

White House attacks balanced budget amendment

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A day before congressional hearings on the balanced budget amendment begin, the White House launched a pre-emptive strike Monday against a measure it claims would harm the nation's economic recovery.

The White House contends a constitutional amendment to balance the budget — which President Clinton has called a "gimmick" — would damage the econo-

my because of sharp spending cuts or tax hikes.

Administration analyses project that balancing the budget by 1999 would result the following year in 2.5 million lost jobs and an economy shrunk by \$85 billion, the president's chief economic adviser testified last week.

Texas alone would lose \$11.5 billion to \$12.3 billion annually if the budget were balanced by 2000, according to a Treasury Department state-by-state analysis re-

leased Monday by the White House.

"The American people have a right to know what this amendment will mean in terms of tax increases and cuts in areas like Social Security, Medicare and defense," said Assistant Treasury Secretary Alicia Munnell.

Texas backers of the amendment countered that their measure wouldn't disrupt the economy because it would be phased in gradually. And Social Security, which has its own trust fund, wouldn't be

touched, they added.

Congress doesn't have the discipline to balance the budget without a constitutional amendment hanging over its head, said Rep. Joe Barton, who noted that the federal government hasn't had a balanced budget since 1969.

"We don't shy away from the fact that you're going to have to have some real priorities and that some programs are going to have to be killed," said the Ennis Republican, who is author of one budget

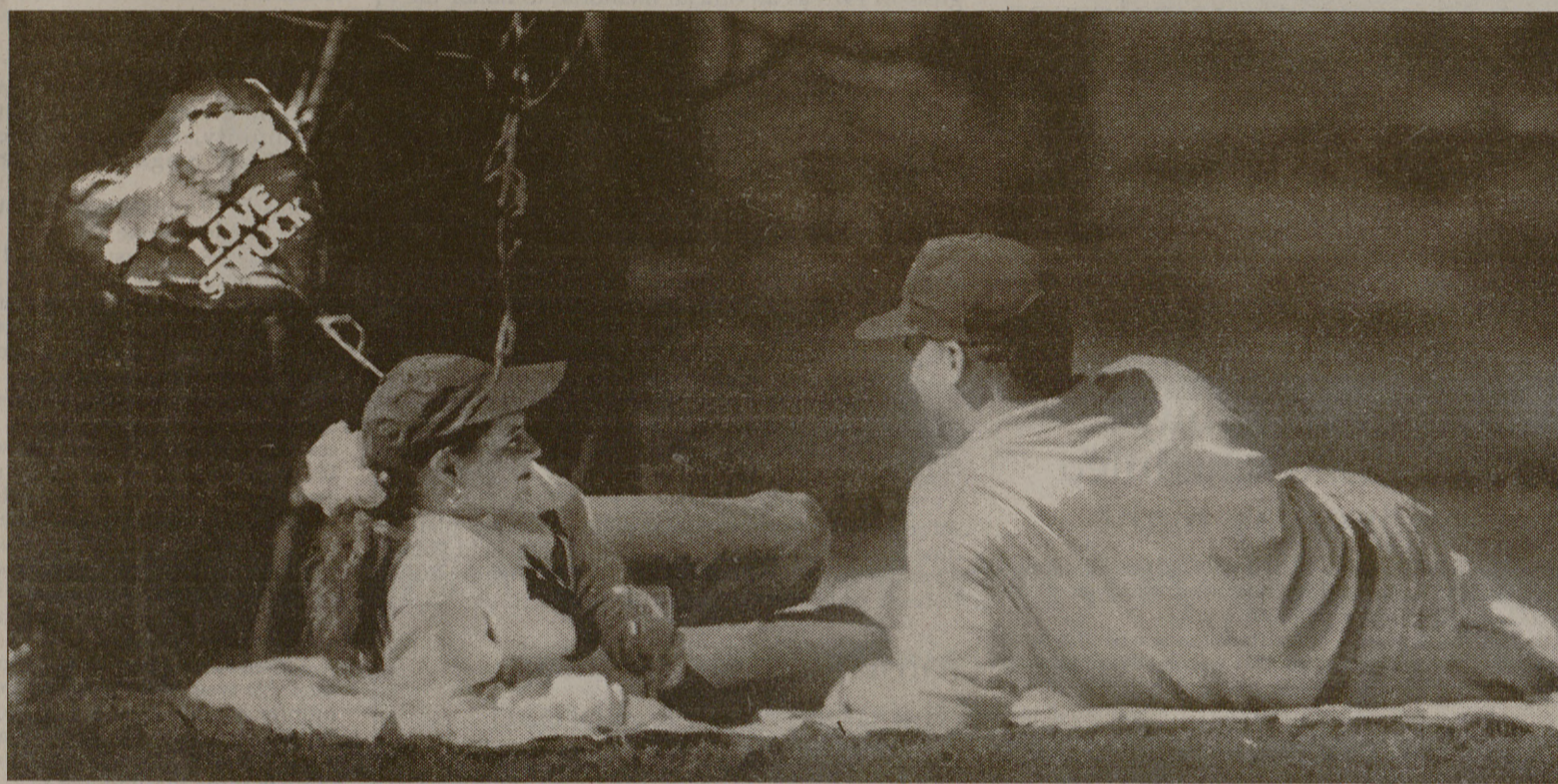
amendment.

