

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## White allows betting bill to pass into law

AUSTIN (AP) — Saying it is a question each Texan must decide, Gov. Mark White on Wednesday allowed a bill that could legalize pari-mutuel wagering on horse and dog races to become law without his signature.

The bill calls for a statewide vote to be held on the gambling question in November 1987.

"I will vote against pari-mutuel wagering, but each one of us will have one vote to cast — a very important vote — as equal citizens of Texas," White said.

White said the idea of gambling runs counter to his conscience and

religious beliefs, but he said the issue is one the public ultimately must decide.

"I am convinced that unless the will of the majority is allowed to be expressed, this divisive issue will come back again to tie up — and even plague — future sessions of the Legislature," White said.

The bill was approved during the special legislative session that ended Sept. 4.

White had until midnight Wednesday to sign the bill, veto it or allow it to take effect without any action on his part.

As approved by the Legislature,

the bill calls for a statewide referendum in 1987 on whether to legalize pari-mutuel wagering for the first time in half a century.

Such a referendum was one of three requirements White insisted on for him to approve any racing bill.

The other two, which White acknowledged were included in the bill, were local elections in the areas where race tracks would be located and protections against infiltration by organized crime.

Gambling on horse races hasn't been legal in Texas since a four-year period during the 1930s when the

Legislature permitted it as an experiment.

White issued a one-page statement explaining why he decided against signing or vetoing the bill. He said his was an action taken as a public official, not as an individual.

"All of my personal and religious values are against it, there is no place for it among what I believe is good and right and best," he said. "My opposition stems from individual conscience, from my Baptist convictions and from my belief in the traditional values of Texas."

However, he noted that Legis-

latures have been grappling with the question for years, and he acknowledged that there are arguments on both sides.

"If my decision were only a matter of personal preference, I would have vetoed this bill immediately, but it is not," White said. "The issue is the right of every person to decide, and the issue is my duty to serve all of the people of this state."

"I believe other Texans should have the right to make up their own minds just as I have, because we are all equally entitled to our own beliefs."



Gov. Mark White

## Texas may join highest taxers if plan passes

AUSTIN (AP) — A tax plan supported by the chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee would make Texas one of the nation's highest-taxing states, Comptroller Bob Bullock said Wednesday.

Chairman Stan Schlueter's plan includes raising the state sales tax from the current 4½ percent to 5½ percent and adding 5 cents to the current 10-cent per gallon gasoline tax, according to Bullock.

"We estimate that this boost will fall unevenly on Texas wage-earners since low-income persons spend a higher proportion of their income on taxable purchases," Bullock said.

The increase in sales tax would give Texas the nation's eighth-highest tax rate.

"Texas will climb near the top of the high-taxing states," the comptroller said in a letter to Schlueter, D-Killeen.

Schlueter denied having any plan, although Bullock referred to "The Schlueter Tax Proposal."

Schlueter told reporters, "I'm not pushing anything. I told you, whatever it takes to get 76 votes."

But other House members said Schlueter laid out what sounded like a plan in a Tuesday meeting in Speaker Gib Lewis' office. Rep. Bruce Gibson, D-Godley and a ways and means committee member, said the program also included:

- Establishing a 3 percent gross receipts tax on bingo games.

- Allowing rural counties that do not collect a transit tax to collect a half-cent sales tax to be divided among city and county governments.

All the increases would expire after three years.

Bullock said he had not yet calculated how much money the increases would raise for the state.

"There is little doubt that the bill will greatly help the Texas cash flow and deficit problems, but in doing so will make significant changes to the Texas tax burden," he told Schlueter.

Schlueter said he is merely trying to piece together a tax bill that can win House approval.

"I think the combination can be found, but it's not going to be that easy," he said.

Speaker Gib Lewis, who opposed a tax hike until it became obvious that lawmakers would not approve sufficient spending cuts, said Wednesday he likes the one-year tax increase plan.

"I think there's a lot of support for a temporary" tax increase, Lewis said.

But Schlueter said majority support is not there, and that there is no such thing as a temporary tax hike.

"The word temporary should never be applied to taxes," he said. "I don't think any taxpayer is ever going to believe a temporary tax. If they do, they're as foolish as some of us are."

White said Wednesday he still prefers his one-year tax bill.

"I would like to make certain that any tax increase is going to be terminated at the end of this fiscal year," he said.

Schlueter drew mixed reaction when he briefed House committee chairmen on his proposals, according to Gibson.

"It was controversial, particularly the part about three years," he said. "Well, really all of it was controversial. It obviously complicates the scenario tremendously."

## Bill may help loss of tuition Senate OKs fund for 'shortfall'

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate voted Wednesday to transfer over \$42.5 million from the state highway fund, part of which would cover college tuition losses, on the condition that the Legislature enact an increase in the gasoline tax.

The Senate took a House-approved bill that would transfer \$24.6 million in savings from the highway fund to general revenue and added an amendment by Sen. Bob Glasgow to transfer an additional \$17.96 million from highways to a special "tuition shortfall fund."

Glasgow said a House-Senate conference committee had appropriated \$18 million to make up for tuition losses, and an extra \$3.21 million also is available. Put together, these would recoup all of the tuition shortfall for 1986. Some state-supported colleges lost money in the 1985 tuition hike because enrollment dropped.

He said his amendment was contingent upon the special legislative session raising the state gasoline tax. The bill transferring a total of nearly \$42.56 million in highway funds was sent back to the House on a 24-0 vote for consideration of Glasgow's amendment.



