

# Budget cuts force A&M job freeze

Continued from page 1

there was no laying off and no hiring freeze, and in this respect the University is fortunate.

He said operating budgets have been tight for several years, and taking into account inflation and other factors, the University is operating at the same budget level as in 1985.

Dean of the College of Business A. Benton Cocanougher said the cuts will be painful but the college will try to cause as little disruption to academics as possible.

He said the cuts already have had an impact — unfilled positions have been left vacant and some planned sections of spring semester classes were not added.

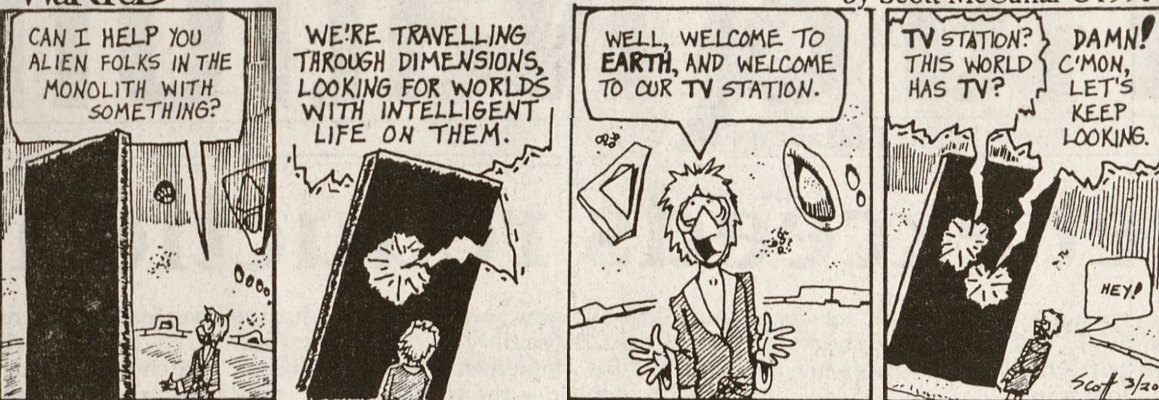
Cocanougher said the college will try to retain as many student workers as possible because they are valuable parts of the staff.

Dr. Melvin Friedman, dean of the College of Geophysics, said his college will be relatively unaffected by the new position freeze.

He said openings in the faculty can be replaced and positions in the process of being filled probably will be filled.

Friedman said the college had not planned to create any new positions before the new fiscal year.

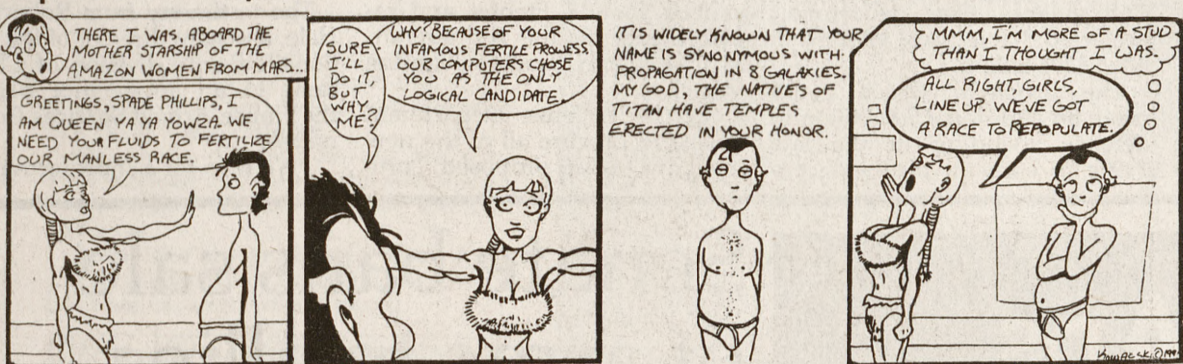
## WARPD



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## Spade Phillips, P.I.

by Matt Kowalski



## Tubularman

by Boomer Cardinale



# Red Adair Co. joins firefighting in Kuwait

HOUSTON (AP) — Teams of oil well firefighters from Red Adair Co. joined fellow Houston petroleum workers on Tuesday in traveling to Kuwait for a nearly yearlong effort to douse burning wells there.

"They will go and do some assembly work and make all of the necessary arrangements for the equipment," said Danny Clayton of the Red Adair Co. "Then they will start working on some of the wells where they won't need water protection."

