

Texas A&M The Battalion

Danza does Dracula



Local dance company presents Stoker's tale.

See Page 4

Vol. 90 No. 39 USPS 045360 12 Pages

College Station, Texas

Thursday, October 25, 1990

Budget deal near final agreement

WASHINGTON (AP) — Budget negotiators all but reached final agreement Wednesday on a long-sought plan to slash the federal deficit by boosting taxes on the wealthy, raising levies on gasoline and increasing costs for Medicare recipients.

"I think we have the strong basis for an agreement" that President Bush and enough House Republicans would support, said Speaker Thomas Foley, D-Wash., after a closed session of Democratic members. Senate leaders expected little trouble in gaining approval in their chamber.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said "the most likely course" was that a pact would be reached quickly and that Bush would sign an emergency bill preventing the government from a partial shutdown after midnight, the fifth bill of its kind this month.

One administration aide, demanding anonymity, said that, pending settlement of remaining disputes over Medicare and Medicaid, the president would support the deal. Republican members of Congress went to the White House to consult administration negotiators in the course of the evening.

Foley said the Democratic plan, on which the administration has had no public comment, could reach the chamber's floor for a vote Thursday. The Democratic plan would raise taxes on cigarettes and luxury items and cut spending for a variety of federal programs. But the Democrats no longer are insisting on imposing a surtax on the rich. Rather,

Foley said, the new Democratic plan "fully supplants the impact of the surtax."

Despite the White House silence, Democratic negotiators expressed confidence they had found a formula that could clear both houses and pass muster with the president. That search has taken months of negotiations and alternated between bipartisanship and election-year politics.

If so, it would pave the way for savings estimated at \$500 billion over five years, avert the threat of a partial shutdown of government services at midnight and signal the final days of the 101st Congress.

And not a moment too soon. Congressional officials said this year's session had run on longer than in any other election year.

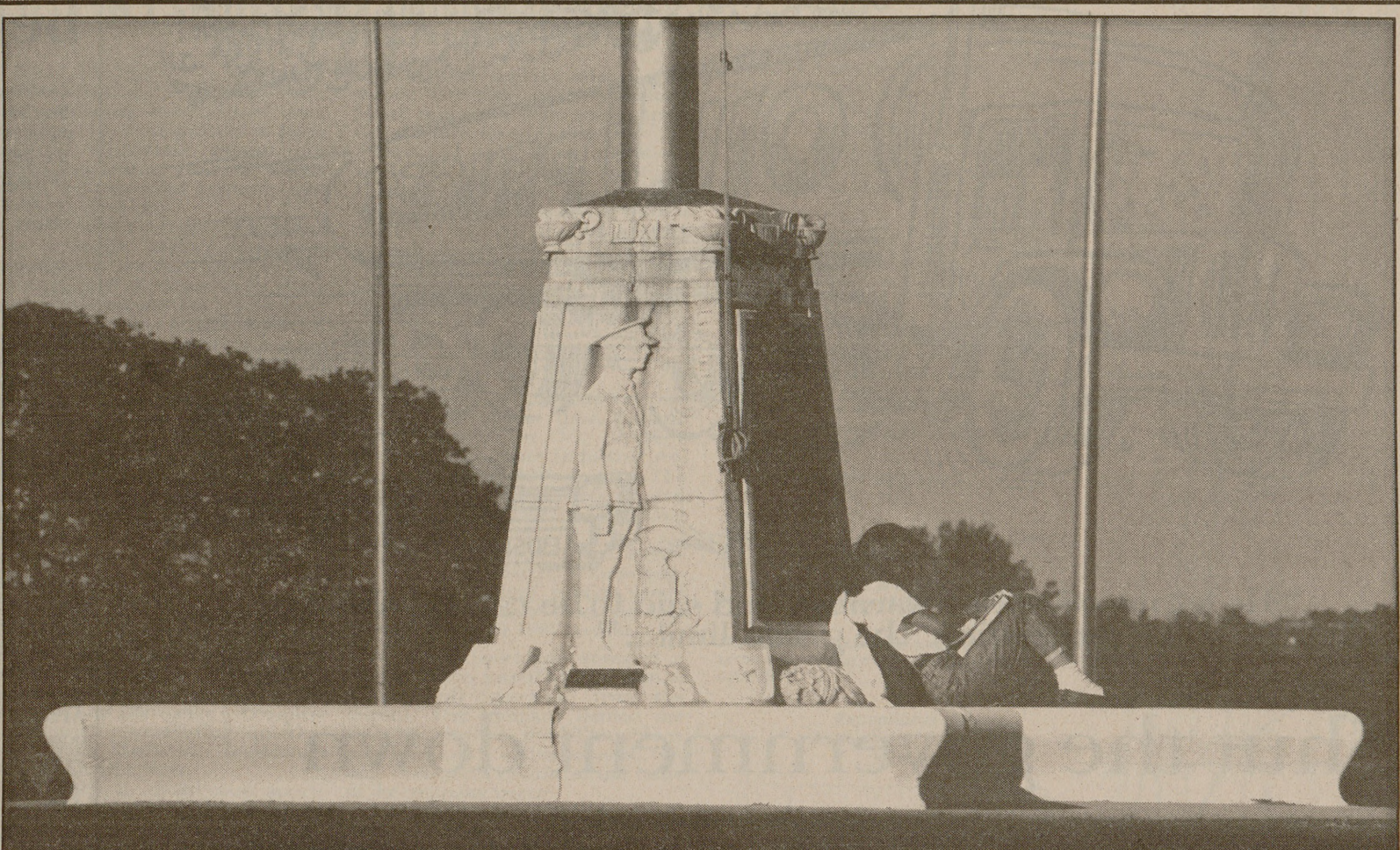
Budget issues aside, there was the usual crush of session-ending developments:

