

Lending a helping hand



A group of Federal Prison Camp inmates volunteers its time and labor to repair the home of 88-year-old Dyas Hicks (left) as part of the Prison Fellowship ministry, aimed at providing services to the community. Work on the home began on July 26 and is expected to be completed July 28.

Photo by Thomas J. Lavin

Bush signs landmark bill banning discrimination

• See Disabled/Page 4

WASHINGTON (AP) — On a White House lawn crowded with people in wheelchairs, President Bush signed landmark legislation Thursday banning discrimination against the nation's 43 million disabled.

"Every man, woman and child with a disability can now pass through once-closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence and freedom," Bush said as he signed the Americans with Disabilities Act.

He called it "another Independence Day, one that is long overdue."

The crowd of more than 3,000 that spilled across the South Lawn was the largest ever at a White House bill-signing ceremony, said deputy press secretary Alix Glen.

Many of those attending were disabled, and they applauded loudly as Bush said the law will ban discrimination in the workplace, assure access to restaurants, hotels and shopping centers, expand access to public buses and rail systems and require telephone companies to provide special services for the deaf.

The law bans discrimination against people with disabilities, including AIDS, and defines the disabled as anyone with a mental or physical impairment limiting "some major life function."

Bush invoked the opening words of the Declaration of Independence, saying, "we are keeping faith with the spirit of our courageous forefathers who wrote ... 'that all men are created equal.'"

"Tragically, for too many Americans, the blessings of liberty have been limited or even denied," Bush said.

The president likened the Americans with Disabilities Act to the dismantling of the Berlin Wall. The law "takes a sledgehammer to another wall," he said.

"We will not accept, we will not excuse, we will not tolerate discrimination in America," Bush said.

When he sat down at a table to sign the bill with a

flourish of ceremonial pens, many in the crowd rose for a better view, only to sit quickly back down as those in wheelchairs called out, "Down in front!"

Bush offered the fourth and last pen to the Rev. Harold Wilke, 75, an armless United Church of Christ minister from Claremont, Calif., who had delivered an invocation that spoke of "the breaking of the chains which have held back millions of Americans with disabilities."

Wilke, who teaches at Union Seminary in New York City, suggested the pen go instead to Ginny Thornburgh, wife of the attorney general and a longtime activist for the disabled.

"The president said, 'All right, I'll give it to Ginny, but I'll give you mine,'" Wilke said later.

As Bush reached into his pocket, Wilke deftly slipped his foot out of his loafer, took the pen with his toes and

"We will not accept, we will not excuse, we will not tolerate discrimination in America."

George Bush, President

slipped it back into his shoe. A moment later, seated beside Barbara Bush, he put the pen into his pocket.

"It's just fantastic," said Gordon Anthony, 35, an activist from Los Angeles in a wheelchair from a spinal cord injury. "It's a tremendously exhilarating feeling."

Anthony is a successful marketing consultant, but he said the law "may open doors for what I do in my future career," he said. "There may be better opportunities."

"Employers are going to start reaching out to the disabled," he said.

Dean: fraud allegations will not affect funding A&M continues fusion research

By SEAN FRERKING
 Of The Battalion Staff

Allegations of fraud in the research of cold fusion should have little or no effect on scientific funding, the dean of Texas A&M's College of Science said.

Dr. John Fackler said he didn't think the University would be affected drastically by such serious charges.

"I don't think A&M will suffer because of these allegations," Fackler, also a distinguished professor of chemistry, said. "But there are always concerns we might become the victims of prejudicial circumstances."

An article in the June 15 issue of Science magazine said A&M scientists deliberately tainted cold fusion experiments to obtain favorable results.

The article also stated A&M officials were not investigating the matter.

Fackler said A&M was looking into the allegations and said he was satisfied with A&M's present system to regulate scientific misconduct.

"I think we have a good research program at a very good school," Fackler said. "Our administration is responsive to such allegations and many people including President (William) Mobley have been helping us in this matter."

