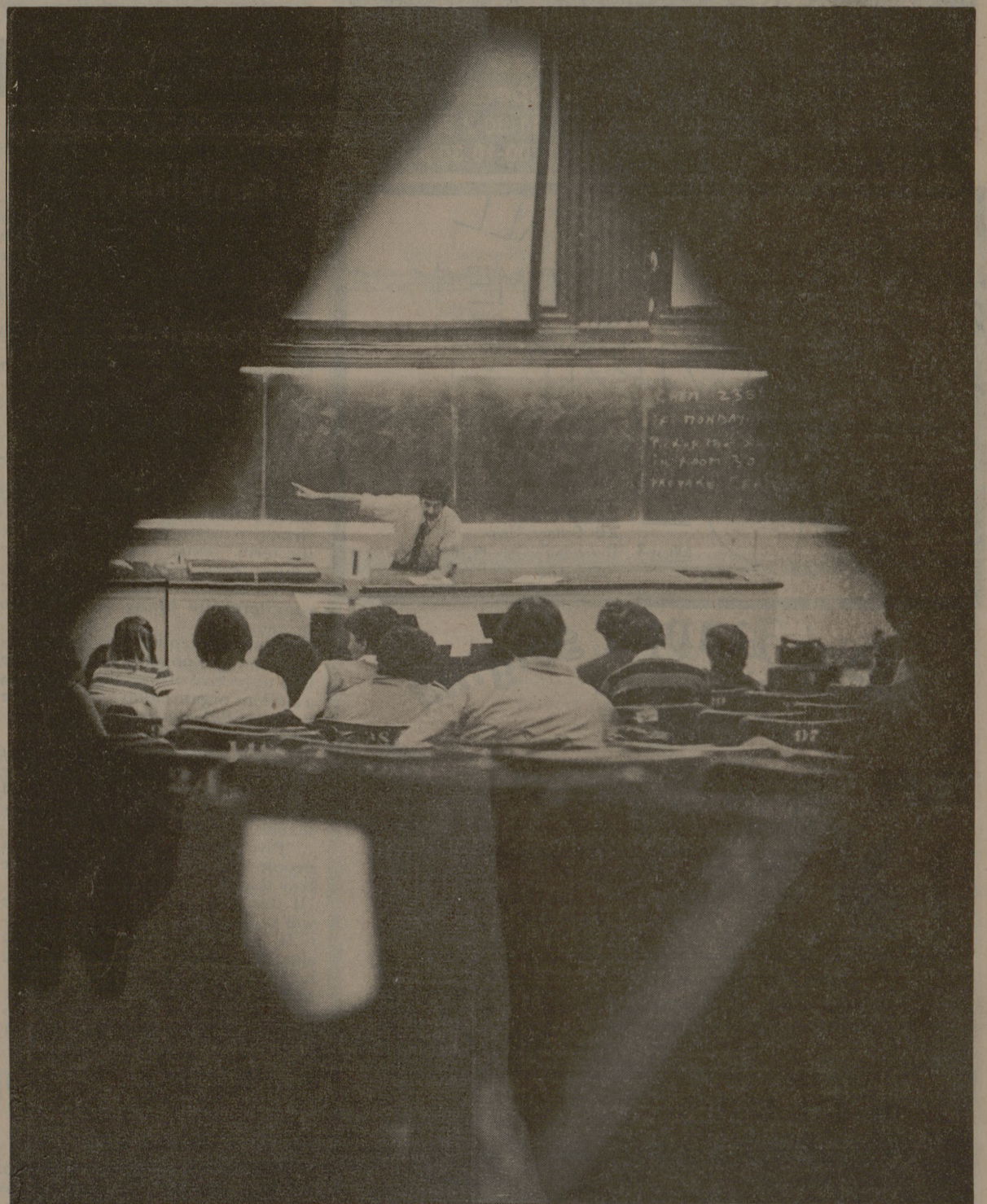
During a news conference, Hughes admitted that employees will have to sell lawmakers on the idea of raising taxes to fund a pay increase.

Hughes also said he believes the state's financial crunch will last longer than this year, and that a tax increase may be inevitable.

Failure to give state workers a raise would mean more trouble for agencies, Hughes predicted.

"If they thought they're not going to have any kind of increase for the next two years, you're going to have a lot of good, solid state employees looking for employment elsewhere," he said.

"You're going to have a serious turnover problem."

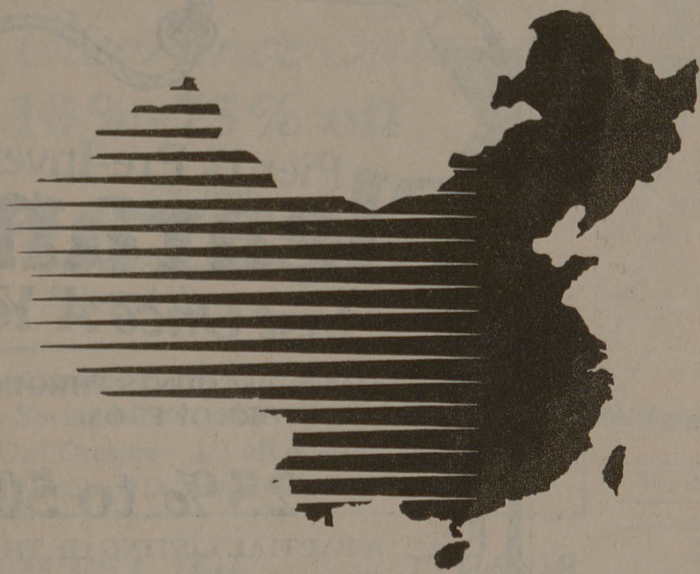


Class Through A Window

Photo by DEAN SAITO

The diamond shaped window of a door to a classroom in the Chemistry Building provided this unusual view to a lecture Wednesday.

MSC SCONA 30



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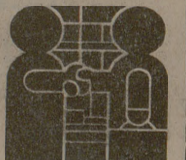
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