—The Senate failed by a single vote to override President Bush's veto of civil rights legislation the administration claimed would restore quota systems in private business.

—Both houses were expected to vote Thursday or Friday on an overhaul of the nation's clean air laws that would force reductions in acid rain and automobile pollution.

—The House and Senate were expected to pass legislation extending the government's spending authority until the end of the week — the fifth short-term bill since the fiscal year began Oct. 1.

Someone to watch over me



Sophomore Melinda Astran, a biomedical science major from Seguin, reads at the main flag pole base in front of the System

Building two or three times a week. "I can actually get some studying done when I'm here," she said.

FREDRICK D. JOE/The Battalion

'Toughest job you'll ever love' Peace Corps recruits on campus

By KEVIN M. HAMM
Of The Battalion Staff

For students reluctant to enter the race after graduation, there's an alternative: the Peace Corps, which could be "the toughest job you'll ever love."

Peace Corps recruiters have a table in the MSC until 4 p.m. today.

Since the Peace Corps' inception in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy's executive order, more than 122,000 volunteers have served in 99 countries. According to a Peace Corps brochure, the volunteers' mission is threefold:

- Help people of interested countries become trained in various skills
- Help people of other countries obtain a better understanding of Americans
- Help Americans better understand people of foreign countries

Peace Corps representative Robert Davis says goals haven't changed since the beginning, but volunteers have.

He says the majority of volunteers used to be "generalists," but volunteers have become more specialized as the Peace Corps evolved. Those now in greatest demand are agriculturalists and natural resources managers.

Davis served in the Dominican Republic from 1986 to 1989. "I went because I wanted to help others," Davis, 28, said. "I wanted to

live in another culture and experience it. I wasn't ready for a nine-to-five job.

"Everyone has their own reasons for wanting to go," he says.

Volunteers come from all walks of life," he says, including lawyers, doctors and IRS auditors. Former volunteers include Connecticut Sen. Christopher J. Dodd and writer Paul Theroux.

The median age has risen to 30.5, and 10 percent of volunteers are older than 50.

In a 1960 campaign speech in San Francisco, presidential candidate Kennedy said "the hard, tough work of laying groundwork for peace must be done by thousands of hands."

"There is not enough money in all America to relieve the misery of the underdeveloped world in a giant and endless soup kitchen," Kennedy said. "But there is enough know-how and enough knowledgeable people to help them help themselves."

Thirty years later, the "misery" remains. Peace Corps Director Paul D. Coverdell said during a speech at Texas A&M in February:

"Here (in the Third World) we still find disease, conflict, oppression and ecological devastation. The developing world is moving steadily toward a dank, dreary, dark age."