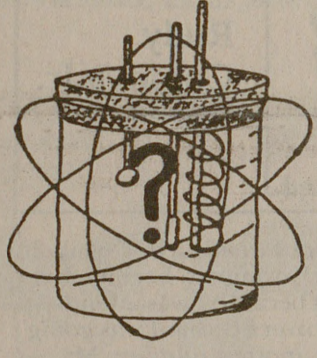
However, no matter how much help the College of Science might receive, there are always ways to get around the system, he said.

"There is no way you can stop someone if he wants to lie or cheat," Fackler said. "Cheaters cheat in science, just as they cheat in life."

He said that in areas related to science there often are many checks and balances to prevent malicious fraud.

"It's not difficult to detect if someone is cheating in chemistry or physics," he said. "There are certain set guidelines scientists must follow."

Fackler said if someone does bypass the rules, A&M has a safety net to protect the University and scien-



tists who are working for the institution.

"A whole institution shouldn't suffer because of something that could have been simply a scientific mistake," Fackler said.

Jack Renirie, chief of public information for the National Science Foundation, said he agreed A&M would not suffer because of these allegations.

He said the NSF, an independent federal agency, evaluates each project individually.

"Allegations such as fraud are dealt with seriously," Renirie said. "But only the area in question would be affected if anything should be proved true."

He said the NSF's funding procedure ensures other projects would be reviewed on their own merits.

Renirie said researchers and scientists send proposals to the NSF requesting funds for their projects. The proposals then are sent to scientists in fields related to the proposal.

After evaluations, a decision to fund the project is made by a committee in the foundation.

Renirie said since the NSF began operation 30 years ago, the foundation has funded about half the received proposals. He said the NSF funds selected projects at an average of half the amount scientists requested.

A&M's cold fusion experiments have received support from the in-

See Fusion/Page 6

Regents authorize \$1.7 M for events center

By CHRIS VAUGHN
 Of The Battalion Staff

Plans for a special events center entered the detailed design phase Thursday when the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents authorized \$1.7 million to further the planned facility.

The special events center, to be located on Olsen Road across the street from the intramural fields on west campus, will seat 14,500 and cost approximately \$35 million.

Bill Merrill, chief architect in the design of the center, told the Board Thursday during a presentation the building would be more than just a basketball arena.

"It's truly a multi-purpose facility," said Merrill, an architect with C/A Architects of Houston.

In addition to hosting basketball games and other athletic events, the special events center will be used for commencement exercises, academic conferences, banquets, rodeos, concerts and other events.

Designs for the facility include a lower bowl-shaped level which seats 7,500, an upper bowl which seats



Proposed design for the special events center.

7,000, skyboxes between the two levels, theater seats throughout the building and large meeting rooms.

The building will have four levels — two seating levels, a mezzanine level for ticket boxes and security posts, and a sub-floor level for support facilities, food services and meeting rooms.

Merrill, who also designed the Frank Erwin Center in Austin, said A&M's center's designs include the ability to host virtually any type of event.

For example, 1,700 seats around the playing floor will retract to allow more floor room, and the ceiling will be constructed to support large speakers and lights which musical groups often use.

"This building will bring the prestige that is earned by this University and make it more competitive with similar buildings of other major universities," Merrill said.

Construction plans also include the widening of Olsen Road and Joe

Rouff Boulevard to handle the anticipated dramatic increase in traffic.

A&M will offer bids for the construction in January, with the Board scheduled to award the contract in February. The center could be completed by January 1993.

Plans to build a special events center have been in the works since 1982 when A&M officials realized the 36-year-old G. Rollie White Coliseum could no longer adequately serve the student body or the University.

G. Rollie White is the second smallest arena in the Southwest Conference with a seating capacity of only 7,500.

A&M officials wrote in a document in May that G. Rollie White was an "embarrassment" and that the University could not attract top high school basketball players or academic and trade conferences because of it.

In today's session, the Board is scheduled to vote on a proposal to give the College of Medicine status as a health science center, hear a report on the College of Architecture's initiative in the new field of visualization and vote on the recommendation to name Dr. Jane A. Stallings dean of the College of Education.

Board awards contract for headquarters

By CHRIS VAUGHN
 Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents awarded a \$10.7 million contract Thursday to complete the A&M System headquarters on Tarrow Street in College Station.

