



WEATHER

FORECAST for THURSDAY:
Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thundershowers in the afternoon. Breezy.
HIGH: 90s LOW: 70s

Group says Legislature needs ethics overhaul

AUSTIN (AP) — Lobbyist-paid vacations for lawmakers and a businessman handing out \$10,000 checks in the Senate chamber show the need to overhaul the Texas Legislature's ethics rules, a public watchdog group said Tuesday.

"Texans are getting the kind of Legislature they pay for," Tom Smith, director of the group Public Citizen, said. "They've got legislators who work part time, who don't pay much attention to the affairs of state because they can't afford to, who have to look to the monied interests and look after the interests of those who give them money," Smith said.

But the public could change the system by boosting lawmakers' salaries from the current \$600 a month and linking that pay raise to reform, Smith said.

"If they want a Legislature that works for them instead of special interests, they've got to ante up and pay the salaries," he said. "They've got to vote in November to raise

salaries — and demand significant reform in campaign finance and lobbying."

A referendum on the November ballot proposes tripling legislators' salaries from

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\$7,200 a year to more than \$23,000. It also would remove the constitutional requirement that voters approve all salary hikes by paying lawmakers 25 percent of the govern-

nor's salary — which the Legislature sets.

Smith suggested that as legislators ask voters for the raise, they should promise to reform the campaign finance system and ethics laws which place no limits on how much lobbyists can spend to wine, dine and take lawmakers on trips.

"I think there ought to be that kind of promise made by legislators around the state," Smith said. "And people should demand an answer from their representatives on whether they're going to vote for some limitations. They need to make it clear they want this system to change."

Another group, Common Cause, also is calling for changes.

Pam Fridrich, that group's executive director, agreed that citizens should tell lawmakers what they think.

"The public needs to be contacting legislators and telling them, 'We want you to disclose this information to us, we want campaign finance reform, and we want you to

be above board with us,'" she said.

In the past two weeks, the Legislature has been embarrassed by two incidents.

In late June, news reports revealed that the Texas State Troopers Association helped pay for a lobbyist-funded ski trip for some lawmakers and gubernatorial aides. The association opposed a bill, eventually vetoed by Gov. Bill Clements, to require police groups to publicly disclose where they spend money raised through telephone solicitations.

Then late last week, two days before a Senate vote on a workers' compensation bill, East Texas millionaire Lonnie "Bo" Pilgrim offered \$10,000 checks to one-fourth the members of the Texas Senate after telling them of his unhappiness with the current workers' comp law.

The checks — with the payee's names left blank — were intended as campaign contributions, said Pilgrim, who distributed several in the Senate chamber while a commit-

tee was meeting there. Most of the nine senators offered the checks rejected or returned them.

Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle said he is investigating. Although lawmakers can't accept campaign contributions during regular legislative session, there is no prohibition during special sessions like that going on now.

Unlike federal law, Texas law places no limits on how much money individuals can donate to political campaigns.

Unlike some other states, Texas also places no limits on how much money lobbyists can spend on legislators. Dinners, drinks, hunting and fishing trips, golf outings at exclusive clubs and other favors are common.

Reports filed with the secretary of state showed that some of the 900 registered lobbyists spent thousands of dollars a month during the regular session on entertainment and gifts for officials.

Protesters of clinics protected by House bill

AUSTIN (AP) — After abortion opponents expressed concern about their right to picket at clinics, the House passed a bill Tuesday to ensure a new "hate crimes" law would not apply to protests unless property is damaged.

The law, approved in the regular session that ended May 29, makes it a felony beginning Sept. 1 to damage or destroy a place of worship or a community center that offers medical, social or education programs to the public.

