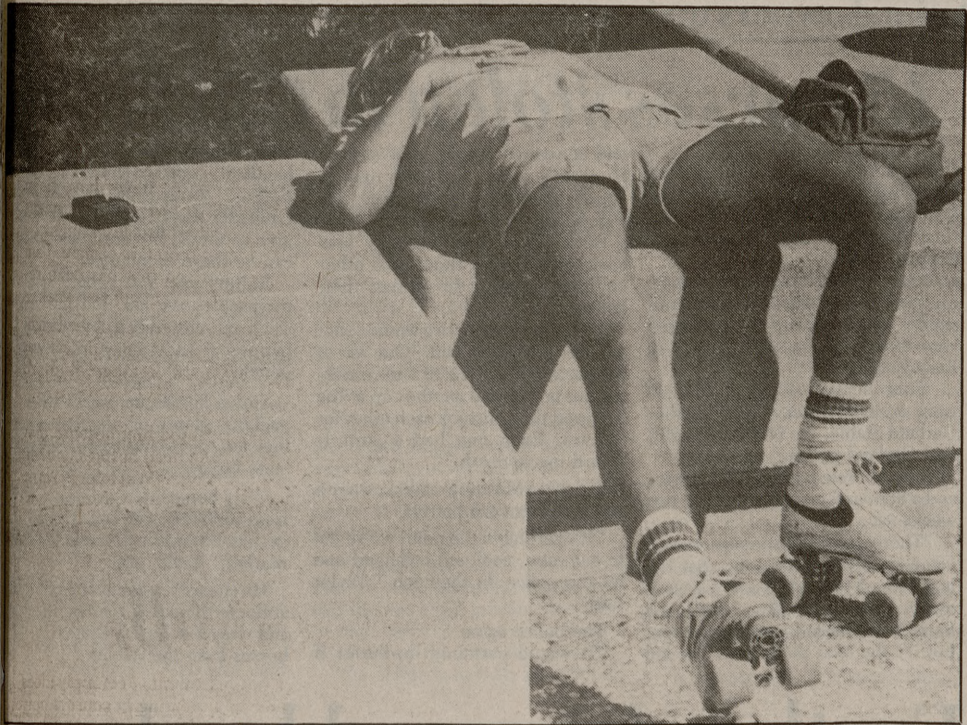


State



Sunshine sleeper

Photo by T. Garrett

John Sprague, a freshman business administration major from San Antonio, enjoys the unseasonably warm weather. The 70 degree weather is expected to continue at least until the weekend.

State pay raise
doubt is amount

United Press International
AUSTIN — Whether the Legislature will have its first major confrontation with Gov. Bill Clements will be determined by how the House votes on an emergency pay raise for state employees.

The Senate has approved a bill by Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, providing an immediate 6.8 percent salary increase for the state's workers, but the House Appropriations Committee late — on a very narrow vote — amended it to 5.1 percent with a \$50 minimum.

The House was scheduled to deliberate the emergency measure at 2 p.m. today.

Clements, however, made his intentions very clear on Tuesday. The governor, who had recommended only a 3.4 percent salary increase, said he would sign a bill calling for a 5.1 percent raise but would veto a 6.8 percent increase.

The governor first made the comments in Waco, then repeated them at an impromptu news conference at the Capitol. He had agreed to accept the 5.1 percent raise as a compromise after it became apparent a number of legislators preferred a larger increase.

"I will predict to you that 5.1 percent will come out of the House. I'll predict to you that it will go to conference committee. I'll predict to you that 5.1 percent will come out (of the conference committee)," Clements said.

The governor must sign an emergency pay raise bill by Saturday in order for the state employees to get the increase effective Feb. 1.

Doggett has said he will continue to push for the 6.8 percent salary increase. He said the narrowness of the committee vote (9-7) indicated there was strong support for the higher increase.

The senator also said he could have the votes to override a veto if

the full House approves a 6.8 percent increase rather than the 5.1 percent raise the appropriations committee recommended.

"I'm not convinced we cannot get the votes in the House (for 6.8 percent)," Doggett said. "And I'm not sure the governor would veto it if we in fact put it on his desk."

Speaker Bill Clayton said earlier he was unsure what size increase the House members would favor when the bill comes up for debate.

White hopes to approve statewide
student code of conduct, discipline

United Press International
AUSTIN — Discipline problems just detected before students leave elementary school or it is probably too late, Attorney General Mark White said.

"We can't build prisons big enough and fast enough, so we need to have the effective crime prevention of bringing up young people to understand the law," White said.

"If we don't get early detection of the problem by fourth, fifth and sixth grade, it's too late. These lessons need to be taught in a loving way with compassion, but with firmness and sternness."

As he put the finishing touches on a statewide student code of conduct which he expects to approve in two weeks, White remembered his own school days. The state's chief law enforcement officer was never exactly liked out of school, but he said he received some shape-up or ship-out warnings.

A teacher's turned back meant "flying spitwads" in the Houston public schools he attended.

White was no stranger to the principal's office.

"I'm an expert on both sides," he said, referring to the classroom discipline problem he believes is growing in the state. "I'm not so old that I don't remember what it was like when I was growing up. Thank good-

ness, I had a strong principal in high school."

White is working on a discipline checklist which he said will bring traditional "support-system" values back into the state's public schools.

A generation ago, when students were reprimanded, parents supported the teacher's decision, he said. Teachers today often must take the blame for unacceptable student behavior, because the types of relationships between students, parents and school administrators have

become more detached.

White said this is caused by a variety of societal factors, including more single parent families, a growing divorce rate, and the courts' attitude toward juvenile discipline.

"We're trying to show that court orders have not suggested that you can't discipline," he said. "We want to wipe out the indecision in so many people's minds. If the students in the classroom sense the teacher is immobilized they'll run the teacher around the room."



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