

## 'Wolves at bay' Faculty losses under control despite A&M budget cuts

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Texas A&M department heads say they haven't seen a severe loss in faculty due to budget cuts, but Texas' economic conditions deteriorate further they may not be able to hold the wolves at bay.

Texas A&M administrators fear an all-out assault on faculty by schools looking to lure A&M faculty as the Texas economy hits lower and lower and A&M's budget follows the tide.

Dr. Clinton Phillips, Dean of faculties, says departments are seeing an increase in faculty raid attempts as the Texas economy appears to worsen.

"The vultures do circle," Phillips says. "And we've been among the vultures in times past, but now we're seeing the other end of the spectrum."

Phillips says tight purse strings have forced administrators to stretch their budgets to match outside offers to prestigious A&M faculty.

"When a dean says, 'I've just got to have x amount of dollars,' we try to find it," he says. He calls his money "shark repellent."

Board of Regents Executive Secretary Bill Presnal says, "the board is aware of the problem and it is determined to see that nothing is done to occur."

Presnal said he could not say anything further about what the board's action might be. He did say that when cases were reviewed the board would support strong commitment to maintaining A&M's teaching excellence.

But the deans and department heads must deal with the raiding in the trenches. And although A&M is winning the war the battles are becoming more competitive.

College of Agriculture Dean H.O. Kunkel says his department has lost four associate professors to raiding universities. Kunkel said he hopes the salary structure for his department's professors will deter future raiding.

"Right now I'm afraid there is a lot of wishful thinking that these other universities will go away and leave us alone," he says.

Chemistry department head Dr. Robert Tribble says he has lost two good professors this year. Both teachers, he says, will be difficult to replace.

Replacing teachers may prove a giant obstacle next spring when colleges traditionally recruit professors. For A&M recruiters the problems next spring will be two fold — how to get them, and how to keep them.

Several department heads say they did most of their hiring before the budget crunch appeared. Had budget restraints come even a month earlier the faculty situation might be worse.

Dr. W.D. Turner, mechanical engineering department head, says his department hasn't lost any professors yet, but they hired five new professors only a month before the economy hit bottom.

"If the budget crunch had happened in September or October I don't know how successful we would have been at getting new people to come here," he says.

Dr. Walter Haisler, Aerospace Engineering department head, blames some of the faculty flight on wild rumors of budget cuts and layoffs.

But for neighboring state universities how bad it really is has become painfully apparent.

Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge has seen more than its share of raiding. Officials at the university report that they have lost almost 100 faculty and staff members.

## Report urges 'porn crackdown'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Attorney General's Commission on Pornography, releasing its final report Wednesday, issued a call to arms against what is said to be an \$8 billion-a-year porn industry.

Attorney General Edwin Meese, who appointed the commission's 11 members more than a year ago, received the report at a news conference with the panel's chairman, Henry Hudson, a U.S. attorney who first won a reputation as a porn-fighting county prosecutor in Virginia.

"I'm not concerned about any censorship being fostered by this document," Meese said. "I can guarantee to you that there will be no censorship . . . in violation of the First Amendment."

The 2,000-page report links hardcore porn to sex crimes and contains 92 recommendations for federal, state and local governments to crack down on pornography in the United States.

The commission's estimate of the size of the porno industry is based on testimony taken the past year

from a variety of law enforcement witnesses. The \$8 billion includes revenue from child pornography, videocassettes, adult movie theaters and adult magazines, excluding mainstream publications such as Playboy and Penthouse.

Hudson told the news conference that over the past decade there has been a surge in "more violent and more sexually explicit pornography" in all forms, from videocassettes to dirty magazines.

The commission's single most controversial action occurred when

its executive director, Alan Sears, mailed a letter last February to nearly two dozen convenience and drug store chains which sell Playboy and Penthouse, saying the store chains had been identified in testimony given to the panel as distributors of pornography.

More than 8,000 drug and convenience stores have stopped selling adult magazines such as Playboy and Penthouse since the first of the year.

The report has been condemned by civil liberties groups as a move toward censorship.

