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**FORECAST** high 96 low 72  
Possible thunderstorms in the afternoon with a slight chance of a blizzard tonight, very slight.

**SPORTS**  
  
**SWC Picks**  
—Jayme Blaschke page 3

**Opinion**  
"Our concern is not to cry foul or protect a vested interest but to make it clear the extent and destructiveness of the House bill."  
— Dr. William H. Cunningham and Dr. William H. Mobley page 5

**INSIDE**  
**A Second Chance for TASP Test Takers** page 2

# The Battalion

Vol. 90 No. 182 USPS 045360 6 Pages College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" Wednesday, August 7, 1991

## Tax increase for state services passes House, goes to Senate

AUSTIN (AP) — Work on a tax increase to pay for state services shifted to the Senate Tuesday, after the House passed a \$30 million tax bill that doesn't come close to funding its own two-year spending proposal.

"It's a real sham tax bill, but at least it gives us a vehicle to continue the dialogue with the Senate," said Rep. Rene Oliveira, a member of the House budget and tax committees.

"There weren't many profiles encouraged" during House action on what started as a \$3 billion tax bill, said

Oliveira, D-Brownsville. The whittled-down measure was approved after a marathon session that began Monday and ended 5 a.m. Tuesday.

Senators are looking at revising the state franchise tax, increasing the gasoline tax and raising state fees, said Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock. The Senate's franchise tax plan contains differences from one pushed unsuccessfully in the House, which also turned down a higher gas tax and fees.

Bullock also predicted Senate passage of a Texas lottery, which would

send the House-approved measure to voters for consideration. The game would raise an estimated \$450 million over the next two years.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman John Montford said senators planned to work closely with House leaders. Gov. Ann Richards touted a cooperative approach, saying that would make the job easier for an expected House-Senate conference committee on taxes.

But Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland, House Republican Caucus chairman,

said he thinks the House will reject further taxes. He said the budget should be trimmed instead, although the House measure has been attacked as miserly.

"We know it can be done with cuts," Craddick said.

The House spending bill for the next two years would require about \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion in new revenue, including lottery proceeds, Oliveira said. But it would fall below the spending level needed to continue current services and meet court mandates, law-

makers said.

The measure includes an estimated \$32.5 billion in general revenue, or tax-driven, spending. It also would authorize additional spending on education, prisons and welfare if lawmakers can find the money.

Lawmakers in the House partly blamed heavy pressure from special interests for defeating the tax proposal, which included putting an income levy in the state franchise tax and expanding that business tax to partnerships and sole proprietorships.

## Firefighters seek alternatives

### Fire school investigates cleaner fuels

By Greg Mt. Joy  
The Battalion

Billowing clouds of unsightly smoke at the Texas Firefighters' School have prompted a search for cleaner burning fuels, a university official said.

James Davidson of Texas A&M Facilities Planning said the concern over fuel was not an environmental one. The school, run by the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service, presently uses diesel fuel, gasoline, propane and hay for fire simulations during training.

"The problem is a visual one, not an environmental one," Davidson said. "We need to cover our bases and see if there are other fuels out there."

Davidson said many factors have to be considered in choosing an alternative fuel for the simulations.

"Some more efficient fuels burn whiter or without smoke," he said. "These fuels usually burn much hotter, however. The problem is finding a substitute the firefighters will accept."

Davidson said concern over the amount of smoke produced was an internal one, not one provoked by complaints.

College Station Fire Department chief Richard Orange said he has received no complaints about the firefighters' school.

Davidson said the fuel study is the second phase of a Facilities Planning program that in-

cludes a possible relocation of the school.

"We are in a very early stage of our search," he said. "We are studying the feasibility of the move right now."

The University has been considering moving the school from Brayton field for seven or eight years, Davidson said. No definite site has been determined, but, Davidson said, Riverside campus is one location being considered.

"I'm sure we'll look at some other potential sites," he said. "But nothing is definite this early on."

Davidson said the first phase of the program will be a survey of the school's customers.

"We want to find out why firefighters from all over the world are coming here," he said. "Among other things, we want to find out what kind of training aids they like."

