

Bush signs campaign finance bill

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) — Without fanfare, President Bush signed landmark campaign finance legislation Wednesday as he opened an aggressive multimillion-dollar fund-raising swing. Within hours, multiple lawsuits challenged the new law.

"This legislation, although far from perfect, will improve the current financing system for federal campaigns," Bush said in a written statement released after White House aides telephoned bill sponsors with news of the signing.

Here, on the first stop of his quick swing through South Carolina and Georgia gathering \$3 million for Republican candidates, Bush denied that his low-key enactment of the bill was any kind of statement on his ambivalence toward it.

"I wouldn't have signed it if I was really unhappy with it," Bush told reporters as he met with emergency and rescue workers at a Greenville fire station. He said he saw no contradiction in signing the bill on a day of heavy fund raising. "I'm not going to lay down my arms. I'm going to participate in the rules of the system."

After the speech to emergency workers, Bush headlined a \$1.1 million fund-raiser for Rep. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., and then flew to Georgia to help collect \$1.5 million for Rep. Saxby Chambliss. Thursday, he hopes to raise more than \$1 million for Texas Attorney General John Cornyn's bid for the Senate. Graham told donors at his fund-raiser: "Enjoy every minute of it. You paid for it." The bill will "make American politics more

palatable," said Graham, who voted in favor of the bill and was a vocal supporter of Bush's 2000 GOP rival, Sen. John McCain — the most visible sponsor of campaign-finance legislation.

Back in Washington, the National Rifle Association was first in line to file its legal challenge at the federal courthouse a few blocks from the White House.

The legislation "eviscerates the core protections of the First Amendment by prohibiting, on pain on criminal punishment, political speech," said a legal complaint filed on behalf of the NRA and its political victory fund.

Bush had already said he would stay out of the inevitable litigation.

"This legislation is the culmination of more than six years of debate among a vast array of legislators, citizens and groups. ... It does represent progress in this often-contentious area of public policy debate," Bush said in his written statement.

"Taken as a whole, this bill improves the current system of financing for federal campaigns and therefore I have signed it into law."

That's not how the NRA saw it.

"We are proud to be one of the first plaintiffs to formally ask the federal court to invalidate these new limits on the political speech of ordinary citizens because we believe that this law cannot be allowed to stand, not even for a moment," NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre said in a statement on the association's lawsuit.

"I'm not going to lay down my arms. I'm going to participate in the rules of the system."

— President Bush

Perry outlines plan to improve Texas education

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Study hard and don't drop out of school.

That was the message Gov. Rick Perry gave on Tuesday as he toured South Texas during his five-point plan for improving the Texas education system.

In Brownsville, Perry outlined his plan to lower high school dropout rates.

"I'm here today to talk to you and the students and the people about something I consider to be very important to every child in the state of Texas. And that is finishing school," Perry said. "A high school degree is no longer a goal, but a necessity."

Last school year, 23,457 students dropped out of Texas schools, according to information provided by the governor's office.

"(The students) are not just dropping out of school, they're dropping out on their own terms," he said, adding that students leave school for a variety of reasons, including work and family obligations.

Perry said his program will cost an estimated \$200 million a year, with the bulk of the funds coming from the federal government, including the Leaving No Child Behind Education program, he said.

The governor was accompanied by Felipe Alanis, a native of the Rio Grande Valley who is the new commissioner of the Texas Education Agency.

Perry said he wants to establish new mentoring, summer school and after-school programs that "specialize in helping young men and women who are more prone to be

drop-out oriented, more at risk."

The governor lauded a ninth-grade initiative program that tries to raise graduation rates by lowering retention and dropout rates. But he said he wants to expand it to "fund early intervention programs for students in other grades so that we're not fighting this important battle too late."

He said flexible methods for allowing students to earn credits will motivate students who would otherwise be inclined to stop their education early to drop out.

Perry said the state needs more counselors, especially at schools with high dropout rates, saying they can provide the extra attention that students need to stay focused.

"These reforms will help us build on the tremendous success that we have made in Texas schools," he said. "I think it's time to take this success to the next level, making sure that every child has the help and the attention we need to succeed."

"A high school degree is no longer a goal, but a necessity."

