

Board of Education adopts \$128 million in school books

Associated Press

AUSTIN (AP) — The State Board of Education tentatively adopted \$128 million in school textbooks Thursday, despite criticism that the books were "trash" and contained enough factual errors to fill a 50-foot-long list.

The board adopted the books during a workshop session after making minor changes and directing Texas Education Agency staff to make sure mistakes mentioned during a public hearing were corrected.

In other action, the education board recommended state lawmakers enact legislation to allow public school teachers and employees to retire earlier.

Both actions will be considered for final approval when the board meets Saturday.

Although several people criticized the

books, Michael Hudson, Texas director of People for the American Way, praised the proposed texts in geography, literature, sociology, psychology and science.

"The trend is clear," Hudson said. "These selections are objectionable because they are inconsistent with the critics' personal belief systems."

But others testified that the books presented a dismal view of life and could hurt impressionable young people.

Eleanor Hutcheson, textbook chairwoman for the Daughters of the American Revolution, said the high school literature books were filled with stories that give no hope.

She said nearly every form of trash was being forced on the students.

Carol Warren, of Waco, said many of the stories dealt with violence and death.

"There is too much concentration on

death education," she said, adding, "Today, a humanist can walk into and out of a classroom with their values intact, but a Christian can't."

In written testimony, opponents of the books criticized inclusion of works by Edgar Allan Poe, John Steinbeck and William Shakespeare.

Norma Gabler, a longtime crusader to change textbooks, referred to a 50-foot long computer printout that had been unrolled across the floor of the meeting room.

She said the printout listed mistakes in the books. The board directed the staff to analyze whether corrections had been made.

Members of a textbook advisory committee, however, praised the books.

Committee member Katherine Lewis, a teacher, said the books offered differ-

ent levels of literature. "For the first time in the last 10 years, I can go to a literature book and chose selections for my honor students."

Also Thursday, the board agreed to a proposal that would lower from 95 to 85 the combination of age and years of service required to earn full retirement benefits.

In 1987, lawmakers approved a similar lowering of the retirement qualifications for other state employees.

If put into law, teachers and public school employees would have to pay about a fifth of 1 percent more in contributions to the Teacher Retirement System.

The change would not cost the state any additional funds, according to Lynn Moak, deputy commissioner of the Education Agency.

Local Briefs

SAA marches against African holdings

By Richard Tijerina
Staff Writer

To emphasize its goals of divestment of financial holdings in South Africa by the University System, members of Students Against Apartheid will make a demonstration march today at 4 p.m. The march will begin in front of Rudder Fountain.

The march, which will progress to the Bryan Municipal Courthouse and return to Rudder Tower, is the first such march held by SAA this semester.

SAA President Jeff Dyess said three or four speeches will be given at various points along the march. Speeches will be given by Dyess, University of Houston faculty member Arthur Shaw, the head of the local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and possibly, U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland.

"We're basically having it (the march) to promote some student awareness into the problems in South Africa," Dyess said. "Also, we'll move ourselves a step closer to getting the school to divest their funds in South Africa."

A&M has \$3.7 million invested in South Africa, of which \$3.5 million is invested in American corporations and banks operating there, Dyess said.

SAA member David Luckenbach said it would be economically beneficial to Texas for A&M to divest its holdings in South Africa and reinvest in American holdings.

"If we really wanted to support the Texas economy right now, other than investing in companies that are exploiting South African labor, it would be a lot easier to invest in other stocks that we have already invested in," he said.

Super collider could push family off land

MAYPEARL (AP) — Eighty-one-year-old Olive May Wilburn sat on the edge of the bed and cried at the thought of becoming a millionaire. But it wasn't a tear of joy that streaked down her cheek and plopped onto her powder blue housedress.

The elderly woman shuffled outside with her walker and looked at a surrounding wheatfield, plowed only the day before. The land her husband had worked from 1944 until he died 10 years ago, the land where her 3-year-old granddaughter now plays, may soon be lost to progress.

The Wilburn homestead is mapped out to become the research campus of the \$4.4 billion super collider, midway between Waxahachie and Maypearl.

The future is threatening to take away Olive May Wilburn's past, and she's not sure what to do about it.

"I just kept thinking that maybe it wouldn't come, maybe it wouldn't happen . . ." Wilburn said.

But granddaughter Betty Hoppgood delivered the news Thursday morning after hearing it on the radio: The super collider would be built in Texas.

The announcement had many in Ellis County jumping for joy, but it only made the Wilburns mad.

Wilburn and her husband had worked

for 20 years to pay off their 200 acres.

After Texas bid for the super collider, state and federal officials notified the Wilburns their acreage would be needed for the project if the state won it.

"I hate to see farmers who have

worked all their lives for their land have everything taken away," Hoppgood said.

Grandson Dale Wilburn, a 38-year-old machinist who lives with Wilburn, said he checked local land values and has

found some selling for up to \$6,000 an acre.

"I don't know if that would be enough to buy something comparable," Wilburn said.

But Hoppgood doubted they will be

able to buy enough adjacent land to keep the family together. As it stands now, several relatives are within walking distance of the farm.

"We'll never be together again, pretty soon," Hoppgood said.