"The alternative is to sit on our hands and do nothing," he said.

The Treasury analysis examined five scenarios to balance the budget by 2000, ranging from a combination of spending cuts and tax increases to spending cuts alone. One option would shield defense spending from cuts, another Social Security, and a third both programs.

See Budget/Page 4

Shot with Cupid's arrow



Holly Hess (left), a sophomore marketing major, and Rob Gentry (right), a sophomore business major, celebrate Valentine's Day Monday afternoon at Research Park. The couple has been dating for eight months after meeting each other on a blind date.

A&M/UT game moved to Nov. 5

From staff and wire reports

Texas A&M's traditional Thanksgiving match-up against the University of Texas has been tentatively moved to Nov. 5.

Baylor and Texas will replace the annual clash, meeting on Nov. 24 on a nationally televised ABC broadcast.

A&M cannot appear on television during the Fall '94 season because the University's football program is serving a one-year TV ban under the terms of its NCAA probation.

The Aggies also cannot play in

any bowl games and are ineligible for the Southwest Conference championship.

A&M will begin its season at LSU in Baton Rouge on Sept. 3.

That annual grudge match will be followed by playing the Oklahoma Sooners the week later.

The Aggies first 1994 conference game is scheduled for Oct. 1 against Texas Tech at Kyle Field.

The Aggies will finish their season at home against TCU on Nov. 19.

A&M athletic director Wally Groff and head football coach R.C. Slocum could not be reached for comment.

Houston nuclear plant receives OK to restart

Facility passes federal inspection

The Associated Press

BAY CITY — Houston Lighting & Power Co. officials Monday got a conditional green light from federal regulators to restart its troubled South Texas Project nuclear plant.

The plant near Bay City has been idle for a year because of mechanical and other problems that have landed the twin-unit project on a federal list of troubled nuclear plants.

Joe Callan, regional administrator for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, said he was authorizing the restart if the utility would complete testing of two water bypass valves.

He said regulators also wanted to verify the adequacy of employee training in what's known as "configuration management," the ability of workers to understand what a piece of equipment is doing at any given time.

The tests and inspection could be complete within 24 hours, meaning the plant could begin nuclear operations by the end of the week.

"I'm confident enough to authorize a restart," Callan said. "That's a

See Nuclear/Page 4

Faculty Senate approves changes to A&M rules

By Jan Higginbotham

THE BATTALION

A series of changes to the 1994-95 Texas A&M University Regulations were approved Monday by the Faculty Senate, after recommendation by the Rules and Regulations Committee.

Dr. Brent Paterson, chair of the Rules and Regulations Commit-

tee, said the committee is trying to get as many of its changes through the February and March meetings of the Faculty Senate so they can go into the catalog for next year.

"We set up the process to get the changes into the catalog so it will be more up-to-date," Paterson said.

Several of the proposed changes brought about discussion

and further changes by the senators.

A proposal to change the required grade point ratio for students serving as officers in recognized student organizations from 2.0 to 2.25 was sent back to the committee for further consideration.

Senators were concerned that students who are actively involved could not continue to par-

ticipate if their grade point ratio is below 2.25.

The Senate also voted down a proposal that would require students seeking two degrees to complete at least 36 additional hours to the number required for one degree.