## 100,000 SA voters needed to put cap on city spending

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A strong voter turnout will be necessary to defeat a referendum on a proposed cap on city spending, Mayor Henry Cisneros says.

Cisneros, who opposes the limit, said a turnout of at least 100,000 voters is necessary to defeat the proposal Aug. 9. The spending limit proposed by conservative C.A. Stubbs has solid support from at least 15,000 citizens, Cisneros said Tuesday.

Supporters of the measure are more likely to vote than opponents, Cisneros said. The mayor said he based his prediction on the number that voted last year to defeat a proposal to fluoridate the city's water supply.

Stubbs' Homeowner-Taxpayer Association led the anti-fluoride fight. The organization also gathered signatures on petitions forcing the upcoming spending cap referendum.

Cisneros said a turnout of 100,000, which would represent more than 20 percent of the city's voters, would be unusually high for a one-issue referendum.

The proposed amendment to the city charter would tie spending to population and inflation.

For example, if the city's population increased 3 percent and the consumer price index increased 3 percent, the city's budget could grow only 6 percent the following year.

The upcoming city budget for fiscal 1987 is pegged at \$606 million. City staff members say the proposed budget is well within (about \$150 million) the proposed restrictions. The population is about 850,000.

Staff members say capital improvements the city needs could force the budget to bump the cap by 1989.

Stubbs, who estimates the cap probably has at least 90,000 supporters, said Cisneros "is the leader of this community. I am a lowly taxpayer trying to get him to pay as much attention to the taxpayers as he has to people who take tax money."

In a related development, the leader of a San Antonio-based Catholic organization criticized Archbishop Patrick Flores for opposing the spending limit.

