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CCCC's

Caleidoscope

March 31, 1989

No.116

Published by the Office of Institutional Advancement

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

"I HAVE A BIAS FOR ACTION - A PREFERENCE FOR DOING SOMETHING, RATHER THAN SENDING A PROBLEM THROUGH ENDLESS CYCLES OF ANALYSIS. I BELIEVE THAT OUR INSTITUTION VITALITY WILL DEPEND ON HOW EFFECTIVELY WE MAXIMIZE OUR OPPORTUNITIES AS THEY BECOME APPARENT, RATHER THAN HOW SKILLFULLY OR CAREFULLY WE CAN AVOID MAKING ERRORS."

John Anthony

THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS:

April 5 Lunch served by I Love Yogurt - CC
April 8 Last day to withdraw with a "W" for regular semester

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

This week on CCCC's "Caleidoscope": *"Future Shop Expo"*

Guests: Barbara Money, Coordinator of Career Planning/Placement, CCCC
 Stephanie Ingram, Career Advising Associate
 Eric Gruver, Student

Moderator: Mary Rabaut

Air Time: Channel 35, Plano Telecable
 Monday, April 3, 5pm
 Friday, April 7, 7:30pm

CCCCD has joined over 525 companies participating in the March of Dimes TEAM WALK, an 18.6 mile walk to raise money for programs to help in the research of preventing birth defects. TEAM WALK is scheduled for Saturday, April 29. If you would like to sign up, please contact Bev Triana, ext. 5777 (SCC - Room C153) to pick up an official sponsor form. Together CCCCCD can make a mark toward advancing the quality of health for all babies, and yourself as well.

The Science and Health Division and Astronomy classes invite all interested faculty and staff members to a free planetarium show April 12, at 8pm or April 14, 1:30pm, at St. Mark's School in Dallas. Call Mike Broyles, ext. 5882, for more information.

The National Endowment for the Humanities has announced their 1990-91 NEH Fellowships. This fellowship program is designed for a broad spectrum of people: from those who have made significant contributions in the area of humanities to those who are just beginning their careers. Fellowships "may contribute to scholarly knowledge, to the conception and substance of individual courses in the humanities, or to the general public's understanding of the humanities. Projects may address broad topics or consist of study and research in a single field."

Application deadline is June 1, and award notification will be in December. The maximum stipend is \$27,500. For more information, please contact Roberta Kess, ext. 6609.

Reimbursement of **up to \$300** per full-time employee for tuition or professional development activities (such as workshops and conferences) is available each fiscal year through the CCCCD Foundation.

If you took a class or attended a conference in the Fall 1988 and are requesting reimbursement, you must complete the CCCCD Foundation Professional Development Tuition Refund Application and submit this form along with: (1) receipts detailing how much you paid for the course(s), fees and/or books, and (2) a grade report showing completion of the course with a passing grade ("C" or better).

NOTE: If you have already submitted receipts and grade reports to either the Personnel Office or to Beth Henry, you will automatically receive the form to complete and return to Kim Russell's office.

Reimbursement will be processed by the CCCCD Foundation following receipt of the approved form with related documentation.

If you are enrolled in a class this Spring and would like to have it considered for reimbursement, please complete Parts A and B of the form and hold until the course is successfully completed.

This policy of reimbursement after successful completion of the course also applies to word processing and other classes being offered by Continuing Education, as well as credit Word Perfect classes. Beginning now, employees will be required to pay for the course and apply for reimbursement from the Foundation after the course has been completed.

Please call Kim Russell, ext. 6661, if you have any questions.

1988 CCCD STUDENT SURVEY: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY - See Pages 9 and 10.

The Wellness Program is offering a complete computerized nutritional analysis that will be administered to any faculty or staff member who is interested. The inventory will include education on the quality of dietary intake. To reserve an analysis packet, call Bev Triana, ext. 5777, from 2:30 to 5:30pm Monday through Friday or stop by SCC, Room C153 during the same times. The Nutritional Analysis Packet must be returned on or before March 31.

CCCC strives to creatively, and with excellence, respond to the needs of the diverse population in Collin County. "A Day for All Women: From Silences to Voices of Our Own," is a series of workshops scheduled on Saturday, April 8, from 8:30am to 3pm, at SCC, to serve as a vehicle to bring women together to network, to share, and to learn from one another in an affordable, fun, and worthwhile manner.

