

Thursday, November 16, 1989

## Groups strive for regulation of lobbyists

AUSTIN (AP) — Expenditures for entertainment and gifts by the biggest-spending lobbyists at the Texas Legislature topped \$250,000 in the four months following the May 31 end of the 140-day regular legislative session.

Public interest groups Wednesday said such spending shows the continuing need for tighter regulations on lobbyists' giving to lawmakers.

"We have to continue to press for some kind of limitations," said Pam Fridrich, executive director of Common Cause of Texas. "It's just too uneven when some folks can spend thousands of dollars on lawmakers."

Reports filed with the secretary of state by the 25 lobbyists who led the spending list during the regular session last spring showed them spend-

ing at least \$252,758 on entertainment and gifts during the period from June 1 to Sept. 30, an Associated Press survey found.

That spending total is conservative. Many of the lobbyists haven't yet filed the report covering the three-month period ending Sept. 30, and the tally doesn't include the hundreds of other, smaller-spending lobbyists.

The four months since the Legislature's May 31 adjournment included a 30-day special session in June and July but no other sessions of the full Legislature.

Fridrich said she wasn't surprised at the spending pace, although lob-

byists' giving has been highly publicized in Texas since last spring.

"Lobbyists are just trying to do their jobs," she said. "And right now, there's no one to require them to keep their expenditures down. And if that includes customarily spending money on meals and entertainment (for lawmakers), then they're going to do that."

Tom Smith, of the group Public Citizen, said that high-powered interests were involved in the June-July special session which — like the one which convened Tuesday — was called to overhaul the workers' compensation insurance system.

"One of the big drivers in the last

regular and special sessions was workers' comp . . . and that's where the big business dollars and trial lawyer dollars meet," Smith said.

During the regular session, more than 800 registered lobbyists reported spending \$1.86 million to wine and dine lawmakers, and take them on trips, according to a survey by the *Austin American-Statesman*. More than one-third of that total was spent by just 26 lobbyists, primarily those representing business interests and trial lawyers, the newspaper said.

Since then, both the House and Senate have appointed special committees to study lobby spending,

campaign contributions and other ethics issues.

Gov. Bill Clements, who controls the current special session's agenda, said he wouldn't put an ethics overhaul before lawmakers. But an aide said Wednesday that Clements would consider adding to the agenda some "fine-tuning" changes in the law.

Sen. Bob McFarland, R-Arlington, and Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, this week said they are drafting legislation that could close some loopholes and impose some stricter standards on lobby spending.

## NSF speaker talks about competition

### Meier discusses future of world powers

By Selina Gonzalez

Of The Battalion Staff

Students are the most effective method of transferring technological information that universities have, Dr. W.L. Meier of the National Science Foundation said.

Meier presented "People: The Critical Factor in Economic Competitiveness," Wednesday as part of the E.L. Miller Lecture Series "Tomorrow's Technology Today." The series is sponsored by MSC Political Forum and Union Carbide.

Meier discussed the issue of competitiveness, the availability of people in science and engineering and the economic competitive powers of the United States in the future.

World markets and market shares, as well as purchasing power, have been lost, Meier said, and the standard of living has decreased.

"We are in a generation of our population for whom the American Dream is not a reality," Meier said. "The American Dream has always been (passing) on to your children a life and a standard of living that is better than the one you were born into."

"We are in a period of profound instability in which the balance of world power is being redistributed," Meier said. The free world is reshaping itself just as the Soviet bloc, who was the last major holding of power, is being broken up, he said.

Meier said there have been structural changes in the world of economic competition. In the

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## Fraternity will run ball from Austin

The Delta Upsilon fraternity bid for, and won, one of the game balls from the Texas A&M and University of Texas football game and plans to use it as an opportunity to raise money for the pediatric unit at St. Joseph hospital in Bryan.

About 25 members of the fraternity will run the game ball from Austin to Kyle Field on Nov. 25 and 26. Delta Upsilon is soliciting donations this week at a table in the MSC and next week in the Blocker building.

The fraternity's goal is to raise \$3,000 to help redecorate the pediatric wing of St. Joseph.

Two memberships to Gold's Gym will be given away in a raffle to anyone who donates at least \$2.50 and St. Joseph will provide medical emergency bracelets for students who donate \$10 and non-students who give \$25 or more. The bracelets contain microfilm on which emergency medical information is stored.

## Salvation Army needs donations of time

By Cindy McMillian

Of The Battalion Staff

The traditional Salvation Army Christmas kettle depends on more than donations of money — donations of time also are critical for its success.

Travis Bryan Jr., chairman of the Bryan-College Station service unit of the Salvation Army, is looking for volunteers to work the kettle for a day. Civic clubs, professional organizations or student organizations

could have members take two-hour shifts and collect money, he said.

"If we get enough groups involved, we could present a plaque to the group that raises the most money," he said.

Volunteers are needed on the Saturdays between Thanksgiving and Christmas to ring a bell and thank people for dropping donations into a kettle.

Collections are especially important this year because the Army's funds have been cut. Reyburn Ruhl, a service unit field representative

said. The group has received funds from United Way in the past, he said, but this year was allotted a much smaller amount.

The group has no specific goal for Bryan-College Station, he said, but is hoping to raise enough to cover annual programs.

