

# Legislature will start next week with 2 hot issues

By David Woolsey

Gazette Staff

Two of the General Assembly's hottest issues — a state road construction program and a plan to reorganize the state's vocational-technical schools — will be moving through the legislature next week, Gov. Bill Clinton predicted Friday.

Clinton said he expected the weight-distance tax settlement to be considered by the Senate and for supporters of a road program to try and work out a compromise on a motor fuels tax increase.

"A large majority in the legislature would like to come out of here with a road program," Clinton said. "I think there will be some movement next week, and let's wait and see what happens."

A proposal to raise the gasoline tax by 8 cents

ures, let me say this much — I think it would be highly incredible if we were to give half of the money to ten vo-techs that stay behind when what we're trying to do is make dramatic progress with some of the schools who want to move forward," Gordon said.

Hardin stressed that his request for half the new money "is just a place to start negotiations. We'll be fair."

In the education committee, Hardin staved off fears from lawmakers who said the state might forget about vo-techs that don't upgrade to technical colleges. Hardin said he expects the left-behind vo-techs to get budget increases of 15 percent over last year.

"I can't give you any specific numbers, but I can say vo-techs will have substantial increases," he said.

Hardin and traditional vo-tech supporters were to meet with Gordon, Wilson and technical college supporters Thursday night to begin hammering out an agreement.

Meanwhile, the Senate State Agencies Committee approved a bill that would provide the framework for a constitutional convention this fall.

Lt. Gov. Jim Guy Tucker, who spearheaded the proposal, said the state needs a new constitution "to replace a document that simply does not work like it needs to work."

Sponsors of a state civil rights bill delayed a scheduled hearing on the matter until Tuesday. They said big business, headed by the Arkansas Chamber of Commerce, was about to agree on the bill.

"We came very, very close to an agreed-to bill last night," sponsoring Sen. Bill Lewellen, D-Marianna, said.

## Battle over vo-techs begins; corporate tax set for vote

March 8, 1991 T.S.R.

The Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK — The House braced for a vote to increase corporate income taxes Thursday, and the turf battle over how to spend the new money began.

A bill by Sen. Lu Hardin, D-Russellville, would increase the corporate income tax rate from 6 percent to 6.5 percent. Corporations with net profits of more than \$100,000 would pay 6.5 percent on all taxable income. Efforts were underway to water down the bill, making it apply only to taxable income above \$100,000.

The estimated \$12 million raised by the original bill would fund a massive upgrading of the state's vocational education system. Some vo-tech schools would become technical colleges; others would remain vo-techs with improved programs.

Supporters of the old vo-tech system and the new technical colleges are fighting for chunks of the tax increase.

Hardin represents the old system. The House Education Committee on Thursday approved his bill to upgrade vo-techs that don't become technical colleges. Among other things, the vo-techs would offer college programs taught by faculty of four-year colleges and universities. The bill is headed to the House.

Sens. Allen Gordon, D-Morrilton, and Nick Wilson, D-Pocahontas, have already passed a bill to turn at least 12 of the 24 vo-techs into technical colleges. Their bill is more expensive than Hardin's measure because of the cost of libraries, labs and other facilities a full-scale college needs.

Hardin said he wants about half of the \$11 million. Gordon said that would be impossible.

"Not having looked at his fig-

over the next three years and to raise the tax on diesel fuel by 5 cents received opposition from the poultry and timber industries. A compromise was floated Thursday that would raise the gas tax by 6½ cents and diesel fuel by 3½ cents all at once, but it apparently did not appease opponents.

Clinton said he had talked with legislators about the road program and wanted to wait until next week to determine what position he would take on the specifics of any compromise.

Two competing bills have been proposed to reorganize the state's vocational-technical education system, but Clinton indicated he believes there may be just one proposal before long.

"I still believe there's a chance that the two sides will reach an agreement," he said. "They can't afford to say that, but I can."

Sens. Allen Gordon of Morrilton and Nick

Wilson of Pocahontas have proposed a plan that would convert 10 vo-tech schools into technical colleges that would be placed under the jurisdiction of the state Board of Higher Education and their own local governing boards.

Another bill, by Rep. Lu Hardin of Russellville, would allow voters to convert vo-tech schools to community colleges. Programs at other schools would be expanded and the schools would have the ability to offer college-level courses.

Clinton said his main interest was that the schools offer training for students who don't plan to attend college and that the schools offer a wide range of educational offerings.

"The governance issue is not as important as what you're doing," Clinton said.



# College trustees tour facilities, discuss needs

By MARK BIVENS  
Staff Writer

A tour of Ouachita Technical College Tuesday by the board members allowed faculty and administration members at the school to outline some problems.

The major problems cited are lack of space in some circumstances and lack of adequate faculty numbers in others.

So lengthy was last night's agenda, board Chairman George McClure Jr. admitted the board's attention span had been tested and suggested the meeting be continued Jan. 7. The board agreed.

Director of schools Earl Clevenger led the board through a tour of some of the school's congested areas before proceeding to a vacant building on the premises that formerly served as a building trade class and shop.

Clevenger said the building could possibly be converted to four classrooms and the school had approximately \$13,000 in appropriations that perhaps could complete the task of conversion.

"Our greatest need is classrooms," Clevenger told the board.

"Will \$13,000 even touch remodeling?" McClure asked. Clevenger said that wasn't known at the present. The board authorized Clevenger to

submit plans to get an answer to that question.

Clevenger said the building was approximately 72-feet-by-30-feet and contained 2,100 square feet. He will send plans to the State Building Services for consideration.

"They make sure we're getting the most for our dollar," Clevenger said.

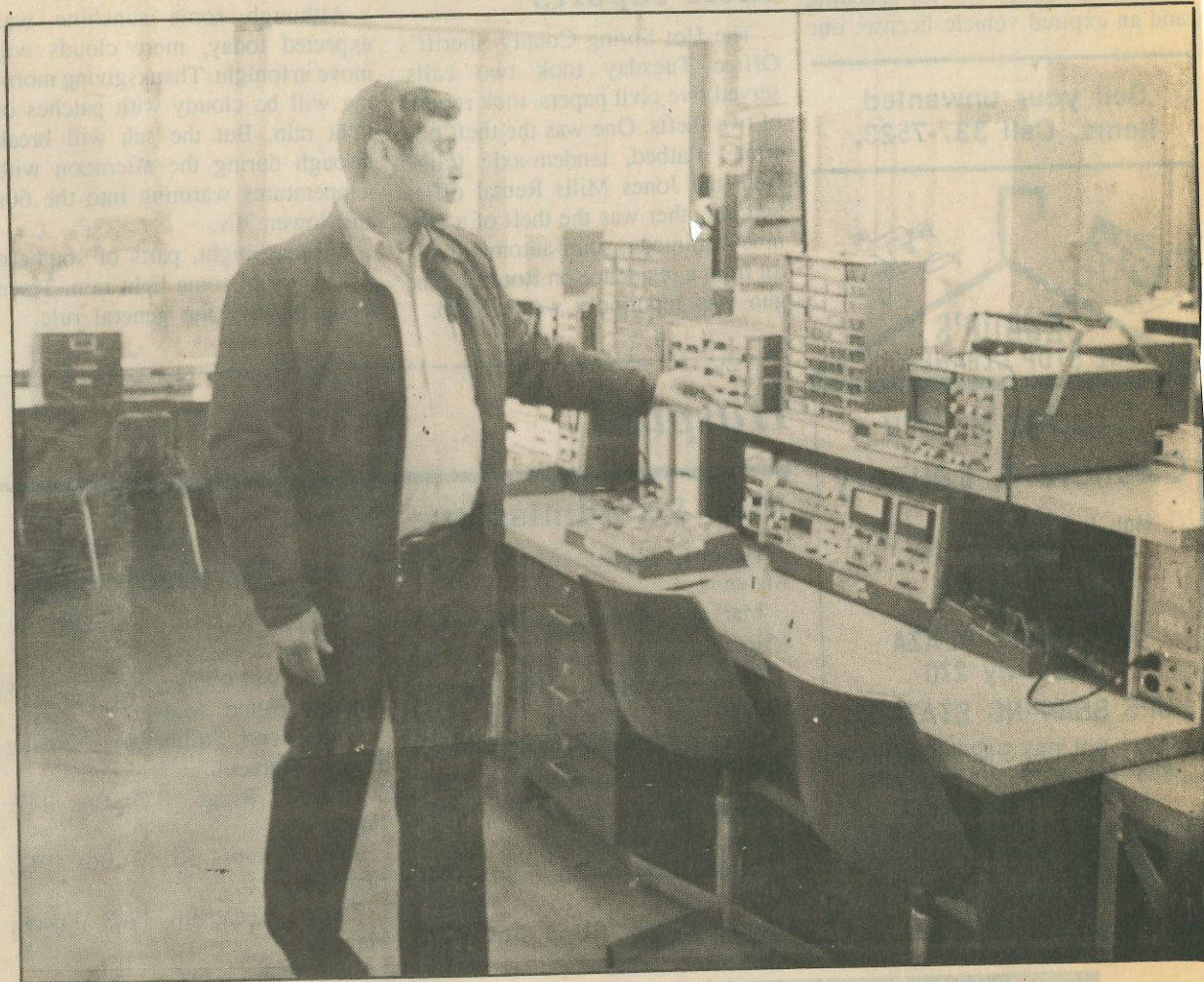
Electronics instructor Gary Engles told the board members touring his classroom and laboratory, finances in his department handicapped the school from completely living up to its potential in electronics.

"We're locked in a situation where we're doing what we can with what we have to work with," Engles said. "I think the best scenario case would be to go to two-year classes and hire an extra instructor."

The high success rate for placing graduates from the OTC electronics program was noted as one of the reasons for needing additional instructors and facilities.

Mary Beth Sudduth, an attorney for the Department of Higher Education, will draw up guidelines and procedures for hiring OTC personnel from this point on.

The board elected last night to split into two divisions, with half the board concentrating on academic needs and half on financing and budgetary needs.



Nov. 27, 1991 MDR  
Gary Engles leads trustees on tour of electronics lab.



# Marriage of plan, funds sparks productive union

"Love and marriage, you can't have one without the other."

The key factor missing in the union to restructure the state's vocational-technical system was added to the equation to upgrade post-secondary education in Arkansas.

The third time was the charm in pairing the restructuring plan with the required funding Tuesday. The House, after two failed attempts, approved a half-percent increase in the state corporate income tax on businesses with a net profit above \$100,000 annually to complete the two-part package.

The corporate income tax increase will raise approximately \$12 million a year to fund improvements in the state's 24 vo-tech school system.

Effective July 1, a dozen of the vo-tech schools — including Ouachita Vocational Technical School — will become technical colleges. Technical colleges will pioneer a new educational course in Arkansas. Hot Spring County will participate in the education evolution.

The technical colleges will continue to offer vocational-technical programs and will also offer freshman and sophomore level college courses as part of a two-year degree program.

The new institutions will be under the jurisdiction of the state Board of Higher Education. A local board, appointed by the governor, will control the school at the local level. Local control will provide a positive push to shape the educational opportunities to meet community needs.

Thanks to Sen. George Hopkins of Malvern and other technical college advocates in our community, Ouachita Vo-Tech will share in the education evolution in forming the new technical college system.

The union of vocational-technical education and college credit courses is overdue. But like all relationships, the "marriage," will require commitment and diligence to be successful.

The state has now provided the dowry to get the concept off to a good start. Strong community support and input will help seal the future for Ouachita Vocational Technical College.

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## Vo-tech tax hardy, Clinton says

BY DAVID F. KERN  
Democrat Staff Writer

Gov. Bill Clinton said Wednesday the half percent increase in corporate income tax to pay for vocational education programs was not in any real trouble.

The Senate has approved the tax increase, but Clinton said representatives still have questions about how schools in their districts will be treated. Meanwhile, Bob Wimberley, a lobbyist for the National

Federation of Independent Businesses, said small businesses appear to be opposing the corporate tax hike.

Sen. Lu Hardin of Russellville, a primary sponsor of the tax hike, said, however, "To say companies will not come to Arkansas because of a half percent tax increase is ludicrous."

They will be attracted to the state because of a state-of-the-art vo-tech system, Hardin said.

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## House OKs bill to revamp education

By David Woolsey  
Gazette Staff

The House of Representatives approved a bill Friday to dole out more than \$31 million in new money to revamp the state's post-secondary education system over the next two years.

House Bill 1979 would divide the money among 14 vocational-technical schools that will become technical colleges on July 1, 10 other vo-techs that will upgrade technical education programs, and eight existing two-year community colleges.

The bill passed 89-1 without debate.

The new technical colleges would receive more than \$21 million of the money. Those schools are:

Black River at Pocahontas, Cossator at De Queen, Gateway at Batesville, Mid-South at West Memphis, Oil Belt at El Dorado, Ouachita Bluff, Piasiki at North Little Rock, Red River at Hope, Twin Lakes at Harrison, and White River at Newport.

The campuses that remain primarily vocational-technical schools will receive about \$8 million of the new money. Those schools are:

Arkansas Valley at Ozark, Cotton Boll at Burdette, Crowley's Ridge at Forrest City, Delta at Marked Tree, Foothills at Searcy, Forrest Echoes at Crosssett, Great Rivers at McGhee, Northwest at Springdale, Ouapaw at Hot Springs, and Rice Belt at Dewitt.

he eight existing community colleges would receive about \$2 million of the new money. Those community colleges are:

East Arkansas at Forrest City, Garland County at Hot Springs, Mississippi County at Blytheville, North Arkansas at Harrison, Northwest Arkansas at Rogers, Phillips County at Helena, Rich Mountain at Mena, and Westark at Fort Smith.

Arkansas Gazette March 23 1991



# Vo-techs take on new names

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — The state Board of Education played the name game with the vocational education system at its latest meeting.

Lonnie McNatt was named director of the Department of Education's Vocational Education Division on Monday. He has been acting director since Ray Morrison resigned effective July 1.

The board also voted Monday to give four of its vo-tech schools new titles — technical institutes.

Morrison's resignation was a result of massive changes in vocational education approved this spring by the Legislature. Lawmakers took 14 of the state's 24 vo-tech schools away from the Department of Education. Morrison opposed the moves.

The 14 vo-techs will become technical colleges under the control of the Department of Higher Education. The technical colleges will offer four-year degrees as well as traditional vo-tech training.

The state Board of Education met Monday to deal with the 10 remaining vo-techs, which can choose to upgrade to technical institutes. The new term applies to schools that offer traditional vo-tech training and provide two-year degrees in applied sciences with help from four-year colleges or universities.

One school, Arkansas Valley Vo-Tech at Ozark, made the switch earlier this year. The board changed four other vo-techs into technical institutes Monday:

- Foothills at Searcy.
- Quapaw at Hot Springs.
- Cotton Boll at Burdette.
- Northwest at Springdale.

McNatt said other vo-techs could make the switch at a later date. The technical institutes will be governed by local boards.