Lunch will be provided, and child care is available on a pre-registered, pre-paid basis of \$7 for one child and \$12 for two children per family. Children must be between 3 and 6 years of age and must bring a sack lunch. Pre-registration for the entire day is \$20 and registration forms must be postmarked by March 31. Late registration is \$25 and will be accepted at the door. For more information, contact Karen Rose, Enterprise, ext. 5852.

OPEN SESSION for **Theatre Instructor** will be held Tuesday, April 4, at SCC, Room B213, for Glenna Maglio.

OPEN SESSIONS for **Speech Instructor** will be held Friday, April 7, at SCC, Room B223 for the following:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Kirk Ashton | 2pm |
| Robert Greenstreet | 3pm |

OPEN SESSIONS for **Theatre Instructor** will be held Monday, April 10, at SCC, Room B222, for the following:

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| James Harbour | 2:15pm |
| Rob Hall | 2:45pm |
| Richard Smith | 3:15pm |

OPEN SESSIONS for **Physical Education Instructor** will be held Monday, April 10, at SCC, Room B214 for the following:

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Greg Dennis | 1:45pm |
| Lloyd Simmons | 2:15pm |
| John Luedtke | 2:45pm |

If you have any questions, please call the Personnel Office, CC, at ext. 6660.

(more)

Jill Whitson's Beginning Dance Classes will be having a show case called "Begin To Express Yourself" on April 13 and 14 at 6:30pm at the John Anthony Theatre. It will also include the Collin County Dance Consortium.

The Technology Transfer Center for Computing was established at Johnson County Community College in January, 1988, to assist faculty who want to learn about computing or about using computers in classroom instruction. The center is sponsored through a joint project with IBM, the League of Innovation in the Community College, and Johnson County Community College. The Computer and Information Systems (CIS) Division administers and operates the center.

Seminars have been scheduled for the Spring of 1989, with vacancies on the following dates: April 7, April 14, and May 5. Faculty and staff members from all community colleges are eligible to attend the Technology Transfer seminars and there is no cost for participation. Meals, lodging, and transportation are not included, however.

The center has limited seating capacity. For scheduling information or to make reservations, contact the Computer Information Systems Division at Johnson County Community College, 12345 College at Quivira, Overland Park, KS 66210-1299 or call 913/469-8500, ext. 3881.

STAFF NEWS:

MIKE BROYLES had two teaching ideas published recently in "Great Ideas for Teaching Astronomy" by the West Educational Publishing Company.

Second Lieutenant STEPHEN CARROLL has received a commendation from Major General James T. Dennis, Adjutant General of the Texas Army National Guard, for being named Honor Graduate of the Armor Officer Basic Course at Ft. Knox, Kentucky.

BILLIE CUNNINGHAM will be presenting her paper, "Daily Journal Entries in the Principles of Accounting Courses: Using a Special Journal for Writing to Learn," at the Prentice-Hall Accounting Seminars for Educators in Dallas on April 12. This paper describes the writing-across-the-curriculum emphasis at CCCC and how it was successfully applied in selected accounting classes.

TED McFERRIN, English Professor, was asked to preside at a session, "Developing Revising Skills and the Critical Voice in Student Writers Through Peer, Individual, and Teacher Responses," New York College Learning Skills Association Annual Symposium on Developmental Education, April 10, at Albany, New York.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

New items in the Staff Development Resource Center include the following:

Leadership in Education - Video Tape

Keynote address by Gail Sheey at SACS meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, on December 12, 1988.

Planning Guide for Instructional Computing

Produced by the League of Innovation in the Community College, this guide is intended to provide practical guidance for community colleges to develop institutional strategies for applying computers to improve teaching and learning.

1989 TASP Test Registration Bulletin

This bulletin provides general information about TASP, instructions for registering for the TASP Test and for receiving test scores, and, suggestions on how to prepare for and take the TASP Test.