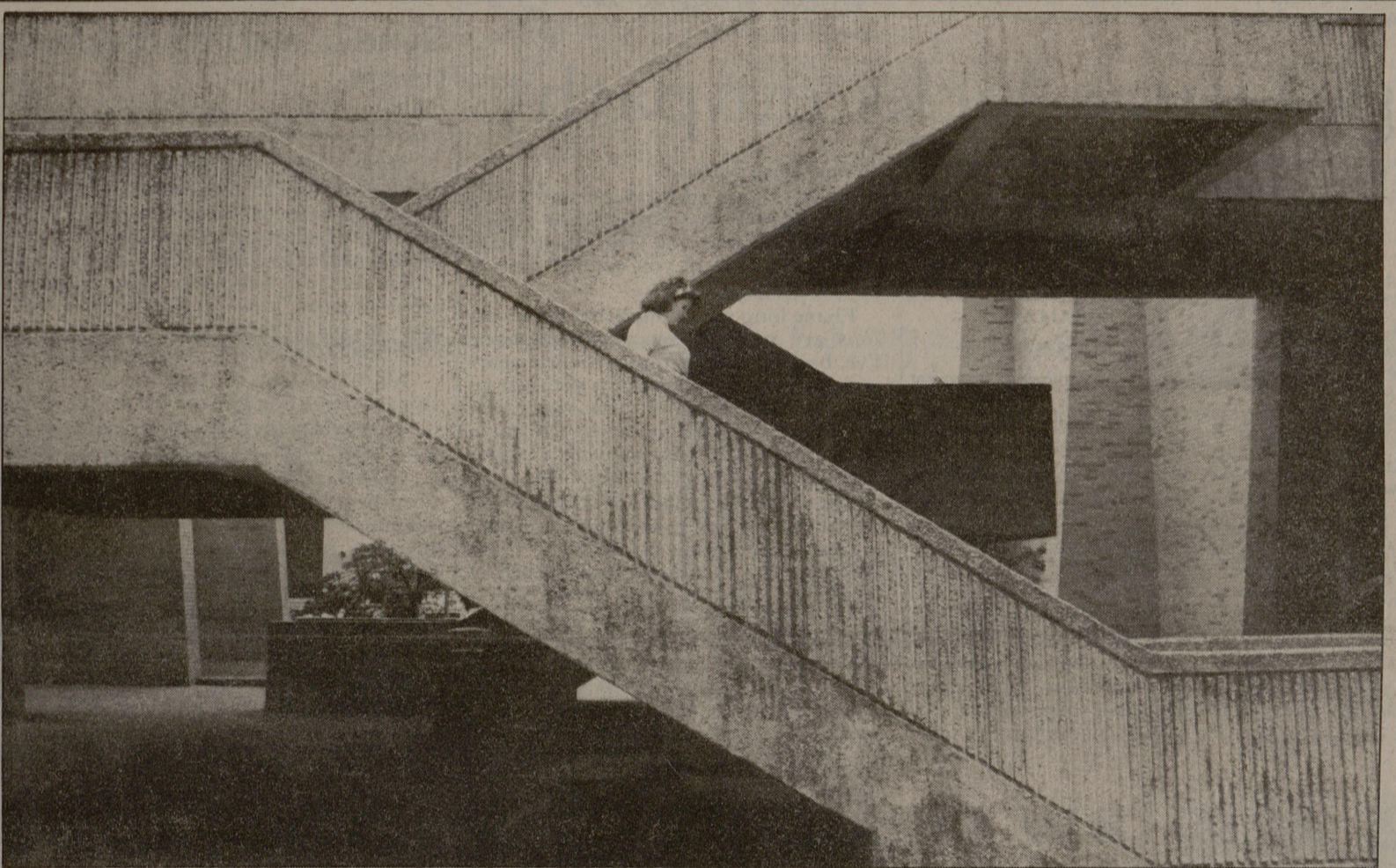
If the damage is less than \$20,000, the maximum punishment is 10 years in prison and a \$5,000 fine.

Greater damage carries a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

Groups afraid that the measure would apply to people who stand outside clinics to discourage abortions, if they cost the clinics money by turning away business, have met with Gov. Bill Clements' staff.

Rep. Steve Wolens said he was told the governor might veto the bill, which was prompted in part by destruction at synagogues by skinheads, if changes were not made in the law.

