

**FREUDIAN**  
*slip*

improvisational comedy

presents



This 'til show is Freudian Slip's way to personally thank all of its friends and fans for their support over the past five years.

Saturday, May 2, 1998  
9 p.m. at Rudder Auditorium  
Tickets are \$4 in advance (MSC Box Office)  
\$5 at the door

**Austin's new airport, right on schedule**

AUSTIN (AP) — Construction of Austin's new, \$690 million airport is on time a year before the first passenger flights are scheduled to arrive.

"One year out is like in basketball — this is crunch time, and our goal is not to go into overtime," city aviation director Charles Gates said.

The city is building the new airport at the site of the former Bergstrom Air Force Base because air traffic has outgrown Robert Mueller Airport, located near downtown.

The first flights are scheduled to arrive on April 24, 1999. Flights will depart for the first time the following day.

"It's really nice when you plan the work, and it works like you plan," airport project director John Almond said. Almond, however, is not ready to celebrate.

**"It is really nice when you plan the work and it works like you plan."**

John Almond  
Airport project director

There have been bumps along the way. The initial budget increased several times, mostly to reflect soaring passenger traffic.

Airport planners had forecast traffic would increase about 4.5 percent annually between 1991 and 2002. But traffic at Mueller airport grew at a higher rate in recent

years — sometimes as much as 10 percent a year.

And when the City Council decided in 1996 to rebuild the airport because the low bid was \$100 million and there were concerns about the bidding process, it delayed the initial opening date by six months.

The terminal is expected to be substantially complete by the end of the year, but the parking garage, road to the terminal and other facilities are not ready until near opening in 1999. "Let's just say there's a lot of work that has to be done," Almond said.

**House subcommittee gives answers on college costs**

AUSTIN (AP) — A recent national study said parents rank paying for college as their second greatest fear in raising a child behind only losing a son or daughter to kidnapping or violent crime.

A House subcommittee examining the soaring costs of higher education was reminded of that Tuesday as it listened to testimony from education experts and economists about how to keep costs down for students.

An official with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board told the committee that the cost of an education at a public university in Texas nearly tripled from 1986 to 1996. The cost has been steadily shifting from the state to the student, and the average cost of an education at a public university in Texas is \$10,481 while a private school averages \$15,908 per year.

Outside of the unlikely possibility of creating a state personal income tax or raising the sales tax to bolster the state's share of funding college

educations, the committee got few recommendations that will have any immediate impact on the situation.

"Money is always going to be tight," said Rep. Jim Solis, D-Harlingen, chairman of the subcommittee. "But I think we can do some things to make sure the money we are spending is spent wisely and that a college education is looked at more as an investment than a cost."

The subcommittee will make recommendations to the House Higher Education Committee in anticipation of the 1999 Legislature.

Bennat Mullen, a professor at Stephen F. Austin University, said studies he has conducted show the state is doing a poor job of accounting for how universities are spending students' tuition and fees.

He recommended the Legislature require colleges and universities to disclose in detail how much of student fees and tuition are actually being spent on a student's education.

He said some schools — excluding Texas A&M and Texas Tech, which have athletic departments that pay for themselves — may be able to find ways to reduce costs for other purposes, such as cutting back on travel.

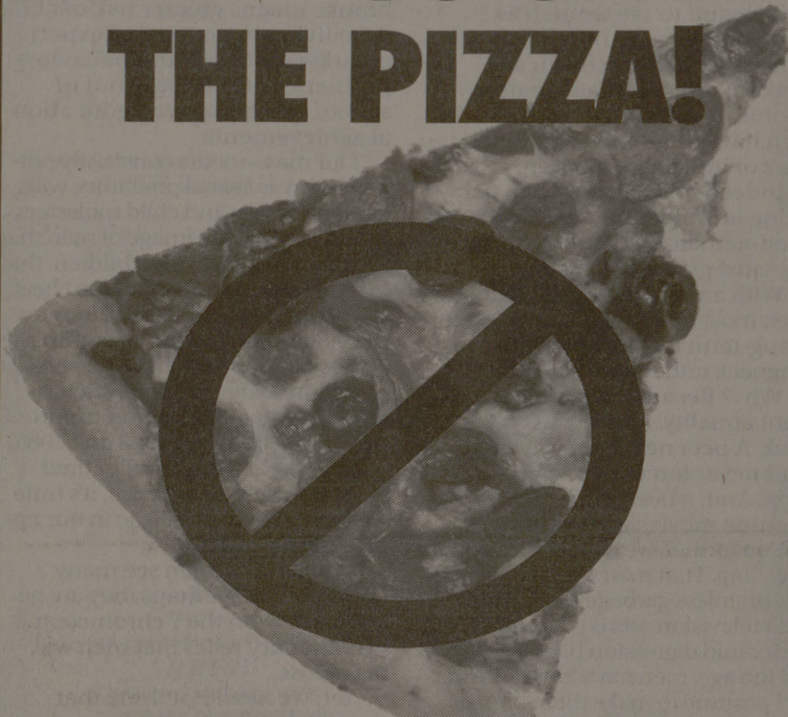
"If we are going to meet the needs of our students, there needs to be a greater emphasis on academics," Mullen said.

Mullen added that the University of Texas sent the wrong signal when it recently signed football coach John Mackovic to a five-year, \$1.8 million contract and agreed to pay basketball coach Tom Penders \$643,000 of a resignation settlement.

UT officials have repeatedly said the money came from athletic department funds, not state or student fees.

"The athletics are out of hand," Mullen said. "It can be a cancer and can ruin the reputation of an academic institution if too much money is placed on it."

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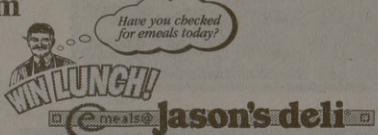
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**Attire:** Formal  
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