Yet another construction project hits; steps toward drainage ditches begin

By Fiona Soltes
Staff Writer

And construction began construction.

A project laying storm drainage ditches has been made necessary by the number of new buildings on campus.

Keith Chapman, A&M manager of construction, said the fence on Ross Street running from the driveway between the old and new Chemistry buildings to Ireland Street is part of this project.

"The drainage ditch will run from the System Administrations Building to the English Annex," Chapman said. "We're doing it in three steps so that traffic can still get through in the area."

Chapman said the first segment, which runs from the Systems building to the Chemistry building driveway, was designed so that construction deliveries could still be received for the new building. The second segment — now under construction — ends at Ireland Street to allow access to Blocker Building. The last segment,

which will be built as soon as the second segment is complete, will close off the area between Ireland Street and the English Annex, he said.

"We are trying to work it out so there is access to Ireland Street at all times," Chapman said. "But even as I say that, I'm not sure what the telephone company working in that area will do. I can't say whether they will want to close it off or not."

Chapman said the fence probably will be up until January.

"We need to excavate the area, lay

the pipe, then re-pave the road," he said. "It's a long-term project."

The five-by-seven foot pipe will carry rainwater to storm sewers on campus.

"Wherever concrete replaces dirt, more water runs off," Chapman said. "With all of the new buildings on campus, there is increased runoff. The older system just couldn't handle it all."

Chapman said problems have been caused recently by water standing in the streets and backing up in basements.

Church's sued over takeover refusal attempt

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A shareholder of Church's Fried Chicken has filed a class-action suit against the company's board of directors, claiming unspecified damages from Church's efforts to avert a hostile takeover by Popeyes Famous Fried Chicken and Biscuits.

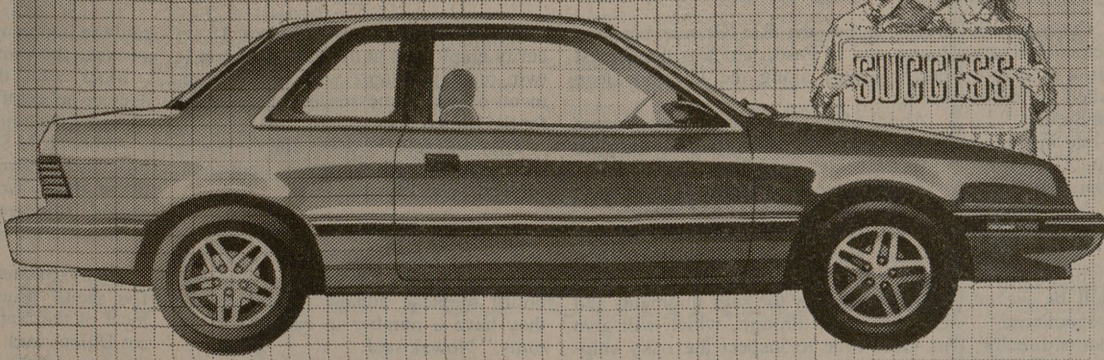
San Antonio-based Church's recently recommended to shareholders to reject as inadequate a \$290 million takeover offer by Popeyes, owned by A. Copeland Enterprises Inc. of New Orleans.

Robert J. Piro and the Three Bridges Investment Group filed the suit in state district court Tuesday, a day after the Church's board recommended refusal of the offer, which will expire Nov. 22.

"Individual defendants have conspired in a manipulative scheme to freeze out attempts to acquire Church's without any valid, justifiable or compelling corporate purpose and to protect and preserve for certain of themselves significant benefits in which Church's shareholders do not share," the lawsuit states.

The suit alleges that the defendants schemed to deprive the 4,500 shareholders of the true value of their equity interests.

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URINARY TRACT INFECTION STUDY										
\$200	Do you experience frequent urination, burning, stinging, or back pain when you urinate? Paul Research will perform									\$200
\$200	FREE Urinary Tract Infection Testing for those willing to participate in a 2 week study. \$200 incentive for those who qualify.									\$200
\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$200
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME STUDY										
\$100	Wanted: Symptomatic patients with physician diagnosed Irritable Bowel Syndrome to participate in a short study.									\$100
\$100	\$100 incentive for those chosen to participate.									\$100
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40
Are you suffering from a										
TENSION HEADACHE??										
\$40	Call To see if you qualify for a medication survey. \$40 financial incentive for those chosen to participate									\$40
\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40
\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40
SORE THROAT STUDY										
\$40	Wanted: Individuals ages 18-70 with sore throat pain to participate in a 90 minute study to compare currently available over-the-counter pain relief medication. \$40 incentive to those chosen to participate.									\$40
\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40
\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
ASTHMA STUDY										
\$400	Individuals who have regular asthma to participate in an asthma study. \$400 incentive for those chosen to participate.									\$400
\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$400
\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE STUDY										
\$300	Individuals with high blood pressure either on or off blood pressure medication to participate in a high blood pressure study. \$300 incentive for those chosen to participate.									\$300
\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
FREE STREP THROAT TESTING										
\$100	For individuals 12 years and older with sore throat willing to participate in a study to treat strep throat. Diagnosed strep throat welcome. \$100 incentive for those chosen to participate.									\$100
\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100

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