

## State and Local

# TAMUG allotted record budget; New administrators appointed

By Ashley A. Bailey  
Staff Writer

The first budget for Texas A&M University at Galveston to exceed \$10 million and the appointment of two new administrators were approved by the Texas A&M Board of Regents late last month. The budget, effective September 1, represents a \$1.2 million increase over the 1987-88 budget, an increase which is about 8 percent higher than the overall Texas A&M University system average budget increase of about 6 percent.

The board appointed Dr. James M. McCloy as the vice president of academic affairs and Dr. William A. Seitz as dean of Moody College of Marine Technology. McCloy said the Board gave such a large amount of money to TAMUG so the university could recruit outstanding researchers.

The President of TAMUG, Dr. William J. Merrell, has a mandate to strive for excellence in research and academic programs.



Graphic by Jay Janner

"We needed extra funds to do this and because the Board gave them to us I think they have made a commitment to Dr. Merrell's mission toward excellence."

McCloy, who has held the position of vice president of academic affairs on an interim basis since February, assumed full duties of the position June 1.

McCloy said his job as vice president of academic affairs entails carrying out President Merrell's "four-year plan."

"All parts of the TAMUG are involved in a four-year plan to improve existing standards. TAMUG plans to improve by developing graduate programs, master's degrees and increasing enrollment. We also are remodeling our curriculum and implementing new research orientation."

McCloy began his career at TAMUG in 1971 as a visiting assistant professor and has since been an assistant dean for academic affairs, head of general academics and interim dean of the Texas Maritime College. Seitz began his career with TAMUG in 1977 as a faculty member and served as head of marine sciences since 1980.

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Dr. Thomas G. Schmalz, who is acting department head until Seitz returns from the Texas A&M Summer School at Sea in mid-August, said expansion is the major goal of the Moody College of Marine Technology.

"The college has been expanding fairly rapidly," Schmalz said. "We've already hired two very well-known marine chemists and we hope to make more additions in the near future."

Dr. C.S. Giam of Singapore has been employed by TAMUG since January and Dr. Peter H. Santschi of Switzerland, the newest chemist in the department, has been employed since March.

# State takes youth from care facility amid controversy

AUSTIN (AP) — State officials are removing severely retarded and handicapped children from Littlest Angels Inc., an Arlington facility owned by a woman who refuses to send the children to school, the Department of Human Services said Wednesday.

Four children who are wards of the state were removed May 19, a DHS official said. Sarah Fuller, owner and operator of Littlest Angels, said a fifth child was removed Wednesday.

The eight other state-ward children at Littlest Angels will be moved when suitable facilities can be found, said Joe Papick, DHS program specialist for protective services. The children are younger than 13 and have IQs of about 20, according to state records.

He said the long-running battle over schooling of the children was "not the sole factor" in the agency's decision to move the children.

"It is involved with some other issues that are confidential at this time," he said.

Andra Bennett, a DHS public information assistant, said the agency's regional officials "decided it was in the best interests of the children to be moved."

Those officials were unavailable for comment Wednesday.

State District Judge Scott Moore of Fort Worth said Wednesday he had recently signed an order to remove a child because of "some allegations of abuse." He would not elaborate on the allegations, and said there had been no determination of whether there had been any actual abuse.

Fuller said the child is her daughter and the removal has nothing to do with the education fight.

"It is a private situation," she said. "Someone made a complaint. That has happened to us hundreds of times. Anybody that

worked here that gets mad at us makes a complaint."

The battle between Littlest Angels and the state has dragged on for months. Advocacy Inc., a federally funded, nonprofit group that works on behalf of the disabled, complained last year that the 20 children at Littlest Angels, including the 13 who are wards of the state, were not being educated in the manner required by law.

The Arlington Independent School District reviewed each child and decided nine of the state-ward children could be transported to school for classes. Fuller resisted.

"These children cannot withstand the daily in-and-out transportation and exposure to viruses or possible other diseases that normal children usually resist," she said in a letter to the Texas Education Agency.

The children began classes in Arlington in October, but Fuller later stopped sending them. She said they became too sick.

"They were all sick," she said. "It became apparent there was no way they could go back and stay alive."

Fuller also questioned whether the children could benefit from a public school education.

"If they could learn to be self-sufficient in any way, they should go to public school," she said. "But the school was not willing to do anything appropriate. They only wanted them to be bussed across town."

Dr. Ray Rhodes, a Fort Worth pediatrician who has worked with the Littlest Angel children, has backed Fuller.

At one point, he told Arlington school officials that "most of these children would seem to have very limited educational capabilities and would probably benefit most from occupational and physical therapy provided in a consistent environment."

# NASA expects strong competition to build new boosters for shuttle

HOUSTON (AP) — NASA anticipates strong competition from prospective manufacturers of the next generation of space shuttle boosters despite a decision by Morton Thiokol, the sole builder of current solid-fuel boosters, to pull out of the running, a spokesman said Tuesday.

Morton Thiokol says it will concentrate on the current redesign of the rocket booster used on Challenger, which exploded shortly after takeoff Jan. 28, 1986, killing all seven astronauts aboard. According to a presidential commission, the fiery disaster was caused by hot gas that leaked through a joint in a Thiokol-built solid-fuel booster, igniting the shuttle's main fuel tank.

Thiokol may have pulled out of the competition for the \$1.2 billion contract to design and build rocket boosters for the 1990s, but NASA

officials believe other companies still will be interested.

"We're going ahead with this project. We do expect strong competition for the contract," said Jerry Berg, NASA spokesman at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala. — the center that oversees the space agency's rocket work.

"Meanwhile, we look forward to our association with Morton Thiokol on the current booster," Berg said.

NASA plans to use Thiokol's redesigned motor when it resumes shuttle flights — the first planned for late August.

Rocky Raab, a Thiokol spokesman in Utah, said the redesign is nearly complete and a test firing is set for next month at Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Raab said Monday that United Technologies, a team of Lockheed and Aerojet and another team consisting of Hercules, Atlantic Research Corp. and Martin Marietta have expressed an interest in the \$1.2 billion contract.

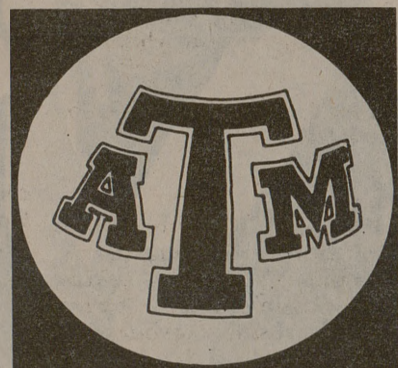
Tom Fitzgerald, spokesman for Aerojet in Sacramento, Calif., said Tuesday he was surprised by Thiokol's announcement to pull out, but said the news was good for Thiokol's competitors.

"Any time your field of competitors lessens by one, your chances improve, obviously," Fitzgerald said. "And yes, we are interested."

"It's going to be a competitive contract. (Thiokol) is a very strong competitor. But as to who is the best competitor, it's a tough one to say."

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