

Friday, July 14, 1989

Bill may force teachers to learn about drug abuse

AUSTIN (AP) — Despite protests from several lawmakers complaining of more state mandates, teachers could be required to learn how to help students who are using alcohol or drugs, under a bill approved Thursday by the House.

Rep. Fred Hill, R-Richardson, said many school districts already require that teachers receive training on drug and alcohol abuse.

Hill's bill would allow the State Board of Education to include in its list of in-service training subjects, drug and alcohol workshops for teachers. The total cost of the program statewide would be approximately \$1.3 million, he said.

Rep. Glenn Repp, R-Duncanville, opposed the measure, saying the state was requiring the training, but not willing to pay for it.

"We continue to send mandates down for local taxpayers to pay for," Repp said. He said the cost of the state requirements "affect economic development."

Hill responded, saying drug abuse in schools is "one of the major problems facing our country today and it's a crime if we ignore it."

On a motion to suspend rules for final passage, the vote was 127-7. The bill was sent to the Senate on a non-record vote.

In final action, the House sent to Gov. Bill Clements a bill that would give the Texas Animal Health Commission authority to quarantine exotic fowl in efforts to try and eradicate two kinds of dangerous, foreign ticks.

In other business, the House gave tentative approval to a bill that would prohibit juries from recommending probation for persons convicted of selling drugs to a minor.

The House also appointed a conference committee to negotiate with Senate conferees on a bill to create a four-year university in Killeen.

Lobbyists spend \$1.8 million on lawmakers

Paper finds \$12,800 a day in gifts, vacations, entertainment for Texas legislators

AUSTIN (AP) — Lobbyists doled out more than \$12,800 a day during the regular legislative session to pay for entertainment and gifts for Texas lawmakers, a newspaper's study showed Thursday.

In a copyright report, the *Austin American-Statesman* said this year's largest followed lobbyist spending of \$1.35 million in 1988 — a year when the Legislature wasn't even in session.

The money purchased food and drinks at exclusive clubs, golf outings, hunting and fishing trips and expensive vacations.

Key lawmakers skied in Utah, vac-

ationed in Acapulco, visited Washington and rode the high-speed trains of Europe. Money was lavished on everything from power lunches at private clubs to celebrations for a lawmaker's wedding anniversary and his wife's birthday, the newspaper said.

When the special session ends this summer, many lawmakers will depart for a series of conferences for legislators around the country. The state will pay for most of that, but lobbyists will accompany them to help underwrite the entertainment.

"There's more trips offered than you can possibly go on," said state

Rep. Jim Rudd, D-Brownfield, chairman of the powerful House Appropriations Committee, which writes the state budget.

The *American-Statesman* said Rudd made the Utah skiing trip, spoke at a conference in Hawaii, inspected West Germany's high-speed train and shot numerous rounds of golf on lobbyists' tabs.

"If I were home, I'd go out and play nine holes and then go home to my wife and kids," said Rudd. "They're not here, so my entertainment is with the people here. I don't

see anything wrong with it."

According to records filed with the secretary of state, there were 808 lobbyists registered for the 140-day regular session.

From January through May of this year, they spent \$1.8 million on legislative entertainment and gifts — plus \$427,357 on advertising and direct mailings about their issues of interest.

The disparity between legislators' and lobbyists' salaries helps justify taking the gifts, said some legislators, who are paid \$7,200 a year

for their part-time public service.

"The lobbyists are down here making \$200,000 or \$300,000 a year, and so it won't hurt them to pay for some of these extra things," said Rep. Keith Oakley, D-Terrell.

More than a third of the total spent on entertainment and gifts came from just 26 lobbyists, primarily those representing big business interests and trial lawyers.

The spending totaled more than \$9,900 per legislator — if the money was spread evenly among all 181 House and Senate members.

Hobby, Lewis say workers' comp vote will be this weekend

AUSTIN (AP) — House and Senate leaders Thursday made a date this weekend to approve a workers' compensation bill and send it to Gov. Bill Clements for his consideration.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and House Speaker Gib Lewis said their chambers will vote Saturday or Sunday on the measure that is being hammered out in a House-Senate conference committee.

"I hate to mess up anyone's weekend," Lewis, D-Fort Worth, told House members, but he said a lost weekend was worth the price if legislators could finish workers' comp.

Lawmakers have been battling over the method of compensating workers injured in on-the-job accidents since January and currently are in special session after failing to reach an agreement during the 140-day regular session.

Under the proposed agreement, disputed comp claims could be appealed to state district court, but out-of-court settlements would have to be approved by the administrative

workers' compensation commission.

In addition, a joint House-Senate panel would oversee the formation of a benefits schedule; and employers would not be required to purchase comp insurance. The maximum weekly benefit check for an injured worker would increase from \$238 to \$416, under the agreement.