The rest of the recommendations by the Rules and Regula-

See Senate/Page 4

Students, faculty say senator's scandal won't taint campaign

Texans may forget controversy before November elections

By Juli Rhoden

THE BATTALION

The acquittal of Kay Bailey Hutchison may have political repercussions, but many Texas A&M students and faculty members say the judges decision was for the best.

Brenna Hapes, secretary of the College Republicans, said Hutchison's acquittal was a nice surprise.

"We're all thrilled," Hapes said. "Everyone thought the charges were politically motivated."

Hutchison was acquitted Friday of

criminal ethics charges after the trial judge ruled the statements offered by the prosecution inadmissible.

Gary Halter, faculty adviser to the College Democrats and a political science professor at Texas A&M, said the process and the outcome seemed strange.

"I find it hard to imagine Earle would stop proceedings like that," Halter said. "I think he was afraid the information obtained by the grand jury subpoena would be sealed."

With the primary in the near future, questions of Hutchison's re-election are already surfacing.



Hutchison

Hutchison has maintained that the charges were political. She said she was under scrutiny because she fought the political insiders.

Halter said all of the publicity could help Hutchison in her re-election campaign.

"Sure the charges and the new information could be used against her," he said, "but negative campaigns can also backfire."

Bryan Jones, a political science professor at Texas A&M, said that by November, voters may forget there was ever a scandal concerning Hutchison.

"Texans will probably say this is all politics as usual," he said. "Voters will write it off as a political smear and forget about it."

Jones said it is too early to tell how Hutchison's ordeal will affect her re-election campaign.

Hutchison to visit Brazos Valley

By James Bernsen

THE BATTALION

Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison will be in the Brazos Valley tonight for a speech to the local Republican Party.

Hutchison is the keynote speaker at the "Lincoln Dinner," the party's annual fund-raiser.

The dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Brazos Center in Bryan and will last until 8 p.m.

"Hutchison won't want to talk about this in November because, by then, the information Earle released won't be new anymore," Jones said. "And the

A Republican Party official said that although the topic of the speech is not final, Hutchison will probably speak on the upcoming election and her recent acquittal from ethics charges.

Many state and local candidates will also speak, including Tony Garza, who is running for attorney general, and Carol Rylander, candidate for railroad commissioner.

The dinner will be open to the public and will cost \$25 for adult non-students and \$6 for students.

Democrats won't want to talk about it either, especially if Jim Mattox wins. He

See Hutchison/Page 4

Faulty pump to blame for chemistry lab fire

By James Bernsen

THE BATTALION

A faulty vacuum pump caused last Wednesday's Chemistry Building lab fire, a College Station Fire Department official said.

Lt. Stephen Smith, investigator with the College Station Fire Marshal's office, said all evidence points to the pump motor that apparently seized up.

"When a motor does that, it causes a lot of heat," he said.

The pump was placed beneath a wooden shelf where there was little air circulation, causing heat to build up.

The result was a fire that smoldered for about two hours before bursting into flames.

"It was obviously smoldering for a couple of hours because the smoke on the glass could not

"It was obviously smoldering for a couple of hours because the smoke on the glass could not be scraped off."

— Lt. Stephen Smith, investigator with the College Station Fire Marshal's office

be scraped off," he said.

The heat ignited a wooden cabinet, busted water and steam pipes and broke a window.

Will Scott, a detective for the University Police Department, said the fire continued for two hours before smoke detectors were activated.

"The smoke detector was not in the lab but in

the hallway," he said, "so perhaps we need to look into readjusting or repositioning them."

Arthur E. Martell, a chemistry professor, was conducting experiments on metal complexes in the laboratory, and said the pump was placed there because it had to be near some equipment.

It is not uncommon for equipment to be left on at night, he said, but there was no indication the pump was not working properly.

Smith said the motor could have failed in a number of ways, most likely bad bearings.

Martell said the average age for such pumps is five to 10 years.

The fire damage was not extensive, and no chemicals were involved, he said, but the smoke and water damage have made the laboratory unusable.

Martell said his research will be set back, but not seriously, as most of the work will continue in another lab.

Inside

Aggielife

• The secret of Snook Baking Co.'s success

Page 3

SPORTS

• Profile on Paul Barber

Page 5

OPINION

• Editorial: Mandatory church attendance no place in court sentencing

Page 7

