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# Lecturer shares King's dream

## Moses forms non-violence committee

By Katherine Coffey  
*The Battalion*



"But true non-violence is more than the absence of violence, it is the persistent and determined application of peaceable power to offenses against the community."

Martin Luther King

A non-violent action committee at Texas A&M is one University lecturer's way to keep Dr. Martin Luther King's dream alive.

Greg Moses, a lecturer in the philosophy department, is starting a campus organization which he hopes will increase awareness of King's civil rights work and the Martin Luther King Center in Atlanta.

Moses says King's beliefs and the center named after him emphasize the importance of non-violence and its role in gaining equality for all people.

"The more I get to know about the King Center and non-violence, the more I want to share the philosophy and the approach with people in Texas," Moses says.

Moses, who has volunteered at the King Center since 1986, says non-violence — as a philosophy and skill — is crucial to the development of tomorrow's leaders.

Moses says the people who worked with King decided they



JAY JANNER/The Battalion

Greg Moses, a lecturer in the philosophy department, is starting an action committee at A&M to increase awareness of Martin Luther King's philosophy of non-violence.

would begin working in 1969 to preserve his legacy. Since then, King's followers

have started services and lobbied to continue the slain civil rights leader's dreams.

Moses says three A&M students attended the sixth annual King Week in Atlanta to help raise awareness for the A&M organization.

Each student received funds from different sponsors in the Department of Student Services.

"My hope is that the three Aggies who attended the conference will be the first of many exchanges between College Station and Atlanta," he says. "My dream is that the A&M community can serve as an example for other communities in Texas to show that the non-violent approach to social problems can build a healthy community."

Moses says A&M needs to re-emphasize the role it plays in developing leadership for the state, country and world.

He says non-violent solutions should be considered important for future leaders.

Moses, who received his undergraduate in philosophy and masters in English from A&M, says he hopes to get a coordination committee for non-violence started next week. The first meeting is at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

"If a dozen people show up next week with a commitment to this cause, then I'll be happy," he says.

However, before things change people need to realize conservative atmospheres like the A&M campus often hinder the philosophy of non-violence, Moses says.

"This kick ass mentality such as 'beat the hell' is an aspect of Aggie culture that reinforces violent habits," Moses says.

Even the military views violence as a last resort, he says.

Within military tradition, non-violence is always the preferred solution, Moses says.

Communities could use non-violent training and intervention as solutions for their problems, he says. A&M could look for more non-violent solutions, he says.

# Senate OKs 'Robin Hood' plan

## Reform shifts tax dollars to poor school districts

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Senate approved a "Robin Hood" school finance reform plan Wednesday that would shift hundreds of millions of dollars in local property tax revenue from rich to poor school districts.

"What we have done basically is created a new system of public school finance that gives every child in Texas access to the same amount of property wealth for his or her education," said Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur.

When fully implemented in four years, Parker's bill would take an estimated \$481 million a year in local property tax money from wealthy school districts and spend it in poor ones.

The legislation, sent to the House on a 20-7 vote, is in response to a Texas Supreme Court order requiring the state to equitably fund poor school districts.

The \$14 billion-a-year school finance system declared unconstitutional by the court relies on state aid, local property taxes and some federal money.

The wealthiest school district in Texas draws funds from a local property tax base that is about 450 times greater than the poorest district, creating disparities, said a bill

**"What we have done basically is created a new system of public school finances that gives every child in Texas access to the same property wealth for his or her education."**

— Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur

analysis.

Under Parker's bill, local property tax money would be redistributed among school districts within 20 taxing regions.

The regions would be created to get around a constitutional ban on shifting local property tax money among school districts statewide. The taxing regions would not be necessary if a separate constitutional amendment were approved removing the ban.

Every school district would be required to impose local property taxes at a minimum rate, and money raised above a certain amount would be given to the state for redistribu-

tion. The minimum tax rate would start at 70 cents per \$100 property valuation, climbing to \$1 in 1995.

School districts could tax above the minimum rate for construction or to enrich programs. When fully implemented, the bill would cap the total local property tax at about \$1.61, with each school district generally receiving the same amount of money at a particular tax rate.

The bill requires \$1.2 billion in additional state spending over the next two years.

"It's going to take quite a bit of money just to implement the equity features of education in Texas," said Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, who hailed Parker's bill as "the finest piece of legislation that's been passed in the Texas Legislature in its history."

Gov. Ann Richards said, "I have been concerned that the process was not moving along, and I'm very, very pleased that they did take action ... The important thing is to meet that court deadline."

Lawmakers face an April 1 Supreme Court deadline to devise a school finance reform plan or face an order to cut off state public education funds.

# Committee reviews ethics bill on lobbyist

AUSTIN (AP) — A Senate ethics committee has passed an ethics bill that would, among other things, require lobbyists to disclose their

The Senate State Affairs Subcommittee on Elections and Ethics Wednesday passed the measure to the full committee on a 5-0 vote.

The bill, sponsored by Sen. B. Glasgow, D-Stephenville, would limit lawmakers' honoraria; prohibit most lobbyist-paid trips for legislators; and forbid state regulators from accepting transportation and entertainment from the industries they regulate.

The measure would also mandate that lobbyists who represent clients with conflicting legislative agendas reveal that to the clients; and set a limit on the worth of gifts lobbyists are allowed to give lawmakers.

The subcommittee also approved a resolution calling for a constitutional amendment creating a senior member, bi-partisan ethics commission.

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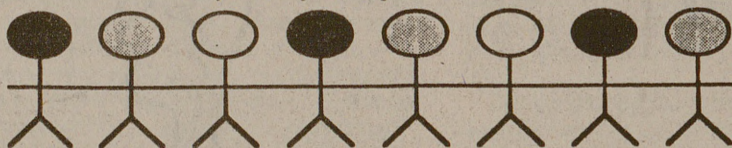
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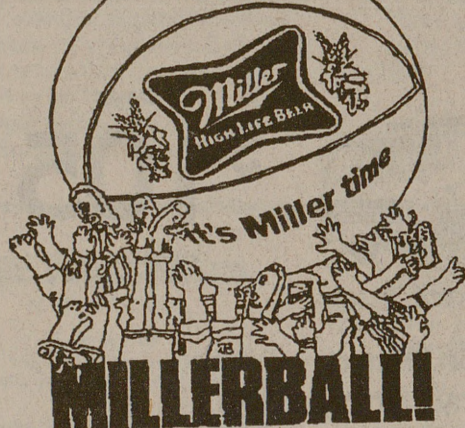
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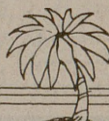
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