

# State and Local

## A&M campus expanding

### Construction not affected by cuts

By **ABBY L. LECOCQ**  
Reporter

When the Texas Legislature proposed state university budget cuts last year, there was concern that the cuts would affect construction on university campuses. But construction on the Texas A&M campus was not affected as evidenced by almost a dozen projects currently under construction, says Daniel T. Whitt, assistant director for facilities planning and construction.

Some projects have been completed and others are scheduled to be completed by July 1986, Whitt says.

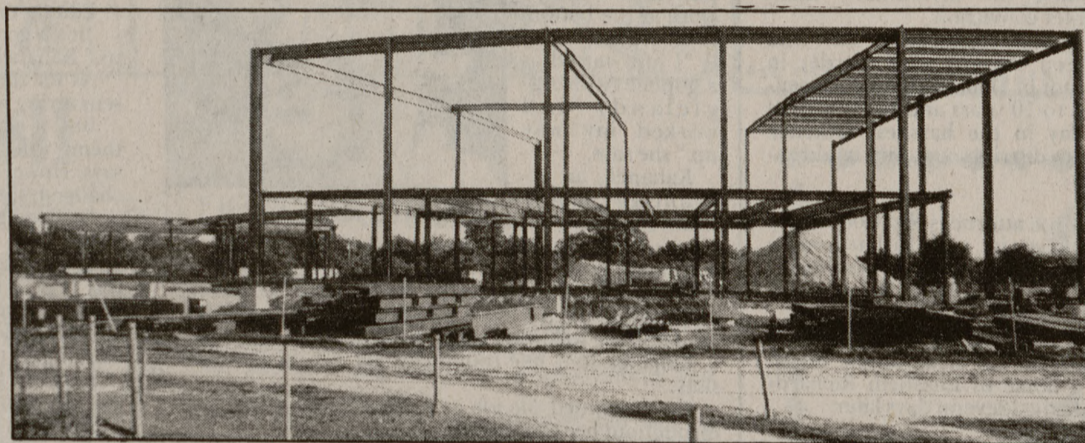
- This month, the physiology research and conditioning lab will be completed, Whitt says. The \$2.2 million structure, located at the south end of Kyle Field, will have weight training facilities that will be used by both the athletic and physical education departments. The lab also will house physical education research, he says.

- The construction of the track and field events center and the physical education and intramural playing fields should be completed this month, but not later than next month, Whitt says. The total project cost for both projects is \$3.3 million, he says.

- Also to be completed next month is the \$6.6 million research park infrastructure, Whitt says. The total park area is 300 acres, bordered on the north side by University Drive and on the west side by the West Bypass. Whitt emphasizes that since this is an infrastructure, no buildings exist yet.

At this point the project involves landscaping, streets, sidewalks, lighting and utilities.

- Scheduled for completion in



Shown is the frame of the Association of Former Students building at the corner of Jersey and Houston Streets. This building is not being funded by the University

March 1986 is the Engineering/Physics Building on Spence Street. The \$18.8 million project will house the physics department and, in part, the mechanical engineering department.

- A new Poultry Science Center, an estimated \$4.8 million project, also is scheduled for completion in March 1986.

- The Forest Science Building is currently undergoing renovation. The renovation will cost about \$500,000 and should be finished by March 1986, Whitt says.

- The west campus landscape development, to be finished in May 1986, will cost almost \$1 million.

The project involves improved lighting and landscaping in the area along Welborn Road across from the Albritton Tower and extending back to the Horticulture Forestry Sciences Building.

- The new chemistry building on Ross Street will cost almost \$18 mil-

lion and should be finished in July 1986.

"I might add that that's optimistic," Whitt says.

- The \$5.5 million Ocean Drilling Program facility will be built in the new research park, Whitt says. Completion of the building is scheduled for July 1986.

- Construction recently began on the new Civil Engineering/Texas Transportation Institute building. The \$14.8 million project should be finished by September 1987.

At a September meeting of the Texas A&M Board of Regents, a \$6.9 million contract was awarded for the construction of a new Physical Plant facility.

Construction is just beginning on the building to be located on West Campus, Whitt says.

This month, Whitt says a contract award will be considered by the regents for a \$2.3 million enlargement of the A.P. Beutel Health Center.

A new systems administration building has been designed, Whitt says, but construction has been put on indefinite hold.

It was decided that the building, an estimated \$7.5 million project, does not have high the priority to justify immediate construction, Whitt says.

Plans for a \$40 million special events center still are being made, Whitt says.

"And that's the problem," he says. "That's a lot of money."

Whitt says some of the University's administration have visited schools that are currently building special events centers and some that have recently completed construction.

"They are looking at design features and comparing the costs of other centers with A&M's estimate," he says.

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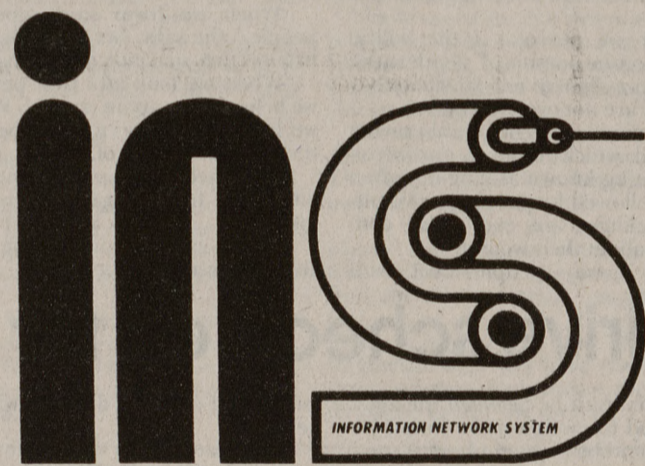
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