

Attention!
The U.S. Space & Rocket Center is searching for Counselors for February 1997!

A Representative will be on campus Thursday, November 14, 1996 giving an INFORMATION SESSION in Rudder Tower, Room 704 at 6:00 p.m. Interviews will be conducted on November 15.

Requirements are two years of college and some experience working with children. All majors will be considered. Free housing, meals and uniforms are provided. Positions also include salary and a paid training program.

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Judge refuses to deny lawsuit

AUSTIN (AP) — A state judge Wednesday refused to dismiss a lawsuit by school districts that say the State Board of Education is sitting on an estimated \$89 million that should be spent on computers and other technology in the classroom.

Judge F. Scott McCown asked lawyers for the school districts, however, to see if their clients are willing to delay the case against the board until the Legislature has time to act on the matter.

"I think it's appropriate for the Legislature to have an opportunity to address this problem," McCown said. Lawmakers meet in regular session in January.

More than 80 school districts have sued, saying that under the 1995 education reform law, they should be getting \$55 per student

for technology this school year. Instead, the board has OK'd only \$30 per student, the districts said.

The \$89 million is the amount that has been estimated as the difference statewide by Austin lawyer Buck Wood, representing the school districts.

Lawyers for the board say there's a discrepancy between the education law's provision for increased technology funding and the state budget, which doesn't provide for the increase.

Assistant Attorney General Toni Hunter, representing the state board, said because of the discrepancy, the board doesn't believe it has authority to distribute the extra money.

Hunter asked McCown to dismiss the lawsuit, saying the

school districts need legislative permission to sue the state. Cown would not.

Failing that, Hunter asked to delay the lawsuit, noting pending legislative session.

McCown said if school districts agree to voluntarily delay the suit, a trial could be set in mid- or late February. If they do agree, and McCown decides to require a delay, he said in the case would begin Dec. 1.

Wood said school districts deciding whether to agree to delay, must weigh the likelihood of the Legislature giving them money for technology rather than deciding to spend it elsewhere.

"It's just so uncertain. It's the dangerous part about it," he said.

Bush calls for change in Texas taxes

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. George W. Bush is calling on lawmakers to give Texans a "billion-dollar beginning" on promised school property tax relief.

Bush announced Wednesday that his budget proposal for the next two fiscal years will include a recommendation that \$1 billion generated from higher-than-expected state revenues and lower-than-expected spending go to property tax relief.

He called that a down payment on his effort to replace with a new revenue source the \$10 billion the levy generates each year.

"I believe taxpayers should benefit from leaner government," Bush said.

Rep. Robert Junell, D-San Angelo and chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said he wants to see where the governor has come up with \$1 billion.

"I'm not aware of anybody in the Legislature who was consulted on this before the governor made his announcement," Junell said. "I look forward to seeing where he and his people say (the money) is."

Ross Ramsey, an aide to Comptroller John Sharp, said official estimates of state financing have not been completed. But he said Sharp, a Democrat, will present his own list of \$1 billion in state spending cuts.

"We're seeing him a billion and raising him a billion," Ramsey said.

Sharp is considered a potential challenger to the Republican governor if he were to seek re-election in two years. Ramsey said politics will not factor into Sharp's financial estimates.

"This (estimate) is one of our constitutional ties and every two years someone says it's paid. It will be a clean number," he said.

Richard Lavine, a fiscal analyst for the Center for Public Policy Priorities, said any extra state revenue or lower government spending generating one-time funds for the state would have to find \$1 billion in future budgets when spending could be up and revenues could be down.

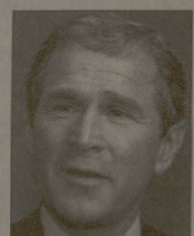
"He hasn't explained what functions aren't going to get cut or who's going to get the relief," Lavine said of Bush's plan.

Bush said he hasn't worked out how the \$1 billion would be distributed or who would get it. But he said the money is available and wouldn't have to be cut from department budgets.

Bush began talking about the need for school property tax relief last year. Since then, a commission he appointed has said Texans need a school property tax.