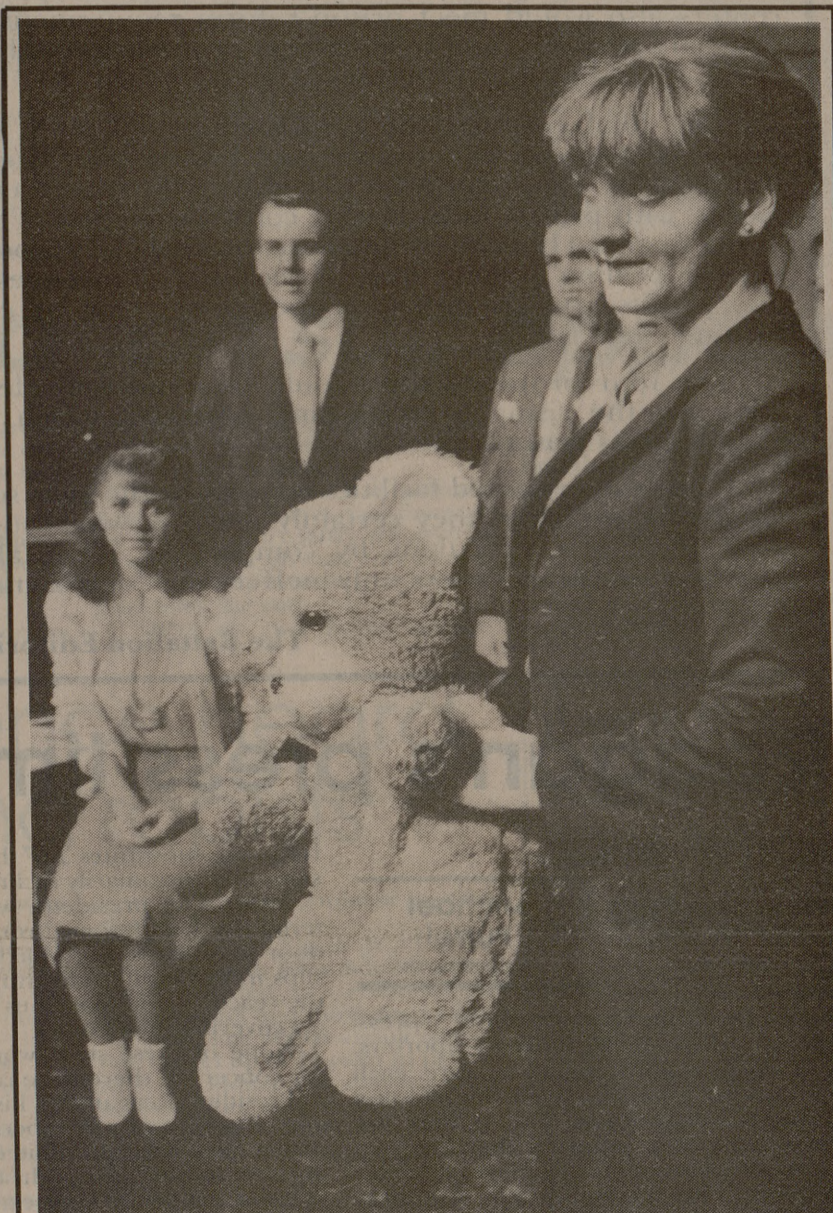


Photo by Tom Ownbey

## Bearing All — Eventually

Mrs. Savage, played by Patience Reading, holds a teddy bear as Lynn Bond and Butch Farmer look on in the Premiere Players production of "The Curious Savage." The show, part of a high school summer theater department sponsored by the Texas A&M theater department, compares the sanity of asylum inmates to the craziness of the outside world. Tickets for the show, which begins tonight, are \$2 for students and \$3 for non-students.

## Industrialist killed in terrorist bombing

MUNICH, West Germany (AP) — A terrorist bomb planted at the base of a roadside tree demolished an industrialist's passing limousine Wednesday, killing him and his chauffeur and sending bursts of fire 65 feet into the air.

The car carrying Karl Heinz Beckurts, 56, was blown 20 feet off the road near his home, crumpled and riddled with holes. Police found remote-control cable leading into the woods of the exclusive Strasslach suburb.

A message from the leftist Red Army Faction found nearby said it killed Beckurts, a board member of the giant Siemens electronics company, because Siemens was negotiating a role in the U.S. space defense program known as Star Wars.

The force of the explosion smashed the windshield of a trailing car carrying a bodyguard, who was not injured and described the flames to police.

Terrorists of the Red Army Faction, and its predecessor Baader-

Meinhof gang, have been attacking West German industrialists and other corporate, government and NATO targets since the 1960s.

The seven-page letter cited "secret negotiations for Siemens" on a possible role in the research program formally called the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Beckurts was a nuclear physicist and head of the Siemens research and development division.

Kurt Rebbmann, the chief federal prosecutor, said the reference in the

Red Army Faction message was to a preliminary meeting in June 1985 between West German corporate and government officials, about the controversial research program.

He said Beckurts' name was on a list of participating business executives police found in a January raid on a suspected Red Army hideout.

Siemens spokesman Werner Osel said the company, based in Munich, has no formal contracts or proposals for participating in Star Wars.

## Consensus for top tax rate limit emerging

WASHINGTON (AP) — As congressional tax writers prepare to draft a final version of landmark overhaul legislation, a fragile consensus is emerging for reducing the top individual rate to 27 percent, passed by the Senate, while generally accepting higher business taxes proposed by the House.

White House chief of staff Donald Regan was the latest to add his voice to those suggesting such a

package may emerge after House and Senate negotiators begin their work the middle of next week.

President Reagan, meanwhile, will travel to Dothan, Ala., Thursday to resume the drumbeat for passage of the tax bill.

The president's chief of staff indicated that Reagan "will say that he certainly likes the idea of a 27 percent rate, yes."

Regan said the president also will

tell his audience in the southeastern Alabama town "that tax reform is an idea whose time seems to have come: It's gone through quite a period of maturation; it's bipartisan; it's something that certainly every American wants — a fairer and a simpler system."

Regan's remarks were in a transcript the White House released Wednesday of an interview the chief

of staff had the day before with an invited group of reporters.

Those comments reflected the growing public show from Congress and the White House of a willingness to compromise to make sure the tax measure becomes law.

During a speech in Boston on June 27, Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, exaggerated the easy path the tax bill faces.

