

# Ags can join National Guard offers recruits bonuses

By DOUG GRAHAM

For those who want a part-time job that differs from flipping greasies at some hamburger joint, there's hope.

Instead, they can learn to use rifles, gas masks, helicopters and other military hardware, and help pay for college at the same time.

The Texas National Guard is offering bonuses and money for in-state tuition to get students from Texas A&M University to enlist.

Capt. Bruce Olson, commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 143rd Airborne Infantry, said the new program has something to offer students needing financial assistance.

In return for six years' enlistment, students can receive up to \$500 per year for tuition, books and lab fees for up to four years.

Nonstudents, or those students who prefer it, receive \$1,500 enlistment bonus instead of tuition

money. After completing a 13-week summer training program at a military base, the enlistee will receive his first \$750. Smaller portions are given each succeeding year, said Sgt. Charles Sparrow, a recruiter.

After the initial summer program, training usually takes one weekend per month and ranges from equipment familiarization to field problems involving airborne parachute operations or helicopter assault tactics. During the summer the unit trains two weeks.

An E-1 enlisted man in the Guard makes \$55.92 for two days of training a month. He also gets paid \$419.40 per month during the 13-week training. In addition, he receives commissary and Post Exchange privileges while in uniform.

During basic training, most soldiers get promoted to E-2 before they leave camp, Sparrow added.

Sparrow said that a student who

reached 108 percent of our recruitment goal," she said.

The Guard is offering the bonus to combat a recruiting problem. C Co. suffers from this; one of its platoons consists of an officer and 3 enlisted men.

Though the bonuses help in recruiting, Sparrow was disappointed that they are necessary. "Patriotism seems to have died out in this country. It's a shame that we have to offer money to get people to do their duty for a short part of their lives."

A company commander can cancel a transfer if a guardsman is moving less than 50 miles away from his home unit, but that is rarely done, Sparrow said.

The 420th Engineering Brigade of the Army Reserve offers a similar set of programs, said Reserve recruiter Sgt. 1st Class Heather Efinchuk.

Efinchuk said recruiting has picked up under the new enlistment bonus system. "Last month we

## Law by petition considered

# Hobby supports 'initiative'

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said Wednesday he is willing to go along with Gov. Bill Clements on an indirect form of initiative to allow voters to put issues before the Legislature.

Clements, who has threatened to call a special session if the Legislature fails to pass initiative and referendum before it adjourns May 28, summoned Hobby and Speaker Bill Clayton to his office Tuesday to discuss the progress of his legislative proposals.

Hobby — who had said he opposed the initiative and referendum proposals before — said he told the governor he would support a limited form of initiative that would keep final authority for lawmaking in the Legislature.

"My only objection to initiative and referendum was bypassing the legislative process," Hobby said. "I have no objection to requiring the Legislature to consider certain issues."

Clements said, "Hobby's going to see what he can do" to help the proposal along in the Senate.

He indicated he will be satisfied if lawmakers approve a measure allowing voters to propose laws by petition and requiring the Legislature to consider and approve or disapprove.

Clements told Hobby and Clayton of his concern at the slowness of action on his proposals to the

Legislature but told reporters afterwards he is pleased at the progress of the session and expects things to move quicker in the final six weeks.

Clements said he still places high priority in the Legislature to pass a "significant tax reduction," budget execution powers for the governor,

authority for the governor to remove members of state agencies, electronic surveillance power for law enforcement agencies, and measures to promote discipline in school classrooms as well as initiative and referendum before the session ends May 28.

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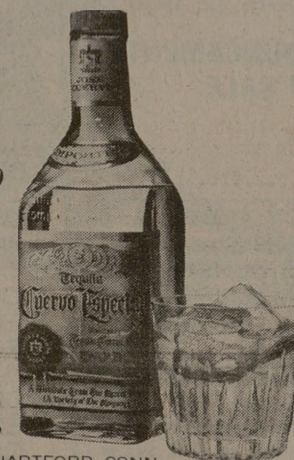
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