NOTES FROM PERSONNEL:

POSITIONS AVAILABLE:

Professor of Physical Science/Chemistry

Fitness Center Supervisor - SCC (part-time)

Contact the Personnel Office at CC if you have any questions, ext. 6660.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| Bridget Bennett | 4/01 |
| Billie Cunningham | 4/02 |
| Bobby Broyles | 4/03 |
| Michael Broyles | 4/03 |
| Vickie Coughlin | 4/05 |
| Washington James | 4/05 |
| Denise Henniecke | 4/09 |

LATEST FROM THE LRC:

Audio-Visual

The following video tapes are available for preview by faculty and staff in the A/V area of the CC LRC:

The Indomitable Teddy Roosevelt

The Homefront

(more)

The Stock Market: A Market Place for the Nation

A Time to Die: Who Decides

Abused Children and the Law

These titles have been made available to the LRC on loan by Churchill Films until April 6. To make arrangements to view the tapes, please call Lane Williams, ext. 6871.

New Books in the SCC LRC

Payne Harrison

Storming Intrepid

In the Tom Clancy tradition, Storming Intrepid is a brilliantly accurate and compelling techno-thriller.

Paul Theroux

Riding the Iron Rooster: By Train Through China

Theroux is a gifted and hilarious writer, and has produced one of the most beguiling and revealing books on China since Marco Polo.

Isaac Singer

The Death of Methuselah

The title story of this collection, a fable of Noah's grandfather, longing for death at the very moment when the Deluge is about to be unleashed, represents the Nobel Prize author at his best.

Philip Stern

The Best Congress Money Can Buy

Stern's book is a careful yet sensational account of the corrupting influence of political money on Congress.

George Burns

Gracie: A Love Story

Gracie brings to life the charming woman who was smart enough to become the dumbest woman in show business history.

John Greenya

Blood Relations: The Exclusive Inside Story of the Benson Family Murders

This absolutely chilling story takes its place alongside Fatal Vision and Blood and Money.

Salman Rushdie

The Satanic Verses

A novel of metamorphoses, hallucinations, revelations, and jokes. An extraordinary invention, Satanic Verses is dazzling.

Ardis Burst

The Three Families of H.L. Hunt

The true story of the three wives, fifteen children, countless millions, and troubled legacy of the richest man in America.

Jonathan Kwitny

The Crimes of Patriots

The Wall Street Journal's Kwitny tells a true tale of dope, dirty money, and the CIA.

Judith Wallerstein

Second Chances: Men, Women, and Children A Decade After Divorce - Who Wins, Who Loses, and Why

A surprising and sobering contribution to our understanding of family life in general and divorce in particular.

William Casey

The Secret War Against Hitler

Former CIA Director Casey recounts his service in the Second World War in the Office of Strategic Services.

William Masters and Virginia Johnson

Crisis: Heterosexual Behavior in the Age of AIDS

The noted researchers of human sexuality have produced one of the more sensational and alarming books on AIDS.

CARTOON CORNER:



THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

(more)

SPOTLIGHT:

"Enter Laughing"

Feint Praise

Professor Robert J. Thornton of the Economics Department at Lehigh University notes that job candidates often see reference letters and sometimes sue the writers. For this reason, he has developed the Lexicon of Inconspicuously Ambiguous Recommendations, or LIAR, to convey unfavorable information in a format that needn't be construed as negative. Here are a few examples:

To describe a candidate who is woefully inept:

"I most enthusiastically recommend this candidate with no qualifications whatsoever."

To describe a candidate who had difficulty getting along with fellow workers:

"I am pleased to say that this candidate is a former colleague of mine."

To describe a candidate with lackluster credentials:

"All in all, I cannot say enough good things about this candidate or recommend him too highly."

To describe a candidate who is not particularly industrious:

"In my opinion you will be very fortunate to get this person to work for you."

To describe a candidate who is so unproductive that the position would be better left unfilled:

"I can assure you that no person would be better for this job."

To describe a candidate who is not worth further consideration:

"I would urge you to waste no time in making this candidate an offer of employment."

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COLLIN COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
1988 CCCC STUDENT SURVEY: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November/December 1988, a sample of 785 CCCC students completed in class a survey eliciting data, opinions, and needs. The sample represented 11% of the total Fall credit enrollment, and corresponded to the total in terms of age, sex, credit load and distribution by site, time of day, and academic division.

Planning for CCCC and Afterwards

* 31% first learned about CCCC by mail (up from 27% in 1987); 14% from print media (up from 10%); 13% from parents/relatives (down from 16%); 11% from friends (down from 15%); 9% from CCCC student (down from 10%).

