

Photo by Mike Davis

Fireman shot while trying to render aid

SANGER — A Dallas fireman was shot, robbed, thrown in the back of his truck and left for dead Sunday after he stopped to help a stranded car, police said.

Kenneth Blakey, 46, crawled to his truck and drove about 10 miles to Sanger gas station shortly after 5:30 a.m., Denton County Sheriff Randy Kaisner said.

Blakey was in serious but stable condition with a gunshot wound to his lower left side late Sunday in

Kaisner said Blakey's wide-buckled western belt, shorn in half by the gunshot, may have saved his

Blakely stopped to aid a stranded car in Denton County when three white males aged 18 or 19 got out, Kaisner said. Kaisner said they took Blakey's wallet and about \$140.

Blakely drove to a Sanger gas sta-

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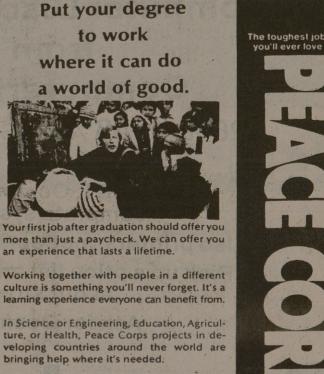
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Two A&M students unload their car and carry their belongings to Underwood Hall. Cars lined

up outside Texas A&M dormitories Sunday as students returned for the spring semester.

Lawmakers seek improvement in public schools

Education reform sparked in Santa Fe SANTA FE, N.M. - The banner of education reform is waving high over New Mexico, where lawmakers

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laws designed to improve public The 1986 Legislature, which convenes Tuesday, has before it a comprehensive reform proposal drafted by the interim Public School Reform

and the governor prepare to pass

The plan has been embraced by Gov. Toney Anaya, with some modification of the tradeoff between the elimination of tenure and the granting of salary increases for teachers and other school employees.

The measure is widely supported in varying degrees, but many would like to see some modifications of the

sure's clear infringement on the authority and autonomy of state and

local boards of education. The reform plan, as drafted by ricular activities.

the reform committee, would:

• Fix the length of the school day according to grade level and require a minimum of 180 instructional

Fix pupil-teacher ratios ranging from 20 students in kindergarten and first grade to 25 students for grades four through six, and daily teaching loads for grades seven through 12. The state superintendent could waive the ratios for very small districts and teachers would be

free of "noninstructional" duties. • Fix the amount of time that must be spent daily on language arts and mathematics in primary grades; require 23 units for graduation, including English, math, science, social science, physical fitness, communication skills and a specified list of elec-

Lawmakers, the governor and educators must debate and agree on the contents of the proposed reform bill, on a tax increase to pay for it and on a way to reconcile the meaning the contents of the proposed reform bill, on a tax increase to pay for it and on a way to reconcile the meaning the content of the

tion for failing students.

• Establish a no-pass, no-play rule and limit absences for extracur-

datory attendance law and establish a fine against the parents of repeat

Require local districts to establish discipline policies and allow individual schools to establish discipline

• Require recitation of the pledge Require recitation of the pledge of allegiance every day.
 Remove the gifted education funding calculation from special education category and give the program a separate "weight" for determining the funding level.
 Fix the number of credits teachers must have in various courses

chers must have in various courses before they can be certified or student teach.

• Require apprenticeships, evaluations and training programs for school administrators. • Repeal the tenure laws and re-

place tenure with a form of arbitration and due process.

Ordinarily, the type of educational "standards" contained in the bill are imposed on local school districts by the state Board of Education. But the New Mexico reform plan, like

others around the country, deliber-

• Tighten enforcement of man- ately side-stepped the state board.

But an advisory member of the reform panel, Edward Ortiz, said bypassing the state board is necessary
unless the public and legislators are
satisfied with state board-imposed
reform over a longer period of time.
Morgan did not argue with the value of many of the proposed law's
features, but added in many cases,
"the Legislature's intent to improve

"the Legislature's intent to improve education can be better met by the

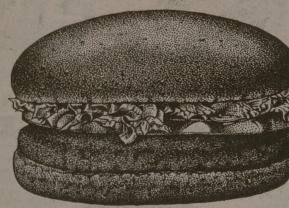
However, board members may be reluctant to argue the point for fear of losing what power they will retain if the bill becomes law. Sources say some legislators are preparing con-stitutional amendments to either abolish the board or radically reduce its power, and at least to shorten members' terms in office from six

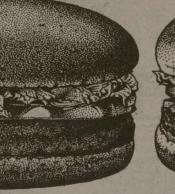
years to four years.

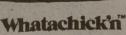
Finally, even if there is support for the basic structure of the reform bill, there is much less agreement on how the money should be raised to pay for it.

Anaya is proposing to spend \$796.9 million on the public schools in 1986-87.











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