The restructuring approved by the Legislature came with an increase in the corporate income tax. Most of the \$10 million raised by the tax each year will go to the more-expensive technical colleges now under the authority of the Department of Higher Education. Some new money will go to the remaining vo-techs.

McNatt, 49, of Sherwood, has worked in vocational education for 27 years.

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# Vocational board opposes Senate bill

By Carla Johnson Kimbrough  
Gazette Staff

The state Board of Vocational-Technical Education Monday went on record as opposing Senate Bill 357, which would convert eight to 10 vocational-technical schools into technical colleges and put them under the jurisdiction of the state Board of Higher Education.

Instead, the board unanimously favored SB 165, which would allow voters to convert post-secondary vo-tech schools into community colleges and would establish five-member local boards to control the schools.

Sen. Lu Hardin of Russellville sponsors SB 165, and Sens. Nick Wilson of Pocahontas and Allen Gordon of Morrilton sponsor SB 357. If SB 357 passes, only 13 schools would remain under the control of the state Board of Vocational-Technical Education.

Community colleges now are governed by the Higher Education Board while vo-tech schools are governed by the Board of Vocational-Technical Education, which has the same membership as the state Board of Education.

Raymond Morrison, director of the state Vocational-Technical Di-

vision, said Hardin's bill was the "most effective" because it considers the needs of the community, higher education and transitional problems.

Morrison said SB 357 could affect the ability of students to apply for financial aid because of accreditation policies. The schools could lose their accreditation because of the restructuring, he said, adding the schools would be ineligible for federal financial aid programs for two years.

Currently, the state Board of Vocational-Technical Education is authorized by the U.S. Department of Education to accredit the schools. Arkansas is one of only two states in the nation that can accredit its own schools.

"We are not going to get a cost-effective system; we're going to get a cost-defective [system]," Richard Cochran, deputy director of the division's Industry Training Program, said of SB 357.

Cochran gave the board a 15-minute-plus presentation on the success of Arkansas's program as currently structured. Arkansas will lose industry because of the multi-layered approval process being suggested under SB 357, Cochran said.

# Bill converting vo-tech approved

By The Daily Record Staff

A bill to convert Ouachita Vocational Technical School to a technical college received unanimous endorsement from the state Senate Thursday.

Senate Bill 599, sponsored by Sen. George Hopkins of Malvern, will add Ouachita Vo-Tech to 11 other vo-techs who have chosen to become two-year technical colleges.

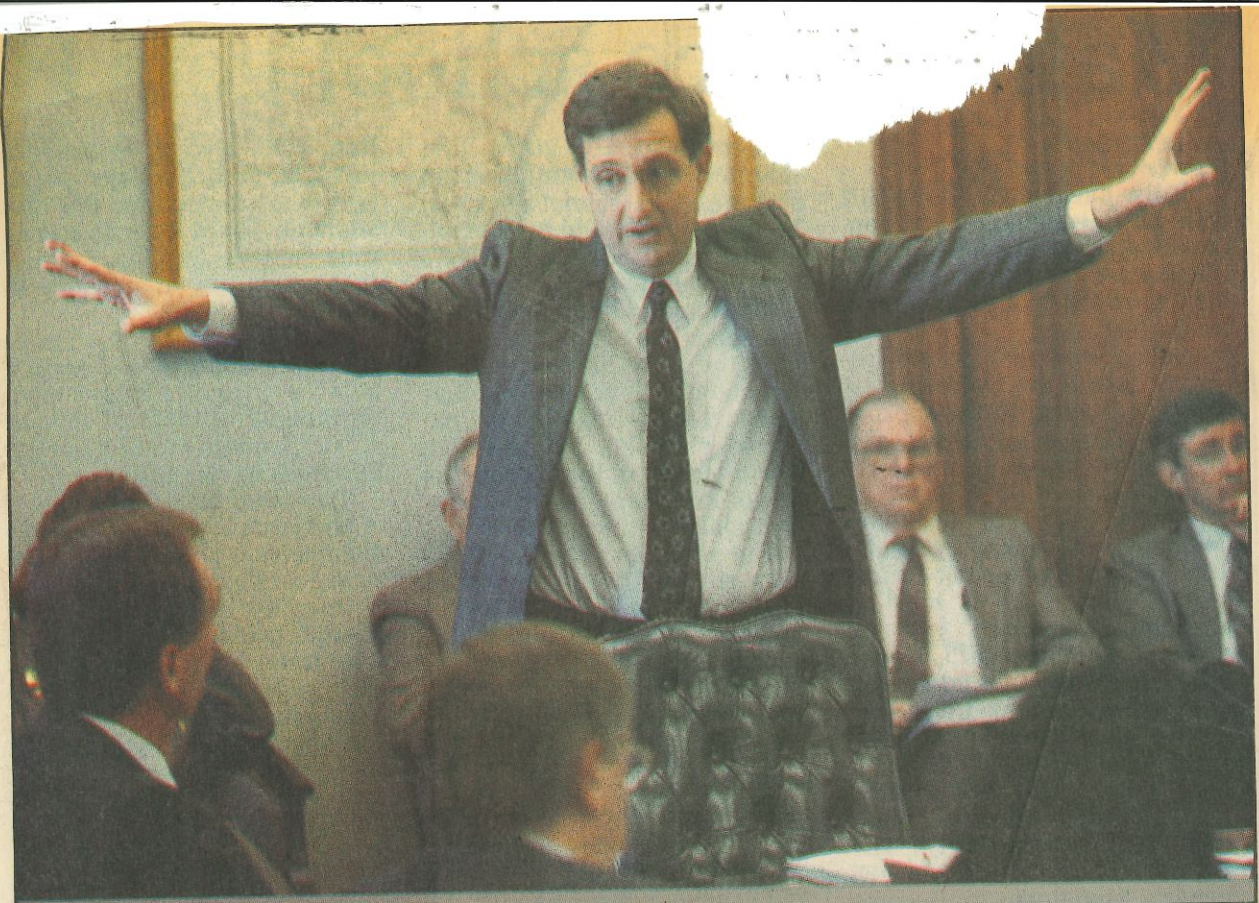
The technical colleges will continue to offer vocational-technical

programs and will also offer freshman and sophomore level college courses as part of the two-year program. The college-level work will be transferrable to a four-year degree program.

The General Assembly will consider a one-half percent increase in the corporate income tax on sales above \$100,000 to fund the improve-

Please see BILL, page 9





Arkansas Democrat/David Hoge

**NO GO** — Sen. Lu Hardin of Russellville addresses the Senate Education Committee in an attempt to persuade the panel to approve his bill on vocational-technical schools.

The bill only received three of the four votes it needed to be moved to the Senate, but may be reconsidered.

# Bill to upgrade vo-tech schools stalls, but Hardin still hopeful

BY DAVID F. KERN  
Democrat Staff Writer

Sen. Lu Hardin's bid to upgrade vocational-technical schools was delayed by the Senate Education Committee on Friday, but the Russellville senator believes the proposal remains alive.

Senate Bill 165 received three votes of support in the seven-member committee and fell one vote short of the number required for a recommendation and movement to the full Senate for further action.

"I still have time to get it out (of committee) and pass it" through the Senate, Hardin said.

His proposal would convert all vo-tech schools in the state within five years to either a community college, a technical institute or a comprehensive life-long learning center.

Hardin said he was disappointed that his measure was stuck, while another vo-tech reform proposal moved along the lawmaking process.

The education panel Wednesday approved SB 357, which would convert 10 vo-tech schools to technical colleges and place them under the state Board of Higher Education.

The Senate approved the measure, sponsored by Sens. Allen Gordon of Morrilton and Nick Wilson of Pocahontas and sent it to the House on Thursday.

Hardin said he believes both measures, which he wanted considered at the same time, complement each other.

He said his proposal to improve all vo-tech schools would apply to the other 14 vo-tech schools in the state that have not indicated their desire to become technical colleges under SB 357.

Voting for Hardin's measure in committee were Chairman Clarence Bell of Parkin, Stanley Russ of Conway and Charlie Cole Chaffin of Benton.

The proposal is not dead, and two other panel members said they could be convinced to support it.

Before he changes his mind, Sen. George Hopkins of Malvern said he wants much more local control of vo-tech schools than Hardin has conceded.

Sen. David Malone of Fayetteville said he felt SB 357 should move further along the legislative process before more work is done on SB 165.

He said he could support it, but still has several questions about its effect on colleges and universities. Malone is a professor at the University of Arkansas.

Hardin said he will listen to suggestions and compromise but not to the point where his proposal will be changed substantially.

Raising money to put both SB 357 and SB 165 into effect will have to be addressed, if either or both become law.

Hardin warned his colleagues that vo-tech schools which have not opted to become technical colleges under SB 357 may not get adequate funding because any additional money will go toward the new program.

Gordon said, however, he is committed to continued support for all vo-tech schools.

Hardin said he has a proposal to raise up to \$9 million through an increase in rate income taxes. He said he wanted to use the money for his proposal as a measure for SB 347 as well.



# Mathematics school gets Ho

BY NOEL OMAN  
Democrat Capitol Bureau

Bills backed by Gov. Bill Clinton to establish a residential mathematics and sciences high school won approval Friday from the House of Representatives.

But a bill that would require students wanting a driver's license to show proof of attendance in school and have a "C" average narrowly failed to pass.

House Bill 1028 by Jodie Mahony of El Dorado was one of a massive package of educational reforms he is herding through the session.

The high school bills, House Bill 1387 by Jimmie Don McKissack of Star City (Lincoln County) and Senate Bill 236 by Sen. Charlie Cole Chaffin of Benton, got little opposition, winning approval 73-11 and 72-10, respectively. The Senate bill needs only the governor's signature to become law.

It would create the Arkansas School For Mathematics and Science, a residential school on a college or university campus for 11th- and 12th-

graders who are gifted and talented in mathematics or the sciences. The school also will be used to upgrade mathematics instruction in the state's regular public schools.

Clinton and other backers of the school say it is needed to help the state and the rest of the country develop math and science skills among the nation's children. To be the world leader in those scores is one of President Bush's education goals for the year 2000.

But as far as educational issues go, the House drew the line Friday on Mahony's bill to impose attendance and grade requirements on students wanting a driver's license, as outlined in House Bill 1028.

It failed 50-33. Initially, the House approved it with 51 votes but opponents asked for the votes to be "sounded," which required all members to be at their seats. Rep. Walter Day of Blytheville was not.

"If you are a truant, you can't get a driver's license," Mahony said in urging the bill's passage.

Few voiced opposition to it.

Rep. Jack McCoy of Malvern jokingly and, perhaps pointedly, said that under the bill, students would have an easier time getting to play football than obtaining a driver's license.

A Mahony bill to require students wanting to participate in extracurricular activities, including football, to have a "C" average, failed earlier this week in committee.

Two other bills that are part of Mahony's education package did garner approval in the House on Friday.

One, HB 1033, would have school districts require its candidates for graduation honors to take a basic curriculum of courses to qualify.

Opponents led by Rep. Bill Mills of Kensett thought that was an unnecessary usurpation of local control by the state.

"That's why we elect school boards, to make that kind of policy," Mills said. "Why not be honest about it and have the state take over the school districts. That's what we're coming to."

But Rep. Bob McGinnis of

# Voting equipment bill falls 4 vo

BY NOEL OMAN  
Democrat Capitol Bureau

Unexpected opposition to a bill allowing counties to replace voting equipment without an election led to the bill's failure Friday in the House of Representatives.

Senate Bill 129 by Sen. George Hopkins of Malvern needed 51 votes to pass but mustered only 47. Thirty-four representatives voted against it while one voted "present."

Arkansas counties are prohibited from replacing voting equipment without a "costly" election, said Rep. Gus Wingfield of Delight (Pike County), who handled the bill for Hopkins in the House.

But Rep. Myra Jones of Little Rock said that based on Pulaski County's experience, she would prefer it that way.

The county held a special election in the summer of 1989, in part, to replace its voting machines. Voters turned back the multimillion dollar proposal.

Jones said the measure was defeated, in part, because voters had the time to learn about the new machines, which, although more modern, were electronic machines that scanned a ballot. That posed a compromise to the secrecy of the ballot, Jones said, and helped lead to the proposal's

defeat.

Of those voting machines, Jones said: "That's going back (in time), not forward."

Should the county quorum court be allowed by law to consider them, she said, voters might not find out such things. In other action, the House passed:

• House Bill 1577 by Owen Miller of Marked Tree (Poinsett County), which would require all public buildings be designed to resist the destructive forces of an earthquake. Areas closer to the New Madrid Fault in Northeast Arkansas would have to have tougher standards under the bill. It now goes to the Senate.

• SB 107 by Sen. Jerry Jewell of Little Rock, which would create the Catastrophic Loss Commission, a 15-member body that would solicit funds to make grants to Arkansans who suffer catastrophic financial losses.

• SB 86 by the Senate Judiciary Committee, which would ban the possession of firearms in public buildings. Rep. Bob Fairchild of Fayetteville said that if the House passed that one, it would pave the way for his bill, HB 1312, which would prohibit local areas from passing gun control laws.

• SB 317 by Sen. Morril Harriman of Van Buren,

# Clinton gets 3 domestic abuse bills

BY NOEL OMAN  
Democrat Capitol Bureau

Three bills revamping the unconstitutional Domestic Abuse Act of 1989 were on their way to the governor's desk for his signature Friday.

Only one member of the House of Representatives suggested the new legislation meet the same fate in the original law.

Judge in my district told I would be struck down as it was challenged,"

constitutional test this time."

Hinshaw voted "present" for Senate Bill 153, but voted for Senate Bills 154 and 155. Respectively, the bills passed, 79-0, 91-0 and 92-0.

This past July, the state Supreme Court struck down the 1989 law, ruling it improperly expanded the authority of chancery courts. The court said a clear delineation did not exist between civil and criminal remedies.

Testimony before the House

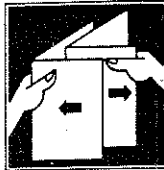
45 percent to 60 percent.

One sponsor of the three-pronged effort, Sen. Jay Bradford of Pine Bluff, also a sponsor of the original legislation, had said the bills were "broad-reaching" and Arkansas needed them because it was the only state that had no domestic abuse law.