* 74% named location as a top reason for enrolling (up from 21% in 1987); 60% named low tuition (up from 22%); 43% the time schedule (up from 12%); 35% opportunity to work (up from 12%); 33% interest in a transfer program (up from 12%).

* 41% checked 50 MIN. MWF MORN. as a top schedule preference; 30% checked 75 MIN. TTH MORN.; 26% 75 MIN. MW EVE.; 25% 75 MIN. TTH EVE.; 23% CLASS ONE EVE. PER WEEK.

* 67% plan to transfer to a four year college (down from 76% in 1987); 12% will seek employment (same as 1987); 12% want to move up in current job (new choice this year); 9% had other plans (down from 12%).

* 37% of those planning to transfer will do so by Fall 1989.

* 28% say they will go to U/NT (up from 21% in 1987); 21% to UTD (down from 25%); 6% to Texas A&M, 5% to TWU, 4% to UT/Austin 3% apiece to SMU, ETSU, Texas Tech, and Stephen F. Austin.

Opinions and Needs

Students rated 21 aspects of the College on a five point scale, with 5= greatest satisfaction and 1= lowest satisfaction. Average ratings ranged from a high of 4.33 to a low of 3.19. The 21 aspects are ranked in descending order by rating: (1)Facilities (2)CCCC in General (3)Professors (4)LRC-Library (5)Physical Education Center (6)Academic Standards (7)Developmental Writing (8)Business Services (9)Developmental Reading (10)Developmental Math (11)Bookstore (12)Transfer Information (13)Assessment/Testing (14)Student Employment (15)Registration-Central (16)Academic Advising (17)Registration-Plano (18)Financial Aid (19)Student Activities (20)Food Service (21)Registration-Spring Creek.

Students identified 76 subjects in which they would like courses added in Arts and Social Sciences, 64 in Science and Health, and 47 in Business and Industry. When asked what they liked best about CCCC, 31% said convenient location, 18% the friendly, helpful environment, 16% faculty and staff, and 14% physical plant. Students also suggested various improvements in instruction, administrative services, including building and grounds, and student development services.

1988 CCCC STUDENT SURVEY: RECOMMENDATIONS

Publicity

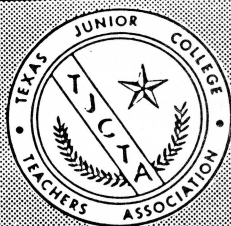
- * Since mail and print media were the two top sources for respondents of initial information about the College, ways to more effectively utilize these vehicles should be explored.
- * The College's convenient location, low tuition, time schedules, opportunity to work while attending school, and strong voc/tec and transfer programs should be emphasized.

Improvements

- * Students' comments and suggestions related to course additions and improvements, changes in class scheduling, and faculty improvement should be analyzed and appropriate changes implemented.
- * Students' comments and suggestions about administrative services, including building and grounds and food services should be analyzed and appropriate changes implemented.
- * Students' comments and suggestions related to student development services, including registration, advising, and student activities should be analyzed and appropriate changes implemented.
- * Students' comments and suggestions concerning the desirability of maintaining an appropriate balance in course offerings and administrative and student development services between the Central and Spring Creek campuses should be analyzed and appropriate changes implemented.

NOTE: Copies of the full report, "1988 CCCC Student Survey: Results and Analysis," are available from the Office of Institutional Research. The raw data upon which the report is based are also available for review.

--Office of Institutional Research 3/89--



UP *Legislative* DATE

A Publication of the TEXAS JUNIOR COLLEGE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
7748 Highway 290 West, Suite 310 — Austin, Texas 78736 — (512) 288-1364

Larry G. Shirts
President

Scott A. Nelson
Chairperson, Legislative Committee

Charles L. Burnside
Executive Secretary

MARCH 1989

FUNDING STRUGGLE INTENSIFIES

The coming month will be of critical importance to Texas community junior colleges, as both houses of the state legislature finalize their respective versions of the omnibus general appropriations bill for the 1989-91 biennium. Intense lobbying efforts from early morning until late night have found junior college advocates lining up support for needed increases in state funding.

