

# THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING

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Monday • March 31, 1997

## Stadium finance battle brews in Austin

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The 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

money through local governments.  
A number of Texans have cheered on the lieutenant governor.  
"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.  
Still, the Spurs and other



Bullock

sports executives, along with several big-city mayors, have spoken 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 expected 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.

### 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.

### Nation

#### Lawmakers fired about forest plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senators made a career of stomping out so it might seem odd to think Forest Service setting trees ablaze.  
Not everybody is happy Clinton administration plans to create so-called prescribed fire from 750,000 acres in 1997. 1.3 million acres next year to overstocked national forests die and dying timber.  
Rep. Bob Smith, R-Ore., chairman of the House Agriculture committee, sees "a lot of hidden problems in prescribed burning prefers salvage logging to create floors of timber instead."  
"People will always make judgments. Nobody can predict the weather," said Smith, about blazes getting out of control.  
Forest Service Chief Dombeck agreed, telling reporters fire must be treated with respect. "There isn't a burn not dangerous."

### This day in history

Today is Monday, March 31, the 90th day of 1997. There are 275 days left in the year.  
On this date:  
On March 31, 1889, French engineer Alexandre Gustave Eiffel unfurled the French tricolor atop the Eiffel Tower in Paris, officially marking its completion.  
In 1917, the United States took possession of the Virgin Islands, which it had purchased from Denmark.  
In 1932, Ford Motor Co. publicly unveiled its V-8 engine.  
In 1943, the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical "Oklahoma!" opened on Broadway.  
In 1945, the Tennessee Williams play "The Glass Menagerie" premiered on Broadway.  
In 1968, President Johnson stunned the country by announcing he would not run for another term of office.  
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.)

In 1986, 167 people died when a Mexicana Airlines Boeing 727 crashed in a remote mountainous region of Mexico.  
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.

### Weather

#### Today



Partly cloudy with east winds at 5-10 mph.

#### Tonight



Partly cloudy with east winds at 5-10 mph.

#### Tomorrow



Increasing cloudiness with gusty winds. 60 percent chance of showers or thunderstorms.

### Highs & Lows

Today's Expected 69°F  
Tonight's Expected 52°F  
Tomorrow's Expected High 68°F  
Expected Low 60°F

Information courtesy of TAMI

You can **ALWAYS** retake a class...  
But you can **NEVER** relive  
**DERBY DAYS 1997**

**Sigma Chi Sorority Skit Night** featuring **SUPER TYRONE**

**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

MSC GREAT ISSUES Presents:  
**Social Insecurity and Medicare: An Economics Perspective**

With panelists from the Department of Economics  
**Tuesday, April 1st 8:30 P.M. MSC 212**

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

**Memo**  
**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%)  
May 2 - May 15 \$100 (50%)  
May 16 - June 1 \$50 (25%)  
After June 1 Deposited forfeited

**ATutoring 260-2660**  
725B University Drive

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

		MON Mar 31	TUES Apr 1	WED Apr 2	THUR Apr 3
CHEM 107	5-7 PM	CH 10	CH 11	CH 12	CH 13
CHEM 101	7-9 PM	CH 10	CH 11	CH 12	PRAC TEST
CHEM 102 TANG WOLF	9-11 PM	CH 20	CH 21A	CH 21B	PRAC TEST TANGWOLF
PHYS 218	11PM-1AM	CH 9	CH 10,11	CH 12	CH 13

  

		MON Mar 31	TUES Apr 1	WED Apr 2
PHYS 208	6-9 PM	CH 30,31	CH 32,33	PRAC TEST
PHYS 208	9-12 PM	CH 30,31	CH 32,33	PRAC TEST

BUSINESS NOTE: ACCT 230 WILL BEGIN SUNDAY APRIL 6

		MON Mar 31	TUES Apr 1	WED Apr 2	THUR Apr 3
ACCT 229	5-7 PM	CH 9	CH 10	CH 11	CH 12 & REVIEW
FINC 341	7-9 PM	PART I	PART II	PART III	PART IV
FINC 341	9-11 PM	PART I	PART II	PART III	PART IV

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