"From now on, it's largely a matter of guiding it to the Rose Garden" for the president's signature, he said.

But in that same address, Rostenkowski suggested he might be willing to accept the lower individual tax rates of the Senate-passed bill if Senate bargainers would be willing to go along with the heavier corporate taxes in the House-passed measure.

The Senate bill compresses more

than a dozen existing individual tax brackets — ranging from 11 percent to 50 percent — into two brackets of 15 percent and 27 percent.

The House bill has individual rates of 15 percent, 25 percent, 35 percent and 38 percent.

Regan's original tax proposal carried a top individual rate of 35 percent.

### Economics of state reflected

## Texas bank's earnings fall

DALLAS (AP) — Texas banks' second-quarter earnings will reflect the shaky energy and real estate conditions in the state with weak earnings and hefty loan-loss provisions, analysts predicted.

RepublicBank, Texas' largest bank-holding company, led off second-quarter reports Tuesday when it announced that its earnings dropped 84 percent.

Net income for the quarter ending June 30 was \$5.7 million, or 13 cents per share, and the loan loss provision was strengthened by \$78.5 million.

The bank holding company has 40 subsidiary banks and assets of \$22.5 billion and was the first to report on the quarter ending June 30.

First City Bancorporation of Texas, which made a \$275 loan loss provision in the first quarter, showed net income of \$15.1 million or 36 cents per share, for the second quarter, officials said Wednesday.

The company is reporting a net loss of \$217.2 million for the first six months of the year because of the large reserves set aside, said spokesman John Jamison of Houston.

He said the net income reported for the second quarter indicates First City was correct in increasing reserves. The company charged off \$126.6 million in loans during the second quarter. Reserves for loan losses stood at \$269.8 million as of June 30.

Most second-quarter reports from financial institutions will probably reflect a slight deterioration from first-quarter results, said Georgia Head, an analyst with the Dallas firm of Rauche Pierce Refsnes Inc.

Head said the plunging price of oil touched off troubles in Texas banks, and the real estate market has softened because of some overbuilding during the boom period.

RepublicBank's provision for loan losses of \$78.5 million in the second quarter exceeded charge-offs of \$53.8 million, thus increasing the allowance from the first quarter by \$24.7 million to \$285.7 million, RepublicBank said in a statement.

## Wife of cancer victim could face charges

FORT WORTH (AP) — A Tarrant County grand jury may review the case of a cancer victim's widow who says she removed a life-support tube from her husband's throat to give him dignity in death, authorities said Wednesday.

Police spokesman Doug Clarke said investigators plan to refer the case to the Tarrant County district attorney. Prosecutors would then decide whether to take the case to a grand jury.

The widow, Barbara Clark, said she was surprised at a homicide ruling returned in the death of her husband, Joseph, who had suffered from cancer of the esophagus.

"I don't understand," she said. "I don't know why they're doing this to me."

Clark told police she believed her husband was dead when she removed the tube.

On Tuesday, however, the Tarrant County medical examiner's office ruled the death a homicide because an autopsy showed Clark died of asphyxiation caused by the removal of a life-sustaining tube, spokesman Bill Fabian said.

Clark said she visited her husband on July 4 with her mother-in-law. She said she took Clark's hand as his mother left the room. Then he opened his eyes and his breathing stopped, she said.

She said she pulled out a tube that was keeping his mouth open as a nurse walked into the room.

"His lips were all bloody," she said. "I said, 'He doesn't need this anymore, he's dead. . . . I did not pull a tube out of my husband until he died. He wasn't breathing, and the (heart monitor) was straight."

## Reagan to campaign for Clements

AUSTIN (AP) — Former Gov. Bill Clements will get some high-powered help in his bid to regain the state's top office when President Reagan campaigns for him in Dallas later this month.

Clements' campaign manager George Bayoud said Wednesday the president will make two appearances for Clements July 23.

Clements, ousted after one term in 1982, in May won the GOP nomination to challenge the man who beat him in the last election, Democratic Gov. Mark White.

"The president and the governor are close, personal friends and have been political allies for many years," Bayoud said.