TJCTA leaders have been involved in those efforts. State President Larry Shirts testified before the Subcommittee on Education of the Senate Committee on Finance (Jan. 26), the Subcommittee on Budget and Oversight of the House Committee on Higher Education (Feb. 20), and the House Committee on Appropriations (March 15). *(In each instance, TJCTA was the only faculty organization offering testimony in support of increased state appropriations for Texas community junior colleges and technical institutes.)*

In his testimony, Shirts urged legislators to increase state support for two-year colleges. "The past four years have been difficult ones for educators in two-year colleges," Shirts said, recalling the Legislature's nine percent cut in junior college funding in 1986 and the veto by Gov. Bill Clements of staff insurance premiums in 1987. Shirts pointed out that the two-year colleges, while providing instruction for almost two-thirds of the state's college freshmen and sophomores, were the only educational institutions whose state appropriations for instructional programs have actually been cut below previous levels. "And these cuts have occurred at the same time we in two-year colleges are being asked to serve more students than ever before due to increasing student enrollments," Shirts added.

Outlining actions taken by colleges to cope with unexpected loss of state funds, Shirts said, "In the past two years, more than half of our districts were forced to raise local *ad valorem* taxes. In almost all of our districts, student tuition and fees have been raised, class sizes have been increased, the number of course sections has been reduced, needed capital improvements have been deferred, professional staff positions have been frozen or eliminated altogether, employee health insurance benefits have been reduced, and reserves have been drained—just to maintain current programs. Furthermore, during the past two years, faculty at three-fourths of our community junior colleges have watched their take-home pay actually decline as salaries have been cut, frozen, or increased only marginally at a rate less than the cost-of-living."

From all indications, higher education will fare considerably better in the Senate than in the House of Representatives. The Senate Finance Committee (chaired by Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan) and its Subcommittee on Education (chaired by Sen. Cyndi Krier, R-San Antonio) have proposed healthy increases in all areas of higher education. The House Appropriations Committee (chaired by Rep. Jim Rudd, D-Brownfield), on the other hand, appears to be responding to pressure from House Speaker Gib Lewis to be considerably more frugal in higher education funding.

On March 6, the Subcommittee on Budget and Oversight of the House Committee on Higher Education proposed funding community colleges at a level even lower than the meager recommendations reluctantly adopted by the Legislative Budget Board in December. Subcommittee Chairman Gary Watkins, D-Odessa, presented a list of "special items" for some institutions to be funded by cuts for others (including a \$9.1 million cut for community colleges). The Watkins plan was widely assailed as a return to "pork barrel" financing of higher education. The following week, on March 13, when the full Committee on Higher Education met, Reps. Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, and D. R. (Tom) Uher, D-Bay City, led the committee in rejecting the Watkins proposal and substituting a plan to increase funding for all elements of higher education on a proportional,

across-the-board basis ("to be sure that all institutions are treated fairly," according to Rep. Delco). The full committee voted 8 to 1 (Watkins voting No) to submit the substitute plan to the Committee on Appropriations. The Appropriations Committee promptly rejected the recommendations of the Higher Education panel as "exceeding revenues presently anticipated" for the biennium. However, last Wednesday, March 22, House Speaker Gib Lewis released his spending proposals, which included significant increases for higher education based on an additional \$2 billion in total state revenue available for the two-year funding period.

Thus, as both the House of Representatives and Senate put the finishing touches on their spending proposals for 1989-91, the picture for community colleges, while still unclear, is decidedly brighter than a month ago. As always, of course, in the final steps of the appropriations process, the amounts to be provided for various state-funded programs will be determined largely by a joint conference committee of five members of the Senate Finance Committee and five members of the House Appropriations Committee, to be appointed, respectively, by Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and House Speaker Lewis. Hobby and Lewis can be expected to play an active role in putting the appropriations bill in its final form.

TJCTA members and faculty organizations in House districts whose Representatives serve on the Appropriations Committee are strongly urged to contact their Representatives **IMMEDIATELY** to ask for increased state appropriations for two-year colleges.

INSURANCE RESTORATION MEASURE MOVES SLOWLY

Legislation to restore state funding for junior college staff insurance premiums for the current fiscal year has passed both houses of the Texas Legislature—but in different forms. The appropriations measure must pass each house in identical form before it can be sent to the Governor for his approval. Indications are that there might be some positive movement within the next week.