"The governor was seriously considering vetoing the bill for reasons that had no semblance of legitimacy, in my opinion," Wolens, D-Dallas, said. "People were concerned about ghosts and hobgoblins."



Stairway to Harrington

Ann Raborn, an Educational Administration graduate student from Lafayette, La., takes a walk down the stairs outside of Har-

rington Tower Tuesday afternoon to get something to drink before returning to her job in the building.

Photo by Kathy Haveman

Senate passes A&M, WTSU merger bill

The Senate approved a bill Tuesday to merge West Texas State University with the Texas A&M University System.

The measure was passed by voice vote in the House, with only eight days remaining in the special 30-day legislative session.

The merger would require approval by boards of both institutions and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The bill is non-binding and doesn't require either institution to follow through with the merger.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Teel Bivins, said the benefit to A&M, generally considered a flagship university in Texas, would be that it "is the premier agricultural institution in the world" and West Texas State at Canyon "is located in the center of the production of agriculture in this country."

Sen. Kent Caperton, whose district includes A&M's main campus, said, "I've had certain reservations about the wisdom of this move."

"Are you satisfied that sufficient thought, study, reflection, examination of this proposed merger has taken place . . . ?" asked Caperton, D-Bryan.

Bivins responded that the boards and administration of both schools "have evidenced their support of the concept" of a merger, and faculty and student studies were still going.

A&M business grads with M.B.A., M.S. degrees fare well in job market

By Mia B. Moody
STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M students who obtain graduate business degrees are doing well in the job market, according to statistics released by the College of Business in June.

Students who obtained a Master of Business Administration or Master of Science degree from the business college last year made from \$24,000 to \$50,000, said Dan Robertson, associate dean of academic programs and director of the masters programs of the college.

Robertson said the average salary for a graduate with an M.B.A. is

\$32,533, and with an M.S. degree is \$32,400 per year.

"Higher salaries usually go to students who have job experience either through cooperative programs or internships."

— Dan Robertson, associate dean

Ninety percent of M.B.A. and M.S. recipients from A&M obtained jobs in Texas, he said.

"Sometimes jobs outside of Texas will pay higher salaries, especially in the Southwest," he said. "But this is usually balanced out because the cost of living in Texas is often lower."

Robertson said that according to data from the department's research, internships usually increase salaries for graduates.

"Higher salaries usually go to students who have job experience either through cooperative programs or internships," he said. "Even if students just get a small summer internship, we have found that this helps them in the job market."

Robertson said the data is com-

piled from students who have jobs and report the amount they will be making either to the Placement Center in Rudder Tower or to the College of Business.

"We hope that every student will turn in their salary amount," he said. "Not only does it increase accuracy in our data, but it also helps to increase salaries for other students."

Robertson said salaries can increase for undergraduates because recruiters often ask what average salaries are for A&M graduates and if students have turned in their salary amounts, the statistics are available for the recruiters.

Bush hails Hungary's democratic reforms, nourishes freedom in East-bloc countries

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — President Bush, sped on his way by thousands of cheering Poles, on Tuesday hailed the democratic "reforms and changes" taking root in Hungary as he pursued an extraordinary journey to nourish freedom in communist lands.

"We want to work with Hungary to continue the changes and reforms you are going forward with in your great country," the president told several thousand people who braved the rain to hear his arrival remarks. More thousands lined the streets as Bush's motorcade made its way into the city, just minutes after a storm with hurricane-force winds blew through.

Air Force One brought Bush and the presidential party to Hungary — where Soviet troops once brutally crushed democratic yearnings — after a tumultuous scene in Poland at the birthplace of the Solidarity trade union movement.

"For those who say that freedom can forever be denied, I say let them look at Poland," he told a cheering crowd estimated at 25,000 at a Solida-

riety monument outside the giant Lenin shipyards.

He said the struggles by Poles against the Nazis four decades ago and more recently against suppression of Solidarity had produced "a time when dreams can live again."