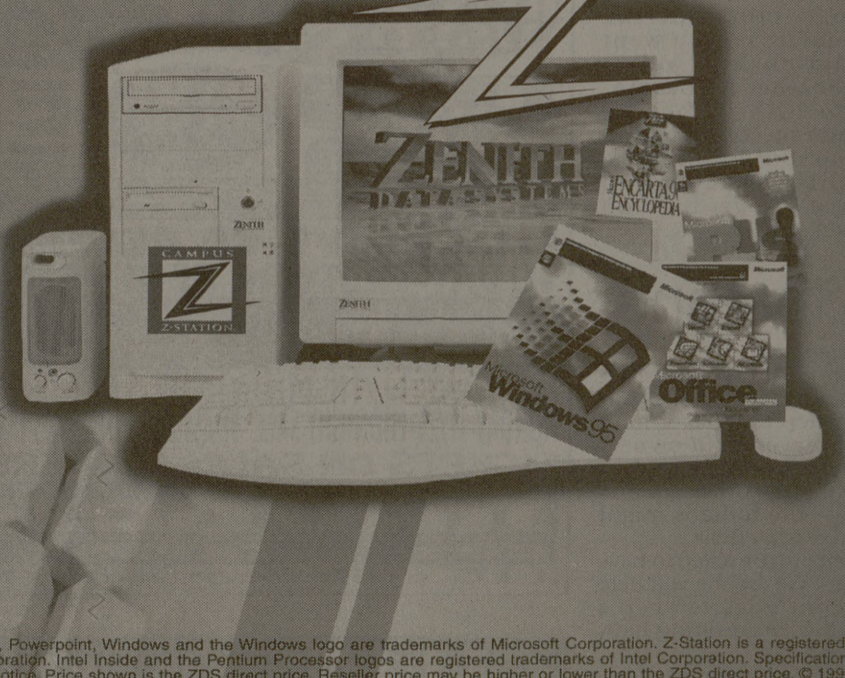
Any cut or reduction would be replaced by some other tax.

Bush asked the commission to consider increasing the state's sales tax or imposing new business taxes. The governor has said he won't consider state income tax.



Bush

what's in a Z



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Chance for chairbound cheerleader change

ANDREWS, Texas (AP) — Few in this West Texas oilfield town doubt that Callie Smartt, a bright-eyed girl who loves animals, Texas A&M and Andrews High School, has enough spirit to fill a cheerleading uniform.

Her engaging smile brightened the sidelines throughout her freshman year. The school had rewarded Callie for her help with a ninth-grade cheerleading camp by allowing her to accompany the squad, complete with pompons and a makeshift uniform.

Like the others, she yelled and waved her black and gold balls of tinsel to urge on the freshman Mustangs. Her motorized chair, a result of the cerebral palsy that has wracked her body since she was born 15 years ago, separated her from her peers.

After the able-bodied girls tried out for the junior varsity team last spring, Callie and her family simply assumed she'd join them as a sophomore this semester,

cheering at JV games.

The school altered their plans last June.

"We were concerned last year about her safety because she is in that wheelchair," said principal Michael Fetner.

"If they had said I had to try out to be a cheerleader, I'd always attempt to try."

Callie Smartt
"Honorary cheerleader"

pal Michael Fetner, explaining why Callie's role was reduced. "If a player is headed in her direction or a ball is headed in her direction or whatever, she could be in danger."

Callie counters that cheerleading is laden with all sorts of dangerous throws, leaps and stunts for any participant.

"If it was about safety, none of the other cheerleaders would be out there," said Callie, who home prefers to move around on her knees as fast as people walk.

Her mother, Fonda Smartt, signed an agreement with Fetner outlining Callie's new privileges, which limited her home junior varsity football games and little else. She received the title "honorary cheerleader," which her family sees as an unnecessary public notice that Callie hadn't gone through the tryout process like the others.

Smartt regrets the agreement saying she signed it only because she felt it was the only way Callie would get to cheer. Callie's main regret is that school didn't make the change before spring tryouts.

"If they had said I had to try out to be a cheerleader, I'd always attempt to try," she said.

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Miss "A Tuna Christmas" and you'll be sorry, Charlie.



"A Tuna Christmas"

Tuna, Texas is a nice place to visit but you wouldn't want to live there, especially during the holidays. In this hilarious satire, crisis looms and bad taste rules the day. Will the electric company cut the power on the local theater's production? Will anyone be able to catch the "Christmas phantom" vandalizing holiday displays? And why are sales so brisk at the used weapons store? This town of 22 Scrooges comes to life through the quick-change skills of Greg Currie and Brent Briscoe, who between them play every role, both male and female. These characters are eccentric, spiteful and ultimately unforgettable as they manage to salvage some humanity amid the insanity. **Great fun for the whole family!**

Rudder Auditorium • Saturday, November 23, 1996 • 3:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.

For Tickets Call 845-1234



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