

# STATE

Friday, September 10, 1993

THE BATTALION

Page 3

## SAT scores in Texas drop 4 percent

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Despite a 73 percent increase in public school spending in the past 20 years, Texas taxpayers aren't getting more bang for their education buck, says a new report card on American schools.

Average SAT scores in Texas dropped 4 percent from 1972 to 1993, the National Center for Education Information said in a national report prepared for the American Legislative Exchange Council and Empower America.

ALEC is a private, bipartisan group of state legislators. Empower America is a conservative think tank headed by former Education Secretary William Bennett.

"You don't spend your way to education achievement," Bennett said.

While Texas spent an average of \$4,831 per pupil last year — up from the \$2,797 spent 20 years ago when adjusted for inflation — the increased spending hasn't resulted in significant improvements in student performance, the study said.

The Texas trends were mirrored nationwide, where education spending was up 62 percent with-

out corresponding increases in college entrance examination scores, high school graduation rates and 8th grade math proficiency scores.

Texas ranked 37th last year in per pupil expenditures, spending on average \$4,831 per pupil compared to the \$5,598 national average.

When ranked by Scholastic Aptitude Test scores, Texas was 42nd among states and the District of Columbia this year — with a combined 885 score compared to a national average of 902.

Spokesmen for the Texas Education Agency didn't immediately return telephone calls Thursday.

The state ranking was a slight improvement over its 46th place posted in 1992 and the 45th place of the year before. But the cumulative average posted by Texas students has dropped from 921 in 1972 to 885 this year.

Empower America and ALEC suggested that a shift in budget priorities away from the classroom may be to blame nationally and in Texas as well.

Where 54 percent of Texas school spending was devoted to teacher salaries in 1972, that rate had dropped to 42 percent last year. Texas ranked 35th in teacher salaries last year with a \$29,935 average — compared \$35,334 nationally.

## State News Briefs

### Residents petition to allow Stephenville alcohol sales

FORT WORTH (AP) — Two Stephenville men may be closer in their campaign to legalize alcohol sales in their community.

Evan Arendell and Cleve Cole's corporation, START, submitted a petition with 730 signatures last week to County Clerk Nelda requesting that commissioners call an election in October proposing legalized sale of alcoholic beverages.

Arendell and Cole formed START or Stephenville Taxpayers Against Runaway Taxes, in February 1992.

START needed 657 signatures, or 35 percent of the 1,876 Stephenville residents who voted in last year's mayoral election, to force the election.

Commissioners will meet Monday and have 20 to 30 days to call the election if the signatures are declared valid, County Judge Bill Hailey said.

Arendell, a 29-year-old graduate student in history, said the idea for START stemmed from a dinner discussion with Cole about high taxes.

### Nuclear power plant not a hazard, regulators say

AUSTIN (AP) — Serious problems beset the South Texas nuclear power plant before it was shut down, but the troubles did not pose an immediate threat to the public, federal regulators said Thursday.

The twin-unit plant located near Bay City has been idle since February, fined \$500,000 and placed on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's list of five plants nationwide that need additional scrutiny.

The plant is owned by Houston Lighting and Power, Central Power & Light, and the cities of San Antonio and Austin.

John Montgomery, deputy administrator for the NRC regional office in Arlington, told the state Public Utility Commission that the plant's equipment and management problems did not place the public in danger.

But, he said, they were "examples of what I will call reductions in safety margins."

Regulators found at the plant numerous equipment, maintenance and repair mistakes.

### AIDS materials inaccurate, Board of Education says

AUSTIN (AP) — State Board of Education Chairwoman Carolyn Crawford said Thursday that state-developed AIDS-prevention materials contain inaccuracies and should be recalled from schools or destroyed.

She said she thought Texas Education Commissioner Lionel "Skip" Meno would take some action before the board in November votes on whether to make revised AIDS-prevention information available to schools.

Meno said he may notify school districts that the issue is under discussion.

But he said the districts are aware of the situation and will make decisions locally about using the materials.

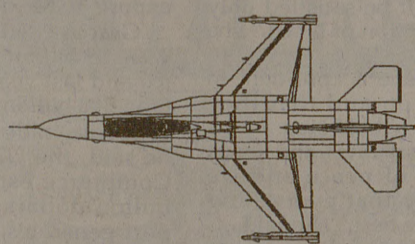
They were developed for optional use by school districts, which are required to have AIDS education.

"I think that we can indicate to people that they may wish to ... dispose of it," Meno said.

"They can make their own decisions about how they're going to utilize the materials that are out there."

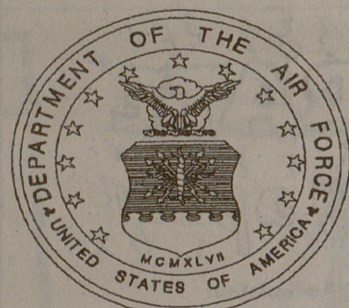
The materials were developed after some school district officials complained that information available about acquired immune deficiency syndrome was expensive and not high-quality, Meno said.

