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# STATE & LOCAL

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The Battalion

Monday, November 30, 1992

## School finance bill still in gridlock

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Rep. Steve Ogden, R-Bryan, was a lonely figure standing before the Texas House last week.

Abandoned even by his own party, he was explaining that his school funding bill still needed work and wasn't ready for a vote after all.

"I don't have the support of this body. I can't pass this bill out," Ogden said. "It's such a new concept that it's poorly understood."

What was readily understood was that legislative gridlock had snared another school finance plan.

For three long years, the



Ogden

Legislature has been struggling under Texas Supreme Court orders to try to equalize funding between rich and poor schools. The current special session is their third try. The Democratic leaders — Gov. Ann Richards, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock and House Speaker Gib Lewis — aren't even that worried about getting an actual school finance plan passed right now. But they desperately want

passage of a proposed constitutional amendment, which if approved by voters would define school "equity" once and for all and silence the courts. The actual spending blueprint could come later.

Since the GOP has 58 of the 150 House seats — and a constitutional amendment needs 100 votes — Republicans hold the key to passing the Big Three's amendment. But the Republicans say they won't vote for an amendment until they see a spending plan they like.

Briefly, Ogden's plan looked like the ticket.

The House Republicans initially indicated they would support it. But when the bill

nearly the floor and a vote, the House GOP Caucus backed away. It may have been the \$1 billion price tag, it may have been impact on the lawmakers' own schools, it may have been a bill called.

"Just thank God there were House Republicans at the Alamo," Bullock snapped. "promise you if there had been they would have hung off Jim Bowie out to dry just like they did Steve Ogden."

So the problem remains: Are it's still easier to criticize the other guy than offer a workable solution of your own.

Everyone involved agrees the schoolchildren are the hope for the future.

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## Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department between Thursday, Nov. 19 and Monday, Nov. 23.

**Criminal Mischief**

- University Center Garage - Someone scuffed the hood and broke the outside mirror on the victim's 1988 Chevrolet.
- Southside Garage - The victim discovered someone pushed in the roof of her 1992 Saturn by standing on it.
- University Center Garage - The side mirror assembly, radio antenna, and windshield wiper assembly were damaged on the victim's 1986 Jeep Cherokee.
- Hughes Hall - The victim was standing in the window when an unknown person threw a green and white water balloon at the window, breaking it.

**Cruelty to Animals**

- Aston Hall - A subject who purchased and released 24 chickens in a resident's room was identified. The victim did not wish to file criminal charges for the soiling of his room. The responsible party assisted with the clean up of the area and the release of the fowl to the Brazos County Animal Shelter.
- University Center Garage - An intoxicated individual, who broke the wooden gate arm on the west side of the garage, was arrested. The subject was transported to the Brazos County Jail and incarcerated.

**Public Intoxication**

- Kyle Field - An intoxicated individual was examined by Emergency Medical Services personnel.

**Terroristic Threat**

- Dormitory 12 - The victim was threatened with physical harm by an acquaintance.

**Assault**

- Hughes Hall - The victim was struck in the eye with an egg while watching Elephant Walk. EMS treated the victim for scratches around her eye.
- Hensel Apartments - A magazine solicitor reported he was struck from behind with an object similar to a baseball bat. The victim was transported by College Station EMS to Humana Hospital for treatment.

**Robbery**

- Parking Area 61 - The victim reported she was grabbed by an assailant as she entered her vehicle. The suspect placed his arm around her neck and demanded money. She gave the suspect \$10, and he and a possible accomplice left the area in a vehicle headed in the direction of Wellborn.

See Police/Page...

### The Battalion

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