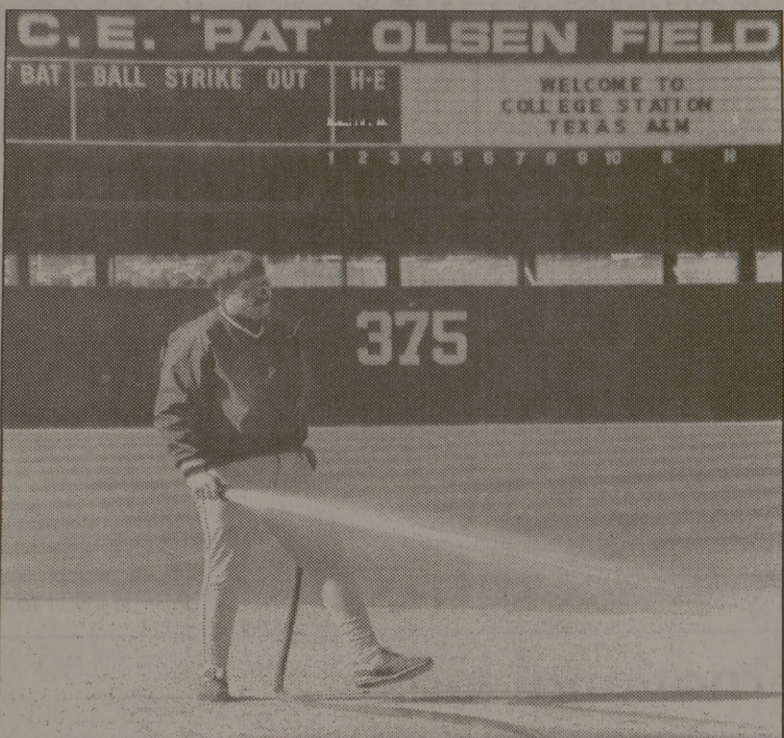


## Hosing it down



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Leo Goertz of Bryan waters the infield of Olsen Field Wednesday afternoon. Goertz, a graduate of A&M, is the groundskeeper of Olsen and has been keeping the field in shape since it first opened in the Spring of 1978. He said he has seen a lot of students come and go in his 15 years here. The field has been covered to protect it from bad weather, and as a result has not been received much rain this semester. He waters the field to keep it soft. In Goertz's words, "It gets a bath today."

## Congressmen push for tobacco tax

### Propose \$1 per pack fee to fund national health care

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A Texas congressman and a New Jersey senator fired a salvo Wednesday at the tobacco industry, saying they would push for legislation to quadruple the cigarette tax.

The \$10 billion or so that would be generated by raising federal tobacco taxes to \$1 a pack from the current 24-cent levy mainly would go to health care, said Rep. Mike Andrews, D-Houston.

"Americans spend \$24 billion each year in tax dollars simply to take care of those that become sick from smoking," Andrews said at a news conference. "It's only right that the tobacco industry in this country be asked to contribute to part of those costs."

News of the measure wasn't well received by the tobacco industry.

"Many people have a problem with using the tax code to discourage behavior others don't agree with," said Tom Lauria, a spokesman for the Tobacco Institute, the main lobbying arm of the tobacco industry.

Andrews and Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., cited findings that 435,000 Americans die each year from smoking.

While Lauria disputed those figures, he said the Washington-based institute had no figures of its own.

Andrews, who ranks among the leading health care experts on Capitol Hill, acknowledged that the

tobacco tax hike would adversely affect the lower-income.

"Those that argue that this tax is regressive, well they're right, but it's regressive on the very people that we need to send a message to, young teenagers," he said.

"It's a very price-sensitive product, and we know quantitatively, by increasing that tax just a modest amount, we discourage thousands of young children from taking up the habit of smoking."

But, countered Lauria: "Kids seem to have disposable income for almost anything that they want other than expensive cars; and the Centers for Disease Control indicates kids are smoking less than ever."

The U.S. Surgeon General has estimated that for every 10 percent increase in the

cigarette tax, there's an estimated 4 percent drop in consumption.

But Lauria questioned that assumption. "Taxes have gone up 50 percent since 1991," he said. "We have not seen a 25 percent decrease (in smoking) using their formula."

Under the legislation Bradley and Andrews plan to introduce this week, 80 percent of the new revenue would be earmarked for providing health care for the poor. Another 10 percent would go to states, cities and counties to offset revenue losses due to the federal tax increase. The remainder would finance health-prevention programs, counter tobacco advertising and help growers find substitute crops.

**"Americans spend \$24 billion each year in tax dollars simply to take care of those that become sick from smoking. It's only right that the tobacco industry ... contribute to part of those costs."**

—Rep. Mike Andrews, D-Houston

## AIDS test to provide results in 10 minutes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — New AIDS tests that can tell patients within minutes whether they are infected with HIV are planned first for Dallas County, health officials said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are sponsoring and financing the six-month trial for the first county in the nation, officials said.

The Dallas County Health Department will administer the tests, which will reduce the time lag for results from about a week to 10 minutes after a blood sample is given.

Health officials say the current delay in results discourages some patients.

The tests will cost \$10, officials said. But that fee will be waived if patients can't afford it.

Testing probably will begin in two or three months, county employees said Tuesday. But they must first hire and train a technician to conduct the 10-minute tests, which were approved by the federal government only last year.

Dallas County was chosen as the site for the trial because of its reputation, CDC spokesman Kent Taylor told The Dallas Morning News.

"Dallas is known to be a well-run program," said Taylor.

Tests will be offered at the county's sexually transmitted disease clinic instead of the HIV impact division, said Dr. Charles Haley, the county's epidemiologist.

## Krueger under scrutiny over IRS unemployment debt in '87

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Krueger's campaign committee was cited by the federal government in 1987 for failing to pay more than \$5,000 in unemployment insurance taxes for campaign workers, IRS documents show.

The Texas Democrat who previously served in the U.S. House and as a university dean was named in January by

Texas Gov. Ann Richards to the Senate seat vacated by Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen. He will face several challengers in a May 1 special election to fill the remainder of Bentsen's term, which runs through 1994.

Since 1990, Krueger had been a member of the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates oil, natural gas and transportation.

In 1978, Krueger lost by 12,000 votes in a bid to unseat the late Sen. John Tower of

Texas. In 1984, he narrowly lost a chance at the Democratic runoff for the Senate seat Tower was vacating.

In March 1987, the Internal Revenue Service office in Austin, Texas, placed a lien on the assets of Krueger's Senate campaign committee because it failed to pay \$5,335.06 in unemployment taxes for 1983. IRS papers show that the lien was removed in June 1987, which means the taxes were paid at that time.

The committee paid an additional

\$607.65 in interest and penalties, according to Rafe Greenlee, a spokesman in Austin for Krueger's current re-election campaign.

"The reality is that as soon as that was discovered, I immediately wrote a check to pay for it. There's nothing there," Krueger said in an interview Wednesday on the CNBC cable television network.

"Obviously, somebody looked in the ancient files and sought an old piece of information that had no real relevance."

## AIR FORCE CAREER DAY

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VIP Research is seeking individuals 18 years of age or older with pneumonia. If you've been diagnosed by a physician or you suspect having pneumonia, you may qualify for a six week research study using antibiotic therapy. Participants who qualify and complete the study will be paid \$150. For more information, call:

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### MEETING DATES

Feb. 23	MSC 231
March 2	MSC 231
March 9	Rudder 308

All meetings are at 8:30 p.m.  
For more information come by the Snow Ski Club cubicle in the Student Services Building Or Call  
Jon 696-7717 Krista 696-8186

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