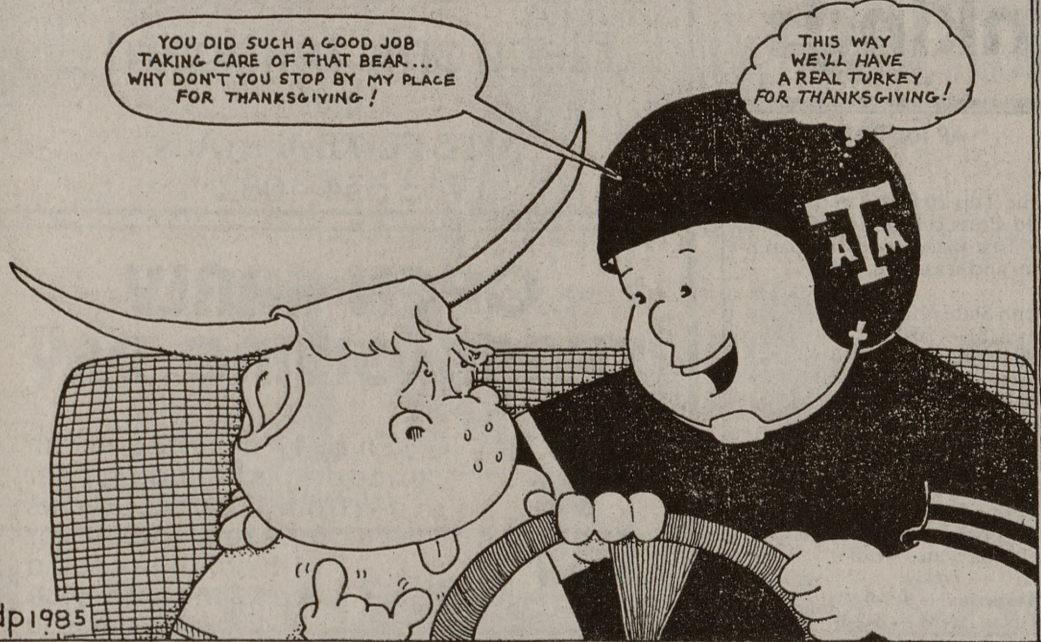


COTTON BOWL



UT-Arlington dumps football to balance athletic budget

Associated Press
ARLINGTON — The University of Texas-Arlington has dropped its intercollegiate football program to shore up the school's deficit-riddled athletic budget, the school's president said Monday.
 "A level of deficit financing has been reached which cannot be continued," UTA President W.H. Nedderman said.
 "Thus, we have no choice but to immediately discontinue our most costly sport, football, and thus reduce our athletic budget by over \$1 million a year."
 Nedderman said UTA would continue to have a basketball program and that head football Coach Chuck Curtis' contract, which runs through December 1986, would be honored.
 UTA joined the Southland Conference in 1964 and was 4-6-1 this season.
 The Mavericks started playing ju-

nior college football in 1919 and became a senior college in 1959. Three years ago, UTA dropped from NCAA Division I-A to I-AA.
 During the 1985 season, UTA averaged less than 5,600 spectators per game, with the biggest crowd — 7,205 fans — recorded on opening night.
 "For the past 10 to 15 years, our financial condition in athletics has gradually worsened," said Nedderman. "Despite our best efforts, costs have continued to escalate faster than income."
 The school faced a large deficit, despite several sources of income, Nedderman said.
 "This year, with funding of over \$800,000 from student service fees, in addition to income from ticket sales guarantees and the Maverick Club, we face a deficit of approximately \$950,000," he said.
 Curtis said he wasn't sure what he was going to do.
 "I'm shocked," Curtis said. "We're all in a state of shock around here. I

had no hint anything was coming. Athletic Director Bill Reeves told me he wanted me to go to lunch with him and I thought the way he looked there might have been a death in the family. It turned out to be the death of our football program."
 Curtis said the players could transfer to any other NCAA school without penalty or their scholarships would be honored at UTA.
 "As for myself, I'll land somewhere else," he said. "I'm a coach and the good Lord designated my talent in that direction."
 "I just wish that had given us another year because I could see so many good things going on and now we won't be able to fulfill our dreams."
 UTA freshman running back Tony Brown of Denison summed up the feelings of the players.
 "I'm shocked," Brown said. "This is very much a surprise and I just don't know what I'm going to do, but I'm a football player and I'll probably move on."



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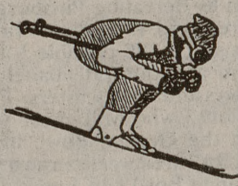
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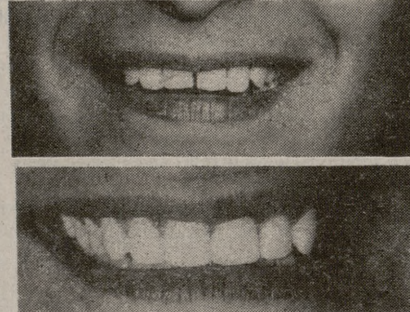
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