During the last legislative session, Gov. Bill Clements shocked almost everybody by vetoing \$45.3 million appropriated to reimburse junior colleges for a portion of the cost of staff group insurance. A year later, in August 1988, Gov. Clements met with TJCTA State President Larry Shirts and Legislative Committee Chairperson Scott Nelson, and in that meeting acknowledged that his insurance veto was "misguided." The Governor also indicated a willingness to assist efforts to restore the vetoed funds "if we can afford it."

In a letter to Gov. Clements shortly before the Legislature convened in January, Shirts urged the Governor to designate the insurance restoration item as an "emergency" measure, thus allowing the Legislature to consider the issue during the first 60 days of the session. In his letter, Shirts told Gov. Clements that the veto of insurance funds placed an "unanticipated financial burden on the community college districts." "Direct results of that development were a significant increase in taxes in many of the college districts, 'freezing' of faculty salaries at several colleges, substantial increases in tuition and fees at most colleges, and a depletion of much-needed reserves in many institutions," Shirts wrote.

On January 25, Gov. Clements listed the insurance restoration item as an "emergency" measure for consideration by the Legislature. Legislation moved quickly as Sen. John Montford, D-Lubbock, and Rep. Ric Williamson, D-Weatherford, introduced similar bills to reimburse the community college districts for the vetoed insurance funds.

Shirts offered testimony before the Senate Finance Committee (Jan. 30) and the House Appropriations Committee (Feb. 7) urging speedy action on the insurance restoration measures.

When some reluctance arose (reportedly on the part of House Speaker Gib Lewis) to restore the entire amount for the two-year period, representatives of the Texas Public Community/Junior College Association agreed with Montford and Williamson to accept reimbursement for the current year only. The revised amount to be appropriated is \$24,258,054—slightly more than half the amount vetoed.

When Williamson's bill was considered in the House of Representatives, an amendment was proposed by Rep. Chris Harris, R-Arlington, which would have the effect of limiting community college districts' taxing authority. The Harris amendment would treat the amount appropriated to each college as if that amount had been raised entirely by *ad valorem* taxes, whether that were the case or not. The net effect of the amendment would be to lower the threshold at which a tax rollback election could be triggered. Williamson accepted Harris's amendment, and the bill, as amended, passed the House without dissent. The House-passed bill was sent to the Senate, where the Finance Committee deleted the Harris amendment and reported the bill to the Senate.

Meanwhile, in the Senate, Montford's original insurance restoration bill was incorporated into a broad "omnibus" emergency appropriations measure, which passed the Senate easily but met prompt—and stiff—opposition in the House Appropriations Committee because of some of the bill's provisions unrelated to the junior college insurance appropriations. The House committee will consider the omnibus emergency appropriations measure next Wednesday, March 29.

Although junior college representatives are becoming a bit apprehensive and expressing some frustration because of the delays in getting the insurance money restored, most observers expect the funds to be appropriated...eventually.

"SOUTH TEXAS INITIATIVE" LEGISLATION ADVANCES

Several proposals related to the "South Texas initiative"—a move led by lawmakers mainly from the South Texas triangle between Corpus Christi, Laredo, and Brownsville—have made their way in the legislative process. While the outcome of the measures is by no means certain, the overall effort has certainly generated a lot of interest.

Bills in both houses have been introduced to merge Pan American University (both the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses) with the University of Texas System, and to merge Texas A&I University, Laredo State University, and Corpus Christi State University with the Texas A&M University System. The merger legislation has passed the Senate and is generally expected to pass the House with little opposition.

Other proposals have drawn stout opposition. The Senate has passed legislation to expand CCSU into a full four-year university and is expected to pass a bill to create a law school at Texas A&I University. Gov. Bill Clements is said to have expressed objections to both measures, and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby called the A&I law school proposal "ludicrous."

The several pieces of legislation have been filed pursuant to findings and recommendations of a special House-Senate joint committee. That committee also recommended expansion of LSU and PAU-Brownsville into four-year schools in 1998 and 2001, respectively.

TJCTA State President Larry Shirts testified before the Senate Education Committee (Feb. 22) and the House Higher Education Committee (March 27). He expressed TJCTA agreement "that the enhancement and expansion of higher education opportunities in South Texas are both essential and long overdue." He called on the legislative panels to consider the effects of their decisions on "existing educational opportunities in the region." Specifically, Shirts testified that "the cities directly affected by the legislation under consideration are blessed by the presence of three top-quality two-year colleges"—Del Mar College, Laredo Junior College, and Texas Southmost College. "For very many years, these institutions have provided excellent educational opportunities to tens of thousands of area freshmen and sophomores... In your laudable efforts to increase and expand graduate and professional education opportunities, it is imperative that you avoid doing anything which might interfere with the ability of these fine two-year schools to continue providing area citizens with quality education," Shirts said.