The regents awarded the contract to Paul Pogue Inc., of Sherman. The company offered the lowest bid to A&M this time after A&M rejected all original bids during May's Board meeting.

The System headquarters, presently a building shell near the Hilton hotel, was bought to move the chancellor's office and other System-wide offices off the A&M campus.

All bids submitted during May's regents meeting were rejected because every bid was more than what was budgeted for the project.

The System opened bids again in June after moving several plans to alternate in hopes the

bids would be lower.

Pogue Inc. offered a base bid of \$8.3 million in June and a bid of \$10.7 million with all 12 alternates. The regents chose to spend the extra money to have the alternates.

Among the approved alternates are granite parapet caps, granite tile floor, wood library shelving and TAMU's seal on elevator doors, building face and extensive millwork.

Gen. Wesley Peel, vice chancellor for Facilities Planning and Construction, said the System still saved \$600,000 by rebidding, even with the alternates added to the project's final plans.

The Board of Regents also took action on the following during Thursday's session:

- Initiated a project to build a \$7 million support services building on Agronomy Road on west campus to house the University Police Department, the Printing Center and mail service.
- Officials want to relocate those offices to west

campus to open space on the main campus. When relocated, the UPD building would become the University Development Foundation building, the Printing Center would be a learning resource area and the mail services building would become available for Admissions and Records.

- Initiated plans to build a \$1.4 million Animal Science Teaching and Research Center on the banks of the Brazos River. Initial plans include providing for water, electricity, gas and other utilities at the site, as well as erecting fences and making roads.
- Awarded a \$423,000 contract to remodel the old Engineering Building on campus.
- Appropriated \$14,000 for design for renovation of the badly-worn Tennis Complex near Kyle Field. In phase one of the renovation, the eight varsity courts will be resurfaced and 14 of the instructional courts will be repaired.

A&M researchers help develop collider part

By MIKE LUMAN
 Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M researchers can take partial credit for the development of one of the first working pieces of the superconducting super collider.

The working device, an ion source with a companion ion source vacuum chamber, was assembled at the Texas Accelerator Center in Houston and delivered recently to Dallas.

The super collider, to be built in Waxahachie, south of Dallas, is a 54-mile underground ring in which subatomic particles directed by superconducting magnets will be smashed together and photo-

graphed. Scientists studying fundamentals of matter will analyze the photographs.

The Texas Accelerator Center is a multi-university collaboration for advanced research.

Peter McIntyre, an A&M physics professor and Texas Accelerator Center spokesperson, said A&M researchers provided the first step in the learning career, which eventually resulted in the present ion source device.

"A&M faculty and students are very much involved in this," he said. "A&M deserves a big share of the credit."

Jeff Stephens, staff member of

the A&M physics mechanical instrument shop, said he worked extensively on an early model ion source device about four years ago.

McIntyre said the device was the first in a sequence of three, one of two early models which led to the perfected design of the TAC unit delivered for use in the SSC.

"It has been the learning curve that brought us (TAC) to the point of delivering to the super collider an ion source that meets its specifications," McIntyre said.

The University of Houston, Sam Houston State, and Rice University also contributed to the project.

McIntyre credited three A&M

graduate students as the intellectual source of many advances in the SSC project.

Graduate student Perry Thompson is researching a thesis on design and measurement of beam properties of the ion source device.

Deepak Raparia received his degree last year and is now a staff physicist for the SSC. He developed a beam transport element for use with a radio frequency quadrupole accelerator.

A&M graduate student Reza Kazima presently is working on a quadrupole accelerator, which will provide the initial boost of several million watts to a beam of ions with-

out diluting its brightness.

McIntyre said a key challenge in SSC research is to preserve brightness during acceleration, meaning to keep many ions through a small region of space at one time during the process.

Tim Elliot, a technician in A&M's accelerator research lab, said a knife-edged detector system for the SSC also was being worked on.

"It's an energy detector," he said. "An electronic camera of sorts."

The collider is scheduled for completion in 1998. The latest cost estimates from the U.S. Energy Department range from \$7.8 billion to \$8.6 billion.

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