

State and Local

Construction budget to hit \$75 million

By Tom Ownbey
Reporter

Construction spending at Texas A&M will be at its highest levels in fiscal 1987. Vice Chancellor of Facilities Daniel Whitt says.

Whitt estimates the 1987 building budget will reach \$75 million.

The record-breaking spending appears to contradict a *Battalion* story of July 11, which reported that a stabilizing Permanent University Fund may cause a slowing of construction on the A&M campus. Keith Chapman, manager of facilities construction in the Facilities Planning and Construction Department, says he expects a spending slowdown sometime in the future.

"Next year (1988) construction

is probably going to drop off about 25 percent, but I don't think that has anything to do with the economic conditions," he says. "It's just a matter of what was needed and when."

Chapman predicts the construction budget for 1989 will match the 1987 budget.

Six projects have been or will be completed by the end of this year, Chapman says, but construction starts are down for the same period. Three contracts are expected to be awarded by the Board of Regents and several dormitories are being renovated.

Chapman says the new chemistry building is scheduled for completion in November but won't be ready for occupation until later because the chemistry depart-

ment must move its research equipment.

The Texas A&M Research Park, located between Highway 60 and Jersey, also is approaching completion. Contractors finished their work on the park last May, completing the road system and establishing plots for buildings. The Facilities Planning and Construction Department is still working on park landscaping. The park's first building, The Ocean Drilling Program facility, will be completed early in September, Chapman says.

He says a new poultry center on F.M. 2818 south of Eastwood Airport was finished by contractors June and its inhabitants have moved in although

some minor work still needs to be completed.

The department also works on campus renovation projects. The Halbouty Geosciences Building renovation should be finished Summer 1987.

Chapman says although construction starts are on the decline, three contracts will be awarded by year-end. In November a contract will be awarded for the renovation of Duncan Dining Hall.

"At the July Board of Regents meeting, we expect to award a contract for additional greenhouses at the Horticulture Forestry Sciences Building," Chapman says. In addition to these projects, he says, a small paving contract will be awarded this summer.

Texas deficit forecast passes \$3 billion mark

AUSTIN (AP) — A lawmaker called for a state lottery Tuesday as the comptroller worked on a revised revenue forecast that will peg the deficit at more than \$3 billion.

The new forecast will be announced late this month, after July sales tax collections are reported to Comptroller Bob Bullock, said Tony Proffitt, a spokesman for the comptroller's office.

"All Bullock says is he is sure it's over \$3 billion, but he has not set a number to it," Proffitt said.

In February, as oil prices plummeted, Bullock predicted a \$1.3 billion shortfall in the current budget period, which ends Aug. 31, 1987. Last month, he raised it to \$2.3 billion.

"It's going to be reflective of

what's happening in the Texas economy in unemployment, construction and manufacturing and the other sectors in the last six months," Proffitt said. "There's not an ounce of good news in any of those economic indicators. I think it's called a recession."

Rep. Ron Wilson, D-Houston, said Tuesday the state should look for ways to raise money, not cut programs. Wilson is a long-time backer of a state lottery.

Wilson told a news conference a lottery could eventually mean as much as \$600 million a year for state government.

He wants the special session to at least place the lottery idea on the November ballot as a non-binding referendum.

Austin advised to stop making nuclear project payments

AUSTIN (AP) — An advisory commission has recommended that Austin stop making weekly payments of \$2.5 million to the South Texas Nuclear Project, put the money in escrow and take steps to cancel the plant.

The Electric Utility Commission voted 6-1 Monday for a motion from commission member Albert Fairweather, who said the payment on the long-delayed project was "playing havoc with our rate base."

Fairweather said he doubted that

bond companies would consider Austin a bad risk "for exhibiting fiscal responsibility" in withdrawing from the project, in which the city holds a 16 percent interest.

Commission Chairman Merle Moden said Austin's situation with

the project "is a different world" from the days when most calls for cancellation came from anti-nuclear activists.

Since then, auditors hired by the Public Utility Commission have said that between \$1.1 billion and \$1.3

billion was wasted on the project because of bad management by Houston Lighting & Power Co.

Austin and three other partners have settled a lawsuit against the former builder, Brown & Root, for \$750 million.