Shirts also told the panels that TJCTA has consistently opposed legislation to expand existing upper-level institutions into four-year universities as well as legislation to merge community colleges with existing upper-level universities. "In this respect, our positions are entirely consistent with the findings and recommendations of every one of the several comprehensive and objective studies of long-range planning for Texas higher education—up through and including the Select Committee on Higher Education in 1987," Shirts stated. "We appear today to repeat once more our opposition to proposals for the downward expansion

of the upper-level institutions. We believe the state's sorely limited resources can be used much more effectively to expand the upper-level universities' graduate curricula. We also believe that whatever educational rationale might be advanced in support of downward expansion can be addressed more than adequately by a good-faith commitment to improved articulation between the community colleges and upper-level universities."

"EARLY RETIREMENT" LEGISLATION GAINS SUPPORT

House Bill 85, by Rep. Jim Rudd, D-Brownfield, providing for further improvements in the Teacher Retirement System of Texas, is expected to win passage in the House of Representatives by the end of March. Twenty-five professional education associations and organizations, including TJCTA, have endorsed the legislation which would provide unreduced retirement benefits for TRS members at age 55 with 30 years of service. The bill also provides for *ad hoc* increases for annuitants who retired prior to Sept. 1, 1986, ranging from 4 to 16 percent (up to \$100 per month). Cost of the improvements will be defrayed by employment of TRS asset gains which allow a two-year state contribution rate of 7.75 percent with the rate returning to 8 percent Sept. 1, 1991.

OTHER TRS LEGISLATION includes Senate Bill 490, by Sen. John Montford, D-Lubbock, and its companion, House Bill 3064, by Rep. Nolan (Buzz) Robnett, R-Lubbock. These measures provide changes recommended by the TRS Board of Trustees, including a new \$10,000 lump sum death benefit payment option for beneficiaries of retirees, and a reduction in the TRS vesting period from 10 to 5 years. The 25 professional education associations mentioned above have also endorsed these TRS improvements.

ATTENTION ORP PARTICIPANTS

Rep. Jack Vowell, R-El Paso, has introduced House Bill 2558, which provides for a reduction in the state contribution to Optional Retirement accounts from 8.5 percent to 7.75 percent with a corresponding *increase* in participant contributions from 6.65 percent to 7.4 percent. The bill also provides for ORP vesting after five years for individuals who begin ORP participation after Sept. 1, 1989, instead of the current one-year vesting.

The measure has not yet been referred to a House committee, but in all probability will be referred shortly to the House Committee on Retirement and Aging. Committee consideration could occur as early as April 12. TJCTA will oppose the bill.

UT-DALLAS EXPANSION IS PROPOSED

Legislation has been introduced by Rep. David Cain, D-Dallas, and Sen. O. H. (Ike) Harris, R-Dallas, providing for the downward expansion of the University of Texas at Dallas beginning with the fall semester in 1990. The bills would allow for admission of up to 2,000 freshman students each year, with a limit of 5,000 freshmen and sophomores. The enrollment ceilings would be subject to change by future legislative action, of course.

According to language in the draft legislation, the university would be required to develop policies to "emphasize the admission and enrollment of lower-division students who intend to major in academic programs leading to degrees in the natural sciences, mathematics, or engineering." This provision gives little comfort to opponents of downward expansion. They point out that the words *emphasize* and *intend* allow for very broad interpretation.

Minimum admission standards for lower-division students are to be "no less stringent than the then-current criteria for admission to The University of Texas at Austin."

It is reported that supporters of the expanded UT-Dallas (including influential Dallas businessmen and political leaders Jess Hay, Peter O'Donnell, and Trammell Crow) have pledged more than \$100 million for the institution if expansion is approved by the Legislature.

TJCTA leaders plan to testify in opposition to the legislation when hearings are conducted by the House Committee on Higher Education and the Senate Committee on Education.

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION

For information on the status of legislation and schedules of House and Senate committees, call toll-free: 1-800-252-9693 (in Austin, call 463-1251), 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.