Local Salvation Army projects include sending children to summer camp and providing medicine for needy individuals. Last year, medical aid and more than \$4,000 of medical prescriptions were provided in this area, Ruhl said.

## ACS says 155,000 Americans will get lung cancer

By Pam Mooman

Of The Battalion Staff

It's a matter of life and death.

In 1989, it's estimated that 155,000 Americans of all ages will develop lung cancer, said Richard Stein, senior field representative for the Brazos Unit of the American Cancer Society. Only 13,000 of those diagnosed will survive, he said.

The American Cancer Society said cigarettes are a major cause of lung cancer. Overall, smoking is responsible for 85 percent of lung cancer cases, Stein said. However, cigarettes are not the sole cause.

"Smoking is the largest cause of lung cancer,"

Stein said. "(But) there's lots of different causes."

According to the American Cancer Society, exposure to asbestos increases the risk of developing lung cancer, especially for smokers. Asbestos exposure combined with smoking makes developing lung cancer 60 times more likely.

Exposure to radiation also increases the risk. Radiation comes in the form of X-rays, although most are adjusted to deliver the lowest possible radiation dosage. Radon in homes is also a potential source of radiation exposure.

Involuntary smoking is another big risk factor for developing lung cancer. Several scientific studies, including one by the American Cancer Society, show that breathing smoke from someone else's cigarette is just as dangerous as first-

hand smoking.

"If you live with somebody who smokes, you can very easily develop lung cancer," Stein said.

Lung cancer mortality rates are so high because the disease is very difficult to detect in its early stages, Stein said. According to the American Cancer Society, however, if a smoker quits while the disease is still in early precancerous cell stages, the bronchial lining often returns to normal.

The American Cancer Society listed several warning signals for lung cancer. A persistent cough, sputum streaked with blood, chest pain and recurring cases of pneumonia or bronchitis could indicate lung cancer.

## Move up in the world.

University Tower is now accepting a limited number of leases for the spring semester. Also, it's not too early to call to obtain a priority reservation number for the TAMU 1990/91 Academic Year Lease at University Tower (the actual number of spaces available, after determining vacancies, will not be known until January 19, 1990).

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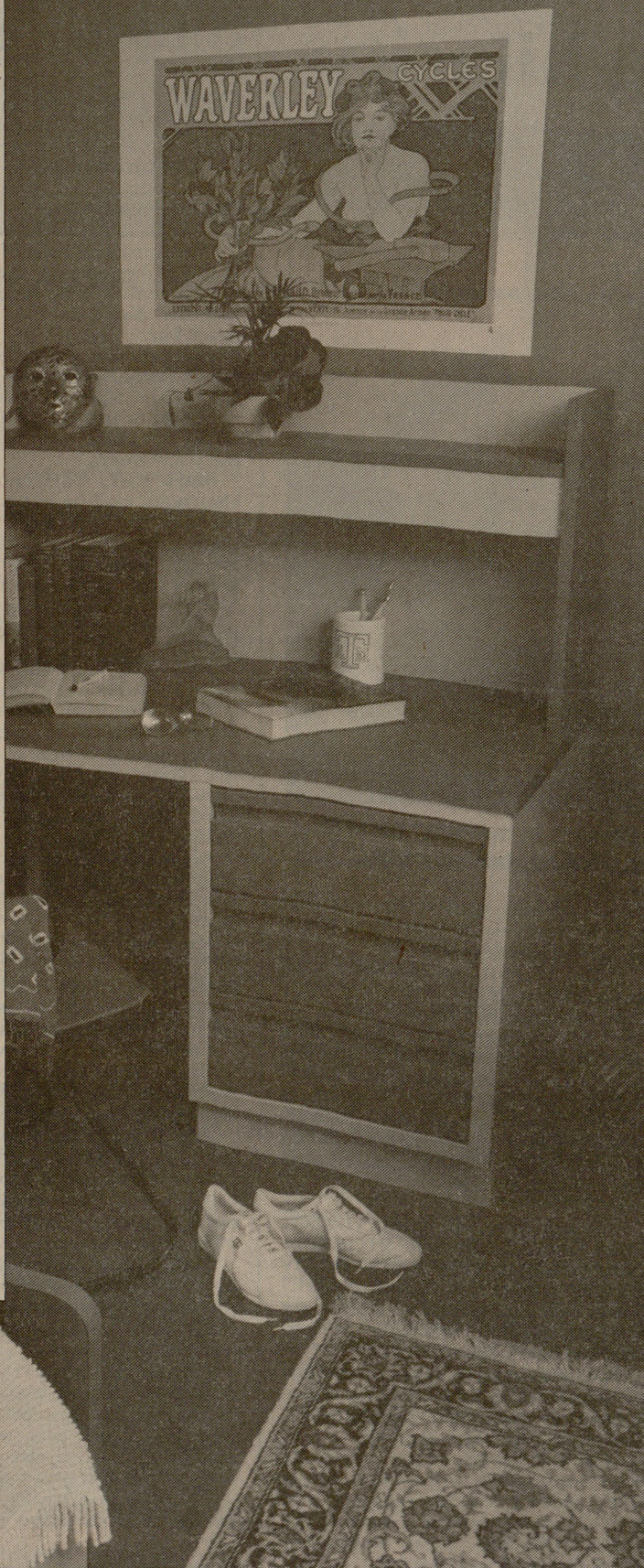
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