To combat some of these problems, Davis says the Peace Corps has initiated an environmental education program within the last few

years to raise people's awareness in underdeveloped nations.

He says these programs' goals include educating people about the dangers of widespread rainforest destruction and desertification in sub-Saharan Africa.

Recent political changes in Eastern Europe also have affected the Peace Corps, Davis says.

Volunteers already are in Poland teaching English and helping with urban and business planning. English teachers are in Hungary and soon will be in Czechoslovakia, possibly by the end of the year he says.

An agreement with Bulgaria was signed within the last few weeks, he says, and volunteers should be there by early next year.

More than 6,000 volunteers are working today in 66 countries worldwide. Peace Corps officials hope to have 10,000 volunteers by 1992.

Kennedy told a group of University of Michigan students about an idea at 2 a.m. Oct. 14, 1960.

"How many of you who are going to be doctors are willing to spend your days in Ghana," he asked. "Technicians or engineers, how many of you are willing to work in the Foreign Service and spend your lives traveling around the world?"

"On your willingness to do that ... your willingness to contribute your life to this country I think will depend the answer (to) whether a free society can compete."

Senate fails to override Bush's veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate failed Wednesday to override President Bush's veto of a major civil rights bill, sustaining his objection that the measure would lead to hiring quotas.

The 66-34 vote was one shy of the two-thirds majority needed to enact the bill, and marked the 16th time Bush has made a veto stick without a single reversal.

Civil rights supporters, rebuffed in enacting their top legislative priority, vowed to turn the issue into an election-year cause in the final weeks of a midterm political campaign.

The bill would have overturned six job discrimination decisions that caused a furor when the Supreme Court handed them down in 1989. It would have banned racial discrimination in the workplace and defined punitive damages in extreme discrimination cases.

But GOP Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said the bill would enable "lawyers to reap huge profits in the name of racial justice" and result in "quotas, quotas, quotas and more employment quotas."

Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said, "Pure and simple, take it from me, it's still a quota bill and a litigation bonanza for lawyers."

In vetoing the bill Monday, Bush submitted a compromise measure to Congress. But civil rights groups and their backers spurned it, and vowed to fight again next year.

"Like MacArthur, ... we shall return ... and we expect to win," Benjamin Hooks, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told reporters.

Supporters said the bill would be introduced in identical or similar form when the new Congress convenes in January.

"The president has taken the low road on civil rights, but that is no reason for the Senate to take it, too," Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., said in a last-ditch appeal for support.

But the vote on the politically charged issue fell one short of the two-thirds needed to pass the bill over presidential objections. Eleven Republicans joined 55 Democrats in opposing Bush.

Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, R-Minn., who originally opposed the bill, supported the override.

The sharpest clashes came over intricate provisions that would have made it easier to win discrimination cases against employers. Bush contended that those terms were so harsh that employers would adopt hiring quotas to provide themselves with a ready-made defense if they were taken to court.

Bush explores options in Middle East standoff

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush faces key decisions in the coming weeks that could signal whether he anticipates a lengthy standoff with Iraq's Saddam Hussein or wants American forces prepared to attack.

Among the questions facing Bush: — Whether to add more troops and firepower to the U.S. deployment in the Mideast, now at 220,000 and scheduled to peak at 240,000 in three weeks.

— Whether to withdraw some units not essential to defending Saudi Arabia, a decision which could allay growing public concern about the prospects of war without diminishing the force's defensive capabilities.

— Approving a Pentagon troop rotation plan, now in the draft stages, that sources said should be ready for White House review in a week or so.

— Whether to use his authority to extend 90-day Reserve call-ups for another 90 days.

The U.S. deployment reached a symbolic juncture Wednesday with the arrival in Saudi Arabia of the final elements of the 11th Air Defense

Brigade from Fort Bliss in Texas. It was the last combat unit scheduled for deployment in the region, Pentagon sources said.

The only remaining troops scheduled to be sent to the area are in support units. They should all arrive in the next three weeks, bringing the total deployment to 240,000, said the sources, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

"As of now we're not planning for any additional buildup. We're planning to sustain the force that is present," one of the Pentagon sources said.

But Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has discussed with ground commanders the possibility of changing the force size. He is due back from Saudi Arabia late Thursday.