The gender-neutral bills would:

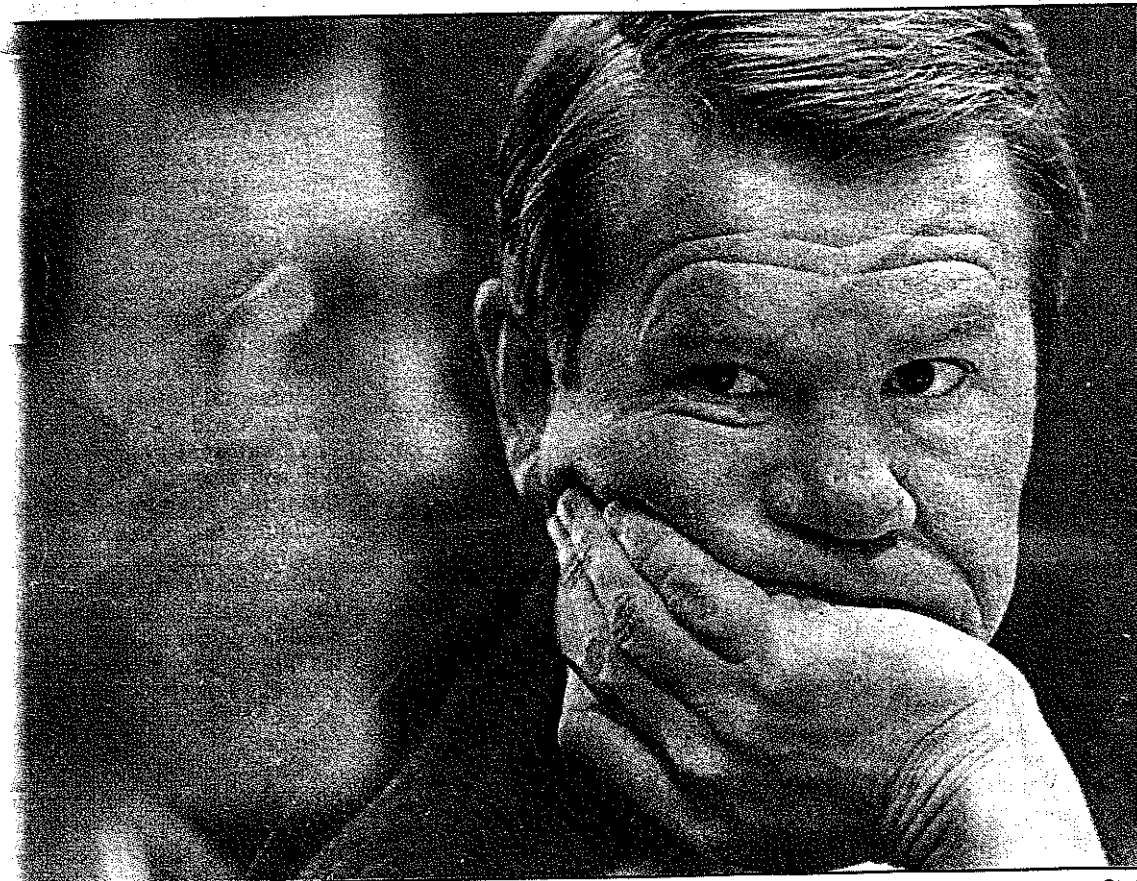
• Allow adult victims of domestic abuse or the parents or guardians of victims of child abuse to obtain protective orders from chancery courts. It also would allow victims to remain in their homes.





# THE 1991 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

## House passes vo-tech bill 74-15



Kelly Quinn/Gazette Staff

### Proposal would improve post-secondary schools

By David Woolsey  
Gazette Staff

A plan to dramatically reorganize the state's vocational-technical education system blazed through the House on a 74-15 vote Tuesday, one vote shy of the number it will eventually take to pass a tax to pay for it.

The measure, Senate Bill 357 by Sen. Allen Gordon of Morrilton and a host of others, goes back to the Senate for concurrence in amendments and then to the governor.

Among many other things, the far-reaching bill would convert 11 vo-tech schools to technical colleges on July 1 and transfer them from the jurisdiction of the state Vocational Education Board to the Board of Higher Education.

Reps. John Miller of Melbourne and Jodie Mahony of El Dorado pushed the bill in the House Tuesday, saying improvements in post-secondary education are sorely needed in Arkansas for students who do

not attend a four-year college or university.

Technical colleges would continue to offer vocational-technical programs and would also offer first- and second-year college courses that could be transferred for credit at a four-year institution. Miller said the plan would put college-level courses within driving distance of all Arkansans.

Mahony said the expansion of post-secondary programs at the 11 proposed technical colleges and the remaining vo-tech schools is especially important because young people soon will need at least two years of education beyond high school to be skilled for most jobs.

Backers of the proposal are looking at a one-half percent increase in the corporate income tax on sales above \$100,000 to pay for the improvements in SB 357 and for another bill, SB 165 by Sen. Lu Hardin

See VO-TECH/3H

**YOU WERE SAYING?:** Rep. Ed Thicksten of Dorado speaks during a meeting Tuesday of the Education Committee. **Related article on 4H.**



# Vo-tech

Continued from Page 1H

of Russellville. Hardin's bill would enable the remaining 13 vo-techs not covered by SB 357 to upgrade their offerings.

The Arkansas Business Council is likely to support the tax to pay for the bill, executive director Archie Schaffer has said. Backers of the proposals were scheduled to meet with representatives of the state Chamber of Commerce Tuesday night.

Miller said he was confident after Tuesday's vote that a funding measure would be approved this session.

Despite the heavy vote in favor of the bill, there was a lengthy floor debate about the effects it would have on the vo-techs that don't become community colleges. Mahony assured legislators that the new

plan would not draw away those schools and that, they would benefit from increased funding.

Rep. Bill Mills of Ken posed implementing the system, saying it had not studied thoroughly by the legislature.

"We need to exercise fiscal responsibility here," Mills said. "We're to agree to all these schools we're going to have to back down here in two years and tack on another cent [sales tax]."

The remarks drew a few denials from other legislators.

Sen. Nick Wilson of Pottas, a co-sponsor of the bill, he was pleased with the vote in the House and that his supporters could get the vote for the tax to pay for improvements.

"You've got to have the money," he said.



ably be the establishment of a rema  
rent vocational-technical  
the 212th are headquartered in Benton, Hot Springs and Pine Bluff.

Please see TRIAL, page 8

# Ouachita Vo-Tech prepares for technical college status

By SUSAN SCANTLIN  
Executive Editor

The staff at Ouachita Vocational Technical School is busy preparing for the school's transformation from a vo-tech to a technical college.

Ouachita Vo-Tech will join 11 other vo-tech schools that will become the state's first technical colleges, effective July 1. The technical colleges will be under the jurisdiction of the state Board of Higher Education.

Area residents, appointed by the governor,

will make up the local board that will control the operation and selection of curriculum at Ouachita Technical College.

The technical colleges will continue to offer vocational-technical programs. In addition, the schools will also offer freshman and sophomore level college courses as part of a two-year degree program.

The college-level work will be transferrable to a four-year degree program.

Ouachita Vo-Tech Director Earl Clevenger said today the school's staff has already begun

the process of preparing a plan to meet the North Central Accreditation standards that will be required of all technical colleges.

"We have ordered copies of the self-study plans prepared by other two-year and four-year colleges in the state. We will be required to write a self-study plan of our own that will include a description of our mission and how we plan to achieve our goals," Clevenger said.

The technical colleges will have six years to institute the programs, equipment and personnel to meet certification standards.

A one-half percent increase in the state's corporations with taxable income above \$100,000 was passed last week by the General Assembly to fund the improvements and the restructuring of the vo-tech system.

The technical colleges will receive more than 73 percent of the \$31 million in new taxes earmarked for the new system, according to Gov. Clinton. Just how much each technical college will receive from the new funds has not

Please see COLLEGE, page 8



FRO

## College

Continued from page 1

been released.

Part of the new funds for the technical colleges will be used to expand the schools' libraries and adding a staff with master's degrees to teach the college-level courses.

Clevenger said, "What we are planning to do is add technical volumes to our library that will help our students in the various fields they are studying. The emphasis will be on providing the resources we need to help all of our students."

The first courses added will probably be the establishment of a remedial study program for students who need additional help before tackling college-level courses. Clevenger said, local high school students, who qualify, will have the opportunity to take college-level courses at Ouachita Technical College before graduation.

Establishing a two-year associate degree in business administration is one of the initial goals of the Ouachita staff, Clevenger said.

"We are already working with our business administration staff to determine what we will need to do to expand the department to offer a two-year degree. This department always attracts a high caliber of students and staff members that will need to go back to school to earn a master's degree have committed to do so. They are all very excited about the program."

Clevenger emphasized that the associate degree program will be in addition to, not at the expense of, current vocational-technical programs.

"We will not discontinue our vocational technical courses, this will just be an addition to our current programs."

Individuals or groups who would like more information on the technical college transformation are encouraged to contact the school.

"We would like to talk to any one who would like more information on the changes. We want the community involved in this process," Clevenger said.



## sends UA packing

gested to Smith that the Jayhawks run his offense better than he does.

"Yeah, that really bugs me," Smith said after the Tar Heels had beaten Temple 75-72 for the NCAA East Regional title. "My junior varsity runs it better than our varsity does. Assistant coach Randy Wiel, Eddie Fogler at Vanderbilt, I've got to get them all back to help us execute."

Against Arkansas, the Jayhawks showed the Razorbacks what they'll be missing by not getting to play the Tar Heels. But it took some time.

Arkansas (34-4) took a 17-6 advantage just six minutes in, but the Jayhawks went on to take a 29-27 lead 10 minutes later. The Razorbacks ran off again, this time a 15-0 gallop to take a 47-35 halftime lead.

In the second half, it was the Kansas bursts that reversed their fortunes. Those runs were spearheaded by Alonzo Jamison, a role player who grabbed the spotlight and scored a career-high 26 points.

"I think when we scored eight quick points at the start of the second half, they gave us some respect," said Jamison, repeating the word that

Kansas had harped on throughout the tournament. If the Jayhawks didn't get any before starting their Final Four bid, they got some when it was over in Charlotte — sort of.

Todd Day scored just five points in the second half after opening with 21 points. It wasn't the Kansas defense, he said.

"They didn't do anything different. The shots we took just weren't falling," Day said after his 6-for-8 first half was negated by a 2-for-11 performance in the second. "In the first half everything I threw up went in, and the second half was just one of those nights."

Now, it's going to be one of those weekends for Williams. After doing his apprenticeship as a \$2,700-a-year assistant to Smith, following the recruiting work that brought North Carolina's current senior basketball class to Chapel Hill, it's his turn to show what he learned.

"I was fortunate enough to be involved with a national championship in 1982," Williams said, "and I hope that one of these days I can be involved in another one."



COMING THURSDAY: R.O.S.E. supplies elderly with food for holidays.



## Hoops

Area prep basketball roundup.  
Sports, pages 9-10



## Opening

New St. Joseph's facility opens.  
Business, page 8

# MALVERN

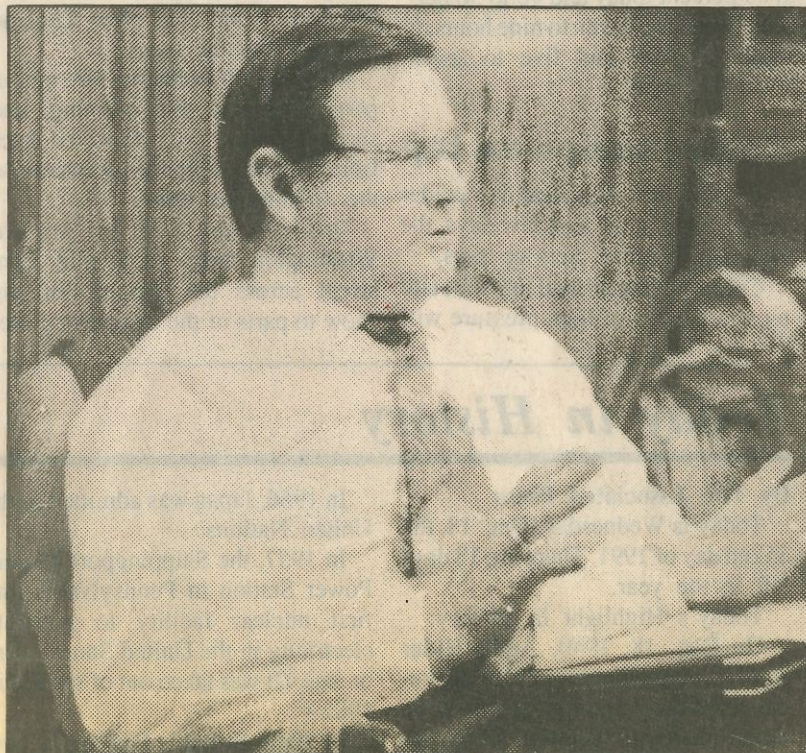
# Daily Record 35¢

76th Year No. 53

Wednesday, December 18, 1991, Malvern, Arkansas

1 Section 12 Pages

## College trustees consider library expansion



Daily Record Photo—Bivens

Clevenger addresses OTC trustees.

By MARK BIVENS  
Staff Writer

In the initial meeting of the Ouachita Technical College Academic Board, OTC director Earl Clevenger discussed improvements. Those improvements consist of those already known to be required, and some that may potentially be required. The Department of Higher Education mandates some improvements for OTC in its transition from a vocational technical school to a college.

One of the foremost topics of last night's meeting concerned the library. Clevenger minced no words. The library doesn't begin to meet the new required standards.

"Right now I bet there are not two books in here (OTC library) that will help college students," Clevenger told board chairman Jim Crownover and other attending members. "I hope higher ed(ucation) will release funds to help. I've been told we need a million dollars worth of books. Hopeful-

ly very soon after the first of the year, the Arkansas Department of Higher Education will release some money for books."

Clevenger responded to a question fielded by board member LaNoire Dawkins Leeper concerning where OTC could house such a quantity of books. Clevenger said temporarily, the books would have to be housed in the present library, but measures would have to eventually be taken to expand the facilities.

"The biggest thing with the library is we need to start planning on it (expansion) and follow up from there," Crownover said.

Clevenger told the board the OTC nursing program had been approved by the Nursing Board to expand the program from its current 15 students to 30. If the school board approves,

and if and when the money becomes available, Clevenger said hiring a teacher would be the next step.

The OTC nursing program, according to an OTC spokesperson, is one of the most sought-after. Clevenger told the board 200 applicants for the program were filed and only 17 or 18 were accepted.

Expanding the program, Clevenger said, was a good idea.

"Our next step is to decide (steps to obtain funding) to hire a new teacher," Clevenger said. "They can do it (expand the program to 30 students) at their current facilities. That's a program we can easily get additional students in."

Clevenger said if there was a demand (for a particular course) they needed to listen to it.

*"Right now, I bet there are not two books in here that will help college students."*

**Earl Clevenger**



# Legislature approves health department budget, dismisses



## 78<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

By JAMES JEFFERSON  
Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — The 78th General Assembly, which prided itself on taking care of the major issues early, wrapped up a twice-extended regular session with an after-hours fight over condoms in schools.

The Legislature shut down just before 9 p.m. Wednesday after pass-

ing the much-disputed Health Department budget. Lawmakers will return on April 15 to make any necessary corrections, and then adjourn.

Some lawmakers and Clinton have hailed this session as one of the most productive in recent memory.

In 73 days, the lawmakers:

—Raised teachers' pay and provided more education funding by increasing the state sales tax by a half-penny on the dollar.

—Passed a \$2.4 billion plan for new and improved highways and bridges statewide.

