

State and Local

Lewis: Tax increase might pass

Speaker would back temporary taxes after spending cuts

AUSTIN (AP) — If there is no other way to keep state government from writing hot checks, the House will pass a tax increase and quickly, Speaker Gib Lewis said Wednesday. However, Lewis emphasized, "We're not at that point yet."

Lack of House support for a tax increase was blamed for the failure of the Legislature's first budget-balancing special session to solve the deficit, now estimated at \$2.8 billion. Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, a Senate majority and Gov. Mark White have agreed since Aug. 6 that a sales tax increase be enacted with spending cuts to balance the books.

Lewis said Wednesday he believes

the House would back temporary increases in the sales and gasoline taxes if all possible spending cuts are made, with numerous accounting and cash-management techniques enacted, and the state still is short on money.

"If that shortfall is still there and that (spending reduction plan) does not bridge the gap, we will probably go to those two forms of taxes," he said.

Asked if he would vote for those taxes, Lewis replied: "If necessary, and if I found that the state would be writing hot checks, yes, I would vote for them. Under those conditions and those conditions only."

After saying he would like to see the latest special session wrap up within two weeks, Lewis said a tax bill — if needed — could be passed within that time.

"I think you'll see things move very fast," he said.

Lewis labeled as "speculation" a speech he made Tuesday to the

White Settlement Chamber of Commerce, in which he predicted a temporary tax hike would pass.

"I think we need to be realistic and make those speculations," he said. "My statement yesterday was being very realistic, I guess. It appears at this point that some of those reductions will not hold up."

Student Senate OKs election procedures

Dates and procedures for freshman elections were accepted by the Texas A&M Student Senate Wednesday night at its first meeting of the 1986-87 school year.

The senate passed a bill approving the election commission's proposal for freshman elections with no objections.

Freshmen who want to file for executive office or a senatorial seat must do so between Sept. 19 and Sept. 25. Freshman elections will be held Oct. 7.

Project Visibility, a program designed for student senators to intro-

duce themselves to their constituents, is being stressed by the senate this year, said Jay Hutchens, communications director for Student Government.

"The goal of Project Visibility is to let the student body be aware of how Student Government actually can work to serve the students," Hutchens said.

Every senator must attend at least one meeting of a student organization that represents students in their constituency, tell about Student Government and urge students to get involved with it, he said.

Key theft forces change of campus building locks

Two rings of master keys were stolen from a maintenance room at the Zachry Engineering Center Sunday night but University officials are unsure exactly which buildings the keys give access to, says Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic.

Dr. R.D. Chenoweth, assistant dean of engineering, says the College of Engineering alone will spend \$22,000 for lock changes at Zachry and other buildings within the college. The college also has hired uniformed and plainclothes guards to beef up security until the lock

changes are completed.

Wiatt says buildings located in the northeast quadrant of the campus, including the Oceanography and Meteorology Building and Harrington Tower, are affected by the burglary.

Joe Estill, director of the physical plant department, says people in the chemistry department also spoke with him about getting their locks changed but he couldn't say how many locks ultimately will have to be changed or how many buildings are affected.

Restaurant Report

By Mike Sullivan
Staff Writer

The restaurants listed below were inspected Sept. 2 through Monday by the Brazos County Health Department. The information is based on food service establishment reports.

SCORED BETWEEN 90 AND 95:

• **Dixie Chicken** at 307 W. University Drive in College Station was inspected by David Pickens. Score — 94. Two points were deducted from the report because some dishwashing facilities were not working properly. The report said dishes were not to be washed in a mop sink. Two more points were subtracted from the report because a men's bathroom door was not self-closing and there was no soap or hand towels at a hand sink. The report cited a one-point violation for some hot water plumbing on a hand sink that needed repair. One more point was taken from the report because the floor under some board mats in the front bar needed cleaning.

• **Duddley's Draw** at 311 University Drive in College Station was inspected by David Pickens. Score — 94. Two two-point violations in the report were given for a fungus buildup in a beer box

and for some food items on a floor. The report said two more one-point deductions were made for the following: there was some paper and trash on a floor in a dish area; some areas behind a food preparation table and an ice machine needed cleaning; grease buildups needed to be cleaned from some shelves, some equipment and some tables.

