



Get out the vote

DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Preston Knight, a biomedical science major from Dallas, examines campaign signs Monday in front of the MSC for student elections. The elections will be held on Mar. 27 and 28.

House prepares for budget debate

Congressmen discuss increasing state taxes

AUSTIN (AP) — House leaders are ready in this regular session to consider a two-year state budget and, if necessary, a tax increase to fund it, Speaker Gib Lewis said Monday.

Lewis said he doesn't want to wait until a summer special session, as Gov. Ann Richards has suggested.

The state faces an estimated \$4.6 billion budget shortfall through fiscal years 1992-1993.

If new taxes are needed, Lewis said, he would support revamping the franchise tax for businesses, which might mean a corporate income tax.

There is support for such a change in the business community, he said.

Lewis said he also would likely favor increasing the state sales tax rate, currently 6 3/4 percent, to as much as 7 percent, and broadening the sales tax rate to include services.

The speaker said he had not yet talked to Richards about the plan. Her staff did not immediately return a telephone call from the Associated Press.

The governor earlier said she expected a summer special session to deal with the budget, after

state agency audits are complete and a tax study committee makes recommendations by July 1.

"I don't think time affords us to wait that long," Lewis said. "If you do have to pass a tax bill, you would lose a great amount of tax if you pass a tax bill in May versus passing a tax bill in August."

"We will press forward and try to have a budget, and if we require a tax bill, we'll have a tax bill this session," he said.

Lewis estimated the state agency audits would save the state perhaps \$200 million.

"That's less than half a percent of the budget," Lewis, D-Fort Worth, said. "That much falls through the cracks sometimes."

Lewis met with Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock, who also supported waiting to write a budget, said Rafe Greenlee, Bullock's press secretary. The lieutenant governor wants to see the House plan in detail before commenting on it, Greenlee said.

Bullock has said he will campaign for a corporate and personal income tax to pay for needed state services.

But Lewis said most committee heads believe there are fewer than 40 votes in the 150-member House for a personal income tax.

Conference hosts female leaders

AUSTIN (AP) — Several of the original leaders of the national women's movement will gather in Austin this weekend to talk about the past and look to the future.

The daylong conference was conceived by Liz Carpenter, author and former aide to Lady Bird Johnson, who decided to use the 20-year anniversary of the founding of the National Women's Political Caucus to bring together "front-line" lead-

ers of the women's movement.

"We were guinea pigs — and in some ways, we still are," said Carpenter. "I don't think today's young women really know how much effort went into it."

Among those scheduled to participate in Saturday's conference at the University of Texas are: author Betty Friedan; U.S. Rep. Pat Schroeder; former television newswoman Linda Ellerbee; writer and former television commentator Shana Alexander;

lawyer Sarah Weddington, who won the landmark Roe vs. Wade abortion case, and Jill Ruckelshaus, former caucus president and former White House special assistant for women's affairs.

"Every one of the participants is a role model — the conference will be an invaluable experience and serve as a guideline for women to make a better world," Kozmetsky said.

Texas traffic deaths decline

AUSTIN (AP) — Traffic fatalities in Texas fell to a 14-year low in 1990, due in part to mandatory seat belt and motorcycle helmet laws, the Department of Public Safety reported Monday.

The DPS said 3,243 people died on Texas roads, a 3.5 percent drop from the 3,361 deaths recorded in 1989.

"Not since 1976 have traffic fatalities been this low in Texas," said Col. Joe Milner, DPS director. "In 1981, by way of comparison, 4,701 persons lost their lives in Texas traffic accidents."

The 1990 traffic death decrease

was the fifth in the last six years, he said.

In addition, for the first time, the traffic death rate fell to two deaths per 100 million vehicle miles traveled in Texas. That was a 4.8 percent decrease from the 1989 rate, Milner said.

As in the past, the leading cause of traffic deaths was alcohol or other drug-related accidents.

During 1990, 1,402 people died in accidents involving intoxication. That amounted to 43 percent of all fatalities, Milner said.

