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Legislators describe state budget problems

by Gwyneth M. Vaughn
Battalion Reporter

Budget problems, which prevented approval of teacher salary increases, are the highlight of this year's Texas legislative sessions, Sen. Kent Caperton and Rep. Bill Presnal said Wednesday morning.

This year the Legislature had \$3 billion less to work with than expected. Ways to increase the state's revenue were discussed, but were not approved, Caperton said.

The Legislature studied sales, alcohol, tobacco and gasoline tax increases as possible alternatives to raising revenue, he said, and concluded that the sales tax increase would be the least offensive alternative to Texans.

"A state income tax was not even considered," Caperton said.

Caperton and Presnal were speak-

ing at a breakfast sponsored by the Bryan/College Station Chamber of Commerce.

Presnal said the federal gasoline tax, which went into effect April 1, may have turned the Legislature away from a state gasoline tax.

Caperton said the greatest failure of the session was pushing teachers into the background. The issue of teacher pay raises will be considered again in another special session of the Legislature in September or October.

A performance evaluation for teachers is needed, he said, but treatment of the educators should be on a more professional level.

The lack of state funds also is hurting prison reforms, the legislators said. The state cannot afford to keep building maximum security units to meet Texans' demands for safer streets. However, bills were passed

that will give the state options for prison reform.

The Legislature voted for an election in November 1984 to pass a constitutional amendment that would restructure the Permanent University Fund to include all universities within the Texas A&M System and the University of Texas System. The amendment also would allow Prairie View A&M University to receive more funding.

The Legislature wrestled with several bills promoted by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers during this session. A bill proposing the banning of open containers in vehicles was not passed, but some of the loopholes in the current driving while intoxicated laws were closed.

Caperton said because the DWI offender will be dealt with more severely, repeated offenses probably will not occur as often.

PUF securities value up from fiscal year 1981

by Angel Stokes
Battalion Staff

Permanent University Fund securities are valued at 27.6 percent more in fiscal year 1982 than they were in fiscal year 1981, according to July figures.

The PUF, the principal of which is owned by the state, is an endowment that receives funding from oil and gas leases located on state-owned land.

Income from all the PUF securities goes into the Available University Fund, which is divided for use between Texas A&M and University of

Texas Systems, said William Lobb, UT System executive director of investments and trusts. The PUF is administered by UT and Texas A&M receives income from it.

Typically the increase in the PUF from year to year is less than 22 percent, he said.

But because stock market values have increased dramatically in the past few months, overall PUF securities have increased, he said.

Although stock market values are up, he said, the bond market has been down most of this year. The PUF has more bonds than stocks, because

bonds have a higher current yield, Lobb said.

The stocks are up 46.6 percent and bonds are up 24 percent from last year's figures, Lobb said.

W.C. Freeman, executive vice president for administration at Texas A&M, said that while the value of PUF securities are up, the principle of the PUF remains the same.

"The stock market affects only the market value, not the basic value of the PUF," he said. The PUF can only grow through royalties off the land, he said, not through increases in market values.



staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

Gotta dance

Members of the Spring Woods High School drill team, from Houston, practice routines by McFadden and Haas halls

Wednesday afternoon. The Tigerettes are one of many dance teams that are here this week for the drill team camp.

Chrysler to repay loans

United Press International
DETROIT — Chrysler Corp.'s plans to repay its remaining \$800 million in federally guaranteed loans over the next five years early means the firm is in a position to grant union pay raise demands, United Auto Workers leaders say.

Chrysler Chairman Lee Iacocca announced Wednesday in Wash-

ington that the firm will hand over a check in September for the remainder of \$1.2 billion in federally backed loans obtained three years ago in a rush with bankruptcy.

UAW President Owen Bieber said Chrysler's announcement "recognizes the company's responsibility to deal fairly with workers' demands for more money."

"As proud as he (Iacocca) is of the

company's remarkable comeback, he knows full well that it was Chrysler workers more than anyone who made the sacrifices and exercised the forbearance which made that recovery possible," Bieber said.

Chrysler workers currently make about \$2 an hour less than other major automakers because of three sets of concessions granted as part of the bailout plan.

Parties must share fault in products liability cases

United Press International
AUSTIN — The state Supreme Court has ruled that all parties in future products liability cases in Texas must bear a proportionate share of the fault when damages are assessed.

The landmark ruling Wednesday came in a complex legal fight that stemmed from a 1976 airplane crash in New Mexico that killed two men, Benjamin Smithson, a New Mexico pilot-instructor, and James Parker, a Texas pilot trainee.

The widows of the two men sued

Cessna Aircraft Co., the manufacturer of the Cessna 150, claiming the deaths were caused by defective seats in the aircraft.

Juries returned damage awards against Cessna totaling \$2.2 million. The high court affirmed a \$1 million award to Parker's widow, but referred the Smithson case back to an appellate court.

While the Supreme Court agreed with the principle that Cessna should be able to offset damages by making a claim against Smithson's estate for pilot error, the justices said the new

procedure would apply only in future cases.

The court said it would be unfair to make its ruling retroactive since parties in the cases had been relying for the last six years on previously established court opinions.

But Chief Justice Jack Pope sharply disagreed with the majority's decision to apply the decision only to future cases.

Under the previous court rules, defendants in a products liability case paid all of the damages or none.

First black astronaut prepares for next shuttle flight

United Press International
HOUSTON — Air Force Lt. Col. Ellison S. "Guy" Bluford will continue the string of firsts for the shuttle missions next month by becoming the first black to go into space.

In the seventh shuttle mission, Sal-Ride became the first American female to go to space.

