

## Don't lacrosse me

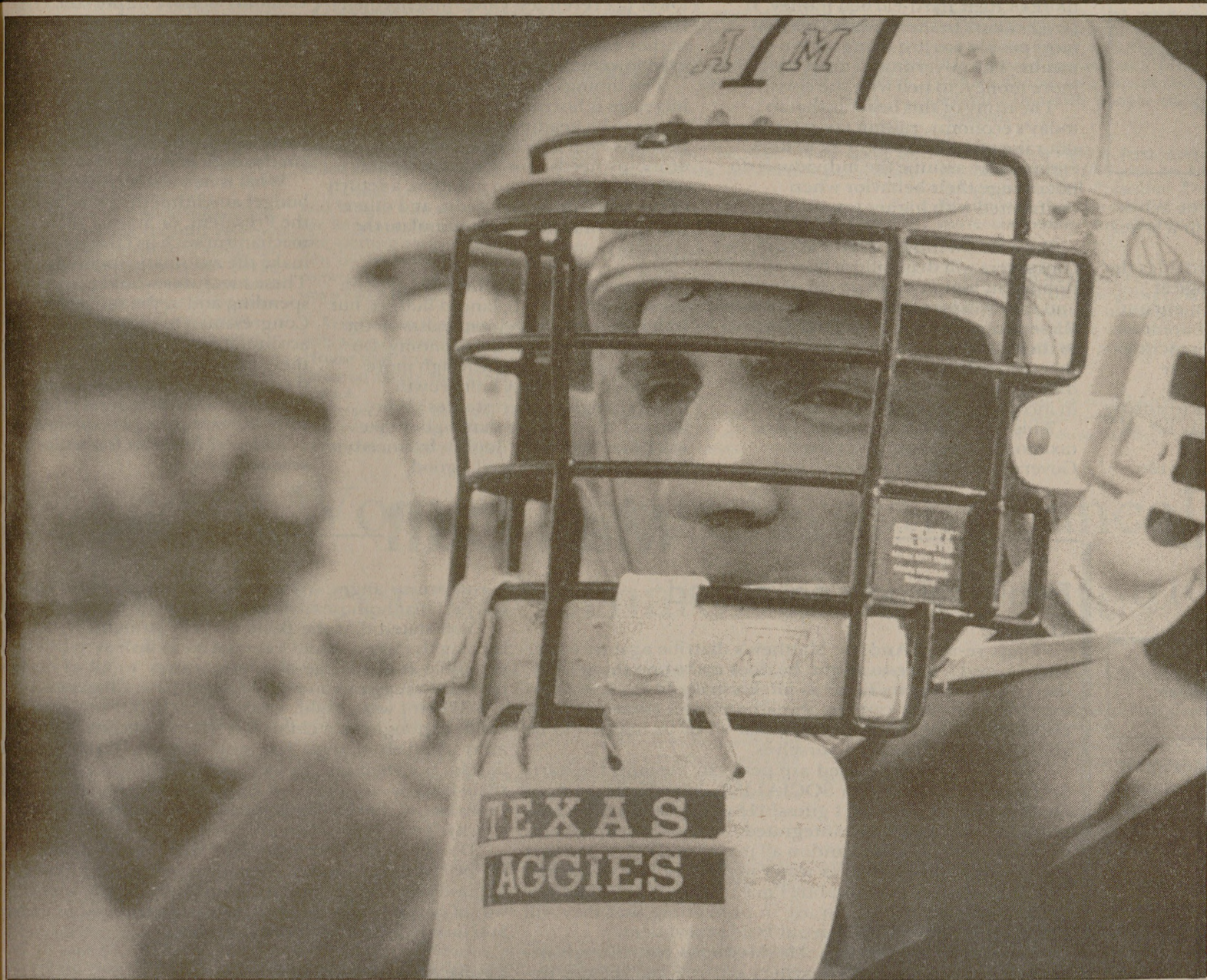


Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Junior Jeff Benzick watches fellow lacrosse players practice on Gen. Ormond R. Simpson Drill Field. The team begins their reg-

ular schedule of games this Saturday at noon against Southwest Conference teams playing under extramural sports.

## Emergency spending measure Bush, Congress end shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush and congressional leaders agreed to legislation Monday night that would end the government shutdown and allow agencies to open Tuesday morning for normal business.

The Senate began debate on the emergency measure after all-day backroom negotiations. Senate passage would send the measure back to the House, which approved a slightly different version of the bill early yesterday.

Under the agreement, the government would operate at normal levels through Oct. 19. Congressional leaders hope all budget work will be completed by then.

Republican and Democratic congressional sources said they expected the Senate revisions to be approved by the House and signed into law by the president in time to avert the full-fledged interruption in government business that otherwise loomed.

The Statue of Liberty, museums and national parks have been closed since Saturday because the budget crisis had prevented Congress from approving any spending legislation for the new fiscal year. But the full brunt of the federal shutdown was masked because of the long Columbus Day weekend.

