

# State and Local

Education funds 'won't be cut'

## Clements blasts reforms

HOUSTON (AP) — The six-week suspension period in the state's no-pass, no-play regulation is too long and discourages students from taking difficult courses. Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill Clements told thousands of Texas coaches Wednesday.

Most coaches at the Texas High School Coaches Association convention greeted Clements enthusiastically, and association president Greg Sherwood pledged the organization's support for the former governor's campaign.

Clements said he agreed in principle with the educational reforms of House Bill 72, which was passed at the urging of incumbent Gov. Mark

White, but said changes are needed in order to help school officials.

Clements pledged again to seek a change, if he is elected, to a three-week suspension, sidelining students only half as long from extra-curricular events whenever they fail a course.

"Six weeks is too long," he said of the current suspension period, adding that the regulation encourages some students to drop out of school.

Clements also pledged to maintain education spending at 51 cents per state tax dollar despite the state's budget woes.

"I would not lower it under any circumstances," he said.

The former governor said he be-

lieves the state should spend a majority of its revenue on education, with two-thirds of the education money going to public schools and the rest to higher education.

The gubernatorial candidate also said he would work with school officials to further improve the Texas educational system.

He said that teachers are now facing too much paperwork.

Clements said the career ladder, which he said White promised would be fairly implemented and well-funded, has not been either and is demoralizing teachers.

He criticized teacher competency tests, saying the system needs to be improved.

## Man given 40 years for hiding plane bomb

AUSTIN (AP) — A San Marcos man was sentenced Wednesday to 40 years in prison for hiding a bomb on an Austin-to-Dallas flight that carried his wife and three children.

Albert Lee Thielman, 34, pleaded guilty June 10 to charges of placing a destructive device on an aircraft and causing damage to an aircraft.

Each charge carried a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Thielman was sentenced to consecutive prison terms.

Defense attorney Rip Collins told U.S. District Judge James Nowlin, "I think Albert Thielman is one more testimonial to the tragic end result of drug abuse, specifically cocaine abuse."

Collins said that after several months in prison, Thielman is "absolutely not the same man" he first met when he became Thielman's lawyer last December.

Collins acknowledged that the crime was of a "heinous nature," but asked Nowlin to take the drug prob-

lem into account in assessing the sentence.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James DeAtly said, "This was a cold, calculated plan to murder his wife and three minor children to receive life insurance benefits of \$2.65 million."

"He was going to cause the murder of 147 innocent people on that airplane."

Court records showed Thielman, a salesman for a prefabricated home dealership, was in financial ruin because of gambling and drug debts. He had purchased the heavy life insurance coverage on his family before their plane trip, according to an FBI affidavit.

The bomb, stashed in Thielman's wife's luggage, exploded in the baggage compartment of the American Airlines plane when it landed at Dallas-Fort Worth Airport on Oct. 30. The blast caused minor damage to the plane, but none of the passengers were injured.

## Contract may keep Arlington GM open

ARLINGTON (AP) — High efficiency ratings and a new competitive local contract at a General Motors assembly plant bolster the factory's chances of staying open, union officials said.

A GM official said Tuesday that three North American plants may have to be closed because there is too

much car manufacturing capacity in the United States.

However, at the GM plant in Arlington, Richard De Los Santos, financial secretary-treasurer of United Auto Workers Local 276, said officials are negotiating a competitive local contract agreement that could keep the production line there open for several years.

Lloyd Ruess, GM executive vice president, said the company probably will not need three of its plants in the late 1980s because of excess capacity.

Ruess spoke at a news conference at the Automotive News World Congress in Detroit on Tuesday.

It was the first official statement about possible closings, although

there has been speculation the company would be forced to close some plants because of competition from Asian and European automakers.

GM company spokesman John Mueller said GM hopes that the overcapacity will force a shakeout in the industry, making plant closing unnecessary.

In Arlington, union leaders and plant management are negotiating a contract agreement that should be ready for a vote by Oct. 13, De Los Santos said.

He said the agreement could provide work for about 1,300 of the 2,000 union workers who have been laid off in the past 12 months.

## Laredo teachers fired for refusing TECAT

LAREDO (AP) — Two teachers fired this week because they refused to take the state-ordered competency tests said Wednesday they are considering whether to appeal.

Eugene Miller and his wife, Hildegard, were fired Tuesday during a special meeting of trustees of the Laredo United Independent School District. Trustee Jan Ottmers said the Millers' refusal to take the test left the district no alternative.