Several Texas firms began shipping equipment to the war-ravaged area last week and started sending workers over this week. Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher and the Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States left for Kuwait over the weekend with a delegation of Houston business leaders.

T.B. O'Brien, president of

O'Brien Goes Simpson of Midland, said Monday his company sent six firefighters to Kuwait 10 days ago.

"We are just getting started over there," O'Brien said. "We've already put one well out just by closing the valve. I think it was a pretty good-sized well."

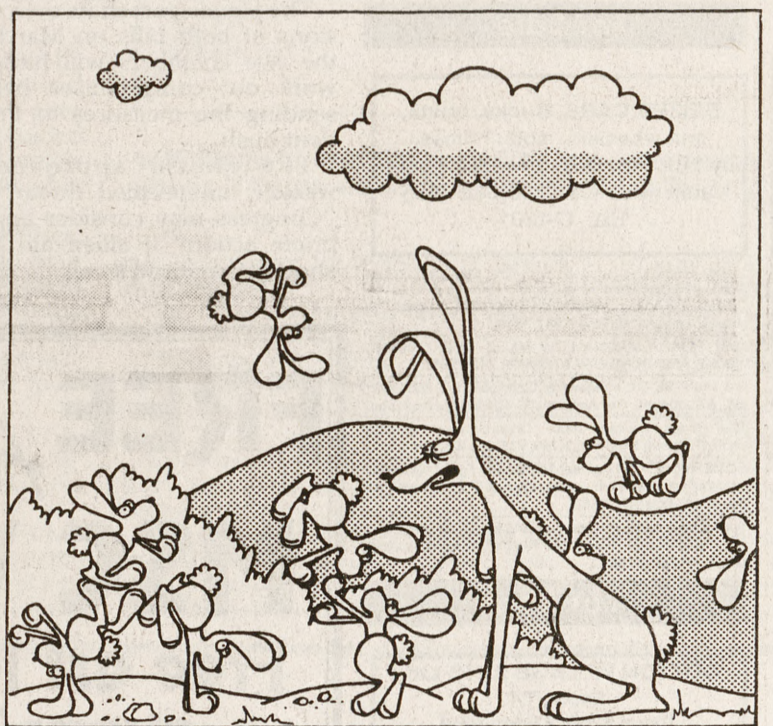
"It's going to be a long, hard job," he said. "We'll have most of the well fires out inside of a year."

Wild Well Control dispatched five firefighters, including company President Joe Bowden Sr., to Kuwait Monday night.

Boots Hansen and four other Boots & Coots firefighters were to arrive Tuesday in Dubai, capital of the United Arab Emirates, said company spokesman Martin Kelley.

## Nerd House

by Tom A. Madison



# Poor districts support proposals

AUSTIN (AP) — Poor school districts that won a court order for a new school funding system backed several reform proposals Tuesday, saying they would stop their long-running court battle if lawmakers adopt one of them.

However, a leader on the House-Senate school finance conference committee said even that would not mean an end to lawsuits over school funding.

"We're going to get sued either way we go," said Sen. Carl Parker, chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

Rich school districts, and a separate group of poor school districts, have said they would consider suing if the Legislature adopts a plan that does not meet their standards.

With less than two weeks before a Texas Supreme Court deadline to devise a plan to

equitably fund poor school districts, the governor's staff also sent out mixed signals about its position on school funding.

Sonia Hernandez, the governor's education policy director, initially said lawmakers have not considered all the options. That prompted Parker, D-Port Arthur, to say, "I appreciate all her help. She hasn't said boo diddly to me."

But later, Richards spokesman Chuck McDonald said the governor backs legislative efforts and believes lawmakers have looked at many options. He said it probably is too late to look at a whole new approach.

McDonald said Ms. Hernandez was simply concerned about what sort of bill might emerge from the conference committee.

The conference committee is trying to work out differences between House and Senate school finance bills that would shift

hundreds of millions of dollars in local property tax money from wealthier to poorer school districts.

The Texas Supreme Court unanimously ruled unconstitutional the current \$14 billion-a-year school finance system, which relies on state aid, local property taxes and some federal money.

Differences in local property wealth now lead to disparities in education funding. Justices said if lawmakers do not devise a reform plan by April 1, they will order a stop to state funding for schools.

The group of poor school districts that led the lawsuit against the state over its school funding system said three alternatives before the committee would keep it from going back to court.

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