—Raised the corporate income tax to fund vocational education improvements.

—And passed a package of environmental bills to establish a state recycling policy and regional management of the state's solid waste.

Christian activists got what they thought they wanted in an amendment to the Health Department appropriation bill to ban use of state funds for buying or dispensing contraceptives in public schools.

But Gov. Bill Clinton said after the bill passed the House 82-10 and the Senate 28-6 that officials would be able to accomplish with federal money what previously was done with state money.

"Everything we ever intended to be able to be done by the local school boards with parental consent will be able to be done under this budget as it was passed," Clinton said.

Some of the nearly 40 school-based clinics in the state provide a variety of health services, including dispensing contraceptives to students, with school board and parental

consent. The agency's budget provides \$1.4 million to establish 10 more clinics.

"What we do here in this body will not reduce the force that causes young people to misbehave. When we leave it up to the local people, we've done all we can do," said Rep. John E. Miller, D-Melbourne, responding to efforts to take control of school clinics from local school boards.

"I don't know that I can trust the local school boards," Rep. Travis Dowd, D-Texarkana, a critic of school clinics, said. His remark prompted a chorus of howls and cat calls from his House colleagues.

Dowd later chastised the religious coalition — which included members of a group called Family, Life, America, God, or FLAG — for blink-

ing in the health-budget standoff.

"If the FLAG people had stayed intact ... there would have been no budget tonight," an obviously agitated Dowd said after the House approved the Health Department appropriation.

"We had it beat. There was no way the bill could have gotten out," Dowd said. "But they caved in, and I'm disappointed with them."

However, Clinton lost on one issue involving the Health Department in the final days of the session. He wasn't able to persuade the House to go along with a bill to allow the directors of the Health Department, Dr. Joycelyn Elders, and the Human Services Department, Dr. Terry Yamauchi, to draw combined

Please see SESSION, page 10



# Vo-tech law likely to cause layoffs, some say

By Cary Bradburn  
Gazette Staff

Layoffs in the state Education Department appear likely because of legislation transferring 12 of the state's 24 vo-tech schools to higher education, some members of the state Board of Vocational Education say.

Officials of the Education Department's Vocational Technical Education Division say it is too early to tell.

Raymond Morrison, division director, told the board Monday that an assessment would be made of the division's responsibilities under the new legislation and how many people should carry out those duties.

He said significant changes in the distribution of federal money under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act implied a greater work load and need for personnel.

About \$10 million of the division's \$85 million budget is Perkins Act money.

"Now keep in mind, we're only losing 12 schools," Morrison said.

"I think it's a pretty clear bet that we've lost a lot of money in [state] revenue stabilization," said Nancy Wood of Little Rock, a board member.

Walter Turnbow of Springdale, a board member, said the division should act fast and provide any assistance it can to those

who must be laid off.

The employees whose jobs would be lost should be given first consideration by the state Higher Education Department when it takes in the schools, he said.

A proposed policy on reducing the division's work force prompted the discussion of layoffs. Morrison wasn't seeking a vote on the policy and said it still was being reviewed.

"Not that we need it at this particular point," he said. "We don't."

Charles Brown, the division's associate director of finance, said in an interview after the meeting that the transfer of the 12 schools represented a loss of about \$12.5

million in the vocational education division's annual budget.

He said the losses would be offset to some extent by increases in other programs, such as \$5 million for adult education, \$1.4 million more in operating costs of the remaining 12 vo-tech schools, \$1 million in equipment for the remaining schools, \$1.2 million to meet criteria for new technical institutes and \$1 million for youth apprenticeship.

About \$10 million of the division's \$85 million budget is from Perkins Act grants. Amendments to the Act will place more responsibility at the state level and will require increased monitoring, Brown said.



# Signed and sealed



Daily Record Photo

## Vo-tech to technical college

Gov. Bill Clinton (seated) signed legislation Wednesday that will change Ouachita Vocational Technical School to Ouachita Technical College, effective July 1. Present for the signing ceremony are (left to right)

Ouachita Vo-Tech director Earl Clevenger, Sen. George Hopkins, John W. Cole, Floyd L. Parker, George McClure Jr., David "Mac" Glover, Steve Faris and Larry Boyer.

## State director resigns with changes

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — The head of the state's vocational-education program has resigned, saying reductions in the responsibilities of his department won't allow him to carry out improvements he intended.

Raymond E. Morrison said in a statement Wednesday that his resignation would be effective July 1.

The legislature this year engineered a major reorganization of the vo-tech system in which at least 14 of

the state's 24 vo-tech schools will move from jurisdiction of the Vocational and Technical Education Division of the state Education Department. Morrison has headed the division since Sept. 3, 1989.

The 14 schools will become technical colleges and move under the authority of the state Higher Education Department. Supporters have said the changes will prompt cuts, including layoffs, in Morrison's

division.

"Upon coming to Arkansas, I had commented that it had the best organization for the potential success of vocational education in the country," Morrison said in the statement. "However, that organization no longer exists. Under the circumstances, I felt that I would no longer be able to accomplish what is necessary to sup-

Please see VO-TECH, page 9



# NE

## Vo-tech

Continued from page 1

port the mission of vocational education."

He submitted the letter of resignation to Gov. Bill Clinton.

"I appreciate his hard work and concern for vocational education and I wish him well," Clinton said through a spokesman.

The new law allows vo-techs to upgrade, offering college-level courses and traditional technical training. The state's corporate income tax rate was raised from 6 percent to 6.5 percent, generating about \$10 million a year to pay for the changes.

Vo-techs that keep their current status will get part of that new money also. The law allows the stay-behind vo-techs to upgrade to technical colleges at a later date.

Clinton supported the legislation sponsored by Sens. Nick Wilson, D-Pocahontas, and Allen Gordon, D-

Morrilton. Morrison's division lobbied against the changes during the legislative session that ended last month.

"I'm not surprised," Gordon said of Morrison's action. "I've heard rumors going around during the session he might be resigning or might be asked to resign."

Gordon said Clinton and Morrison had different opinions about how to run the department.

"I would have been surprised if there had not been changes," the lawmaker said.

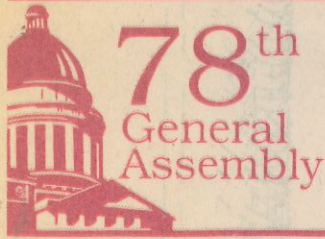
Morrison said he will work with the state Board of Education through July 1 to help prepare for the changes.

He is the former executive director of the Association of Media-based Continuing Education for Engineers Inc., an association of 33 major engineering universities based at Georgia Tech.



# New technical colleges to receive bulk of funds

Arkansas Gazette March 22, 1991



By RON FOURNIER  
Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — Vocational education will get a major influx of new tax money July 1, and 14 new technical colleges will get the lion's share, Gov. Bill Clinton says.

Ouachita Vocational Technical School is one of the 14 new technical colleges selected to be upgraded.

The 10 vocational-technical schools that didn't choose to become colleges won't be left

in the lurch, Clinton said Thursday. They will get 15 percent budget increases, beyond the 5 percent raise all state employees will get.

"In light of what the technical colleges have to do, I think this is very fair. That's a lot of money for the whole system, which has been underfunded for too long," said Sen. Lu Hardin, D-Russellville, who was the champion of the stay-behind vo-techs during negotiations over how to split the new money.

The Legislature has passed two bills that restructure the vo-tech system. Ten of the vo-techs will be upgraded with more money and high-tech programs. The other 14 will become technical colleges that blend liberal arts courses and traditional job training.

The technical colleges will get more than 73 percent of the \$31 million in new taxes set aside for the entire system, according to Clinton's figures.

## Income tax uses

*Income tax money from the increase from 6 percent to 6.5 percent on corporations with taxable income exceeding \$100,000 will be used for the following:*

- \$1.4 million a year for the vo-techs;
- \$1.9 million a year for the technical colleges;
- \$5.4 million a year for accreditation needs of technical colleges;
- \$1.25 million a year for the same purpose at vo-techs.

The \$31 million will come from at least three sources.

First, there is \$10 million that will be collected in May and June from the sales tax

increases approved in January. After July 1, the money is earmarked for unrelated education programs.

Raising the income tax rate from 6 percent to 6.5 percent on corporations with taxable income exceeding \$100,000 will raise at least \$20 million over two years. Hardin said the figure is conservative; any extra money would be doled out by the 1993 Legislature.

And Clinton has promised the stay-behind vo-techs another \$500,000 for capital improvement projects out of a discretionary fund.

The sales tax money will go to capital improvements:

—\$750,000 to vo-tech programs in high schools.

Please see **VO-TECH**, page 2

## Vo-tech

### Continued from page 1

—\$3.5 million at technical colleges.

—\$1 million at the 10 stay-behind vo-techs.

—\$4.25 million for technical colleges and community colleges to split up.

The income tax money will help make up for years of underfunding for both systems, advocates of the increase said, and will help the schools, especially the technical colleges, meet the expensive requirements for accreditation:

—\$1.4 million a year for the vo-techs.

—\$1.9 million a year for the technical colleges.

—\$5.4 million a year for accreditation needs of technical colleges.

—\$1.25 million a year for the same purpose at vo-techs.

The figures are approximate, but Hardin said the 10 schools keeping their vo-tech status will get almost \$8 million during the next two years.

The Board of Higher Education will control the technical colleges. The Board of Education will retain jurisdiction of the vo-techs.

The vocational education division of the Department of Education, which will lose the 14 technical colleges to the Department of Higher Education, may see some staff cuts, officials said.

Clinton didn't outline what individual schools will get. Bill Goodman, a budget expert with the legislative staff, said the state Board of Higher Education and the state Board of Education will divvy up the money among schools.

Clinton's figures show that about \$2.5 million will be transferred out of the Education Department's division of vocational education during the next years. The money will go to the Department of Higher Education, which will get authority to add 20 new positions if the appropriations are approved by the House and Senate.

"Logically, there might have to be some cuts" in the vo-tech division, Hardin said when asked about staff cuts.

"I don't see a way around it," Goodman said.

Raymond Morrison, director of the vo-tech division, couldn't be reached for comment.



# Vo-tech director replaced

## He will continue getting his salary through July 1

By David Woolsey  
Gazette Staff

Raymond Morrison has been relieved of his duties as director of the state's system of vocational-technical schools and replaced by the department's deputy director.

Morrison will continue to be paid as director through July 1, L. D. "Buck" Harris, chairman of the state Board of Vocational Education, said Tuesday.

Harris asked deputy director Lonnie McNatt to serve as acting director in a letter dated May 2. Harris told McNatt he had "absolved Dr. Morrison of any responsibilities concerning the department."

Morrison announced April 17 that he would leave the department July 1.

When reached by telephone Tuesday night at his home in Blytheville, Harris said Morrison had asked to be relieved of responsibilities for the vo-tech division so that the staff that will continue with the division could prepare next year's budget.

Morrison was hired at a salary of \$70,879 in July 1989.

McNatt will be acting director until the state board can meet "to determine the directions for the future and name a new director," Harris said.

Morrison was not in his office Tuesday, and a secretary said she was not aware when he would return. Morrison's bookshelves and desk appeared to have been cleared of books and other materials.

"We let him keep a desk and his secretary so that he can find a new position," Harris said. He said Morrison would not be handling department business.

Morrison could not be reached for comment by the *Arkansas Gazette*.

McNatt's appointment to fill the two months remaining in Morrison's term continues a series of tumultuous events in the Education Department's Vo-Tech Division. Morrison was named director 20 months ago, and in that time the division has faced stiff criticism by legislators who said its 24 schools were becoming obsolete.

Morrison said that the schools were grossly underfunded by the legislature and that the lack of money prevented the division from beginning new vocational and technical programs. Members of the state board agreed with Morrison, but the legislature decided this session to transfer 13 of the 24 schools to the Department of Higher Education.

Gov. Bill Clinton supported the vo-tech reorganization, but he repeatedly has declined to say whether he asked Morrison to resign as director. The governor's office is listed as a recipient of a copy of Harris' letter to McNatt.

# Ex-chief vows to aid state vo-tech office

BY DANNY SHAMEER  
Democrat Staff Writer

Dr. Raymond Morrison said Thursday that he is "on call" to assist the state's division of vocational and technical education, if needed, even though he won't be at work daily.

Morrison, the outgoing vocational and technical education director of the state Department of Education, intended to stay until his resignation took effect July 1.

He left office May 2 after the chairman of the board of vocational education appointed Deputy Director Lonnie McNatt as acting director and absolved Morrison of his duties.

Chairman L.D. "Buck" Harris and Morrison provided different accounts about the unexpected, early departure.

Harris said Wednesday: "This was an emergency and had to be done because the department was floundering. Dr. Morrison asked to be absolved because he felt uncomfortable making plans for the department."

Morrison said Thursday that the division was neither in a

state of emergency nor floundering. Morrison said he told Harris he would step aside early if some board members and employees felt uncomfortable with him in charge while developing plans to carry the division through major changes beyond July 1.

Plans for major changes in vocational and technical education in the state are under way, with many changes going into effect July 1.

Harris acted alone, without authorization from the state vocational education board or Gov. Bill Clinton, in replacing Morrison from the day-to-day operations of the division.

Morrison had 107 hours, the equivalent of 13½ eight-hour work days, of accumulated leave time.

By giving him early leave, Harris' actions mean Morrison will be paid by the state for 27 days that he will not work.

Morrison earns \$74,321.93 a year.

He announced his resignation April 17, citing dissatisfaction with recent legislation to reorganize the state's vocational institutions.

## Education Department laying off 11 workers

Eleven employees in the Vocational-Technical Division of the state Department of Education have been notified they will be laid off, effective July 1.

The move isn't part of the layoffs expected to result from new state laws that will cause major changes in the administration of vocational and technical education in the state. Those layoffs have not yet been announced.

Instead, the 11 pending layoffs stem from changes in

distribution of federal vocational education funds, with more money going to local educational agencies.

The affected positions include six administrative positions: curriculum specialist, displaced homemaker supervisor, data system specialist, federal programs supervisor, in-service training specialist and basic skills specialist.

The remaining positions are support staff - four secretarial positions and one data entry clerk.



# Bill could affect financial aid at vo-techs

BY WARD PINCUS  
Democrat Staff Writer

One of two Senate bills designed to restructure vocational-technical education in Arkansas could keep some students in those schools from getting financial aid, a vo-tech administrator said Friday.

The statement is the first sign of an expected battle this week between competing measures - Senate Bill 357, sponsored by Sen. Allen Gordon of Morrilton (Conway County) and 14 others, and Senate Bill 165, sponsored by Sen. Lu Hardin of Russellville.

The Vocational and Technical Education Division of the state Department of Education supports Hardin's bill.

At issue is how the state's 24 postsecondary vo-tech schools should be modified to make community college degree programs more accessible. The state now has 10 community colleges.

Both bills are scheduled to be discussed at the Senate Education Committee meeting Wednesday.