"One of the factors in the 1990 decrease in traffic deaths is clearly the motorcycle helmet law," the DPS director said. "Motorcycle fatalities were down 19 percent, from 243 deaths in 1989 to 197 deaths in 1990."

Milner said studies now indicate that helmet use under the state helmet law has reached 98 percent.

Another key factor in lowering the traffic toll was the state's mandatory seat belt law, he said.

Here's YOUR chance to be in the

Aggieland!

There are a lot of old Ag stories that are entertaining, but we want to hear what's happened to you or your friends while attending A&M.

Just complete the sentence below and return to 230 Reed McDonald by Friday, March 29.

Here are the topics we're looking for:

- Classroom Capers
- Dorm Pranks
- Corps Trips
- Corps Capers
- Yell Practice Pranks
- Campus Stunts
- Off-Campus Stunts
- Construction Comments
- Parking Peeves
- Greatest Moments in Sports
- Greatest Moments at A&M
- Other: _____

"I'll never forget the time when..."

Name: _____ Classification: _____

SS#: _____ Phone #: _____

* The Aggieland reserves the right to edit all quotes.

Loose Diamonds

30 Day Money Back Guarantee

Rounds		Ovals	
Weight	Price	Weight	Price
2.34	\$6627 ⁵⁰	1.51	\$3629 ²⁰
1.64	Sold 3690 ⁰⁰	1.09	Sold 1019 ⁰⁰
1.01	3130 ²⁵	.70	1350 ⁰⁰
.92	Sold 2327 ⁶⁶	.58	1276 ⁰⁰
.92	1797 ⁵⁰	.57	1254 ⁰⁰
.90	1485 ⁰⁰	.55	1210 ⁰⁰
.78	1628 ⁰⁰	.30	300 ⁰⁰
.78	1031 ⁵⁵		
.70	1649 ⁰⁰		
.68	1496 ⁰⁰		
.60	1075 ⁰⁰		
.53	850 ⁰⁰		
.50	1450 ⁰⁰		
.50	Sold 950 ⁰⁰		
.50	440 ⁰⁰		
.47	1150 ⁰⁰		
.43	750 ⁰⁰		
.40	395 ⁰⁰		
.34	550 ⁰⁰		

Certified Rounds with EGL Certificates		Pear Shapes	
Weight	Price	Weight	Price
.54 F/VS1	\$1998 ⁰⁰	1.00	\$3100 ²⁵
.56 F/VVS1	2688 ⁰⁰	1.00	2340 ⁰⁰
.57 G/VVS2	2109 ⁰⁰	.77	1750 ⁰⁰
.57 G/VVS1	2394 ⁰⁰	.47	900 ⁰⁰
.57 F/VVS2	2736 ⁰⁰	.40	572 ⁰⁰

Emerald Cut		Radiant Cut	
Weight	Price	Weight	Price
.86	\$3050 ⁰⁰	.53	\$1495 ⁰⁰
.72	1900 ⁰⁰		

Marquise Cut		Aggie Rings	
Weight	Price	Weight	Price
1.00	\$3099 ²⁵	.05/.06	\$45 ⁰⁰
.79	Sold 1738 ⁰⁰	.08	60 ⁰⁰
.73	2250 ⁰⁰	.13	105 ⁰⁰
.72	2175 ⁰⁰	.15	125 ⁰⁰
.47	980 ⁰⁰	.20	195 ⁰⁰
.46	860 ⁰⁰		
.45	654 ⁶⁴		
.45	Sold 950 ⁰⁰		
.44	677 ⁰⁰		
.24	225 ⁰⁰		

Free Mounting on Diamonds .10 and larger (Good till March 20th)

These prices are cash prices. Lay-a-ways and credit cards welcome at slightly higher prices.

John D. Huntley Inc.
(Formerly of Texas Coin Exchange)

"Very Personal Investments"
Rare Coins, Loose Diamonds,
Precious Metal,
Fine Jewelry & Watches

WE BUY, SELL, TRADE

404 University Dr. East • 846-8916