

# Stadium finance battle brews in Austin

**Bullock** 

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The money through local governments. Spurs want a new home. So do the Mavericks. And the Stars. And the Rockets. The Astros are getting one. The Oilers are leaving Texas because they did not.

Professional sports franchises across the state insist they need new lucrative stadiums to stay competitive in the big leagues.

But they do not want to foot the bill alone.

They want your help. State legislation under consideration would make it easier for communities to offer public subsidies for stadiums through local sales taxes and other fees.

Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock has called the proposals "corporate welfare."

"It offends me, to be honest about it, that we'd be putting millions and millions of dollars into a sports arena for people that are tremendously wealthy and own these franchises, Bullock said.

He suggested sports teams sell stock in the clubs instead of seeking

Paris, officially marking its completion.

Menagerie" premiered on Broadway.

Today is Monday, March 31, the 90th day of 1997. There

On March 31, 1889, French engineer Alexandre Gustave

In 1917, the United States took possession of the Vir-

In 1932, Ford Motor Co. publicly unveiled its V-8 engine.

In 1943, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Okla-

In 1945, the Tennessee Williams play "The Glass

In 1968, President Johnson stunned the country by an-

In 1976, the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that coma

patient Karen Anne Quinlan could be disconnected from her

respirator. (Quinlan, who remained comatose, died in 1985.)

Eiffel unfurled the French tricolor atop the Eiffel Tower in

gin Islands, which it had purchased from Denmark.

nouncing he would not run for another term of office.

This day in history

are 275 days left in the year.

homa!" opened on Broadway.

On this date:

'Maybe there is a chance for common sense to prevail after all,' a letter to the editor in the San Antonio Express-News said.

"Congratulations to Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock for his stand on sport in Texas," a letter to the Austin American-Statesman said.

"If math and science

got the same attention as football and cheerleaders, American students would not perform as poorly internationally as was recently reported.

Backers of the legislation have been hesitant to fire back at Bullock. "I don't want to get into a fight with the governor of Texas, as I think he's referred to," said Jack Diller, president of the San Antonio Spurs basketball franchise.

sports executives, along with sev-A number of Texans have eral big-city mayors, have spoken cheered on the lieutenant governor. out in favor of legislation allowing local choice for stadium financing.

Dallas Mayor Ron Kirk and Houston Mayor Bob Lanier were among those testifying before the House Business and Industry Committee in support of a bill sponsored by committee chairman Rep. Kim Brimer, R-Arlington.

The bill does not allow for the use of any state money but gives cities and counties a "buffet-style menu of finance mechanisms," said Mance Bowden. Brimer's legislative director.

Among the finance methods are a half-cent sales tax increase and fees on car rentals, hotel rooms and parking and tickets to events at the new facility.

An amendment to the bill ex-Still, the Spurs and other pected to be considered this

week also would allow facilities such as concert halls or museums to be built. Brimer's bill would apply to

communities of all sizes.

On Wednesday, the Texas Senate approved bills allowing most communities to vote to raise taxes to build or renovate sports stadiums.

One of the Senate bills, sponsored by Sen. Frank Madla, D-San Antonio, would let communities with populations of 1.5 million or smaller vote to raise stadium construction money by increasing car rental taxes up to 10 percent; adding a \$1 fee to event tickets at the facility; and charging an additional 50-cent parking fee.

The bill appears tailor-made for the Spurs.

The franchise wants to move out of the Alamodome and into a smaller arena with revenue-producing luxury suites.

The cost of such a facility could range from \$75 million to \$125 million.

#### ► Weather

Tonight

Partly cloudy with east winds at 5-10 mph.

### ► Campus **Regents** approve

fee increases for fall Fee increases will go into effect in Fall 1997 after being approved

by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents Thursday. Students will see increases in tuition, the Student Services Fee

and the Computer Fee. The Student Center and Library fees also will increase in the fall. The Board also approved the

on-campus child care center program requirements and selected an architect and engineer for the proposed center.

The center will be constructed on a site in the University Apartment Complex, near the intersection of University Drive and South College Avenue.

The University will provide close to \$1 million in start-up costs for the center, which will operate on its own funds.

The Board approved a contractor for the completion of Olsen Road on West Campus.

WASHINGTON (AP) - Sm made a career of stomping so it might seem odd to thin Forest Service setting trees a

Lawmakers fired

about forest pla

► Nation

Not everybody is hap Clinton administration plan crease so-called prescribe ing from 750,000 acres in 1.3 million acres next year overstocked national for dead and dying timber.