Gordon voiced optimism last week his version would pass. In fact, two of the seven committee members are co-sponsors of the bill, meaning Gordon would need support from only two of the five remaining members to pass the bill on to the full Senate.

The House Education Com-

mittee on Thursday gave a "do pass" recommendation to House Bill 1585, which is identical to Gordon's measure.

## Technical colleges

Under Gordon's bill, 10 of the vo-tech schools would be upgraded immediately to technical colleges. They would offer community college classes and adult education courses.

The 10 chosen because of community support are Black River in Pocahontas (Randolph County), Cossatot in De Queen (Sevier County), Gateway in Batesville (Independence County), Mid-South in West Memphis, Oil Belt in El Dorado, Ozarka in Melbourne (Izard County), Petit Jean in Morrilton (Conway County), Pines in Pine Bluff, Pulaski in North Little Rock and Red River in Hope.

Oversight of the 10 schools would be transferred to the state Board of Higher Education, which under the bill would be divided into two panels.

## Expands board

Also under the bill, the Higher Education Board would expand from 10 to 13 members.

One panel would oversee the 10 vo-tech schools, adult education and industry training programs - all of which

the state Board of Vocational Education now controls.

The second panel would set policy for four-year institutions.

The Vocational Board would retain oversight of the 13 remaining vo-techs.

Twin Lakes Vocational-Technical School and North Arkansas Community College would consolidate under Gordon's bill.

Hardin's bill wouldn't transfer oversight of any post-secondary institution from one board to another.

## Convert or expand

The bill would require that within five years vo-tech schools convert to community colleges or upgrade courses offered to include community college degree programs.

Under Hardin's bill, the Vocational Board would expand to 12 members with the addition of three business leaders.

Dr. Ray Morrison, director of the vo-tech education division, said the problem with Gordon's bill is that those vo-tech schools that would offer community college courses would lose their accreditation. Without accreditation, their students would lose financial aid eligibility.

The total financial aid to students in the state's 24 vo-tech schools in 1989 was \$5.5

million.

Currently the Vocational Board certifies the state's vo-tech schools. The board would have to seek approval from the U.S. Department of Education to add community college courses to its certification authority, Morrison said.

While the Vocational Board sought such authority or while the Higher Education Board sought certification from other sources, those schools would not be accredited, Morrison said.

Both Gordon and Hardin have proposed funding packages for their plans.

Gordon and the other co-sponsors are considering a half-percent income tax increase on the 119 corporations in the state earning more than \$3 million a year. The tax increase would raise about \$8.47 million for capital improvements and equipment necessary to meet higher accreditation requirements.

Hardin has filed Senate Bill 166, which would increase the income tax rate one percent on corporations earning more than \$100,000 a year.

Morrison said SB 166 would raise between \$10 million and \$12 million to put into all vo-tech programs.



# Garland County trustees approve nursing program

*GCCC President Dr. Gerald Fisher said GCCC was invited to continue the program at Ouachita by school director Earl Clevenger.*

By DELEISA BAILEY  
Editor

The board of trustees of Garland County Community College approved a resolution Wednesday to continue the registered nursing program at Ouachita Vocational Technical School.

The resolution did include certain requirements which must be met for the program to continue after Ouachita becomes a technical college July 1.

The future of the program fell into question

about a week ago when it was learned Ouachita's college-credit courses would be accredited through Henderson State University.

In the past Ouachita Vo-Tech has offered joint associate degree programs through GCCC.

The approved resolution states the continuation of the program will depend upon approval of the state Department of Higher Education, the Arkansas State Nursing Board, the assurance of funding for the program and the availability of faculty.

GCCC President Dr. Gerald Fisher said GCCC was invited to continue the program at Ouachita by school director Earl Clevenger.

Fisher said approval by the Department of Higher Education is necessary by July 1. Ouachita and 13 other vocational schools will become technical colleges that day. They will then fall under the direction of the Department of Higher Education.

"We haven't heard from (the Department

Please see **NURSING**, page 10

10—Malvern Daily Record, Thursday, June 27, 1991

## Nursing

Continued from page 1

of Higher Education. They have never communicated with us," Fisher said. "We need a decision by (the Department of) Higher Education by July 1."

Fisher said the state Nursing Board approved the course as it existed but some complications have arisen which deem it necessary the board to reconsider the program.

Funding for the program does not concern Fisher, he said. "Higher Education of the governor will take care of that," he said.

Another problem which must be overcome for the program to continue is faculty. Fisher said the instructor for the Ouachita program resigned at Wednesday's board meeting.

Fisher said efforts are being made at this time to find a replacement for the program. A transition course for the 23 students enrolled in the program is scheduled to begin Aug. 1, Fisher said.

"I am moving as quickly as I can, but some things are out of my control," Fisher said.

"I'm communicating with community leaders there to let them know about these needs," he said. "We want to be there, if we are wanted."

Clevenger said the program is wanted. "I have always been in favor of having this class," Clevenger said. "We are real happy the board has made a real effort to continue the program."

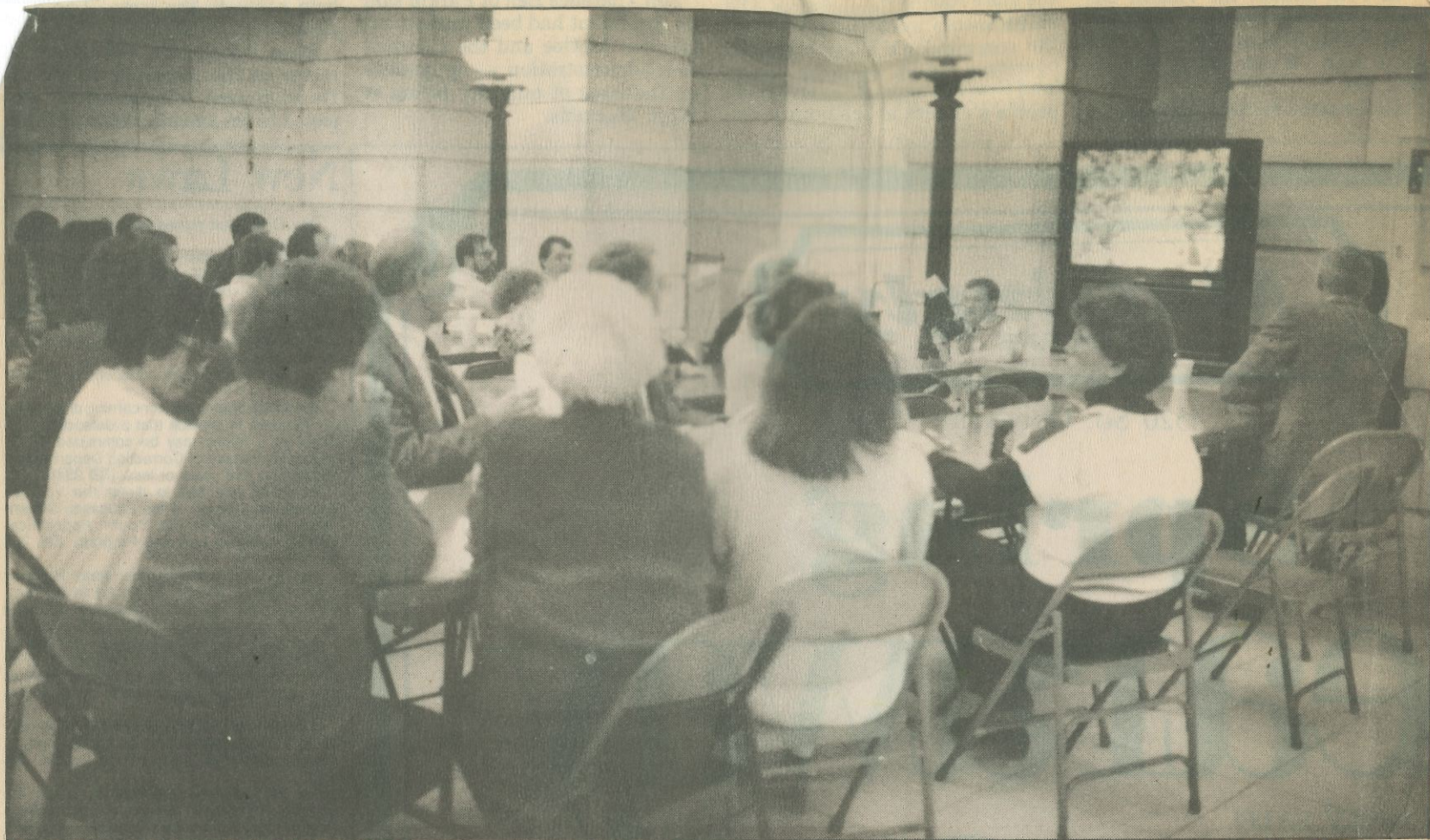
The resolution does stipulate continuation of the program until the current class is completed. Clevenger said, "This was never established to be a permanent class. It was more just a one-time deal."

"Of course money is always a problem, but there is always a need for this type program. It would be ideal if the legislature could make funding permanent for that program. It would really benefit the community," Clevenger said.

Fisher said, "When the current class is completed we will proceed from there. If the community wants us there, if (the Department of) Higher Education wants us there, if Henderson wants us there, we will be there. But, right now, we don't know who wants us there."

The registered nursing program through GCCC was established at Ouachita in 1990. The two-year GCCC program is not compatible with the four-year program offered at Henderson.





JoEllen Black/Gazette Staff

**TIME OUT:** Capitol employees, visitors and legislators watch the Hogs defeat the Georgia State Panthers 117-76 in the rotunda of the Capitol.

*Arkansas Gazette March 16, 1991*

## Hogs force overtime on vo-tech tax bill

**By David Woolsey**  
Gazette Staff

Arkansas's most powerful business groups were no match Friday for Nolan Richardson's Razorbacks.

Business lobbyists are pushing a half-percent increase of the state income tax on large corporations to pay for extensive improvements in the state's vocational and technical education system.

But lawmakers were more interested in watching the Hogs than voting a second time on the tax Friday.

Senate Bill 166 by Sen. Lu Hardin of Russellville would increase the tax from 6 to 6.5 percent

on businesses that make more than \$100,000 a year. It failed by six votes Thursday; however, the vote was immediately expunged and the bill was on the agenda again Friday.

The proposal came up in the House about 10 minutes after the tip-off of the University of Arkansas basketball game against Georgia State University in the first round of the NCAA tournament.

A steady stream of legislators began filing out of the chamber when the game began, and that wasn't good news for a tax bill that requires 75 votes.

Rep. Jodie Mahony of El Dorado decided to pass over the bill, and it will be one of the first items of business for House members Monday.

But Mahony and other supporters seemed relaxed Friday even though the tax is the key to restructuring the vo-tech system.

"The support is there. We know we've got another 10 votes out there, we've just got to get them in the chamber," Sen. Allen Gordon of Morrilton said while watching the basketball game on a wide-screen television set up in the Capitol rotunda.

Gordon is the lead sponsor of a proposal already approved by the legislature to convert half of the state's 24 vo-techs into technical colleges offering two-year associate degrees. There is no way to fund the proposal to significantly improve the schools' vo-techs if the corporate tax fails.

Chair  
lives







# Panel approves half-percent rise in income taxes for corporations

BY JOE STUMPE  
Democrat Staff Writer

An increase in the corporate income tax was recommended for approval Tuesday by the House Revenue and Taxation Committee.

Senate Bill 166 by Sen. Lu Hardin of Russellville would increase the income tax rate by one-half percent — to 6.5 percent — on corporate taxpayers with net taxable incomes of more than \$100,000. The tax would generate an estimated \$12 million a year.

The bill also would apply the 6.5 percent rate to all of a taxable corporation's income, not just the amount above \$100,000.

Hardin said he believes he has cleared up any misunderstanding associated with that provision of the bill, and he still has the backing of busi-

ness leaders.

However, Rep. Dick Barclay of Rogers said that provision, which would add about \$1.5 million to the estimated revenue, should be removed.

Hardin said the tax would add \$700 to the taxes of a corporation with \$100,000 income and \$33,369.60 to the taxes of a corporation with \$10 million.

About \$9 million of the tax proceeds would come from 301 corporations with sales of more than \$1 million, Hardin said.

Money would be earmarked for vocational education for two years, then go into the state's general fund.

The committee recommended approval by voice vote, with one member opposed.

The committee failed to approve a proposed tax credit for

contributors to colleges and universities. The vote on HB 1720 by Rep. Bob Fairchild of Fayetteville was 8-4, with nine votes needed for approval.

It would have given taxpayers a credit of one-third of their contribution, up to \$10,000.

Tim Leathers of the Department of Finance and Administration said 90 percent of the donations went to private schools when a similar law was in effect in the mid-1980s.

Rich Nagle of the Arkansas Education Association also opposed the bill, saying half of the revenue lost through the tax credit would come out of funds used for public schools in grades K-12. The bill would reduce state revenues by an estimated \$4.2 million.

Arkansas Gazette March 14, 1991

## Finish the job on technical education

Arkansas's sickly technical education programs have been the bane of industry, so we've been told. Now, with a consensus of business and industrial leaders behind it, the legislature has enacted a sweeping overhaul of the state's postsecondary vocational education. Half the vocational schools will become technical colleges and the rest will be upgraded.

But all of it depends on the state's raising the money, and the House of Representatives is hedging. What a time to become fainthearted about raising the taxes of a few corporations: after raising the taxes of every consumer, more than once.

The Senate approved an increase in the corporate income tax without a dissenting vote, but the House has quailed at voting on the bill.

While the Senate vote was wise and the unanimity surprising, it was not especially courageous. The Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, the Associated Industries of Arkansas, the Arkansas Business Council and the Arkansas Poultry Federation — the potent lobbying interests at the Capitol — endorsed the tax. Corporations with earnings of more

than \$100,000 would see their taxes raised from a graduated rate up to 6 percent to a flat rate of 6.5 percent.

It would be only the third tax increase with a primary impact on corporations in 30 years. The little corporation franchise tax was increased negligibly four years ago, and heavy trucks were assessed a special highway tax. The heavy truck tax was repealed this winter. During the same 30 years, the state has been generous with tax incentives for industry.

It cannot be claimed that the tax would make Arkansas non-competitive with surrounding states. Louisiana's corporate income tax is higher, so generally are other states' aggregate corporate taxes — even those in Texas, which has no income tax.

What the Business Council, the Chamber of Commerce and others saw is that the little tax will fetch a major return for business. Almost any investment in education will, but particularly one in programs that are so palpably linked with competition and growth. The House needs to get on with business and pass the corporate income tax.



# Vo-tech bill squeaks out of committee

BY NOEL OMAN  
Democrat Capitol Bureau

Sen. Lu Hardin of Russellville eased his component of a massive restructuring of the state's vocational education system through a reluctant House Education Committee on Thursday.

Hardin also broke the news to the committee that the proceeds from a proposed half-percent increase in the state corporate income tax — about \$10 million — will not be enough and more would be needed in the future.

