

Warped



by Scott McCullar **New lobbyists stress policy over polish**

AUSTIN (AP) — In the age of high-tech lobbyists, a new generation, armed with the latest electronic gadgetry, is edging out the back-slapping, whiskey-drinking influence peddler of the past, Capitol observers say.

"The new breed of lobbyist is what I consider them — people who recognize that we're a whole lot more interested in public policy than eating a meal or drinking whiskey," said State Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan. "(They're) people who recognize that we want a good legal analysis of whatever bill they're for or against."

Good ol' boys still abound in Austin, where there are lavish parties every night the Legislature is in town. But increasingly, special interests facing difficult legislative sessions are favoring the microchip over the martini to outmaneuver their opposition.

Veteran lobbyist Dick Brown told the *Dallas Times Herald*, "If you're not in the communications business in this day and age, then you've got real severe handicaps."

Lobbying in Austin began to change in 1973, when a reform-minded Legislature changed the rules of the game after being embarrassed by back-room deals that toppled House Speaker Gus Mutscher. For example, for the first time ever, legislative committees had to provide five days' notice before considering a bill.

Legislators say budget cuts hurt rural Texas

ABILENE (AP) — Rural Texas is under attack in Austin because planned budget cuts would hit county extension offices hard and severely damage 4-H programs, legislators representing rural western areas of the state say.

Rural areas came out much worse than urban areas when Gov. Bill Clements made his budget proposals public last month, lawmakers say.

"There is definitely a discrimination against rural Texas," State Rep. Rick Perry, D-Haskell, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, told the *Abilene Reporter-News*.

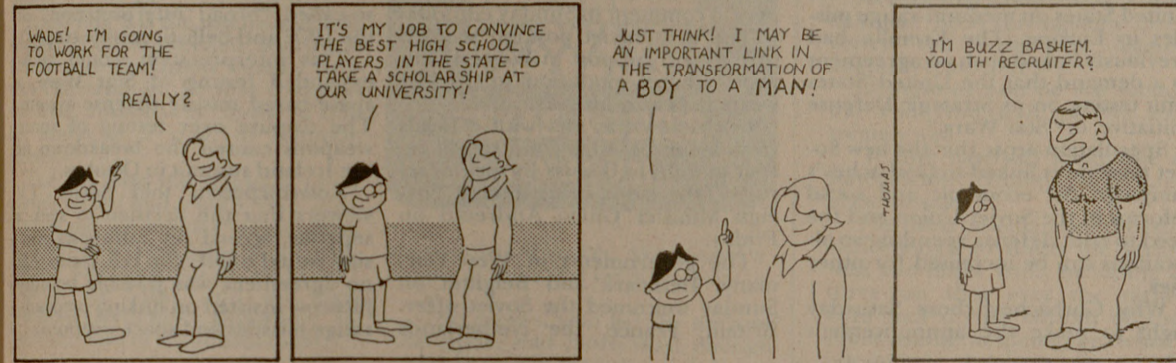
State Rep. Larry Don Shaw, D-Big Spring, said Clements' budget plan would cut more than \$10 million out of the county extension program. That could mean a loss of more than 300 jobs to a program that has lost more than 140 positions since 1985, Shaw said.

The budget plan would cut extension service funds by about 30 percent, said Shaw, vice chairman of the House Agriculture and Livestock Committee and a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

"4-H, those type of programs, would be gone," said Perry, whose district includes no town with a population greater than 14,500.

"I understand his (Clements') desire to have efficient government," he said. "But I will not stand by and let the governor balance the state budget on the backs of rural Texas."

Waldo



by Kevin Thomas

San Antonio student named as Miss Texas A&M for 1987

By Kimberley Roddy
Reporter

Melinda Fritz, a 22-year-old junior accounting major from San Antonio, was crowned 1987 Miss Texas A&M in Rudder Auditorium Saturday night.

Fritz will represent A&M in the Miss Texas pageant in July, where, last year as Miss San Antonio, she received the Best Variety Act award.

"I am very proud to represent Texas A&M University in the Miss Texas pageant," the newly crowned queen said. "I hope to do my best."

Fritz, who maintains a 4.0 grade-point ratio, hopes to become a certified public accountant.

As Miss Texas A&M, Fritz will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship, a \$1,000 wardrobe allowance for the Miss Texas pageant, a gold and diamond pendant, use of a 1987 Cadillac for official appearances, a one-year membership to Perfect Tan and ShapeWay, and the official crown.

First runner-up was Beth Brenckman, a senior management major from Fort Worth; second runner-up was Jennifer Allison, a junior psychology major from Houston; third runner-up was Mendy Fenton, a senior animal science major from Corpus Christi; and fourth runner-up was Shelley Irvin, a senior education major from Dallas.

Stephanie Smith, a biomedical science major from Richardson, won the swimsuit competition, and Suzanne Conn, also a biomedicine major, sang "Cry" to win the talent competition.

The four runners-up will receive \$500, \$400, \$300, and \$250 scholarships, respectively, and official Miss Texas A&M trophies. The swimsuit and talent winners also will be awarded trophies.



Melinda Fritz is named Miss Texas A&M for 1987.

Photo by Bill Hughes

The scoring breakdown was personal interview, 25 percent; talent, 50 percent; and swimsuit and evening gown, 25 percent.

During the 10-minute interview, held Saturday morning, contestants were asked about the University, current events and political issues.

Mistress of ceremonies was Sheri Ryman, who represented A&M when she won the Miss Texas crown in 1981.

Tamara Hext, Miss Texas 1984, was the featured vocal entertainer for the evening. The Aggie Wranglers performed Charleston routines, expanding on the pageant's theme, "Somewhere in Time: The Roaring Twenties."

Catherine Vincent, Miss Texas A&M 1986, played the piano and received a standing ovation after her farewell walk.

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