For his part, Bluford, 40, said he has never "driven to be the first black astronaut in space" accepts being a

role model for blacks and anticipates a fun flight.

"I feel as if I'm a pacesetter but I don't feel as if I have to be perfect as well. I'm very pleased to be flying, I'm looking forward to it and think it's going to be a lot of fun," he said in Wednesday's news conference with Challenger's crew.

The eighth mission, set for late August, will also mark the first night

launch and landing of the shuttle.

Blast off will be at 2:20 a.m. possibly Aug. 20, pending final preparations of Challenger at its ocean-side space port at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Challenger Commander Richard Truly said the night launch and landing should provide a spectacular light show for the public, but the rest of the

mission would be lacking in spectacles but not in importance.

"I think we have an extremely important mission. I hope we can finally get to the point where every flight does not have to be a big pizzazz," Truly said.

"We're going to see some missions that make it appear they are more important than others but I really don't think that's true (in this case)."

Highlights of the five-day mission include the launch of a communications satellite for India, further work on a space medicine-making experiment and testing of a Tracking Data Relay Satellite launched from the Challenger in April.

Joining Truly and Bluford will be pilot Daniel C. Brandenstein, 40, and mission specialists Dale A. Gardner, 34, and Dr. William Thornton, 54,

added late to the flight to study space sickness.

The launching of a second TDRS, which is used for communication links between the shuttle and Earth, was scrubbed because of problems with the first satellite.

A new two-stage rocket malfunctioned following the first TDRS launch and caused the \$100 million satellite to assume an abnormal orbit.

Local woman is Houston crimefighter on weekends

by Rusty Roberts
Battalion Reporter

Joy McLean of College Station enjoys an element of danger because, she says, "it kind of spices up my life."

McLean, a mail and consumer records clerk for the city of Bryan, commutes 220 miles each weekend to add that spice to her life. She is a member of the Houston Guardian Angels, a community group trained and dedicated to protecting citizens in the more violent areas of Houston.

The underlying goal of the Angels is to stop crime before it happens, McLean said.

"The police usually arrive after the crime has been committed," McLean said. "We (the Angels) try to get there before it happens."

Crime prevention will be the major theme at a free seminar that McLean and fellow Angels will hold from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday in the 102 Brazos Center.

The seminar will focus on community involvement, rape prevention and "being street smart," McLean said.

The group's main goal, McLean said, is community involvement. The Angels want to show citizens

how to make their neighborhood a safer place to live. The easiest way to secure a community from crime is to have its residents look out for each other, she said.

The seminar also will advise citizens on rape prevention including suggestions on how to stay out of a rape situation.

The few simple self-defense techniques that will be demonstrated at

the seminar can benefit all age groups, McLean said. Even those who use walking canes can benefit from a special demonstration on cane defense, she said.

"You don't have to be in fantastic shape to protect yourself on the streets," McLean said.

The Angels are unarmed at all times. McLean said the only weapon they carry is a keen understanding and mastery of the martial arts. Each Angel also projects an impenetrable wall of self-confidence, she said.

A patrol of only 18 Angels can seem like a patrol of 100 because it splits up into groups and spreads out to create a visual deterrent to crime, McLean said.

The Angels job, however, is simply to prevent crime before it occurs, she said, and cooperate with local police upon request.

McLean said no definite plans for a Guardian Angel chapter in the Bryan-College Station area have been proposed. She said she would like positive public feedback on the idea first.

She said a program should be started before the cities need it because of the Angels' desire to prevent crimes before they occur.



Joy McLean

Poland to debate martial law

United Press International
WARSAW, Poland — Police broke up a demonstration just hours before parliament's session today to begin legal preparations for ending 19 months of martial law in Poland.

Riot police Wednesday dispersed a peaceful crowd of Solidarity supporters who staged a regular 13th-of-the-month protest marking the government's imposition of martial law Dec. 13, 1981.

Helmeted officers scattered a crowd of people singing anti-government songs outside a church in the capital's Old Town section, a rallying point for sympathizers of the outlawed Solidarity union. Witnesses said two or three people were taken into custody, but no violence was reported.

Police have avoided confrontations with opposition gatherings since Pope

John Paul II's visit last month, in keeping with the government's claim that it is time to ease martial law restrictions because life is returning to normal in Poland.

But after listening to the pro-Solidarity crowd's songs for an hour, including several loud renditions of a ditty declaring, "We'll never surrender to the Communists, to the KGB or the secret police," the police broke up the gathering.

MX missile opponents prepare battle plan

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A core group of Senate opponents of the MX missile prepared for a coordinated assault today against the intercontinental nuclear weapon in a debate they predicted will extend into next week.

Led by Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., the group said they will propose several amendments attaching conditions to the MX.

Their purpose: to prolong debate in the hope of gaining support from the half-dozen or so senators needed to turn around the 59-39 vote by which the chamber endorsed the nuclear weapon last June.

Hart's amendment would delete all funding — \$5.04 billion — for pro-

duction of the first 27 missiles and for further research.

"If deployed, the MX missile would radically change our world and place at risk the very future of civilization," Hart, a presidential contender, charged.

"I'll talk as long as I can hold the floor," Hart promised.

The shadow of the MX has hung over this week's debate on a \$200 billion military spending bill that also includes funding for production of the first 10 B-1 bombers and for resumption of nerve gas production after a 14-year ban. The comprehensive military bill would authorize \$199.96 billion in 1984.

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forecast

Cloudy today with a 50 percent chance of showers and a high of 83. A 30 percent chance of showers tonight with a low near 73. Mostly cloudy Friday with a 40 percent chance of showers and a high of 88. Partly cloudy this weekend with a 20 percent chance of thunder-showers.