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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Special events center possible

Land donation A&M's largest

By KIRSTEN DIETZ  
Assistant City Editor

A Texas A&M alumnus and his wife announced Monday that they have given 265 acres of land worth \$13 million to the A&M University Development Foundation, the largest gift ever made to the University and one of the largest to any state institution.

The land, donated by Dr. and Mrs. Chester J. Reed of Houston, is one mile south of Katy in Fort Bend County. The proceeds from its sale will be applied to construction of a multi-purpose special events center on A&M's west campus.

"My wife and I are very happy to give this gift," Reed said. "We love this school very much."

A&M President Frank E. Vandiver said that, without Reed's gift, the status of the special events center would have been in jeopardy.

"We were moving ahead with it because I think it's a facility the University needs, but it would have been very, very difficult to put financing together in any reasonable time," he said. "That's what makes the gift so marvelous, because it comes at an opportunity when the University needs to take a step which budgetary limitations would have made difficult to take."

A&M Board of Regents member William A. McKenzie of Dallas also expressed his appreciation of Reed's gift.

"This gift by Dr. and Mrs. Reed will start the accomplishment of something that I've long dreamed for — an events center that will surpass the events center in Austin, the Frank Erwin Center," McKenzie said. "In my opinion it will be a state-of-the-art installation that will be cherished by the student body, the faculty and by all the inhabitants of this region."



Photo by DEAN SAITO

Houston investor Chester Reed, who donated 265 acres worth over \$13 million to Texas A&M, holds the top of the model for the special events center. Reed is talking to (from left) Robert Walker, vice-

president for development, A&M President Frank Vandiver and David Eller, chairman of the A&M Board of Regents. The land will be sold to provide money to construct the center.

stallation that will be cherished by the student body, the faculty and by all the inhabitants of this region."

The board currently is considering several designs for the center, which could cost between \$36 and \$45 million and seat between 13,000 and 17,000 people, depending on which design is chosen.

The center, to be built on Ol-

sen Road at the present site of the Beef Cattle Center, will be used for graduation ceremonies, athletic and entertainment events, conventions and other sizable meetings and events.

The special events center will replace the 32-year-old G. Rollie White Coliseum, which holds 7,000 people for basketball games and 8,000 for commencement exercises and concerts.

Reed graduated from A&M in 1947 with a degree in veterinary medicine. In 1984 he received a Distinguished Alumnus Award. He also has donated \$1 million for the construction of the new chancellor's home, two tracts of land used to generate money for 40 Corps of Cadets scholarships and \$500,000 for an endowed chair in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

## High court says Exxon must issue \$2 billion refund

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Exxon Corp. must repay consumers nationwide more than \$2 billion in refunds and interest for overcharging on the sale of oil from a Texas field, the Supreme Court decided Monday.

The court, without comment, let stand a ruling that the money be distributed to the states and spent on programs to help the needy and energy consumers.

The penalty against Exxon is the largest monetary judgment in American history to be upheld on appeal.

Last November, a state district court jury in Texas ordered Texaco to pay \$10.53 billion to Pennzoil for improperly interfering with that company's acquisition of Getty Oil Co. Appeals in the case are pending.

The judgment against Exxon was upheld last July by a special federal appeals court in Washington.

Exxon, the nation's largest corporation, was found to have overpriced oil from the Hawkins field near Tyler between 1975 and 1981.

The corporation said it was the victim of confusing federal regulations. Exxon lawyers said the corporation was penalized for expanding production at a time of heightened national concern over energy shortages.

The Supreme Court also was urged by the airline industry, other oil companies, a utility company, a trucking firm, a taxicab company and a motorist to review the case and order redistribution of the money. They said they should be reimbursed for buying overpriced oil from Exxon.

Exxon was found to have made illegal profits of \$895.5 million by classifying so-called "old" oil as

"new" oil and thus selling it at nearly twice the price. The dispute over what is old oil and what is new involves exactly when that accounting changeover took place.

Exxon said federal energy officials created "an uncertain, constantly shifting and incoherent crazy-quilt of regulatory prescriptions" that the corporation found impossible to obey.

But U.S. District Judge Thomas Flannery, in his 1983 ruling against the corporation, said, "Exxon was hardly an innocent abroad, interpreting in the midst of confusing babble a direction sign labeled in a foreign language."

The balance of the judgment against Exxon is in interest charges of about \$500,000 a day.

Exxon said in a statement it was "extremely disappointed" in the decision not to review the case.

"We had hoped that after a review of the case, the Supreme Court would agree that the district court summary judgement included major inequities and that Exxon and other producers should be allowed to present their complete case in court," Exxon said.

Exxon was ordered to pay the \$2 billion to the federal government for redistribution to the states based on their energy consumption during the period of overpricing.

The states must spend the money on energy conservation, such as weatherizing buildings and reducing consumption by schools and hospitals, and to aid the poor with home utility bills.

State Attorney General Jim Mattox said Texas' share will be about \$178 million, which "is being held in escrow, and it's as good as in the bank."

## Regents appropriate funds for design

### Parking garage gets go-ahead

By MONA L. PALMER  
and  
MARY ANN HARVEY  
Staff Writers

The Texas A&M Board of Regents appropriated \$260,000 Monday for the preliminary design of a multi-level parking garage for A&M.

Moffatt Adams, architect, said the garage will be south of University Drive between Asbury and Ireland Streets and the estimated project cost is \$12,620,000. This is the best location because a student can walk to the library in eight or nine minutes, he said.

Adams said the loss of 600 parking places to construction and the tremendous growth of A&M justify building the parking garage.