Rep. Bob Smith, R-Ore man of the House Agricult mittee, sees "a lot of hid lems in prescribed burn prefers salvage logging to est floors of tinder instead

"People will always ma judgments. Nobody can pr weather," said Smith, about blazes getting out of Forest Service Chie

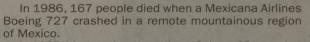
Dombeck agreed, telling ers fire must be treated spect. "There isn't a bun not dangerous."

Highs & Low Tomorrow Today's Expecte 69°F Tonight's Expec 52°F Tomorrow's Exp High 68°F Increasing cloudiness Tomorrow Ni with gusty winds. 60 percent chance of showers

Expected Low 60°F

Information courtesy of TAM

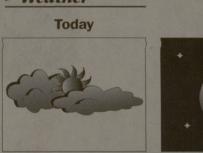




In 1995, Mexican-American singer Selena, 23, was shot to death in Corpus Christi, Texas, by the founder of her fan club (Yolanda Saldivar was convicted of murder and sentenced to life in prison).

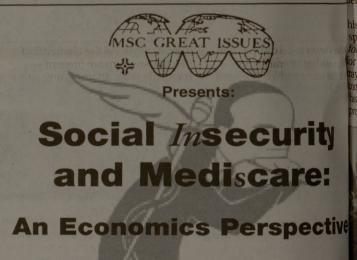
#### Today's birthdays

Today's Birthdays: Actor Richard Kiley is 75. Actor William Daniels is 70. Hockey Hall-of-Famer Gordie Howe is 69. Actress Shirley Jones is 63. Country singer-songwriter John D. Loudermilk is 63. Actor Richard Chamberlain is 62. Musician Herb Alpert is 62. Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., is 57. Actor Christopher Walken is 54. Comedian Gabe Kaplan is 52. Vice President Al Gore is 49. Actress Rhea Perlman is 49. Actor Ed Marinaro is 47.



Partly cloudy with east winds at 5-10 mph.





or thunderstorms.

## ATTENTION ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTS

The deadline to cancel your housing contract for Fall 1997 and Spring 1998 and receive a \$200 (100%) deposit refund is:

### **APRIL** 1 by 5:00 P.M.

Cancellation forms can be filled out in 101 YMCA. Letters of cancellation can be faxed (409)-862-3122) or mailed to the Housing Assignments Office 101 YMCA Building College Station, TX. 77843-1258 (409) 845-4744

Deadlines to receive a portion of your deposit: April 2 - May 1 \$150 (75%) \$100 (50%) May 2 - May 15 May 16 - June 1 \$50 (25%)

After June 1 Deposited forfeited

APRIL 4, 1997 at **HURRICANE HARRY'S** 

Skits Start at 5:30 **Proceeds Benefit the Children's Miracle Network** Advance tickets may be purchased at Marooned Records & Rother's



#### FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 31 - APRIL 3 SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

		MON	TUES	WED	THUR	
and the second sec		Mar 31	Apr 1	Apr 2	Apr 3	
CHEM	5-7	CH	CH	CH	CH	
107	PM	10	11	12	13	
CHEM	7-9	СН	СН	CH	PRAC	
101	PM	10	11	12	TEST	
CHEM	9-11	СН	СН	СН	PRAC	
102 TANG WOLF	PM	20	21A	21B	TEST TANG/WOLF	
PHYS	11PM-	CH	СН	CH	CH	
218	1AM	9	10,11	12	13	
		MON	TUES	WED		
		Mar 31	Apr 1	Apr 2	A war the	
PHYS	6-9	CH	CH	PRAC	all and the	
208	PM	30,31	32,33	TEST		
PHYS	9-12	CH	CH	PRAC	ALD VILLA	
208	PM	30,31	32,33	TEST		

BUSINESS NOTE: ACCT 230 WILL BEGIN SUNDAY APRIL 6

out of the state		MON Mar 31	TUES Apr 1	WED Apr 2	THUR Apr 3
ACCT	5-7	CH 9	CH	CH	CH 12
229	PM	CH 9	10	11	&REVIEW
FINC	7-9	PART I	PART	PART III	PART
341	PM	FART	П	FARIM	IV
FINC	9-11	PART	PART	PART III	PART
341	PM	FART		PARI	IV

With panelists from the Department of Economic

## Tuesday, April 1st 8:30 P.M. **MSC 212**

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special nee request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to as to the best of our abilities.

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