

THE DEATH OF THE SUPER COLLIDER

Congress declines funding, kills atom-smasher

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress officially pulled the plug on the dying super collider Thursday, halting construction on a giant science machine that's one-fifth complete and has already consumed \$2 billion in taxpayer money.

The \$640 million sought by the Clinton administration to continue construction on the \$11 billion project this year will instead be used to shut it down under an agreement reached Thursday by House and Senate negotiators.

The negotiators wrestled for hours Thursday over termination conditions, agreeing to a plan that allows for a gradual shutdown in an effort to salvage the scientific developments already made in areas such as superconducting magnet and computer technology.

They also asked the Energy Department to provide by next July a termination plan that addresses possible future uses of the collider's technology, equipment and facilities in Waxahachie, Texas.

"The SSC has been lynched and we have to bury the body," said Sen. Ben-



"It is disappointing that the House is myopic and that they've exchanged an opportunity for America for a cheap political thrill."

—Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

nett Johnston, D-La., the collider's key Senate backer.

The atom smasher's death was all but sealed Tuesday when a House fixated on proving its fiscal responsibility rejected further spending on a 264-159 vote. It marked the third time in 16 months and second time since June that the House snubbed the physics project, which critics had branded as luxury science that was too costly in an era of huge budget deficits.

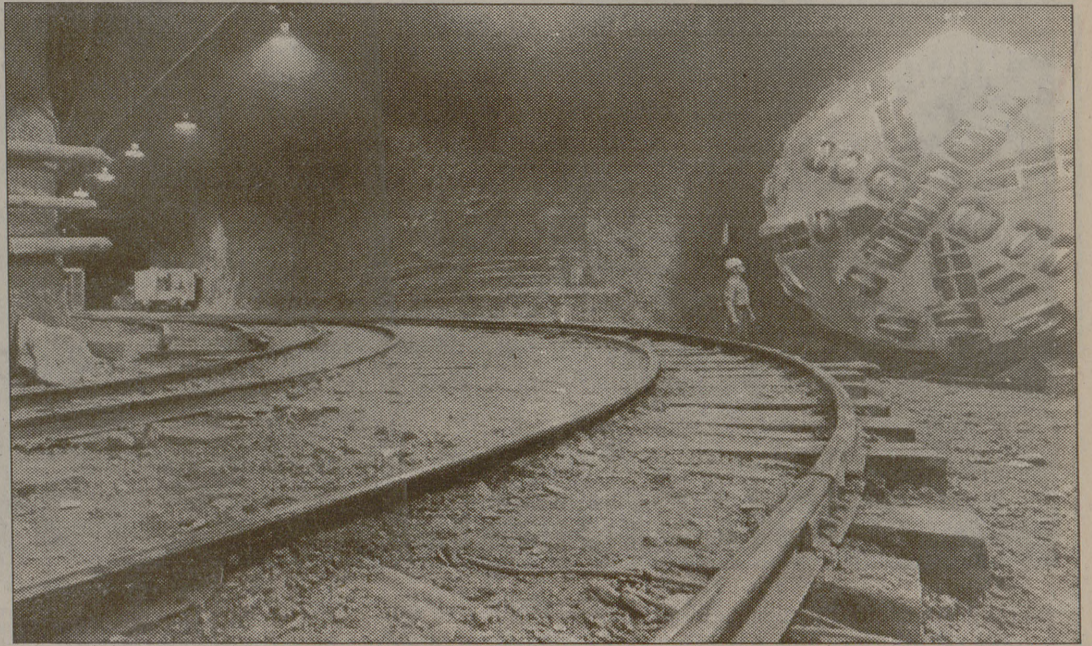
Johnston and other Senate supporters, who twice previously rode to the rescue, decided that a third attempt was futile in the face of enduring House opposition.

"I really sort of still can't believe it that the country won't fund it," said physicist Roy Schwitters, who has headed the collider program since 1988.

"This kind of event and decision is a major negative impact on world science, in my view," he said.

Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, said the negotiations, which she observed, offered the best outcome that could be hoped for. But, she added, "It is disappointing that the House is myopic and that they've exchanged an opportunity for America for a cheap political thrill."

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Superconducting Super Collider project manager **Ricky Richards** poses with a giant ball in the tunnel of the high-tech

project near Waxahachie, Texas. The collider is one-fifth complete and has already consumed \$2 billion in taxpayer money.

The Associated Press

At the buzzer...



Sarah Mahoney, a special education major from Corpus Christi and member of the Rolling Thunder wheelchair basketball team, passes

the ball around a member of the International Students Association during a game in G. Rollie on Thursday en route to a 37-6 victory.

Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

Interviews begin for vice president of student services

First of six finalists visits A&M campus

By Geneen Pipher

The Battalion

The first of six candidates being considered for the position of vice president for student services visited the Texas A&M University campus earlier this week, beginning the search committee's extensive interview process.

Martha Sullivan, the current vice president and dean for student affairs at Tulane University, said she believes her past accomplishments have prepared her for the position.