At the same time, Senate moved toward final approval of a \$500-billion deficit-reduction plan envisioning smaller cuts in Medicare but possibly higher tax increases than an earlier version the House rejected last week.

Earlier in the day, lawmakers warned of chaos if the White House and Congress failed to resolve their

months-long impasse over the federal deficit.

"We're not just dealing with programs," warned Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, D-Maine, urging his colleagues to pass the measure quickly. "We're dealing with individual human beings and families, and their hopes and fears and dreams."

"This has just been playing marshmallow stuff" so far, said Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., the Senate's assistant Republican leader, referring to the limited impact on the government during the Columbus Day holiday weekend.

"Any thoughtful, reasonable person now knows what happens to this government tomorrow."

Debate on the budget began in the early evening. Leaders of both parties had spent the day trying to line up support for the budget and for a separate measure bringing the shutdown government back to life Tuesday morning.

"This is not a shining moment for anyone," Senate Budget Committee Chairman James Sasser, D-Tenn., said of the budget mess as debate began. "And frankly, our countrymen are rightly tired of it."

In backroom meetings, lawmakers were moving toward an agreement by which Bush would sign emergency legislation already passed by the House to keep the government operating normally through Oct. 20, said officials who asked to not be identified. Bush has vetoed one such bill, and has said he would veto others that come to him without spending cuts.

The House passed the budget 250-164 in a post-midnight session early Monday.

## Payroll office corrects interest problem

By CHRIS VAUGHN  
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M's budget and payroll office will send faculty retirement contributions in overnight mail this month in an attempt to reduce interest earnings lost because of late payments.

Robert Smith, A&M's vice president for finance and administration, told Faculty Senate members Monday that mailing the contributions overnight is a short-term remedy until the budget and payroll office can be modernized and the money sent electronically.

The remedy became necessary because many A&M faculty members who contribute to the Optional Retirement Program are losing interest earnings because payments are not credited to their retirement accounts until the middle of the month.

The following three delays are

possible during the lengthy process: a delay from the University in mailing the checks, a delay from the postal service and a delay from the retirement carriers depositing the money.

Smith said the A&M administration wants the money in the retirement accounts as quickly as possible.

"Our objective is to get them deposited the first day," he said. "We lack the sophistication to do it now, but it is our objective to achieve that on the first working day."

The Faculty Senate Personnel and Welfare Committee drafted a resolution asking the administration to modernize the payroll office so ORP deposits are received by carriers on the first working day of each month when faculty are paid. This resolution, however, was not acted upon during the meeting.

The overnight mailing, which will cost about \$6,000 a year, will con-

tinue until the payroll office is updated and money can be transferred by computers, Smith said.

During Committee of the Whole, a resolution was passed asking the Executive Committee to examine the Faculty Senate's role in policy making. The resolution also asks Executive Committee members to meet with the administration if they determine the Senate is not playing a large enough role.

Committee of the Whole is when the entire Senate acts as a single committee and brings up issues for discussion unrelated to the day's business. Resolutions passed during this time only are requests for action.

Several senators said they believe the Senate is overlooked in some policy decisions.

Dr. Gary Hart, a professor of soil and crop sciences, pointed to a decision made recently without the Faculty Senate to increase to 18 mem-

bers the size of the Committee on Academic Freedom, Responsibility and Tenure.

Dr. Larry Hickman, a professor of philosophy, also said the Senate had no input in the decision to raise tuition rates for graduate programs in the College of Business.

But Dr. E. Dean Gage, provost and vice president for academic affairs, disagreed and said he does and will continue to request Faculty Senate representation on University committees.

Also during Committee of the Whole, Student Senate liaison Charles Phipps said Student Senate is studying the problem of professors teaching classes they weren't listed in the curriculum catalog as teaching.

He also said the Senate is studying why there are so many "staff" listings in the catalog instead of specific professor names.

## Architecture students develop plans for civic center

By LIBBY KURTZ  
Of The Battalion Staff

Sixteen Texas A&M architecture students presented preliminary plans for a multi-purpose center to Upshur County representatives.

Four members of the Upshur County Civic Improvement Foundation Board met Friday with the students and George Mann, their professor.

The civic center will be built in Gilmer, home of the annual Yamboree and Rose festivals.

"The proposed civic center will serve as a gathering place for members of our community," says board member Steve Williams. "We want a building that will be pleasing to everyone."

The A&M students, who worked on the plans last week after visiting Gilmer, presented eight different projects to the representatives.

All plans call for preserving the landscape that surrounds the eight-acre site.

Williams, a former A&M student, says he is pleased with the students' work.

"All of the students are on-line with the thought process we conveyed to them last week," he says. "We like the diversity of the students' thoughts. In the end, we need plans that are buildable and affordable."

Jim Summersett, president of the board, says the biggest challenge is selling the proposed plan to the community.

"All plans are worth looking at because we want to chose the plan that will appeal to the most people," he said.

Mann says the hands-on experience his students are receiving is important because it is teaching them how to work with a community and an actual budget.