If Powell recommended, and Bush approved, adding to the force, Pentagon sources said the likely additions would be heavy armor units from the United States, Europe or both. Such orders also would necessitate sending several additional support units into the region as well, the sources said.

Bird sanctuary founder ponders parrots' plight

By LIBBY KURTZ
Of The Battalion Staff

While some people probably would not enjoy sharing their homes and backyards with 60 parrots, the founder of the Windsor Sanctuary says it's part of his life.

Patrick Childers is dedicated to the plight of birds, especially the threatened Jamaican Amazon Parrots.

As part of International Rainforest Week, Childers spoke Wednesday afternoon to Texas A&M students.

Childers, a Bryan firefighter, says the Windsor Sanctuary has been his primary concern for the last 10 years.

His involvement with parrots began 12 years ago when he bred them for profit.

"As I became aware of the offenses committed by the commercial wildlife trade, I chose to correct my association as best I could," he says. "I decided to maintain my obligation to birds already in my care."

"Combining this with a commitment to help protect Jamaica's parrots seems to be the most responsible alternative."

Childers says Jamaica's rainforests are being destroyed slowly by environmental crises, and parrots have been forced to relocate to two remote areas on the island.

While the areas do provide some security, Childers says the parrots need to be protected from further human development.

"The parrots aren't endangered yet," he says. "But they are threatened."

Childers and his wife have 15 Jamaican Amazon Parrots. He says they have bred the parrots successfully and sell offspring only to selected individuals.

Childers says the Windsor Sanctuary presently is comprised of three pieces of property, a small collection of different parrots and a family-sized membership.

"We have grand intentions, though," he says. "TEAC has provided us with a lot of support. We'd love for Aggies to volunteer their time and effort to our cause."

"We need assistance in environmental design and help in establishing an on-going population survey in Jamaica."

He says the sanctuary always is looking for financial resources.

"I have shallow pockets right now," Childers says. "My work with the fire department does allow me to remain dedicated to the parrots. I can't walk away from them."

The A&M chapter of the Texas Environmental Action Coalition is sponsoring Rainforest Week events.

Those interested can contact the Windsor Sanctuary at 846-1891.

Computer graphics aid visualization

By LIBBY KURTZ
Of The Battalion Staff

When Texas A&M President William Mobley wanted to find the best location on west campus for a proposed stone sculpture, he asked the visualization laboratory for help.

The \$4.5 million lab, in the College of Architecture, is a forerunner in computer graphics visualization.

"Visualization is a strange term and it's a bit hard to define," says Dr. Tom Linehan, director of the year-old lab.

By merging data such as videotape and photographs with computer technology, 3-D images are produced which allow researchers and designers to visualize their work.

These images then can be modified for experimentation, and designers are able to view the overall picture through visualization. Some researchers have described visualization as seeing the unseen.

"Visualization prevents costly mistakes because designers are able to actually see what projections will look like before they're built," Linehan says.

Because of visualization, Mobley and a fine arts committee were able to decide the best site for a stone sculpture before it was built and avoided risk of building the sculpture in an inappropriate area.

"Visualization presents data visually," says Linehan. "Humans can absorb much more information if it's presented visually."

Linehan, former director of Ohio State University's computer-assisted design program, says decision-makers usually don't have enough information to make important choices.

"One of the purposes of visualization is to try to com-

"Visualization prevents costly mistakes because designers are able to actually see what projections will look like before they're built."

— Tom Linehan,
visualization laboratory director

bine that stream of information on a more constant basis to the decision-makers," he says.

With the aid of visualization, A&M's Center of Urban Affairs produced a videotape last year for San Antonio and the Texas State Department of Highways.

The tape simulated a proposed highway system and showed what the highway would look like in various city locations.

"Problems such as the placement of highways have a tremendous impact on the public," Linehan says. "City Council, the decision-makers of a community, must make decisions that require advanced technical information."

"Unfortunately, they don't have access to it or it's presented in very technical terms," he continues. "Visualization can help them make those decisions and spot potential problems before they happen."

Besides helping researchers deal with technical problems, visualization also can be used to create character animation.

Many of Linehan's students have obtained jobs with leading production houses, such as Disney and Lucasfilms.