

## State and Local

# Ex-House speaker: A&M offers student lobbyists 'connections'

By Drew Leder  
Staff Writer

Bill Clayton, former speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, told student lobbyists Saturday Texas A&M gives them an advantage when dealing with the state legislature other lobby groups don't have.

"You have some additional tools that they don't have — the Aggie connection," Clayton told students in the Clayton Williams Alumni Center.

Clayton, a Class of '50 A&M graduate and president of a political and business consulting firm, gave tips

on effective lobbying techniques to A&M's Legislative Study Group, representatives of the Student Government, and student representatives from Tarleton State University and East Texas State University. The LSG is a Student Government organization that lobbies for Student Senate-backed state legislation.

Clayton advised the students to seek out former A&M students in the legislature whenever they need support on a position.

"Use your Aggie connections," he said. "Aggies are always ready to communicate with other Aggies."

Clayton said that in his 21 years in

the House, he encountered A&M graduates all over the world who were almost always happy to help out another former student who needed a favor.

Another tip Clayton gave the student lobbyists was most legislators have big egos and should be treated well if their help is wanted.

"They're all prima donnas, they all begin to think they're somebody special," he said. "Say little things to let them know that they have an important position and that will open the door a little more."

A lobbyist is essentially a salesman, Clayton said, who must

sell himself and his ideas to someone with influence. To be an effective salesman the lobbyist must know his issue inside and out, Clayton said.

"You want to know what you're talking about," he said. "You want to know the subject matter so well that they're impressed with you."

But he warned the students to be extremely careful to pass on only accurate information if they expect to be effective lobbyists for long.

"Integrity in lobbying is like it is in serving — if a lobbyist once lies to a legislator, just mark him off the list because he'll never be used as a resource again," Clayton said.

# A&M research helps make U.S. stronger in world competition

By Leslie Guy  
Reporter

A new area of research established at a Texas A&M institute this semester strengthens technology and industry through innovation and design and makes the United States more competitive in the world market, said an A&M associate professor of mechanical engineering.

Dr. David Jansson, director of the Institute for Innovation and Design in Engineering, also said the institute will attempt to provide greater educational opportunities and to ensure students are aware of society's changing needs and demands, he said.

Since 1980, the number of American exports has remained constant, while imports have drastically increased. Jansson attributes this change to U.S. technological innovations, which he said are unable to effectively compete in the world market.

This has prompted the need for research, he said. Instead of competing with existing A&M research programs, the institute will cooperate with them in areas of mutual interest, Jansson said.

"The issue is design in the field

of engineering, but it is using and cooperating with other disciplines dealing with design," he said.

A division of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, the Institute of Innovation and Design covers a broad area, not just the College of Engineering. Jansson said the institute works with architects, psychologists and businessmen. Its character of providing a multidisciplinary approach to a multidisciplinary problem makes the institute unique, Jansson said.

"Very few educational institutions have given this area the proper attention, and A&M has a unique opportunity to develop a one-of-a-kind center of excellence in both research and education in design," he said.

To launch the program, the institute has received \$250,000 from the experiment station, and it is attempting to expand into other fields, Jansson said. Later, the institute hopes to receive funds from the government and industry.

Jansson said he hopes the institute will lead to an expansion of the design curriculum within the College of Engineering.

## Poll: Backers of racing issue exceed rivals

HOUSTON (AP) — Supporters of legalized pari-mutuel betting appear to outnumber opponents as the issue goes before voters Tuesday, a recent poll indicates.

The poll showed 60 percent people surveyed showed support for legalized betting among poll respondents who said they might vote. 40 percent of likely voters who responded said they opposed legalized betting.

Rick Wilson, spokesman for the Rice Institute for Policy Analysis, which supervised the poll, said the Harris County poll reflects statewide attitudes.

In Tuesday's election, voters will consider whether Texas should legalize pari-mutuel wagering.

The poll shows supporters of legalized betting believe it will bring increased revenue and more jobs. Opponents cite religious and moral beliefs, as well as concerns about crime, Wilson said.

# Rehabilitation center helps disabled students find jobs

By Tracy Hinton  
Reporter

Finding jobs for the disabled is high on the priority list of services provided by the Texas Rehabilitation Commission, senior counselor John Greening said.

"Basically, our goal here on campus is to serve all the disabled people," Greening said.

The commission has a statewide goal of finding employment for 15,000 people, including 35 Texas A&M graduates.

"We try to help them find a job they want, and a job they are able to do," Greening said.

The clients of the agency have a wide range of physical and mental disabilities such as orthopedic deformities, alcoholism, drug addiction, diabetes, kidney problems, cardiac disorders, hearing difficulties, speech disabilities and character disorders.

Greening said the main disabilities of the people served on the A&M campus are orthopedic in nature.

"Even though the most common disabilities are visible, the number of learning disabled clients is increasing," Greening said. "Approximately one-third of the clients have visible disabilities, and the other two-thirds have hidden disabilities, many which are unreported."

*"Even though the most common disabilities are visible, the number of learning disabled clients is increasing."*

— John Greening

A person must meet two requirements to receive services from the agency. First, he or she must have a disability, which results in a substantial handicap to employment. Second, the services must be expected to benefit the person in terms of employment.

Greening said the commission is

different than the other organizations on campus because it serves employment needs. The Texas Rehabilitation Commission is a division of Vocational Rehabilitation, which emphasizes employment.

The agency provides a number of services. Medical, psychological and vocational evaluation determines the degree of disabilities and capabilities. The top campus service is counseling, so the client can plan personal goals. The agency provides two interpreters for the deaf on campus. They also provide room and board, attendant care when needed, note takers, tutors and mobility assistance.

Greening said his average case load consists of about 230 students. A case is left open until each client successfully completes 60 days at his new job.

Each person receives an individual plan while working closely with the counselor. Currently, there is one counselor, but a position for another one has been approved.

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