## It's NOT too late to join The Fightin' Texas Aggie Corps of Cadets



# ATM

- Keepers of the Tradition
- Leadership Training
- Scholarship and Career Opportunities



For more information contact:  
**Capt David Onaka, Air Force ROTC**  
**(409) 845-7611**

© 1993 Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association (College Retirement Equities Fund)

*If you own a computer,  
 you need to check out*

### Floppy Joe's Software Store

We are unlike any other software store you have ever seen!

Present this ad for a  
**FREE ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP**

Culpepper Plaza  
 at Texas and Harvey Road 693-1706

**Renee's Nails etc.**  
*Sept. Special*  
 Full Set Acrylic Nails  
 \$15.00  
 Refills  
 \$15.00  
**764-5988**  
 (call for appl.)  
 110-Lincoln Ste. 107  
 (Inside the N.O.I. Bldg. behind Red Lobster)

**CD WAREHOUSE**  
*Buy-Sell-Trade*

**WE BUY USED CD'S FOR**  
 \$4.00 or trade 2 for 1  
**USED CD'S**  
**\$8.99 or LESS**  
**268-0154**  
 (At Northgate)

**OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Tauber and Cross Streets  
 College Station, TX  
**846-5011**

Morning Worship:  
 Sundays, 8:30 and 10:45  
 Congregation at Study:  
 Sundays, 9:35 a.m.  
 An ELCA Ministry  
 Supporting Aggie Lutherans

**THE COW HOP**  
 RESTAURANT  
 COLLEGE STATION TEXAS

A little of the old  
 A little of the new  
**THE COW HOP**  
 is still here serving you...

*Bigger and Better  
 at our new location!*

317 College Ave.  
 (in the Albertsons Shopping Center)  
**846-0532**

\$1.75 pitcher of beer  
 (special)  
 Pool Tables, Video Games,  
 Big Screen T.V.!

## DANCE LESSONS

Texas Hall Of Fame

**Beginning Country & Western**  
 Wed. Sept 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13 6pm  
 Wed. Sept 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13 7:30pm  
 \$20/student \$25/nonstudent

**Advanced Country & Western**  
 Wed. Oct 20, 25, Nov 3, 10, 17 6pm  
 \$20/student \$25/nonstudent

**Jitterbug**  
 Thurs. Sept 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21 6pm  
 Wed. Oct 20, 25, Nov 3, 10, 17 7:30pm  
 \$20/student \$25/nonstudent

**Ballroom Dance**  
 Tues. Sept 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 6pm  
 \$18/student \$23/nonstudent  
 This class meets at CS High School

**Register NOW**  
 in the University PLUS Craft Center  
 MSC Basement Level  
**845-1631**

*MSC University PLUS*

**TIAA-CREF on SOUND RETIREMENT INVESTING**

## HERE'S WHY THE SMART MONEY IN TEXAS IS GOING WITH TIAA-CREF AS IF THE FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT.

**B**ecause it does. Smart investors know that your future depends on how well your retirement system performs. TIAA-CREF has been the premier retirement system for people in education and research for some 75 years. We have enabled over 280,000 people like you to enjoy a comfortable retirement. And over 1,300,000 are now planning for the future with TIAA-CREF.

**LOOK FOR SECURITY, GROWTH AND DIVERSITY.**

Security—so the resources are there when it is time to retire. Growth—so you'll have enough income for the kind of retirement you want. And diversity—to help protect you against market volatility and to let you benefit from several types of investments.

**HERE'S WHAT YOU GET WITH TIAA-CREF.**

TIAA offers you the safety of a traditional annuity that guarantees

your principal plus a specified rate of interest, and provides for additional growth through dividends. For its stability, sound investments, claims-paying ability and overall financial strength, TIAA has received the highest possible ratings from all four of the insurance industry's leading independent agencies.\*

CREF's variable annuity offers opportunities for growth with five different investment accounts, each managed with the long-term perspective essential to sound retirement planning.

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT US.**

Send for our free Texas ORP retirement kit. Just call us at 1 800 842-2006.

**TIAA CREF**

5215 North O'Connor Blvd.  
 Suite 350  
 Las Colinas, TX 75039

\*A.M. Best Co. = A++ (Superior); Duff & Phelps Credit Rating Co. = AAA; Moody's Investors Service = Aaa; Standard & Poor's = AAA.  
 For more complete information, including charges and expenses, call 1-800-842-2733, Ext. 3509 for a prospectus. Read the prospectus carefully before you invest or send money.  
 TIAA-CREF Individual and Institutional Services.