• **Gideon's Cow Hop** at 317 W. University Drive in College Station was inspected by David Pickens. Score — 91. David Jefferson, a health department sanitarian, said the Cow Hop's new management requested a thorough inspection. Two points were subtracted from the report because some reach-in coolers needed cleaning, and some kitchen shelves and equipment needed cleaning. Another two points were taken from the report for some uncovered food items in a walk-in cooler. The following violations resulted in a total of five one-point deductions being taken from the report: a floor in a walk-in cooler needed cleaning; a walk-in cooler ceiling needed scraping and painting; some grease was dripping from a vent hood; a grease buildup needed to be cleaned from under

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David Jefferson, a registered sanitarian at the department, says restaurants with scores of 95 or above generally have excellent operations and facilities. Jefferson says restaurants with scores in the 70s or low 80s usually have serious violations on the health report.

Scores can be misleading, Jefferson says, because restaurants can achieve the same score by having several major violations or an abundance of minor violations. He says the major violations might close the restaurant down while some minor violations can be corrected during the inspection.

Jefferson says the department might close a restaurant if: the score is below 60, the personnel has infectious diseases, the restaurant lacks adequate refrigeration, a sewage backup exists in the building, the restaurant has a complete lack of sanitization for the food equipment.

Point deductions, or violations, on the report range from one point (minor violation) to five points (major violation). The department inspects each restaurant about every six months.

Sometimes a follow-up inspection must be made, usually within 10 days. Jefferson says a restaurant might require a follow-up inspection if it has a four- or five-point violation that cannot be corrected while the inspector is still there, or if there are numerous small violations.

Inspectors at the department are registered sanitarians.

In Advance

Graduate Student Council to sponsor free workshop

By Paula Janda
Reporter

The Texas A&M Graduate Student Council is sponsoring a workshop Saturday to help students develop or improve graduate student organizations within their departments.

Greg Smith, co-chairman of the GSO workshop, said the workshop is open to any graduate student and admission is free.

There are 69 graduate departments at A&M and about 16 active graduate student organizations.

"A graduate student organization can offer several benefits to a department, and often can increase communication between students, faculty and administrators that can create cultural and social interests," Smith said. "The GSO looks into things that are of concern to a graduate student."

Graduate students are confronted with different problems than undergraduates because they are older and often self-supporting, he said.

Smith said that if there are problems that graduate students have and would like to discuss, the GSO will set up a committee to get information on a problem to help the students.

A panel of administrators will discuss why they support the formation of new graduate departmental organizations.

The panel will include: Dr. Donald McDonald, provost and vice president of academic affairs; Dr. John Koldus, vice president of student services; Dr. Leo Berner, dean of the Graduate College; and Dr. Melvin Friedman, dean of the College of Geosciences.

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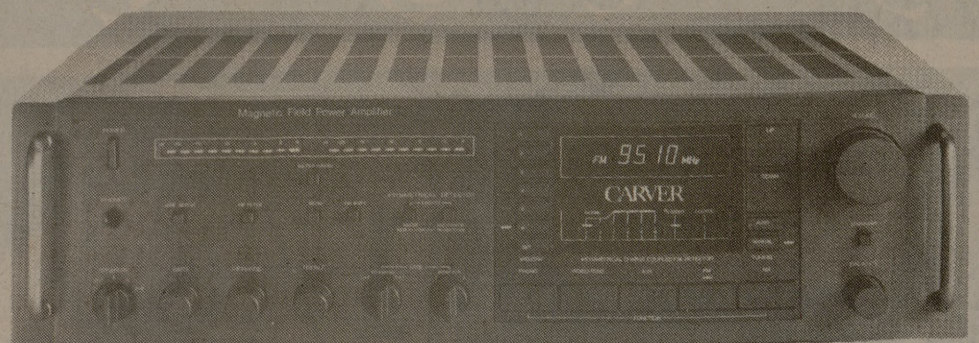
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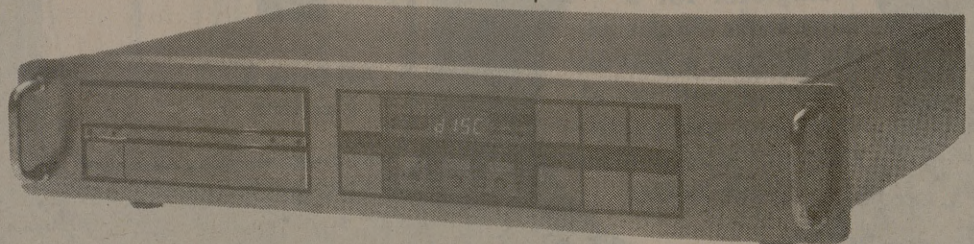
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