Bush lauds oil industry in Beaumont

BEAUMONT (AP) — Vice President George Bush, speaking in the birthplace of Texas' economically depressed oil industry, said Tuesday the way to cure the energy business' ills was to get the government off its back.

"That means repealing once and for all the windfall profits tax," he said. "That means deregulating — immediately — natural gas... And that means taking the steps today so that our stripper wells won't be capped forever and lost forever."

Bush, in a campaign appearance for 9th District Congressional candidate Lisa DuPerier, touted the Reagan Administration for lowering interest rates, bolstering the nation's armed forces and restoring pride in America.

What's up

Thursday

STUDENT GOVERNMENT: applications for External Communications and Public Relations will be available through the summer months. Please come by 221 Pavilion from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to pick up applications. For more information call 845-3051.

CO-OP STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder. For more information call Vara, 693-5306.

BRAZOS DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB: meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the College Station Community Center. Beginners are welcome.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

Jury deliberation continues in kidnapping-slavery case

KERRVILLE, Texas (AP) — Jurors deliberated Tuesday for a second day in the state's case against three men accused of conspiring to kidnap and kill a drifter who prosecutors say was enslaved on a Hill Country ranch.

The state district court panel, which began discussion late Monday after nine weeks of testimony and a full day of final arguments, retired for the night about 7:25 p.m. Tues-

day after a total of 12 hours of deliberations.

Attorneys said they did not expect a quick verdict in the case, which featured often-lurid testimony and tape recordings of purported torture sessions.

"I think we'll be here a while," said defense attorney Ray Bass, who represents Walter Wesley Ellebracht Jr., 33.

Ellebracht, along with his 54-year-

old father and ranch worker Carlton Robert Caldwell, 21, are accused of violating the state's organized crime statute in the March 1984 death of Anthony Bates.

Late Monday, the jury asked to hear portions of testimony by Darryl Hunsaker, a former ranch worker who faces a separate trial on a murder charge. Hunsaker testified the three defendants helped torture Bates.



MAJOR MOTION PICTURE SNEAK PREVIEW

Out of BOUNDS

July 17 Rudder Auditorium 7:30 p.m.

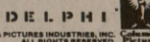
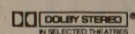
Seating limited to passes only—Passes are available at the MSC Box Office 8:30-4:30



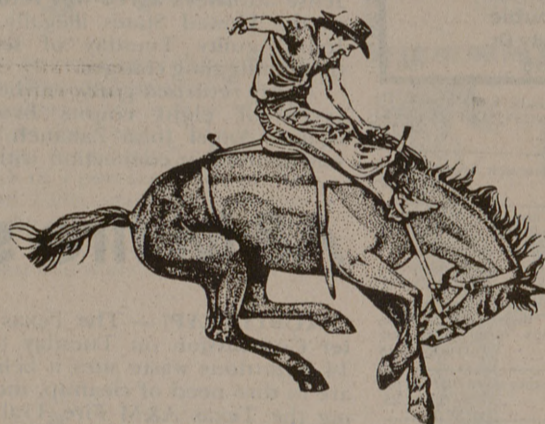
COLUMBIA PICTURES PRESENTS
A FRIES ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION
A RICHARD TUGGLE FILM

STARRING ANTHONY MICHAEL HALL "OUT OF BOUNDS"
JENNY WRIGHT • JEFF KOBER • GYNN TURMAN

MUSIC BY STEWART COPELAND EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOHN TARNOFF AND RAY HARTWICK
WRITTEN BY TONY KAYDEN PRODUCED BY CHARLES FRIES AND MIKE ROSENFELD
DIRECTED BY RICHARD TUGGLE



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15th ANNUAL BRYAN BREAKFAST LION'S CLUB RODEO

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
July 17, 18, 19

8:00 p.m. Rodeo Arena
(near Tabor Road & Hwy 6 in Bryan)

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT:
Lion's Handicapped Camp-Kerrville
Lion's Eye Bank and
Community Projects

UNIVERSITY NIGHT Friday 7/18
All College Students 1/2 price \$2.00

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE AT:

BOSSIER DODGE	
LOCAL PIZZA HUTS	\$4 adults
J.J.'S PACKAGE STORES	\$2 children
CATELENA HATTERS	
BRYAN BANKS and from	
BRYAN BREAKFAST and NORTH OF BRYAN	
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