"We have sown new seeds," Polish leader Wojciech Jaruzelski told Bush before the president left on his 90-minute flight from one Iron Curtain country to another.

For Bush it was an altogether remarkable day, and one that took him from one Eastern-bloc country where recent elections placed hundreds of opposition members in the parliament to a second where reformers and hard-line communists now share power. Bush's trip served as a counterpoint to Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev's recent visits to West Germany and France.

Like Gorbachev, Bush looked ahead to an opportunity to surmount the 45-year Cold War and "end the division in Europe."

Bush's text for his two-day visit to Hungary

was expected to be similar to Poland, just as the visit was designed to showcase American support for the economic and political change sweeping the nation where Soviets troops once brutally suppressed democratic yearnings.

Bush was understood to be taking to Hungary proposals for improved trade opportunities with the United States, as well as ideas to strengthen cultural and business ties.

In Hungary, as in Poland, Bush's goal was to nudge a Soviet-bloc country toward private enterprise, and the target of his attention was a willing pupil.

Hungary already encourages private entrepreneurs, has a small but energetic stock market, and permits the sort of free speech that the Bush administration sees as going hand-in-glove with capitalism.

Also like Poland, the Hungarians have Soviet troops stationed on their territory. And, like Poland, the president would like to see the forces removed, but has not made a big point of it.

'Perhaps the greatest man of theater ever,' Lord Olivier dies at 82

LONDON (AP) — Laurence Olivier, the foremost actor of a distinguished generation and the man whose Hamlet and Henry V defined Shakespeare for modern mass audiences, died Tuesday at 82.

A rare fusion of superb classical and extraordinary contemporary actor, Olivier was at home in the plays of Shakespeare, Shaw and Chekhov, as well as the movie thriller "Marathon Man" or the TV mini-series "Brideshead Revisited."

Knighted and ennobled, he was Lord Olivier when he died but still plain Laurence Olivier on his stage and screen credits. He also led a distinguished roll call of actor-knights and dames who made British stage and screen history.

The founding father of Britain's National Theater and two-time Academy Award winner was mourned throughout the acting world as the greatest of his time.

"It isn't too much to say that Olivier was perhaps the greatest man of the theater ever," said Sir Peter Hall, who succeeded him as artistic director of the National Theater.

Flags were lowered to half-staff outside the National Theater, and theaters from London's West End to Stratford — the birthplace of Shakespeare — were ordered to dim their exterior lights for an hour Tuesday night in respect.

Death came at his home near Ashurst, a village near Steyning in West Sussex about 50 miles south of London. He had been ill for years, fighting cancer, pleurisy and a muscle disease that made even handshakes agony.

"His last few days were very peaceful," said Richard Olivier,

the 27-year-old son of his third marriage, to Joan Plowright. "He died in his sleep at noon. All the family was at his side."

A private funeral is planned, with a public memorial service in London later.

As an actor, Olivier was renowned for his daring. "However many times you'd seen him, it was probably the most dangerously thrilling moment you'd seen on any stage," actor Jeremy Brett said Tuesday.

He was a tragic film hero in "Wuthering Heights" and portrayed the painful experience of aging in "The Entertainer" on stage and "A Voyage Round My Father" on television.

His genius owed much to a sweeping imagination and attention to detail. To conjure up King Oedipus's unearthly cry of anguish, Olivier said he imagined the sound ermines make when they lick salt laid out by their hunters and their tongues stick to the ice.

His career was highlighted by a triumphant procession of Shakespearean roles, from "Romeo and Juliet" in 1935 and "Hamlet" in 1937 on stage to a TV production of "King Lear" in 1983.

He reached mass audiences with title roles and directors' credits in "Henry V" in 1944, "Hamlet" in 1948, for which he won the Academy Award as best actor, and "Richard III" in 1955. He brought "Othello" to the screen in 1965, a year after playing the jealous Moor on the London stage.

Born May 22, 1907, in Dorking, southwest of London, Laurence Kerr Olivier was the third child of an Anglican clergyman.