Dewayne Grimes, a junior from Jacksonville, says the project has put things in perspective for him.

"This project has shown me what it will be like on a day-to-day basis if I become an architect," he

says. "It's been very time consuming, but well worth our time and efforts."

Jonathan Hoke, a senior from Wharton, agrees that preparing the plans have taken a lot of time.

Senior David McLemore of Houston says final plans for the civic center are due the day before classes are out for Thanksgiving break.

"We've only started our work," McLemore says. "Right now, we're looking for rainbows. We are trying to sell an idea to the residents of Gilmer. We need a civic center that will be both interesting and realistic."

The students will return to Gilmer next week to attend the Yamboree Festival and conduct further research on the proposed civic center.

Suja Abraham, a senior from Nederland, says the students hope to gain a better understanding of Gilmer by attending the festival.

After the final projects are turned over to the board, members will decide which one best suits Upshur County's needs.

## Board of Regents approves bid for Corps of Cadets center

By BILL HETHCOCK  
Of The Battalion Staff

Construction of a new Texas A&M Corps of Cadets center is expected to help turn the tide of declining Corps membership, the commandant says.

Texas A&M University System Board of Regents approved a bid Friday for the \$3 million Sam Houston Sanders Corps of Cadets Center.

Construction will start in a month, and the center will take about 14 months to complete. The Corps cen-

ter will be funded by private donations.

Corps Commandant Maj. Gen. Thomas Darling told regents the number of cadets decreased by 111 this year to 2,055. Ninety freshmen who paid housing deposits decided at the last minute not to enroll in the Corps, Darling says.

He says escalation of the Persian Gulf crisis coupled with military cutbacks might have discouraged students who had not decided whether to join the Corps.

"I think the Mideast crisis might

have scared some away," Darling says. "Also, talks of budget cuts to the military may have taken away some of the incentives."

Whatever the reason for the decrease in Corps numbers, Darling says he thinks the new center will spur renewed interest in the Corps.

"When the Sanders building gets under construction and especially when we move into the building, it will provide a great boost to the Corps," he says.

In a report for the Corps Enhancement Committee, Darling said

changes are being made to eliminate hazing while still providing a strong leadership training program.

One change that has taken place during the last year is integrated male and female units. However, integration has caused some problems that are difficult to work out, Darling says. Women make up about 5 percent of the Corps.

"The integrated units program is controversial and difficult to work, but we're determined to make it work," he says.

Another change this year is the

eating habits of Corps members. Freshmen now have more freedom while they eat.

"We've changed some things to make sure freshmen have time to eat and get enough to eat," Darling says. "That hasn't always been true in the past."

The Corps also is emphasizing academics and leadership in University activities, Darling says.

He says the changes are helping the Corps freshman retention rate, with fewer dropping out of the Corps than ever before.

## Faculty Senate assures teaching will be priority

By CHRIS VAUGHN  
Of The Battalion Staff

Undergraduate teaching will become a higher priority at Texas A&M, the provost and vice president for academic affairs said Monday in a speech to the Faculty Senate.

Dr. E. Dean Gage said there is a national "wave of institutional soul searching" which is making teaching at least an equal partner with research in a University's mission.

Gage said a recently formed committee to develop a Council of Master Teachers, the implementation of the Classroom Communications Enhancement Program, and the emphasis on the Center for Teaching Excellence are some initiatives his office is undertaking to improve teaching.

Gage also hinted at making undergraduate teaching a higher priority in setting faculty salaries.

"We must create and foster a University climate in which it is an honor and a reward for faculty scholars of all ranks and seniority to teach undergraduate students," he said.

He also said a committee formed to review promotion, tenure and review of faculty must add aspects to reward faculty for international efforts, intercollegiate faculties and student advising.

But Gage said "simple-minded dichotomies" of teaching vs. research must be avoided.

"Let it be clearly stated that research is not being de-emphasized," he said. "Rather, our quality

**"Quality teaching and research must be carefully linked to scholarly complement each other."**

— Dr. E. Dean Gage

teaching and research must be carefully linked to scholarly complement each other."

Research and graduate programs, however, have a challenging future as federal and state funding goes down and costs go up, Gage said.

He said the University must deal with the budget crunch by cost sharing, requesting matching funds and seeking private and corporate assistance.

The provost also told the Senate his office will work to increase the number of women and minorities in the faculty and administration and that he has approved the Race and Ethnic Studies Institute proposed by the Senate.

Gage closed by saying the Sterling C. Evans Library is at the top of the administration's list of priorities. He said the University is planning the expansion of the library and already is setting aside funds.

"You must be assured that we are committed to the continued development of our libraries, and that this is evidenced in the priority in the capital campaign, our legislative request and the University budget," he said.

## Last day for voter cards

Local residents still can register to vote if registration cards are postmarked by today.

College Republicans and other campaigns will be at the following locations today: Sbsa Dining Hall from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.; the Commons from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and the MSC, Blocker Building and Sterling C. Evans Library from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sunday was the last day to register in person to vote.