## A Different Drummer

Sophomore Todd Nelson plays his drums Wednesday afternoon on the polo field out of consideration for his neighbors at Scandia Apartment Complex. Nelson, a natural history major, played along with a

tape of the band Missing Persons.

## Lawsuit slapped on A&M, Corps

Cadet claims negligence at bonfire cut caused leg injury

By Olivier Uyttebrouck  
Staff Writer

A Texas A&M cadet filed a lawsuit Monday against Texas A&M and the Corps of Cadets for injuries he allegedly received cutting wood for the 1985 Aggie Bonfire.

The suit charges that Keith Van Boskirk, a 20-year-old junior in Squadron 15, was injured through the negligence of A&M employees and that the injury will cause him

"physical pain and mental anguish, loss of earnings and loss of earning capacity."

The suit was filed in Brazos County district court Monday nearly a year after the injury allegedly occurred on Oct. 20, 1985.

Van Boskirk's attorney, James Mehaffy Jr. of Beaumont, said that the injury resulted from a partially cut tree that was left standing by one of the crews. The tree was unattended when it fell, knocking over a

second tree which, in turn, struck Van Boskirk, Mehaffy said.

Van Boskirk suffered a broken leg, Mehaffy said. The break was high up on the femur, where the bone fits into the hip socket, he said. The resulting medical costs ran about \$6,000, he said.

Mehaffy said his client was not considering bringing suit against the members of the crew that left the tree standing. Rather, the employees of Texas A&M and the Corps are

the targets of the suit, Mehaffy said.

Jerry Cain, associate general counsel for the A&M System, said the defendants had not yet been served and had no comments concerning the lawsuit.

No dollar figure was named in the suit and Mehaffy said that it is "improper" at such an early point in the suit to discuss precise figures, but he did say the suit fell in the "several hundred-thousand-dollar category."

## Survey: Doctors admit to use of drugs

BOSTON (AP) — Nearly 40 percent of doctors under age 40 admitted in a survey that they used marijuana or cocaine to get high with friends, and a quarter of doctors of all ages said they recently treated themselves with mind-affecting drugs.

Overall, more than half the physicians and three-quarters of the medical students who participated in the Harvard University survey said they have used drugs at least once for

self-treatment, to get high or to help them stay awake.

Only 1 percent of the doctors surveyed said their drug use had ever caused them to give poor care to patients.

Most physicians use these drugs only occasionally, if at all. But the researchers say medical students and young doctors are more experienced with drugs than are older physicians. And they predict that the proportion of drug-taking doctors will grow

as medical students set up practice and take their habits with them.

"Perhaps for the first time," they wrote, "appreciable although small proportions of persons entering medicine have histories of extensive drug use and dependence."

But they concluded that the drug use they found should not be cause for great alarm because it simply reflects growing drug use throughout American life.

"When psychoactive drug use becomes a fad and is approved by the

broad spectrum of society, just about all groups get involved," said Dr. William E. McAuliffe, the study's director.

McAuliffe, a researcher at the Harvard School of Public Health, published his findings in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. His study was based on a random survey of 500 practicing physicians and 504 medical students in Massachusetts conducted in November 1984.

## A&M colleges study new core curriculum plan

By Sondra Pickard  
Senior Staff Writer

The proposed 51-hour core curriculum recently approved by both the Faculty Senate and President Frank E. Vandiver is being studied by each college to determine the impact it will have on the University.

If the plan is implemented as written by the Faculty Senate, all Texas A&M undergraduates will be required to complete a 51-hour core of classes in 10 separate disciplines beginning in Spring 1988.

These include: computer science; foreign language; speech and writ-

ing; mathematics/logical reasoning; science; cultural heritage; social science; technology/renewable resources; physical education and citizenship.

After the proposal was approved by Vandiver, a committee of four headed by Dr. Lawrence Cress, assistant provost, was appointed by the provost and vice president for academic affairs, Dr. Donald McDonald.

Each of the 10 colleges at A&M has been asked to review the core curriculum and report back to the committee on their findings, Cress said.

The colleges are considering, among other things, such academic and fiscal questions as whether more faculty will be needed, whether enrollment will increase or decrease and whether degree plans will change.

For example, the added computer science entrance requirement may bring a need for more computer science classes and faculty. And an estimate of how many incoming students have had computer science in high school will have to be made.

Besides Cress, four others have been assigned to the committee to

conduct the impact study: Dr. Carl Erdman, associate dean of engineering; Dr. Samuel Gillespie, assistant dean of business administration; Dr. Manuel Davenport, professor of philosophy and humanities; and Dr. Davis Fahlgquist, associate dean of geosciences.

From the 10 reports — due back to the committee at the beginning of October — Cress said the committee will write a comprehensive statement to the deans and the provost, who will review it and either accept it or ask for more changes.

"The point was not to represent

every college on this impact study," Cress said. "The idea was to get enough people to look at the issue from a university level and then report back to the deans."

"The question is, given what the senate has proposed, what does this mean to the University?"

At present, the only courses common to all undergraduate degrees are a state-mandated requirement of six hours in American history, six hours in political science, and a University requirement of four hours in physical education.

The Faculty Senate began working on the core curriculum in February 1984 after Vandiver requested that the Senate study the general education requirements for baccalaureate degree programs.

Vandiver told the Senate that A&M is one of the few major universities in the nation that fails to require a broad background in the arts and sciences, which he said was "the heart of a university education."

After much research and debate, the Senate developed and approved the final core proposal in April.