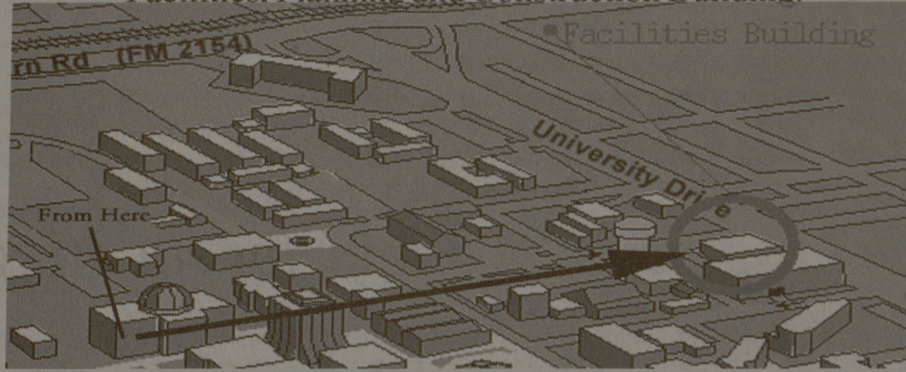


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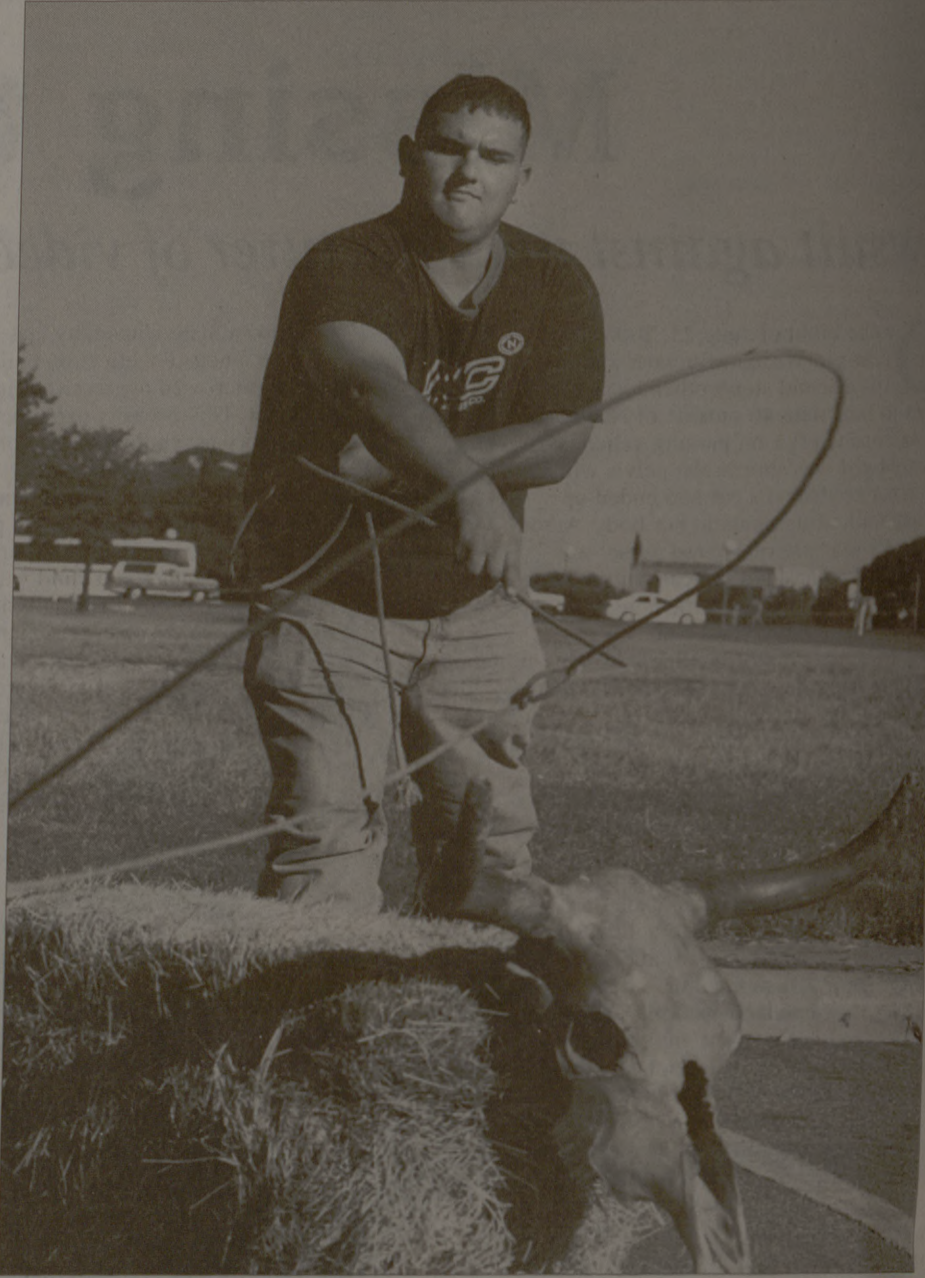
To Attend a **BASICS WORKSHOP!!**