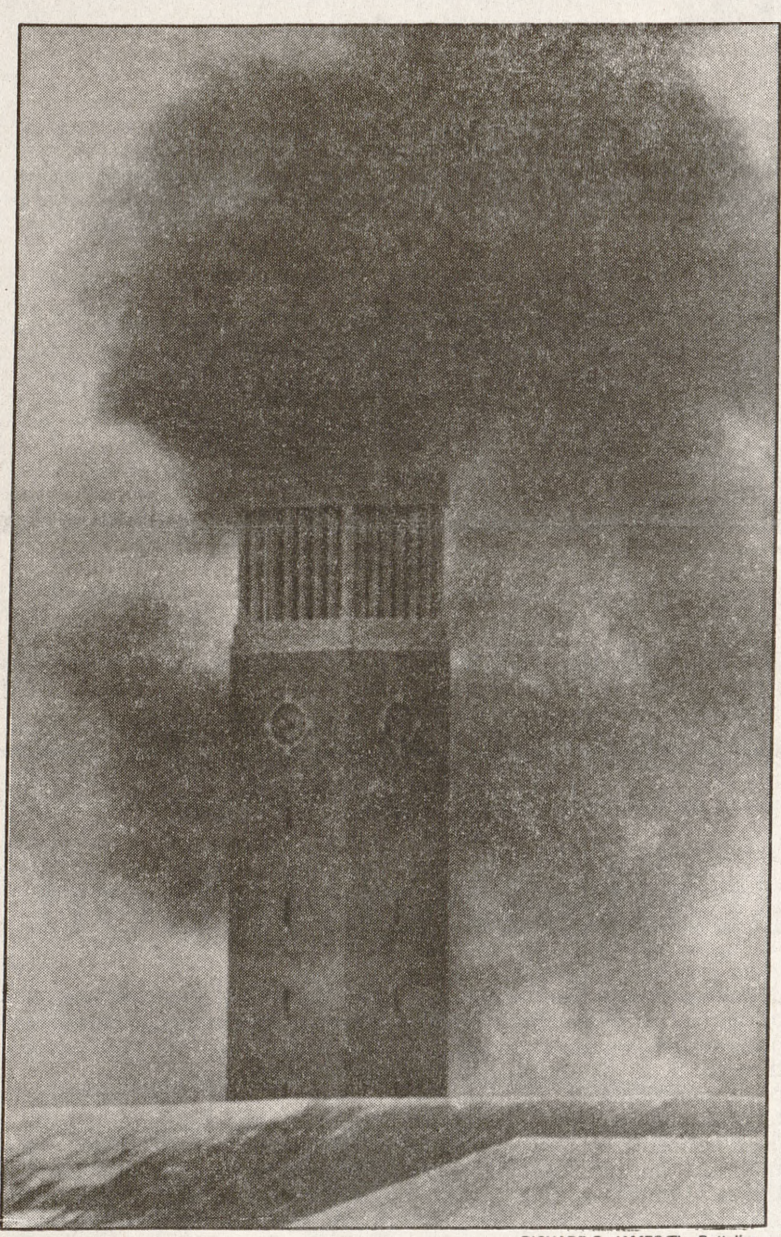
Davidson said the level of realism in simulations used for training was a major concern of the school's customers.

"Each phase of the program is interrelated," he said. "Changing fuels comes down to keeping the customers coming back."

"The school is virtually self-supporting, so we lose the justification for even having the school if we drive away our customer base by using fuels that don't appear realistic during simulations," he added.

Davidson said the program should be finished around May or July of 1992. The proposal will then be presented to the Board of Regents.

"We will wait for their decision before we make any decisions about relocating or alternative fuels," Davidson said.



Smoke from the Brayton Fireman Training field rises above Albritton Bell Tower during the 62nd Texas Firefighters School.

## Officials take threat seriously

### Appropriations bill would make A&M, UT bear brunt of education cuts, Mobley says

By Mack Harrison  
The Battalion

Texas A&M officials say they are extremely worried about a state House appropriations bill radically cutting state funding for A&M and the University of Texas.

"The cuts are so deep," University President William Mobley said. "The two universities (A&M and UT) carry the brunt of the cuts for the rest of higher education."

Dr. E. Dean Gage, A&M's provost and vice president for academic affairs, said officials are taking the threatened cut very seriously.

"It would mean absolute devastation if anything like that held," Gage said. "We are hoping and praying it does not transpire."

The cut, however, probably will not be as large as the House would like. The Senate appropriations bill is more lenient on higher education.

The bill will go to a conference committee so representatives and senators can iron out differences between their legislation.

Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, said the cut was unexpected.

He said Rep. Eddie Cavazos, D-Corpus Christi, introduced the cut in an amendment to the appropriations bill early Monday morning. Legislators did not realize the cuts to A&M and UT would be so large, Ogden said.