"The parking system has just not caught up with the needs of the students," he said. A&M President Frank E. Vandiver said, "I'm not sure we ought to spend all of the money, but it's something we're going to have to have sooner or later so we might as well do it now."

Charles Cargill, vice president for operations, said the five- or six-level garage will have parking for students, faculty and staff and will increase parking fees by 5 percent. An ample amount of parking also will be devoted to visitors, he said.

Adams anticipates traffic congestion around the new garage when it first opens but believes congestion is normal and the traffic will adjust.

Regent Henry Cisneros, San Antonio mayor, said the architects should concentrate on entrances and exits to lessen traffic congestion.

Cargill said the traffic to and from the parking garage would "trickle in and trickle out" since students and faculty come and go at different times.

The board also allocated \$1 million to A&M libraries and says it is committed to continuing investments to upgrade the University libraries.

In other action the board appropriated \$80,000 for a preliminary renovation design for the Physics Building. Adams said the renovations include cleaning out the building and reworking the insides to fit the needs of the psychology department.

The regents also authorized complete renovation of Corps-style dormitories at the rate of two or four dorms every year.

The board also approved the initiation and preparation of requirements for a computer science building. Dr. Herbert Richardson, vice chancellor for engineering, said the building is a crucial facility in terms of size and estimated growth of the computer science field at A&M

because the present facilities are very limited.

The board also approved a request for Texas A&M to offer a bachelor of science degree in genetics. The University has offered the master of science and doctorate in genetics since the 1940s. The rapid growth of genetic engineering and biotechnology, however, has made a bachelor of science degree in genetics necessary, according to a report issued by Vandiver's office.

Also approved by the board was the College of Agriculture's proposal to establish an Institute for International Agribusiness Studies. The Institute will help facilitate Prairie View A&M University's international role in teaching and research.

The proposed Institute will focus on specific projects aimed at research, development, training, and the application of agribusiness on a worldwide scale, according to the proposal submitted by Prairie View.

The two universities plan to work together to strengthen their individual and joint capabilities.

The establishment of a new undergraduate degree program in computer science for marine

See A&M regents, page 12

## Bisor first black chosen to head MSC Council

By JEANNE ISENBURG  
Staff Writer

Robert Bisor, a junior sociology major from Bryan, became the first black chosen to be Memorial Student Center president Monday night.

Bisor, who is currently serving as the MSC executive vice president for marketing and personnel, was elected by the council at its first meeting of the semester.

Bisor was MSC vice president for cultural programs in the fall, but when his current position opened up, he interviewed and was chosen to fill it, Davis said.

"Bobby Bisor has always been instrumental to many phases of the MSC," she said.

"He started out his freshman year as a committee worker on the Black Awareness Committee and then moved up to executive vice chairman of that MSC committee."

Bisor is the first of the new officers to be announced for next year. The nominating process for the officers takes place in several different stages, starting with the

highest position of president and working down through the executive vice presidents and chairmen, followed by the selection of the vice presidents and directors.

The nominating committee will be interviewing for the unfilled positions through the middle of March, and the new officers will take over their jobs in April.

The council also approved former presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, as well as Dr. Stephen Ambrose, an authority on U.S. foreign relations and military history and the author of "Rise to Globalism", as the speakers for the April 1 Wiley Lecture Series, "Interventionism: The Role of the U.S. in Resolving International Conflicts."

Reuben Brochner, the director of research for the Wiley Lecture Series, said the program will explore the current state of international relations, attitudes of Americans toward interventionism and the history of interventionism in America among other related topics.

## Thatcher pulls her party through derisive situation

Associated Press

LONDON — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher battled shouts of derision and calls for her resignation Monday in what the news media called a life-or-death Parliament speech to rally her Conservative Party from the embarrassment of two major Cabinet resignations.

Thatcher won solid backing from her Conservatives, including former Defense Secretary Michael Heseltine, whom she had blamed for sparking the political crisis. Heseltine

had said he was leaving because the prime minister had used unconstitutional means to steer the Cabinet toward favoring an American bid over a European attempt to rescue Britain's failing Westland PLC helicopter company.

Thatcher won a technical vote to close the raucous, three-hour debate in the House of Commons by 379-219. Her Conservatives have a 143-seat majority in the 650-seat house, but the significance of the action was

that nearly all her party members were present and voted together.

During the debate, opposition legislators accused her of a cover-up involving a leaked letter, critical of Heseltine, that subsequently led to the resignation of the second Cabinet member, Trade and Industry Secretary Leon Brittan. He took responsibility for the news leak.

David Owen, leader of the centrist Social Democratic Party, said Thatcher "is not worthy to hold the high office that she does."

Labor Party leader Neil Kinnock had called Monday's emergency debate, saying it was to determine if Thatcher was involved in the leaking of the letter and if she had lied in earlier statements to Parliament.

Thatcher maintained that for 16 days after Brittan leaked the letter Jan. 6, she did not know of his involvement.

She said an inquiry determined that the letter was leaked to the news media as a result of a misunderstanding between officials of the

Trade and Industry Department and bureaucrats at her office.

"I did not give my consent to disclosure," the prime minister told Parliament. "It was not sought. And I have indicated I deeply regret the manner in which it was made."

Brittan, who resigned Friday after Thatcher first disclosed his responsibility for the leak, backed her account saying: "I accept full responsibility for the fact and form of disclosure . . . I profoundly regret the way it happened."

Heseltine, who left the Cabinet Jan. 9 following a confrontation with Thatcher, said her speech had ended the political row over the Westland affair.

The crisis had developed as Heseltine backed a West European consortium's bid to rescue Westland

Owen said, "The prime minister must have hoped this debate would end this whole affair. I fear it will not. I don't think the prime minister has come out of this with her integrity intact."