

### State university libraries lag behind nation in funding

DALLAS (AP) — Texas public universities have lagged behind the nation in funding their libraries for at least a decade, forcing many institutions to cut acquisitions and their prestige.

All the libraries have had problems in the last decade because funding has, for the most part, stayed either level or has increased anywhere near the rate of inflation," said Joe McMichael, former chairman of the American Council of State University Librarians.

In 1984-85, Texas schools spent \$230 per full-time student, equivalent on their libraries, \$60 lower than the national average.

Projected figures for 1994-95, Texas drops to \$190, below the national average of \$290. Librarians say the prices of books, periodicals and other reference materials are soaring, and the state hasn't kept pace with funding.

The cost of scholarly publications, particularly journals, has risen 10 percent each year for the last 10 years, while books have averaged an annual increase of 7 percent, said McMichael, who also is the library director for the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

Michael Clark, a Texas State University spokesman, said libraries are a lot like "monsters." "As a collection gets started, it grows and you can't just stop it," he said.

The size of a university's library is a benchmark for measuring the institution's excellence, so a shrinking collection can impact the school's reputation, he said.

Nonetheless, the University of Texas at Austin has the fifth largest number of volumes among the 119 libraries that serve major North American research institutions, according to the Association of Research Libraries. Texas A&M University has 68th and the University of Houston, 97th.

Spending on materials, however, in Austin is 20th, slipping from 22nd a decade ago. Texas A&M is 44th; Houston, 76th. Harvard University holds the top spot in both categories today, 10 years ago.

In 1994, the Legislature provided \$57.4 million for public university libraries. The amount was \$54.4 million in 1993 and \$46 million in 1992, said David Young, a Legislative Budget Board senior analyst.

### Stick



By Alvaro

### THE INK WELL



By Brad

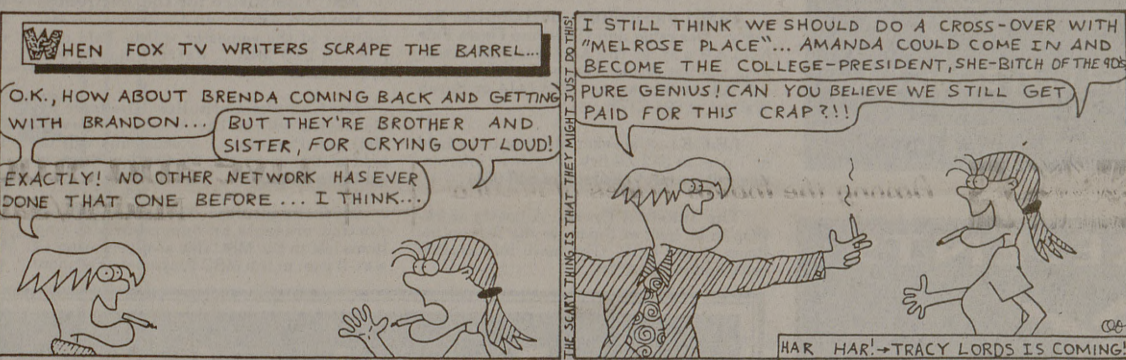
### ADVENTURES IN AGGIELAND

By Greg



### Generation Y

By Quatro



### WEATHER

<b>Today</b> Mostly cloudy with high a near 67. North winds 5-10 m.p.h.	<b>Thursday</b> Partly sunny with high a near 70. Southeast winds 5-10 m.p.h.	<b>Friday</b> Partly sunny with a high near 75.
<b>Tonight</b> Mostly cloudy with a low near 53. Southeast winds 5-10 m.p.h.	<b>Thursday Night</b> Mostly cloudy with a low near 59.	

Source - A&M Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

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 Thurs. Night - United Way and Aggie Wranglers Night/Jitterbug Contest. \$1.00 single shots, long necks and pitchers 8-10 p.m. A portion of the proceeds go to the United Way. Doors open at 8, dance till 1.  
 Fri. Night - 25¢ Bar Drinks & Draft Beer & 75¢ Longnecks 8-10 pm. Over 21 get in FREE with current student/faculty/staff ID from 8 till 10 pm. Doors open at 8. Dance 9-1.  
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 Study Abroad Programs • 161 Bizzell Hall West • 845-0544 • M-F 8:00-5:00

### PUT A LITTLE

12 **AGGIE** 12

### IN EVERYONE DONATE BLOOD!

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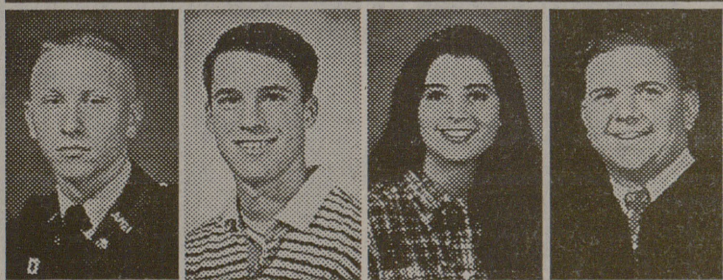
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