"It was wrong and irresponsible," he said. "It came as such a surprise, and no one had figured out any numbers."

Ogden said he spoke with House leaders, who assured him they would not cut funding so drastically. He said the final result would be closer to the Senate version.

"The headline looks terrible, but the reality is not as bad," Ogden said. "I'm sure the Senate will never concur (with the cut)."

The House bill calls for a \$245 million cut over the next two years in current services funding for public colleges and universities. Schools with enrollments under 10,000 students would lose 2 percent of their current services funding, and institutions with 10,000 to 37,500 students would face a 3 percent budget cut.

Universities with enrollments

See Bill/Page 6

## Flawed census gives best data, demographer says

EDINBURG (AP) — The 1990 census, although flawed, still provides the best data for drawing new voting boundaries, a demographer testified Tuesday in a redistricting case that is pitting residents against the state.

The census did undercount

Texas residents, minorities in particular, but the only other reliable data for redistricting are adjusted figures that the Bureau of Census has refused to release, said Steve Murdoch, chief demographer for the Texas State Data Center.

"I would advise then that until we can get a hold of the adjusted figures ... that they better use the 1990 census counts," Murdoch said.

Murdoch was the first defense witness to testify in the preliminary injunction hearing for a suit

filed by south Texas residents against the state.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs, who say they were not counted in last year's census, are petitioning 332nd District Judge Mario E. Ramirez to issue an injunction that would force legis-

lators to accept adjusted census data.

They have asked Ramirez to order that a new set of plans be drawn up using the adjusted data.

The suit claims that plans passed by the Legislature are

discriminatory because new voting districts were based on a census which drastically undercounted minorities.

In addition, the state is participating in a lawsuit aimed at getting the federal government to release adjusted census figures.

## A&M officials open records listing salaries

By Chris Vaughn  
The Battalion

The release of the Texas A&M System's list of employees making more than \$100,000 proves that staying competitive with other universities and the private sector can get expensive.

The list, released by A&M officials after the Associated Press filed an Open Records Act request, shows that 156 employees make six-figure salaries.

The top echelon of System and University leaders receive perks like houses, cars and country club memberships on top of their salaries.

University President William Mobley earns \$170,000, but only \$62,160 comes from state revenue. System Interim Chancellor Ed Hiler makes \$123,500, but none of his salary comes from the state.

The highest paid System employee is Dr. Frank Cotton, a distinguished professor of chemistry, who earns \$206,960. Other employees earning more than Mobley are: Dr. Perry Adkisson, former chancellor and a distinguished professor of entomology, \$195,000; Dr. Richard Devaul, dean of the College of Medicine, \$178,400; and Dr. Robert Wells, director of the Institute for Biosciences and Tech-

nology, \$175,002.

The majority of the 156 employees are department heads and professors.

In a statement accompanying the release, Dr. Hiler said the System has to compete in a national market to obtain and retain top educators.

"We think our salaries represent reasonable levels of reimbursement for highly talented individuals, many of whom could be earning considerably more in the private sector," he said.

The statement also said presidents and chancellors "frequently have responsibilities that exceed those of CEOs of the

See A&M/Page 6

## Poll shows Texans support tuition hike if money used toward university parity

By Karen Praslicka  
The Battalion

Texans support a tuition increase if the extra money generated ensures that students at state universities receive an education competitive with that of other universities, according to a poll conducted by Texas A&M.

The poll was conducted for the Texas Faculty Association and sponsored by Austin newspaper publishing firm Harte-Hanks Communications, Inc. The Public Policy Resources Lab at A&M conducted the survey.

One thousand Texas residents were polled in a random sample phone survey based on age, ethnicity, race, region of residence and gender.

The poll question reads, "Would you support a tuition increase if it ensures that all Texas college students receive an education competitive with other states and countries?"

Overall, 58 percent of residents polled support a tuition increase to improve the quality of higher education, and 36 percent are against an increase. Six percent said they were undecided or did not know.

The margin of error is plus or minus 3 percent.

Charles Zucker, director of the TFA, said the association was encouraged by the results.

"This shows concern about the quality of higher education," he said. "The issue seems to have gotten lost in the state legislature."

"You can't run a first class system on patheti-

See Students/Page 6

cal support for higher education. The state is participating in a lawsuit aimed at getting the federal government to release adjusted census figures.