

Bullock cites low taxes State good for business

United Press International
AUSTIN — State Comptroller Bob Bullock Thursday said Texas, through its low tax burden and other corporate advantages, offers the nation's most favorable business climate.

Bullock said his brag is substantiated by the Fantus Co., an industrial relocation consulting firm which ranks Texas No. 1 among the states in terms of taxes, laws and regulations which are attractive to business.

According to Bullock, only New Hampshire's \$223 per capita tax burden is lower than Texas' \$273, far below that of other major industrial states such as Michigan's \$413 and California's \$500. The national average is \$408.

"Texas is the only major state with neither a corporate nor a personal income tax," Bullock said. "And most of our taxes are either lower than the national average or the lowest period."

The comptroller said Texas' 4 percent state sales tax equals the national average, but the state's sales

tax receipts have grown faster than any other state — 31 percent in the past two years, compared to a national average of 17 percent.

"On the other side of the coin, while most states talk about controlling government spending, Texas have done something about it," Bullock said. "Forty-seven other states spend more money per capita on state services than we do in Texas."

While seven other states lost 565,000 jobs during the recession, Bullock said, the Texas economy continued to grow, adding 150,000 jobs. Texas has had no new taxes since 1971, he said, while 39 other states had 101 tax increases.

"Texans used to brag about a lot of things, but this is the best brag of all — not only because it is true, but because it really means something," Bullock said.

Bullock cited several other reasons businesses and industries are attracted to Texas:

— No corporate tax, which "shows businesses that the people and the Legislature of Texas are supportive of business development."

— No personal income tax, which can be costly to businessmen.

— Transportation costs in Texas are among the lowest due in part to the state's 5 cent tax per gallon gasoline and 6.5 cent tax on diesel fuel.

— The average Texas employer pays an estimated 90 cents per \$100 in wages for unemployment insurance, compared to the national average of \$2.70 per \$100.

— The average state and local property taxes per capita are \$50 below the national average.

ARTS and CRAFTS FAIR
BY RUDDER FOUNTAIN

Air mail faster for overseas gifts

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Gifts headed overseas should be sent air mail instead of by ship to insure arrival by Christmas, says the Postal Service.

mail for all nations now that a dock strike has ended.

But it noted mail shipped by surface rates will be competing for space aboard vessels with the millions of pounds of other commodities backlogged at U.S. ports.

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Battalion photo by Kevin Higginbotham

It takes three hands...

But teeth will do. TAMU senior Patty Hudgens prepares to mount her vehicle for the ride home. Hudgens is seen often riding her motorcycle on campus in all types of weather. This day she was lucky the sun was out and it was a warm day.

Center helps students find housing, roommate

Off-campus students who have housing but need roommates came out on the short end at the session for off-campus students Wednesday.

There are many students moving out of their apartments leaving a lot of roommates behind, said Debe McCandless, student director of the Off-Campus Information and Referral Center.

"Of the 50 students who were at the session there were only about six who needed a place to stay," she said. On the other hand students who need housing have numerous options from which to choose. They can move in with a student who has already leased an apartment or they can sublease an entire apartment from a student. The center also has information on other types of housing available such as houses, duplexes and mobile homes.

McCandless said students also have another option: roommate swapping. "Roommate swapping is good because it's less work for the students, and managers are usually happy with it since it doesn't involve someone left behind to pay all the rent."

"Even if they think their roommate is incompatible there is probably someone out there that would get along with them just fine," McCandless said.

Roommate swap cards can be filled out in the center's office at 106 YMCA.

Students who haven't found a roommate before the holidays may attend another roommate session next semester. The center will open again Jan. 3 and another session will be held at transfer orientation Jan. 11. Students with housing who need to find a roommate or sublease their apartment are encouraged to attend this session. For more information

students may call the Student Off-Campus Information And Referral Center at 845-1741.

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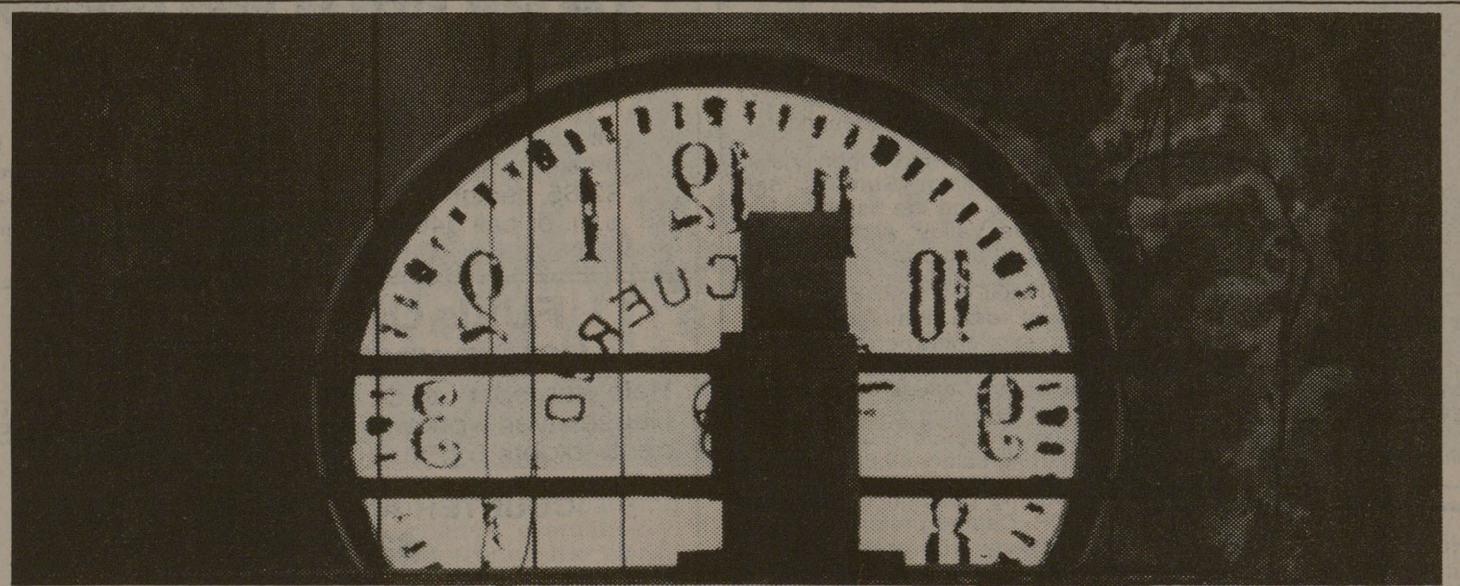
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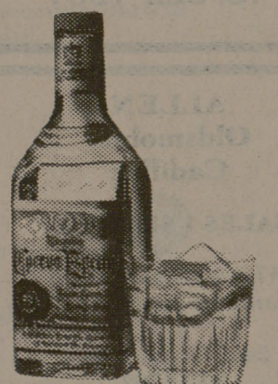
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