They have 10 days to appeal the

filing. Mrs. Miller said she and her husband are still thinking it over. Mrs. Miller has taught English for 18 years and her husband has taught history for 28 years.

"We are dedicated teachers and it was not an easy decision," Mrs. Miller said. "It wasn't a decision of arrogant defiance at all. It was more an act of civil disobedience because we don't believe that the law was right."

The Texas Examination of Cur-

rent Administrators and Teachers was approved by the Texas Legislature as part of education reforms passed in the 1984 special session. Since the tests were first given in March, about 97 percent of teachers have passed.

Although teachers and the largest state teaching association oppose the test, educators were advised to take it and challenge its legitimacy later. TECAT litigation will be heard by the Texas Supreme Court.

## What's up

**Thursday**  
**CAESAREAN PREVENTION MOVEMENT/VAGINAL BIRTH AFTER CAESAREAN:** CPM/VBAC is an international support network for women healing from past births and those preparing for future births that meets the last Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at 4109 Brompton Court in Bryan. For more information call 693-4953 or 776-5657.

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE:** Any junior and senior in the Department of Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics who entered his current major prior to catalog 107 and who has not previously taken the English Proficiency Examination should plan to do so this semester. The exam will be administered by the English department on Thursday. Please contact Mrs. Marilyn Radke in 152 Blocker for details. Advance registration is required.

**COMMODORE BRAZOS USERS' GROUP:** anyone interested in free tutorial on Commodore 64 or 128 systems can call David Gruben at 845-8889.

**Friday**  
**KAMU FM:** will sponsor a jazz concert featuring Notropis at 9 p.m. at Le Cabaret, 4353 Wellborn Rd. A \$3 cover charge will benefit KAMU FM. For more information call 845-5613.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

## Half Mast?

Students on the Quadrangle Wednesday may have seen the remains of this bicycle hanging from one of the flagpoles.

## Austin officials probe report of cyanide burial

AUSTIN (AP) — A report that Austin State Hospital workers buried a pound of deadly cyanide 20 years ago in a cemetery surprised city officials who want to know more about the discarded chemical.

"It sounds important enough to pursue, without a doubt," said Ramon Miguez, the city's assistant director of public works.

The Austin American-Statesman said Wednesday it learned of the burial from Fred Lara, a retired doctor of pharmacy and the former director of the state hospital's biochemical and toxicology laboratory.

Lara, 60, said it only takes a few hundred milligrams of cyanide to kill an adult human and that a pound contains more than 400,000 milligrams. Lara said he was reminded of the burial by publicity of the hospital's recent donation of a rare collection of brains and other organs of former mental patients to the University of Texas at Austin.

Kenny Dudley, superintendent of the state hospital, said he vaguely remembered Lara telling him something about the burial earlier this year after a series of articles in the

American-Statesman about the hospital.

"If someone thinks there's something out there that shouldn't be and they want to check, we'll cooperate," Dudley said.

In the late 1950s or early 1960s, Lara said, he supervised the burial of about 100 brains from the hospital's collection in half-gallon glass jars — some of them cracked and leaking toxic formaldehyde preservative — along with the pound of potassium cyanide and other toxic chemicals in smaller bottles.

He said the burial took place un-

der a large shade tree in the northwest corner of the cemetery that is just southeast of the Highland Plaza shopping center, a few yards from Waller Creek in Northeast Austin.

"I was new in the job and didn't know what was right," Lara said. "The state said to do it, I didn't question. I seem to remember that the cyanide was ordered by mistake. I don't know why the brains were buried. Everything was in cardboard boxes. I was ordered to go along and see that all of it was buried deep enough not to be affected by rainfall."

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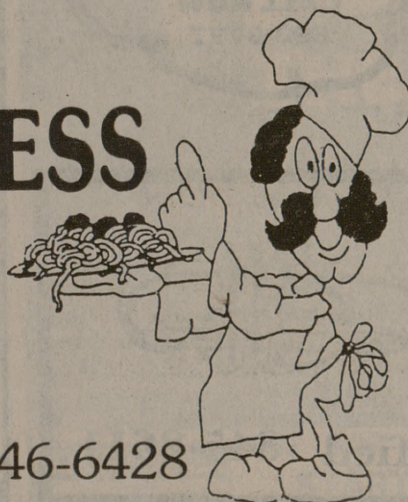
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