Society goes nuts over A&M prof's paper

The American Society for Horticultural Science went nuts for a Texas A&M pecan physiology assistant professor's paper.

Dr. Robert Marquard, at the A&M Agricultural and Extension Center in El Paso, has been awarded the ASHS Fruit Publication Award for "Outcrossing Rates in Pecans and the Potential for Increased Yield."

"I am elated and surprised to receive this award," Marquard said. "I'm especially glad that A&M was able to receive recognition for research at an off-campus location."

The paper, published in the *Journal of the American Society for Horticultural Science*, documented the success of pollination in a pecan orchard.

"We were able to say something about pollination dis-

tance and how it affects nut quality," he said. "We are working to optimize pollination and nut yield."

Marquard, a native of Olmstead, Ohio, received his bachelor of science from Ohio State University. He received his Ph.D. in 1983 from Michigan State University, then began his current position at the Texas A&M Research Center.

The ASHS has more than 5,000 members, including research educators, scientists and other professional horticulturists in the United States and 80 other countries.

Marquard and other awardees will be honored July 31 in Tulsa, Okla., during the 1989 ASHS annual meeting.

By Holly Beeson

STAFF WRITER

Freshman Summer Conferences at Texas A&M help incoming freshmen and transfer students get acquainted with Aggieland, make new friends and learn about academics and extracurricular activities.

Thirteen conferences are available each summer. Each two-day orientation includes a variety of activities for prospective students as well as mom and dad.

While students are separated into two groups for on- and off-campus

housing orientation, parents learn what life might be like for their children at A&M.

Each conference includes meeting with deans, and a special session for those interested in participating in the Corps of Cadets.

For students not enrolling in the Corps, a separate student life presentation is available.

The evening is reserved for a student peer advisor program while parents attend a reception at the Clayton Williams Alumni Center.

The last event of the first day is a mixer at Sbsa Dining Hall. This get-together includes a question-and-an-

swer session about registration procedures.

The second day consists of a financial aid presentation and a meeting with an academic dean or advisor of the students' college.

Kurt Hoehstetter, an incoming freshman journalism major, said his favorite part of the conference was the mixer.

"It was a good chance to meet people and talk to other incoming freshmen," he said.

Although Hoehstetter was already familiar with A&M, he said he learned more about Aggie traditions.

"The conference gives you a good overview of A&M," he said.

This summer's two remaining conferences are scheduled for July 17 and 18, and July 30 for incoming freshman and transfer students, respectively.

Correction

The Battalion incorrectly reported in Thursday's Entertainment section the starting time for the KANM Benefit at Brazos Landing this Saturday. The show starts at approximately 8 p.m.

The Battalion regrets the error.

FAMOUS FIRSTS



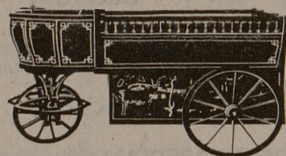
FIRST AIRPLANE

The Wright Brothers began experimenting with kites in the 1890's and in 1903 became the first to sustain flight for 852 feet over the beach at Kitty Hawk.



FIRST LOVE

She was the only one who didn't laugh when you fell off the jungle gym and broke your leg. She even let you win at checkers. What a woman!



FIRST CAR

The world's first motor car, the Lenoir, named after its inventor, ran at an average speed of 4 miles per hour. In 1863 the 1 1/2 horsepower vehicle made its first drive of 6 miles in only 3 hours.



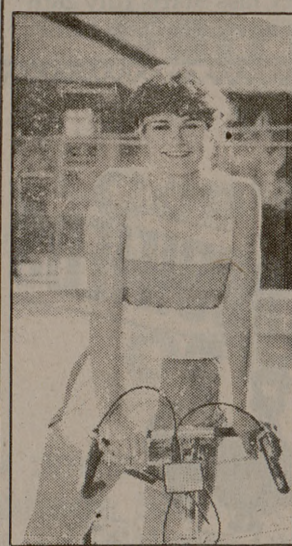
UNIVERSITY TOWER

It's time to introduce another Famous First, University Tower. In August, the privately-owned and managed property will open as a dormitory. At University Tower you'll find 24-hour on-site security, a huge bedroom and private bath, full meal plans, an exercise and weight room, study rooms & computer room, an indoor pool, a sport-court, a volleyball pit, laundry facilities, housekeeping service, and a shuttle bus to campus. It's the first and only dorm of its kind at A&M. Call or come by for leasing information for Fall/Spring '89-'90!

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Friday, July 14
9:00 PM at The Grove

FREE!

Bring your friends and enjoy a great movie, popcorn, soft drinks, snow cones, or fresh Texas A & M Creamery Ice Cream!

Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at the Grove.