"I believe that my experiences at Tulane have given me the breadth of experience required for the position of vice president for student services at Texas A&M," Sullivan said in a letter to Ron Sasse, director of student affairs and chairman of the search committee.

"Increasingly, I realize that those institutions where student affairs and academic affairs work in concert are uniquely poised to meet the challenges of the decades ahead," she said.

In conjunction with academic affairs, Sullivan said, the department of student affairs should help prepare students to become leaders after graduation.

"Jointly we can better prepare students, through their daily lives as campus citizens, to assume with greater confidence and competency the leadership of larger, more complex communities in the future," she said.

Since the retirement of Dr. John Koldus from the position of vice president for student services in September, the search committee has worked overtime trying to fill the vacancy.

The group has been given the job of paring the field of candidates down from more than 100 applicants.

"Since June, we have been working on filling the position," Sasse said. "We had about 110

"I believe that my experiences at Tulane have given me the breadth of experience required for the position ..."

—Martha Sullivan, candidate finalist

applicants for the position, and the committee finally narrowed it down to six candidate finalists, which we presented to Interim President E. Dean Gage, who agreed they were all fine candidates."

Sasse said the interview process will wrap up in late November at which time the committee will make its recommendations to Gage.

"After the six weeks of interviews are over at the end of November, the committee will do some summaries," Sasse said. "The summaries will include how we felt about each candidate, and after we are finished with those, we will share that information with the interim president and he will make the final decision."

The new vice president for student services should be in place by the 1994 spring semester, Sasse said.

"Interim President Gage should make his decision by late December, so hopefully we will have somebody in place by the start of the spring semester."

Sullivan holds degrees from Newcomb College, the Universite Laval in France and Tulane.

During Sullivan's tenure at Tulane, she established an office of Multicultural Affairs, an office of Greek Affairs and two living centers for international students.

Community Unity Day promotes cultural understanding

By Mary Kujawa

The Battalion

In an effort to promote a greater understanding of the diverse cultures in the community, the second annual Community Unity Day will be held Saturday at Stephen F. Austin Middle School in Bryan.

The conference is designed to develop a foundation for a unified community effort directed towards drug prevention and education. The program also aims to provide participants with a greater understanding of culture and diversity.

Cultural sensitivity relates to many things, said Mary Cunningham, chairwoman of the special projects committee for United & Involved Community Action Network (U&I Can).

"An atmosphere of understanding and mutual respect is needed for problem solving," she said. "Everybody involved has to understand where the other person is coming from."

The Rev. Floyd Polk, president of U&I Can, said the community needs cultural awareness.

"This conference will bring about a community awareness of existing problems and give youth some hope," Polk said.

The conference is scheduled to begin at 10

a.m. Workshops will be held during the morning and afternoon.

Milton Creagh, a drug prevention specialist, will hold a program for children called "Don't Be Dopey." Creagh's program attempts to teach youngsters that "no" is the only response to drugs.

Creagh said he challenges his audiences to find the hero within themselves and to step forward and make a difference.

Jose Marquez, chief executive officer and founder of Convergent Youth Technologies,

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F.A.C.T. reaches out to first-semester Aggies

By Cheryl Heller

The Battalion

Students new to Texas A&M University this semester have had the opportunity to discuss their adjustment, achievements and problems at A&M through F.A.C.T. (First-time Aggie Contact Team) calls this week.

The F.A.C.T. program, organized in 1987, is co-sponsored by the Division of Student Services and the Aggie Orientation Leader Program. It consists of a committee of students, faculty and staff members who call new students halfway through the semester to see how they are adjusting to

Committee to call 8,700 new students

Texas A&M.

Bonne Bejarano-Sandars, F.A.C.T. committee chairwoman, said the organization attempts to reach out to new students and find out how their first semester at A&M is progressing.

"The committee was formed because Texas A&M enrollment had grown to such proportions that we were worried about losing personal contact with students," Sandars said. "We needed a way to try to preserve intimate contact with students at A&M, so we came up with the idea of calling all new students."

The F.A.C.T. program has about 200 student, faculty and staff callers who call every new student. This year the committee expects to call 8,700 students, Sandars said.

"We have called every new student in the past two years," Sandars said. "We try to catch each student at least four times, and we've actually had conversations with about 60 percent of them."

The committee waits until mid-semester to call new students because members feel it gives the students time to adjust to Texas A&M, Sandars said.

"We do the calling now because students have had their first round of tests, and they'll probably know by now how they're doing in school and if they'll need some help," she said.

Student Counseling Psychologist Noel Rather said she thinks the calls are a good tradition at Texas A&M.

"The calling is a way for new students to talk to current students, faculty and staff members about what's going on around campus," she said. "It's a way for them to find out how to get help, and a way to let the new students know that people do care what's going on with them."

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WEATHER

- Friday: Sunny, highs in the 70s. Real cold Friday night, lows in the 30s

- Forecast for Saturday: Sunny, fair, highs in the 70s. Nice.

- Your Battalion extended forecast: Partly cloudy lows in the 50s. Cool.