Senate Bill 165 went to the full House of Representatives on a simple voice vote, but not until committee members demanded and got assurances from its sponsor.

Rep. Jim Allen of Hot Springs was especially doubtful about the proposal's merits, which would change the bulk of the state's vo-tech schools to either a community college, a technical institute or a comprehensive learning center.

That bill and another one, SB 357 — which would convert 10 vo-tech schools to technical colleges and place them under the state Board of Higher Education — will create another "turf battle" for money, according to Allen.

"Where is the assurance that if we pass these two bills that we are going to have a coordinated effort without splintering two-year education?" Allen wondered.



**VO-TECH SUPPORT** — Sen. Lu Hardin of Russellville speaks for his bill, SB 165, which would reorganize vocational-technical schools. Hardin persuaded

the House Education Committee to approve the bill. Hardin said the system would need more than the \$10 million that will be raised for it this session.

Arkansas Democrat/David Hoge



# Differences with the governor made him resign, Morrison says

By David Woolsey  
Gazette Staff

Arkansas Gazette May 10, 1991

Raymond Morrison says he didn't want to resign as state director of vocational-technical schools, but that irreconcilable differences with Gov. Bill Clinton made that the best choice.

It wasn't the reorganization of vocational-technical education by the legislature, but differences that could not be resolved with Clinton about running the department that led to his resignation, Morrison said in an hour-long interview Thursday.

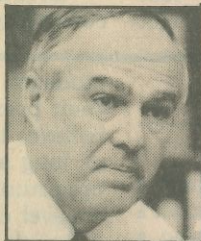
"If I had my druthers I certainly would want to stay," he said. "I think there are a lot of extremely positive things going on in the department and I certainly don't want to leave."

Morrison said that he and the governor had agreed that it would be best for him to resign. When asked if he was fired, Morrison said, "When you have philosophical differences [with your boss] it really doesn't matter."

He would not explain the "philosophical differences" between him and the governor.

"It was something that was very important to me that could not be accomplished," Morrison said.

The vocational education director is chosen by the governor and the governor can



Morrison

order personnel action against the director. Morrison announced his resignation April 17 — about three weeks after he told an *Arkansas Gazette* reporter that he wouldn't resign.

The differences between Clinton and Morrison were related to the massive reorganization of vocational-technical education by the legislature this year, Morrison said.

He said he was willing to work within the changes — most importantly the transfer of 13 of the 24 vo-tech schools to the Higher Education Department.

The legislative changes to the 11 schools remaining under Morrison's Vocational-Technical Education Division were based largely on a plan he devised with former higher education director Paul Marion, Morrison said.

Morrison said the Vo-Tech Division now would have to meet standards set by the governor and the legislature and "I could have been setting a direction that was not the one that had been set out for them.

"I decided that the best thing would be for me to step aside."

May 2, L. D. "Buck" Harris of Blytheville, chairman of the Vocational Education Board, named deputy director Lonnie McNatt acting director and relieved Morrison of responsibilities for the division.

Morrison will be paid through July 1 and will consult with the board in that time, he said. His pay for the two months will be \$12,387.



# Senate backs corporate tax increase

BY DAVID F. KERN  
Democrat Staff Writer

An increase in the corporate income tax endorsed by top state business leaders as a way to pay for enhancing vocational-technical education was approved 34-0 by the Senate on Friday.

The measure goes to the House, where quick approval is expected.

"This tax will help move vocational education into the

next century," Sen. Lu Hardin of Russellville said.

He called it "a phenomenal and incredible move" that the tax increase was supported by the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce, the Arkansas Business Council and the Arkansas Poultry Federation.

"It's an exciting day for education in the state," Hardin said.

The added half-percent tax on corporate income over

\$100,000 will raise an estimated \$11 million and raise the top corporate tax rate to 6.5 percent, officials said.

It will affect about 1,500 corporate taxpayers, who will pay an average of \$7,000 more each, officials said.

Thirty-four of the 35 senators voted for the tax. Only Sen. Jerry Bookout of Jonesboro did not vote. He was with his wife, who was in the hospital.

As votes were being tallied, Sen. Jay Bradford of Pine Bluff quipped, "The Robin Hood mentality is back."

Sen. Charlie Cole Chaffin of Benton (Saline County), who was presiding over the Senate, noted tongue in cheek that Sen. Cliff Hoofman of North Little Rock would like to vote twice on the proposal.

Hoofman opposed a gasoline tax increase and a new tax on used cars, both of which

Arkansas Democrat

March 2, 1991

## for vo-techs 34-0

were approved by the General Assembly. He said they placed too much of a burden on low- and middle-income taxpayers.

Despite higher taxes for the most successful companies, Hoofman said, the only thing to make those regressive taxes sit better with him would be their repeal.

Sen. John Pagan of Little Rock sought relief for low-income taxpayers by means of a rebate.

He said the corporate income tax should have been raised 1 percent with half of the money going to pay for a rebate.

Ron Russell, a lobbyist for the state chamber of commerce, and Don Allen of the Arkansas Poultry Federation said they opposed higher taxes to pay for anything but the vo-tech programs.

"We're not benevolent," Allen said.



Prairie Grove, was credited with the idea.

"I'd rather be overprotective of our children than underprotective. No matter how you look at it, the kids will be the winner in this program," the freshman lawmaker was quoted as saying.

The program will be implemented first in Washington County.

Hunton, a dairy farmer and Lincoln School Board president, met with law enforcement and social services officials to find a way to respond more quickly to child abuse cases.

Judy Goodson, Washington County administrator for the Department of Human Services, and Kenneth McKee, Washington County sheriff, helped implement the program, the statement said.

## Forecasts

### Today:

Mostly cloudy and hot with a high in the upper 80s. Partly cloudy tonight with a low near 70.

Sunrise 6 a.m., sunset 8:26 p.m.

### Friday:

Partly cloudy and hot with a high in the 90s.



See Weather elsewhere on Page 3-A.

## Index

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Commentary	4-A	Lifestyles	7-B
Entertainment	6-B	Sports	1-4-C

Four sections, 28 pages  
Number 186, Volume 105

See related stories on Page 3-C.



building repairs by the N Service so occupants can and begin interior renovat Baran said the idea of

# County college to continue Malvern nursing program

By Laura R. Felder  
Staff Writer

Garland County Community College will continue its nursing program at Ouachita Technical College in Malvern, even though funding for the program has not yet been secured.

GCCC, which has a successful and popular nursing program on its home campus, began the two-year registered nurses program at the Malvern school last year.

During the first year of the program, students took pre-nursing courses from temporary instructors, requiring little expense from GCCC.

In the upcoming year, the 17 students will begin the nursing courses, which will be taught by GCCC nursing faculty, according to Dr. Gerald Fisher, GCCC president. Full-time faculty salaries are the biggest expense of the program.

GCCC has not yet received a promised \$50,000 grant from the governor's office to pay for faculty and other expenses.

Fisher said he has "every assurance" GCCC will receive the grant pledged last year to fund the program.

"We can't divert any of our operating money to that program," Fisher said Wednesday.

The conversion of Ouachita from a vocational technical school to a technical college, official as of last Monday, raised other questions about the program's future.

The technical college is under the direction of the state Department of Higher Education. Previously, the state Vocational Education Board governed the school.

Ouachita continues to offer vocational-technical programs but added college-level courses. According to the legislation that prompted Ouachita's transition, the school must work for at least two years with an accredited school to offer its college-level courses.

The Department of Higher Education selected Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, not GCCC, as Ouachita's accrediting institution, at the request of Ouachita Director Earl Clevenger.

Fisher said he "was not included in any communications or planning" about the department's choice and was not contacted by the department until last week when he was given "a formal invitation"

See PROGRAM on Page 2-A

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Gary V Malvern for the proper Wedne failed to he wou IRS ag "It's tim Local a return ir



# PROGRAM

From Page One

to continue GCCC's association with Ouachita.

"We are proceeding, but still, of course, ... there are conditions that have to be met. The state Board of Nursing has to continue approval of the program and, secondly, there has to be a funding source," Fisher said.

Clevenger said he is confident the program will continue to be funded, at least until the current students complete the program.

"But it will depend on money and it will take money," Clevenger said.

He said the Ouachita nursing students, who currently are taking a microbiology class, are "extremely eager" to complete the curriculum.

"These are women who work as LPNs," Clevenger said of the students. "They want more knowledge and they can earn more money as registered nurses."

GCCC's Board of Trustees agreed to continue the program at a meeting last week. The agreement is contingent on the approval by the Department of Higher Education, the Board of Nursing, and sufficient funding and faculty.

GCCC's commitment to offer nursing at Ouachita applies only until the current students graduate.

"I hope Dr. Fisher could get money for the program to continue," Clevenger said. "If the state Legislature appropriates the money, I hope they would like to continue."

## Pilot lacked flying time in Heinz crash

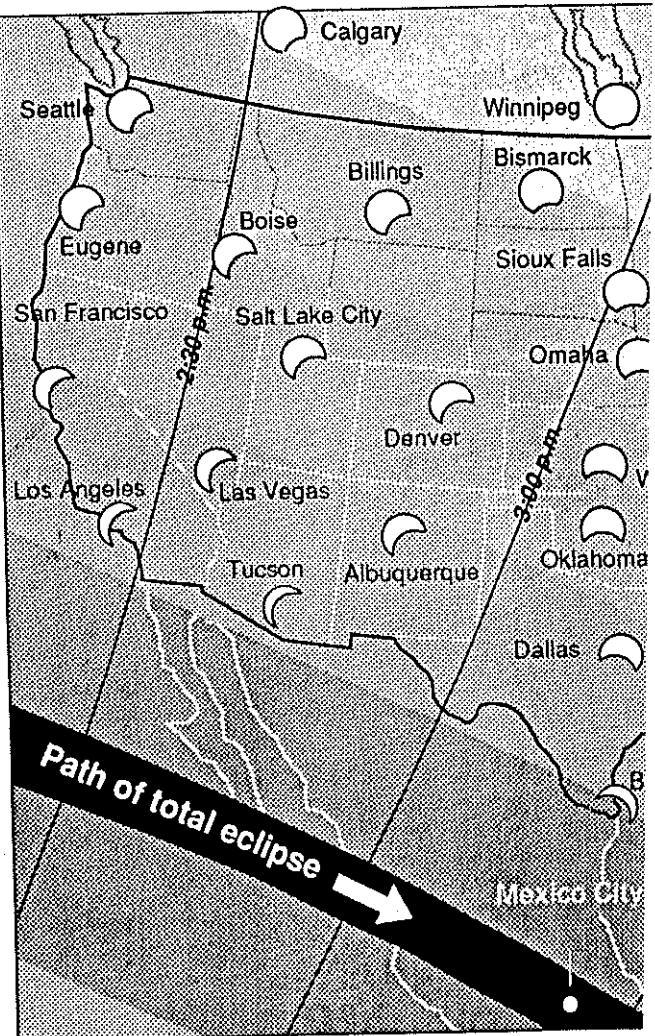
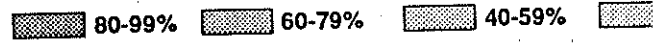
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The captain of the plane in which Sen. John Heinz was killed in an April 4



## The view from down here

The percentage of the sun's diameter covered at maximum



Source: Sky & Telescope magazine

## Solar eclipse hype

The Associated Press

HONOLULU - There's no small measure of lunacy in the hype surrounding next week's total solar eclipse in Hawaii. Some people think the theme of the educational display at Honolulu's Bishop Museum sums it all up.

The museum has taken a circus approach to what it bills as "The Great Show Above Earth," capturing a bit of the Barnum & Bailey showmanship in the preparations for the once-in-a-century event.

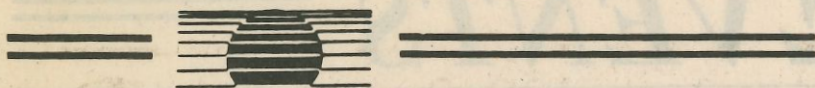
The eclipse is throwing its shadow over one of the biggest promotions ever on Hawaii Island, whose Kona-Kohala Coast is the state's prime viewing area - one of just a few in

theless plans an... chant to pray for... Hawaii is one of where the July 1 seen in its entire Mexico's Baja Ca and portions of Colombia and Bra

The sun will be blocked in the U.S. States, ranging from blockage in Los Angeles to New York.

In Hawaii, it's 8 a.m., when the moon the sun and the moon completely blocks the sun. Ecliptophiles will for the mountain tours or plunge





## *Editorial*

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# Technical college birth welcome area arrival

The upgrading of the former Ouachita Vocational Technical School to Ouachita Technical College promises benefits for the residents of Hot Spring County.

Monday, Ouachita was one of 14 vocational technical schools in Arkansas officially converted to technical colleges. The technical colleges are now under the direction of the state Department of Higher Education, but operations will be governed by local boards appointed by Gov. Clinton.

As a technical college, Ouachita will now be able to offer college level courses in addition to a full range of vocational/technical courses. Students beginning in the ninth grade through adulthood will now have the benefits of a community college and a vo-tech in one local setting.

Interested persons may enroll in the vocational/technical program or in the college level program in preparation for a four-year institution. Students may also enroll on a single course basis for continuing education, training or pleasure.

Earl Clevenger, director of Ouachita Technical College, said the school will provide an additional resource of training with a comprehensive training program.

Clevenger believes the conversion to a technical college will also interest businesses and industry considering a move to Malvern or Hot Spring County. The additional educational capacity of the school will provide a more comprehensive learning center for training possible employees, as well as provide educational services for dependents of employees.

The school is currently in the process of achieving North Central accreditation which will allow the school to accredit college level courses alone by 1993.

Ouachita is also hoping to provide an associate of applied science degree by July 1, 1993, but community support will be the key to the technical college's success.

So, as Ouachita Technical College celebrates its birth, the residents of Hot Spring County should welcome and support the new arrival.

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# U.S. business studies German a

BY MARK FRITZ  
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Marko Lueder can see into the future: 20 years from now, he plans to work in a vast electronics plant housed in a series of red-brick buildings in the heart of Berlin.

"I expect to be a boss, though," said the brash 17-year-old Berliner with a young man's dreams and an adult's job.

Lueder is one of 1.8 million Germans aged 15 to 18 who have apprenticeships under the nation's rigidly organized vocational education system, one of the oldest and most successful in the world.

Elements of the German system are getting increased attention in the United States

these days as the federal government and U.S. firms search for ways to improve vocational education and the skills of America's workforce.

A report this May by the Conference Board, a non-profit business research firm in New York, said U.S. corporations view the German system "with interest and envy." Many industrialized countries, and Germany in particular, "have better systems of work preparation than ours — and better learners," the report concluded.

Lueder is a mechanic's apprentice at AEG, the big electronics and appliance arm of the Daimler-Benz company with a 78-year-old apprenticeship program.

He became an apprentice

when he was 16, and spends 60 days a year in class, absorbing traditional schoolwork. He spends 180 days in the shop, learning his livelihood.