We will discuss deadlines, letters of evaluation, MCAT/DAT,
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Oct. 7, 2003	Tuesday	1:00 pm
Oct. 15, 2003	Wednesday	3:00 pm
Nov. 11, 2003	Tuesday	10:30 am
Nov. 17, 2003	Monday	2:00 pm
Dec. 4, 2003	Thursday	12:00 pm

**Seating is limited so please contact OPSA at 847-8938 or come by room 205 of the Academic Building to register.

Giddy Up



Junior agricultural development major **Jarrett Witte** practices his moves on a makeshift steer before class Tuesday morning. **Witte** is a member of the Team Ropers Association.

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Texans encourage Iraq spending

By Suzanne Gamboa
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Two Texas congressmen returning from a trip to Iraq said Tuesday they are convinced the United States should provide money for the country's recovery from devastation wrought by the regime of Saddam Hussein.

Congress is debating the Bush administration's request for \$87 billion for U.S. military and reconstruction operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Of that amount, \$20.3 billion is designated for Iraq's reconstruction, which has been a flashpoint for debate.

Republican Reps. Kay Granger of Fort Worth and Henry Bonilla of San Antonio were among a delegation of 17 House members who visited Iraq over the weekend.

Granger, Bonilla and others say providing the money is another way to support U.S. troops because where reconstruction has occurred in Iraq, people are more supportive of the American military.

"What we are trying to do is establish something that wasn't there and give people freedom," said Granger, a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Bonilla said Americans would support the spending if they could see the outdated power plants and other infrastructure problems in the country.

"They need the money and we need to get it to them as quickly as possible," said

Bonilla, also an appropriations committee member.

But Rep. Silvestre Reyes, D-El Paso, said he wants a lot more accountability on how the money is being spent before approving the amount.

"We have to do everything we need to do to make sure our troops are provided for and protected," said Reyes, a military veteran. "I recognize Iraq and the Iraqi people have all these needs, but the people I represent have all those needs as well. School, economic development, money for roads and bridges and all the other things that have been identified in that \$20 billion, that's what we need too."

Reyes' district hugs the Mexican border.

Similar feelings are emerging among constituents of Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, whose district includes Fort Hood. Edwards says he has an open mind about the spending request.

"If I'm convinced it has a high probability of bringing our troops home more quickly I will support it. However, back home people don't understand the administration wanting to shut down the Waco veterans hospital at the same time they are building new hospitals in Iraq," Edwards said.

Edwards is the only Texas Democrat on the Appropriations

Committee.

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Sugar Land, said Democrats' cynicism is disingenuous. "Our exit strategy is the reconstruction of Iraq," he said.

On the Senate side, lawmakers were considering providing some of the rebuilding money as loans that Iraq eventually would have to repay. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, had been circulating that idea among colleagues. Hutchison, who was in Iraq when the United Nations headquarters was bombed, wants to find a way to alleviate the costs for American taxpayers.

But Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said since Iraq already has about a \$200 billion debt to other nations, the United States wouldn't be first in line for repayment.

"I was interested in doing everything I could to save the American taxpayer money," said Cornyn, who also visited Iraq. "But it would be penny-wise and pound foolish to try to extract an illusory guarantee (of a loan repayment) and it has the potential to jeopardize the security of the troops and efforts to get the out as soon as possible."

The Senate has passed the emergency war spending bill in committee. The House is expected to take it up in coming weeks.

"They need the money and we need to get it to them as quickly as possible."

— Rep. Henry Bonilla
San Antonio

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Volume 110

Gates at A

By Dan C
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Robert M. Gates change for A&M in the University add day during the Convocation in Auditorium.

Gates said change necessary for A&M Vision 2020, a plan A&M one of the universities in the U by the year 2020.

"A new era has Texas A&M," Gates he began talking about the future of the Gates named his priorities for reach of Vision 2020, increasing faculty, student programs, diversity and expanding.

He said increasing his top priority plans on how to including reallocation and increasing tuition.

A&M plans to hire professors, with the sciences the most new faculty.

With states reducing university funds, Gates is going faculty goes current trend.

"While others are brakes, we hit the brakes," he said.

Citing salary between A&M and universities, Gates said

Yell leadership

By Joaquin S
THE BATTALION

Yell practice for football game against Tech University will Thursday at 7 p.m. the Quadrangle's arc Texas A&M campus.

Many students and faculty attend the Midnight Yell Practice Fridays before the Yell show up to away practices, also known as Yells.

Yell leaders said been trying to promote game yell practices in Aggies will support the team when they play Kyle Field.

"It's a neat way to

Senate

By N
THE ASS

AUSTIN — Try to work with them on redistricting. Wed said was a solution to West Texas congressional.

Republican House Midland said he has his spokesman said would like it.

The move signaled a fight, first between but now among the critics, especially in the map presented by Palestine, and Robert option for ending the plan would p Abilene in one district Loving County on