— Rick Perry
Texas governor

AGGIELAND VISITOR CENTER

Student Worker/Tour Guide Positions Available

at the Aggieldand Visitor Center
First Floor, Rudder Tower

Applications are available and accepted
March 19- April 12, 2002

For more details, call 845-5851

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GUADALAJARA SUMMER SCHOOL

IN MEXICO SINCE 1952

Celebrating 50 years in Mexico

6-week sessions July 1 - August 8 or July 8 - August 15, 2002

Intensive Spanish (1st thru 6th semesters) • Earn: 6-8 units of credit

3-week sessions July 1 - July 19, July 8 to July 26 or

Intensive Spanish July 29 - August 16, 2002

(1st thru 4th semesters) • Earn: 4 units of credit

5-week session July 8 - August 7, 2002

Upper-division Spanish, Literature & Cinema as well as

Mexico-related courses in Anthropology, Political Science,

Religion, Sociology, and Bilingual Education

For information or application, contact:

Guadalajara Summer School • The University of Arizona

P.O. Box 40966 • Tucson, Arizona 85717 • Phone: (520) 621-5137

E-Mail: gss@u.arizona.edu

Home Page: www.coh.arizona.edu/gss

The Guitar Store

• Over 100 Guitars in stock

• New Guitars from \$99.99

• Used Amps, Guitars, & Bass's

• Buy, Sell, Trade, & Consignment's

SEAGULL • GODIN • WASHBURN • SAMICK

Located on University behind the Golden Coral

260-7262

after this, the corporate ladder will be a piece of [cake]



In the course of facing challenges like this, you'll learn how to think on your feet. Stay cool under pressure. Take charge. Talk to an Army ROTC rep. You'll find there's nothing like a little climbing to help prepare you for getting to the top.

ARMY ROTC

Unlike any other college course you can take.

APPLY NOW FOR PAID SUMMER LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND ARMY OFFICER OPPORTUNITIES
Call CPT Magee at 845-2814 for information.

[FREEUP]
[THE BETTER WAY TO PREPAY]

[SETUP] today!
\$99.99 Retail Price
- \$30.00 Mail-In Rebate

Now Only \$69.99
Price After Mail-In Rebate

Kyocera 2135pp

Includes \$15 worth of minutes.

200 BONUS WEEKEND MINUTES
when you [SETUP] or every time you [REUP]

As long as your account remains active.

offer good with every purchase of \$50 card or more while promotion lasts.

verizonwireless
We never stop working for you™

1.800.2 JOIN IN
Shop on-line
verizonwireless.com

Verizon Wireless Communications Stores

COLLEGE STATION 1801 Texas Ave., South (979) 696-3112	WAL-MART 1815 Brothers Blvd. (979) 764-6698
Authorized Retailers	
RADIO SHACK	BRYAN Bryan 800 Communications (979) 775-4800
COLLEGE STATION Advanced Wireless (979) 693-8888	ADVANCED WIRELESS Post Oak Mall (979) 680-8600
VERIZON PHONE MART (979) 846-1271	

Service and equipment offer and prices may vary at these locations.

Business Sales CALL TOLL-FREE 1.800.505.5015

VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES OPEN SUNDAYS

Subject to terms of Prepay Wireless Service Agreement. Set-up fee up to \$35 may apply. Usage rounded to next full minute. Unused minutes lost. Restrictions apply. For a limited time only. Rebate requests must be postmarked on or before 04/15/02. Original receipt and bar code required, copies not accepted. Allow 10-12 weeks for rebate checks. Bonus Weekend Minutes do not apply to SMS messages or calls off the Verizon Wireless FREE network. Special charge numbers such as International Dialing will use bonus minutes and additional surcharges may apply. Bonus Weekend Minutes will deplete with Voice Mail deposits and retrievals. Bonus Weekend Minutes are lost once account expires. See store for details. © 2002 Verizon Wireless.

WESTGATE SHOPPING CENTER 4353 WELLBORN ROAD 846-7652

Salty DOG
SPANK'N' NEW!

CALENDAR

THURSDAY
\$1.50 LONGNECKS, \$1.50 WELLS
\$2.00 RED BULL & VODKA
ALL NIGHT

FRIDAY
\$1.00 WELLS UNTIL 10
\$1.00 DRAFTS UNTIL 10
\$2.00 LONGNECKS ALL NIGHT
\$1.00 SHOT BAR ALL NIGHT

SATURDAY
\$1.00 PINTS ALL NIGHT
\$1.00 WELLS UNTIL 10
ALL LADIES 18 AND UP GET
IN FREE
EVERY NIGHT OF THE WEEK