For that, he earns \$508 per month, which will increase to \$564 in the third and final year of his apprenticeship.

As early as age 12, German children take the first steps down a career path that can lead to a job as a banker, a bookkeeper or a bricklayer.

Dictated by their potential, their parents and their counselors, they usually enter one of three types of secondary schools: one geared toward university enrollment, one leading to training for lower-rung office jobs, and one for eventual blue-collar work.

In the German states they

control politically, the left-leaning Social Democrats have set up something they believe is more democratic: single secondary schools that combine all three elements, like American high schools.

Some critics have said that the traditional system often funnels people from lower socio-economic groups into blue-collar jobs at too young an age, and makes it too difficult for late bloomers to switch to a different track.

But many Germans view their goal-oriented education system as the bulwark of their diverse and powerful economy, and vocational education as one of its pillars.

"This is one of the main forces behind the prosperity of the west German economy,"

## Vo-tech schools shed 'shop' image, gain on Europeans

The Associated Press

At 15, Robert Hills dreams big dreams and already has gone far toward realizing them in his South Bronx classroom.

He dreams of college, and of law school. He's studying court stenography, and after just a year his fingers can fly over his small black keyboard at 100 words a minute — a skill that easily could earn him \$45,000 a year if his law plans get derailed.

The twist? Hills attends not an academic high school catering to the college-bound, but a vocational school — the sort that once meant just auto shop for boys, cosmetology for girls.

The bigger surprise: three-fourths of his classmates at New York's Grace Dodge Vocational High School also will go on to college.

"At this school, you get the best of both worlds: the academics, and the job skills," Hills said.

Hills, and his school, personify a century-old adage that

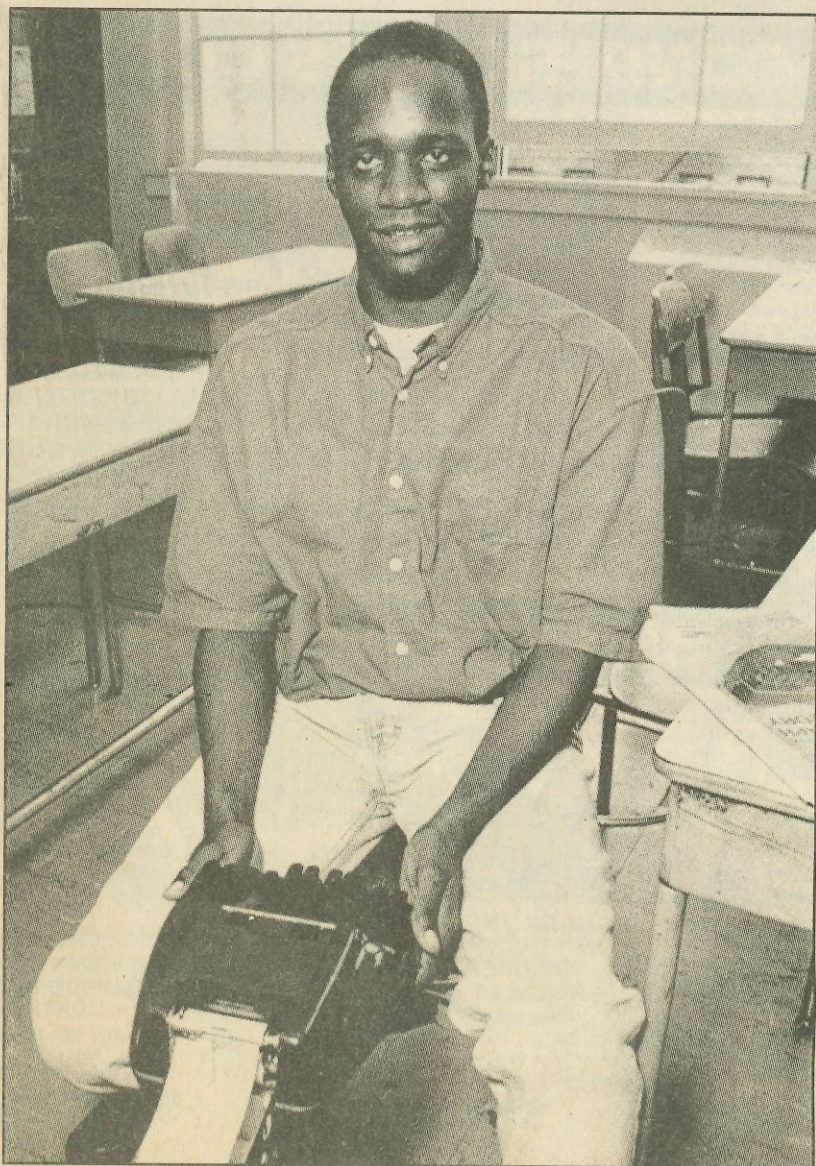
tems.

And students themselves seem to agree: Enrollments in many districts have been slumping for nearly a decade.

Recently, a federal law takes effect that some say offers the best hope in years of encouraging the spread of desperately needed reforms in voc-ed.

The \$956 million Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act Amendments give states two years to devise performance measures of vo-tech schools in areas including graduation rates and mastery of basic academic and occupational skills.

Perhaps most notably, the law earmarks \$64 million to encourage further development of "tech-prep" collaborative programs — already under way in some 40 states — aimed at encouraging vocational schools to improve the academic preparation of pupils and develop partnerships with community and four-year colleges.





vokies" still like to quote:

"Hail to the skillful, cunning hand!

"Hail to the cultured mind!

"Contending for the world's command,

"Here let them be combined."

About 3.8 million students — or more than one in four of the nation's 14.3 million high school students — are enrolled in vocational-technical programs instead of traditional academic high schools, according to the U.S. Education Department.

"When people say vocational education, they still think 'shop.' They still talk 'auto body.' But that's far less prevalent now," said Betsy Brand, Assistant U.S. Secretary of Education in charge of the Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

Students at Southern California Regional Occupational Center in Torrance, Calif., learn medical and dental technology.

Walk into Nick Curci's classroom for disabled children at Bergen County Vocational High School in Teterboro, N.J., and, but for a telltale blackboard, you'd swear you were in a supermarket complete with food shelves and cash registers — all set up to train kids for food industry careers.

At Floyd S. Kay Vocational Technical Center in rural Lexington, Va., even the classic votech world of woodworking is changing with the introduction of computerized lathes: "From sawdust to static electricity," said principal Scott Hannah.

And at George Westinghouse School, a vocational school in Brooklyn, N.Y., where 99 percent of students are minorities, students can choose from among 13 vocational majors from electronics to optics. The school's dropout rate is just 3.1 percent, said Principal Lewis Rappaport.

Such heartening examples — and there are many more — are the good news.

But critics in and out of government believe that much of the nation's \$10 billion system of public vocational education isn't doing what America desperately needs it to do: prepare students for the workplace or further education, and help U.S. businesses compete with nations like Germany that have world class, centuries-old vocational sys-

"In Western Civilization, too often there is a separation between how you use your mind and your body. 'Perkins' could go a long way toward making these schools meaningful, by showing how what you learn can be useful," said John Wirt, a former director of the National Assessment of Vocational Education, who now works for the U.S. Department of Labor.

Vocational enrollments dropped in 31 states from 1982 to 1989, according to unpublished new data from the National Center for Research in Vocational Education, a research arm of the U.S. Education Department.

More significantly, enrollments in 19 of those states have dropped faster than high school enrollments as a whole.

Central to the decline is a debilitating image problem, vocational educators themselves admit.

In many states, parents, students, guidance counselors and others continue to view votech schools as educational backwaters for low achievers and the non-college bound.

"I think people put our school down because it's votech. They say, 'Oh, that's the dark side.' That's really wrong," said Silvana Montalbano, a visually impaired 18-year-old who graduated this month from Bergen Vo-Tech and plans to study child care and graphic arts at Bergen Community College.

"Many employers believe that the continuous technological innovations in the workplace have outpaced educators' efforts and limited resources to remain current in many fields," concluded a 1990 report by the U.S. General Accounting Office, which compared the U.S. vocational training system unfavorably with those of Germany and other industrialized countries.

Another report last year, by the Rochester, N.Y.-based National Center on Education and the Economy, lamented, "We have no national system capable of setting high academic standards for the non-college bound or for assessing their achievement. ... America may have the worst school-to-work transition system of any advanced industrial country."

Voc-ed's longstanding image problems — "a birth de-

**FINDING SUCCESS** — Student Robert Hills sits at a stenographer machine in a classroom at Grace Dodge Vocational High school in the South Bronx in New York City. He wants to become a lawyer and is enrolled in his school's paralegal court recording program. At 15, he already is finding success with his vocational skills and has landed a summer job working for Bronx Congressman Jose Serrano as a page in the representative's Washington office.

fect ... called prestige deficiency," in the words of author-educator Dale Parnell — worsened in the 1980s, as the school reform movement stressed college preparation above all else.

In the decade-long voc-ed enrollment slide, it's hard to say which state fared worst because of differences in the way states keep data. But Pennsylvania certainly was among them, plunging 37.8 percent from 1984-89.

Other big losers included Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and Rhode Island, the unpublished federal data shows.

What's happened in Pennsylvania mirrors the challenges facing vocational schools everywhere, said Fernan Moody, director of the state's bureau of vocational, technical and adult education.

Pennsylvania, like virtually all states, greatly increased academic requirements for high school graduation during the 1980s, literally squeezing vocational courses out of the picture in some districts.

Only 11 of Pennsylvania's 87 technical schools offer academic and vocational courses in the same facility — at a time when reformers are pressing such schools to put more academics into their curricula so that graduates have the option of choosing college or careers.

"What has happened is the large majority of our voc-ed schools are half-day, so students must spend half-days at academic schools," Moody said.

The half-day arrangement forces voc-ed students to attend academic high schools, where they feel stigmatized, Moody said.

"A lot of guidance counselors still see voc schools as schools for 'dummies,' or for kids who are somehow handicapped. Fifty-four percent of students in our 87 schools are considered 'special needs,' with either mental, physical impairment, or economically or educationally disadvantaged, or reading below grade level," Moody said.

"But 91 percent of our grad-

uates either get jobs, go to college or enter the military service. The public never really understood that," he said.

In fact, the workload at many vocational schools can be greater than at academic high schools. Senior nursing students at Dodge School in the Bronx arrive each day at 7:20 a.m. and don't leave until 10 class periods later at 3 p.m.

Paralegal students, nursing students and court stenographers have to put in more than 100 hours of unpaid work outside school.

"Students at Dodge aren't taking typing instead of English. They're taking both. Every kid gets eight terms of English, eight terms of social studies, four terms of math, four terms of science. That's state law," said Dodge Principal Joan De Marco.

"A key reason vocational education has changed is because business is putting the pressure on to change," said Brand, the assistant U.S. education secretary. "But we still have to change the public's mindset. Voc-ed can no longer be seen as a dumping ground."

## A bird in the vat ruins the toothpaste

The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — A bird in the works ruined 180,000 pounds of toothpaste at Procter & Gamble's Iowa City plant.

"We've been producing toothpaste here for 35 years. We've never had that problem before," manager Jim Lane said.

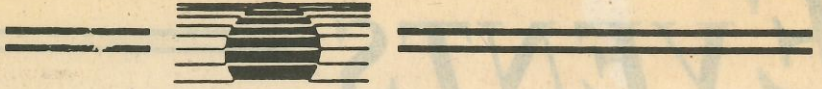
The remains of a bird — Lane was not sure what kind — were discovered Thursday in a vat of Gleem toothpaste when employees were doing a quality control check.

The system was flushed about 15 times to make sure all the feathers were gone. Normal production has resumed.

None of the 180,000 pounds of contaminated toothpaste, a half day's production, was packaged and none was shipped from the plant, Lane said.

He declined to say what the accident cost the company.





## *Editorial*

# Technical college path best for local vo-tech

Ouachita Vocational Technical School is poised at the crossroads of a legislative path to revamp the state's vo-tech system. The decision on the direction and future mission of the school will have a critical impact on the educational options in our community.

Underfunded and ill-equipped, the state's long-neglected vo-tech system is now in position to be overhauled in the 78th General Assembly.

The system's 24-schools are finally being exposed to a thorough evaluation of their educational missions.

Senate Bill 357, sponsored by Sen. Allen Gordon of Morrilton, Sen. Nick Wilson of Pocahontas and a host of other lawmakers, was overwhelming approved by the House this week. The proposal, to convert 11 vo-tech schools to technical colleges, now awaits Gov. Clinton's signature.

The technical colleges, under the governance of the state Board of Higher Education, will continue to offer vocational-technical programs while adding freshman and sophomore college level courses. The college-level course work will be transferrable to an institution with a four-year degree program.

High school vocational programs, now tucked within the current vo-tech system, will be preserved in the restructuring.

Proponents of the technical college concept have proposed a one-half percent increase in the corporate income tax on sales above \$100,000 to pay for the improvements that will be required to make the transition. If the funding proposal fails to meet the approval of the 78th General Assembly, the restructuring plan will be automatically abolished.

The charter group of technical colleges will set the standard for a new educational opportunity in Arkansas. Educators, industry leaders and lawmakers have recognized vocational-technical education needs a modern mission designed to meet the job requirements of the 21st century.

By choosing a path to become a technical college, Ouachita Vo-Tech can share in the expanded educational opportunities and, perhaps, guarantee the school's continued autonomy and future growth.

The technical college route is the right course for our vo-tech school.

We support Sen. George Hopkins' efforts, with the introduction of Senate Bill 499, to add Ouachita Vo-Tech to the charter list of technical colleges. The commitment to a modern mission will ensure a positive future for a Hot Spring County institution with deep community roots.



# McNatt

• Continued from Arkansas Page

showing how the two apply to real-life.

- A preparatory curriculum for technical education to link high school and postsecondary schools.

- Expanding adult education programs to accommodate more people.

Although he has filled some lower-level vacant positions, supporters said he does not plan to fill the deputy director of general services position, the second highest job in the agency. McNatt confirmed that he plans to keep that spot vacant.

In a recent interview, McNatt said he sees himself as both caretaker and planner. He said the agency must carry out programs but also should be able to move with the times.

"I see vo-tech becoming more and more important," McNatt said. "I see it coming to the forefront."

McNatt rose to the forefront statewide as president of the Arkansas Vocational Association in 1981, when he spoke in favor of creating a separate agency for technical educa-

tion. Before 1981, the system was a section of the state Department of Education.

McNatt, an only child, was raised on an 80-acre farm outside Brookland in rural Craighead County. His parents also worked at a shoe factory. His father, Roby, is now retired.

Inspired by James Gamble, a vocational-agricultural teacher, McNatt studied vocational education at Arkansas State University at Jonesboro, earning bachelor's and master's degrees.

