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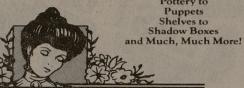
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The Battalion

# Suit: Higher education system deprives Hispanics of equality

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — An state attorney, fighting a lawsuit against Texas' higher education system, argued Thursday that shifting university resources from other areas to the Mexican border region would harm as many Hispanics as

Most Mexican-Americans in Texas do not live along the border, Kevin O'Hanlon, an assistant state attorney general, said in a hearing to deter-mine whether the plaintiffs suing the state consti-

The suit filed in 1987 alleges discrimination against Mexican-American students in "programs of admission, retention, financial assiscance and allocation of resources in its undergraduate, graduate and professional programs." It seeks to have the court declare the Texas system of higher education unconstitutional and

On the issues of alleged inequitable distribution of programs and resources, the plaintiffs cited a 38-county region running from El Paso to

Brownsville and including San Antonio. 'What about the other Hispanic students in

the state?" O'Hanlon asked, and cited the large

Hispanic populations in Houston and Dallas.
Thursday marked the third hearing since
April on the issue of class certification.
Six Hispanic organizations and 22 students are
listed as plaintiffs in the suit.

O'Hanlon challenged how the 22 student plaintiffs with varying goals and problems fit into the same class.

Attorneys for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, representing the plaintiffs, argued that the border area traditionally has suffered from a shortage of higher edu-

"This area, the border, is the Mexican-American area of the state," Albert Kauffman, a MAL-DEF attorney, said.

He contended that more than half of the state's Hispanic population lives along the border and that university funding decisions "have consistently discriminated against the border area."

O'Hanlon questioned why the plaintiffs included San Antonio among border areas that allegedly have suffered from a lack of university

funding and professional programs, when city has a state-funded medical school and

Friday, October 19, 19

vanced engineering program.
State District Judge Gilberto Hinojos questioned how students in San Antonio con into a class that has suffered the allegations

Kauffman told the judge it is because San tonio is part of the contiguous border areas more than 40 percent Hispanic and that per pita spending per college student is lower in Antonio than in the Austin area and other of central Texas.

"You have to look at the entire system,"

He cited the Legislature's decision this ye make the University of Texas at Dallas a year school, despite an already existing dance of university programs in north Text typical of decisions discriminating against

O'Hanlon, defending the state, argued the same amounts are spent per student for same courses in all areas of the state.

# Parents claim band forced to play at rally

Tech High School band students were told their grades were in jeopardy if they didn't perform at a gubernatorial campaign rally for Attor-ney General Jim Mattox, their parents said.

But school officials insist the band's performance was voluntary. "I'd say basically it's just a misunderstanding," band director Arnold

SAN ANTONIO (AP) - Fox Garza said. "It was definitely volun-

tary."
Maria Esparza, Julia Rocha and another parent who asked not to be identified said their children were told 15 points would be deducted from their band grades if they did not perform at the political event, the San Antonio Express-News reported Thursday.

The rally last week was one of sev-

eral Mattox held throughout Texas as he formally kicked off his Democratic gubernatorial campaign.
A Mattox official said the cam-

paign was unaware of any strings attached to the welcome.

"If the school says the incident didn't happen, we trust that it did not," Steve Levine, spokesman for Mattox's campaign, said.

attox's campaign, said.

"We were quite pleased to have \_ threaten their grades."

Levine said. "They not only adde the festivity of the occasion, but added in a small way to demoring Jim Mattox's commitment

proving public education in Ter Esparza said, "The directo her (daughter) she had to go. It rible to force the children to g

# Banking rule threatens to close 20 Texas banks now considered solvent

WASHINGTON (AP) — A pending federal banking rule could hit Southwest institutions especially hard, forcing them to close before they've exhausted their capital.

About 20 Texas banks now considered solvent would be deemed broke and targeted for closing under the new regulation from the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency, administrator of national banks. Those institutions no longer could prop themselves up solely with loan-loss reserves, money set aside to cover bad loans, the *Dallas Morning News* reported.

Banks instead must retain equity capital under the rule change, expected to take force by the end of November.

"We're really moving into an era where equity capital is the most imcomptroller Robert L.

The change could prove significant for BancTexas Dallas, the lead bank of Dallas-based BancTexas Group Inc. With assets of \$450 million, BancTexas Dallas ranks as the largest of the Texas institutions that would be considered insolvent with the rule change, according to June 30 data filed with federal regulators.

Managers of BancTexas, the first of the state's large holding compa-nies rescued with government assis-tance, have already acknowledged the company needs additional federal help. BancTexas has continued to suffer losses after its 1987 bailout because the company retained its

The company also holds significant loan-loss reserves that had kept its lead bank above water.

The pending rule change may signal a deadline for the company to secure additional aid before the government moves to close the bank and sell it to new investors. Outside bidders, including Hibernia Corp. of New Orleans, have expressed interest in acquiring BancTexas with aid from the Federal Deposit Insurance

BancTexas officials said their application for additional aid remains before the FDIC and declined to make further comment

## In Advance

#### Graduate student conference begins tonight

The Southcentral Regional sociation of Graduate and Professional Students will begin tonight and last until Sunday.

Tammy Tobin, a member of the Graduate Student Council, said graduate student organizations from schools in Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas will meet to discuss issues involving graduate students.

Sessions on Saturday morning will include talks about current tax laws, the taxation and student aid legislation presently in Congress and computer networking

Kevin Buchman, Texas A&Mstu dent body president, discussing undergraduate relations, and Tina Watkins, A&M's Interna tional Students Association a viser, focusing on issues involving international students. Tobin said anyone is welcome

to attend the sessions.

Graduate students can register for the reception and the meal that come with the conference to day at the Comfort Inn from 5t

The reception will begin at tonight in 510 Rudder.

#### Brazos Valley Museum sponsors fossil hunt

The Brazos Valley Museum will sponsor a fossil hunt Saturday at the Stone City formation on the Brazos River. The Brazos Valley Fossil Hunt will be led by Dr. Tom Yancey of the Texas A&M geology department and Randy Smith of the museum.

Smith said that many marine fossils have been found at the site, near Highway 21, because the Brazos Valley was underwater

about 70 million years ago.
"We've found fossilized sharks'

weeth and sea snells and other a

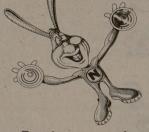
sorted marine fossils," Smith said Smith said that the hunt will be in the same area where A&Mg ologists and anthropologists have found ice age animals.

Tools will be provided for the

trip, and Yancey will give a brie explanation of the expedition site. The fee for the trip is \$8 for museum members and \$10 for non-members

For additional informati contact the Brazos Valley Mu seum at 776-2195.

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