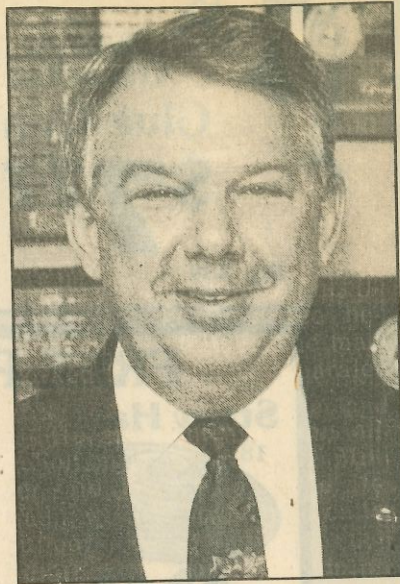
His office is filled with vocational artifacts, most notably Luther S. Hardin's desk and a wall-mounted antique pistol from the White River Vocational-Technical School staff.

Hardin, a state and national vocational education leader, died in 1987. His son is state Sen. Lu Hardin of Russellville.

McNatt was White River's director for 10 years.

He and his wife, Kathy, office administrator for Gov. Bill Clinton, have two daughters: Shari, 24, a teacher at Boone Park Elementary School in North Little Rock, and Vicki, 22, who will attend the UALR School of Law this fall.

McNatt is the agency's third director since its creation in 1981 and the only one hired



Lonnie McNatt

from within.

"I'm from Arkansas and I know a lot of people in vocational education," McNatt said. "I know the history and I know what people want done. I plan to rely on that information to help me make decisions to shape the future."

## Ball

• Continued from Page



# Ouachita legislation ready for Gov. Clinton

By The Daily Record Staff

LITTLE ROCK — A bill to convert Ouachita Vocational Technical School to a technical college received unanimous approval from the House Wednesday and now heads to Gov. Bill Clinton for signing.

Senate Bill 599, sponsored by Sen. George Hopkins of Malvern, will add Ouachita Vo-Tech to 11 other vo-techs who have chosen to become two-year technical colleges.

Effective July 1, the technical colleges will be under the jurisdiction of the state Board of Higher Education. A local board, appointed by the governor, will control the operations of the school at the local level. Currently, Ouachita Vo-Tech is governed by the state Vocational Education

Board.

The technical colleges will continue to offer vocational-technical programs and will also offer freshman and sophomore level college courses as part of a two-year degree program. The college-level work will be transferrable to a four-year institution. The technical colleges will have six years to institute the programs, equipment and personnel to meet the certification standards. Extensions may be granted if the school is "making a good faith effort" to meet the standards, according to the concept's proponents.

The General Assembly is considering a one-half percent increase in the corporate income tax on sales above \$100,000 to

Please see **VO-TECH**, page 9

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3-7-91



# vo-tech

Continued from page 1

fund the improvements and restructuring of the vo-tech system.

Sen. Hopkins said last week converting Ouachita to a technical college will have long-term benefits for the school and the community.

“By moving now, Ouachita will have two to four additional years of funding and preparation to maintain local control. The future of some vo-techs appears to require merger with nearby community colleges or four year colleges. ... Unless Ouachita moves now, it could be merged and become a branch of Garland County Community College or Henderson State University.”



# Highway bill awaits Clinton's signature

By RON FOURNIER  
Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — Higher fuel taxes are a technicality away from Gov. Bill Clinton's desk, and higher taxes on corporations may be just around the corner.

The Senate passed, by identical 32-3 votes, identical House and Senate versions of bills Wednesday to raise the state gasoline tax by 5 cents a gallon and the diesel tax by 2 cents.

A Clinton spokesman said the governor would sign the House version, which passed the House 76-18 Tuesday. A technical amendment tacked on the bill by the Senate on Wednesday needed to be approved by the House today before the bill went to the governor.

Meanwhile, plans to fund improvements in the state's vocational-education system fell into place when Sen. Lu Hardin, D-Russellville, easily won approval to amend a dormant corporate tax bill.

The amendment would cut the bill's original full-percent increase to a half-percent — from 6 percent to 6.5 percent — on sales above \$100,000, generating about \$11 million a year to upgrade 12 vo-tech schools to technical colleges.

Also, northwestern Arkansas lawmakers headed an effort to defeat 28

*"I think it's going to be a very good investment for our people."*

Gov. Clinton

budget bills to force better 3rd Congressional District representation on powerful Joint Budget Committee

The road-program sponsor in the Senate, Sen. Jack Gibson, D-Boydell, told his colleagues that the fuel increase would cost \$50 annually to someone who drives 20,000 miles a year.

"That's the cost of one good tire or one good Saturday night," Gibson said.

Said Clinton of the bill: "I think it's going to be a very good investment for our people."

There was no debate on the bill. Those who voted against the measure were Sens. Cliff Hoofman, D-North Little Rock; John Pagan, D-Little Rock; and Steve Luelf, R-Mountain Home.

Luelf later said: "We've already put on some new taxes this session. None of my constituents want more

Please see SESSION, page 8

## Chaffin reflects on vo-tech's past, future

By SUSAN SCANTLIN  
Editor

SALINE COUNTY — More than two decades ago, a ceremonial groundbreaking was held to mark the beginning of adult vocational-technical education in Malvern.

The late Dr. John W. Cole, a Malvern physician, was the driving force in locating Ouachita Vocational Technical School in his hometown. Dr. Cole, a former vice chairman of the state Board for Vocational Education, joined other dignitaries on Monday, Sept. 7, 1970 in the groundbreaking ceremony on the campus of the Ouachita Vo-Tech.

The first state-supported vo-tech school was constructed in 1959 in Pine Bluff. The Malvern-based vo-tech was the 12th in what is now a 24-school system. Ouachita Vo-Tech was designated to serve a 10-county area.

Cole's daughter, state Sen. Charlie Cole Chaffin, shared the school's original educational mission during an interview at her home near Benton earlier this week.

"The vo-tech school in Malvern's mission is vocational-technical education. It's located in what's probably the most highly labor county of any county in the state of Arkansas," Chaffin said.

During the past two decades, the image and mission of the vo-tech sys-

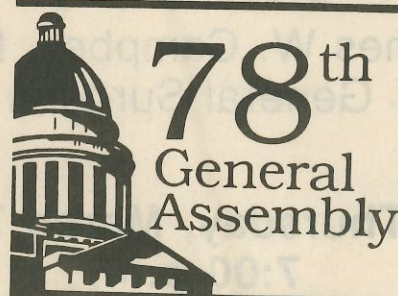
tem has changed, she said.

"The mission of vo-tech has changed somewhat. It used to be kind of a dumping ground. When a high school counselor had difficulty with a student and if they were not college

material they usually routed them that way. But, that's not true any more. It has become such that students need additional courses. What

Please see VO-TECH, page 8

## Proposal presented to convert vo-tech



By SUSAN SCANTLIN  
Editor

LITTLE ROCK — State Sen. George Hopkins of Malvern introduced a bill Wednesday to convert Ouachita Vocational Technical School to a technical college.

Earlier this week, the House approved Senate Bill 357, converting 11 state-supported vo-tech schools to technical colleges. The measure,

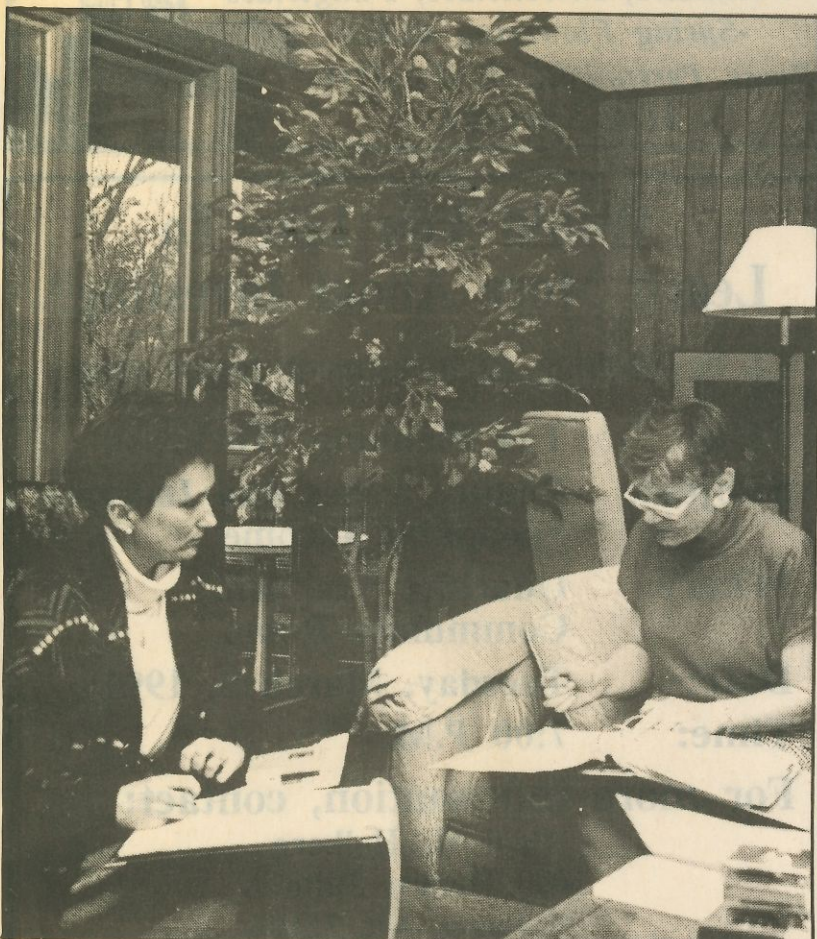
sponsored by Sen. Allen Gordon of Morrilton, Sen. Nick Wilson of Pocahontas and a host of other lawmakers, now awaits Gov. Clinton's signature.

According to SB 357, the 11 technical colleges will be transferred from the jurisdiction of the state Vocational Education Board to the control of the Board of Higher Education July 1.

The technical colleges will continue to offer vocational-technical programs and will also offer freshman and sophomore level college courses as part of a two-year program. The college-level work will be transferrable to a four-year degree program.

The General Assembly will consider a one-half percent increase in

Please see BILL, page 8



Daily Record photo—Boyer

### Vo-tech discussion

State Sen. Charlie Cole Chaffin (right) and Malvern Daily Record editor Susan Scantlin discuss the issue of improving the state's vo-tech system.

Malvern Daily Record  
2-28-91



# APPROVES Bill to upgrade vo-techs



## 78<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

By **RON FOURNIER**  
Associated Press Writer

LITTLE ROCK (AP) — Big business has no business speaking for small business, says a legislative opponent of the embattled corporate income tax bill backed by the Arkansas Chamber of Commerce.

"I resent the good-suit boys coming down here and making a deal," said Rep. Bob Teague, D-Roland, during a debate on the bill, which failed Thursday.

The measure would raise the corporate tax from 6 percent to 6.5 percent on corporations with net income exceeding \$100,000 a year. It failed 69-11, needing 75 votes for approval.

The \$11 million a year would help convert about half of the state's vocational-education schools to technical colleges and improve the vo-techs left behind. Teague said the tax increase would scare business away from Arkansas.

"What good does it do us to generate all these trained minds when they have to go to Texas to find a job? We all can't wash each other's clothes and sell each other hamburgers. You're driving business away," Teague said.

The House passed 80-4 a bill to upgrade vocational-technical schools not included in the technical college plan, which has already been signed into law.

The vote capped a busy day at the Capitol, the 60th day for the 78th General Assembly. That's the number of days specified in the Arkansas Constitution for a legislative session. The House approved a Senate resolution to extend the session until Wednesday. It could last longer.

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Continued from page 1

Also on Thursday:

—The Senate approved a bill to double the size of the six-person state Court of Appeals. The bill goes to the House.

—Lt. Gov. Jim Guy Tucker, president of the Senate, said big-money lobbyists are lining up opposition to his bill to call a constitutional convention. He said the action may kill the bill in the House.

—The Senate passed a compromise bill to restructure the state Pollu-

tion Control and Ecology Commission. Environmentalists reluctantly agreed on Wednesday to the bill as amended to suit industry lobbyists. The bill goes to the House.

—The Senate amended the \$200 million Health Department budget to increase birth and death certificate fees. The bill, which includes a disputed provision for school-based health clinics, wasn't put to a vote.

—Gov. Bill Clinton signed the mandatory seat belt-bill into law. Supporters say the measure will save

lives and serious injuries across the state. It becomes effective 90 days after the end of the legislative session.

The governor defended himself against claims that he's underfunding child-welfare programs. The Youth Law Center of San Francisco is threatening legal action over alleged deficiencies in state programs for child welfare and juvenile justice. Spokesmen for the group said they would sue unless more money is pumped into programs.

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McDonald's  
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35  
63 1-2  
32 3-8  
53 3-4  
3-8



# Arkla constructs compressor station on Ridge Road

By STEVE ROGERS  
Daily Record Staff

A new compressor station for Arkla Energy Resources is currently under construction on an 80-acre site on Ridge Road near Malvern.

The compressor, when completed in early to mid-summer, will boost the flow of natural gas on AER's new Line AC from 800 million to 1 billion cubic feet per day, according to Stan Tiner, Arkla's director of public affairs.

"We hope to have it ready for next winter," Tiner said from his office in Shreveport, La. "That is the point we are shooting for."

At the station's heart will be a 16-cylinder, 8,000-horsepower engine to carry the bulk of the compressor's load. In addition, there will also be three 2,500-horsepower engines with plans to possibly add two more at a later date. All of the engines will be fueled by natural gas.

The largest engine was constructed by Cooper Industries of Grove City, Penn. Because of its bulk (160,000 tons), it had to be brought to Malvern by train two weeks ago. It was then loaded on a special, self-propelled transporter and taken to the site.

Each of the transporter's 48 computer-controlled wheels could be turned individually to maneuver through streets in Malvern and down



Daily Record Photo—Rogers

## Workers weld on pipe to be underground at the site.

Highway 9.

Bluewater Constructors of Houston handled the engine moving and is the chief contractor for the entire

project.

Clifford Wyers, AER's chief inspector of the project, said despite the compressor's size, it will be rela-

tively quiet.

"The loudest thing out here will be the cooling units," he said."

## Unions picket company

By STEVE ROGERS  
Daily Record Staff

For the past week, members of three pipeline unions have picketed the site of Arkla Energy Resources' compressor station on Ridge Road.

However, the protestors have no qualms with AER, they said, but are picketing Bluewater Constructors of Houston, the project's chief contractor.

"This has absolutely nothing to do with Arkla," said Bill Wright, a member of Local 382 operators' union. "This is against Bluewater."

Also picketing is Local 798 welder's union and Local 490 laborers' union.

"We are protesting Bluewater bringing in all of these people from out of state to do this job," Wright said. "There are a few Arkansas people in there, but most of them are from Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma.

"We are also protesting their (Bluewater's) substandard wages and working conditions," he added. "Also, they are not paying insurance or retirement benefits."

Jon Welke, Bluewater's presi-

dent, said he does not know why the unions are picketing the job site.

"I haven't figured it out," Welke said from his office in Houston. "Since their initial contact with us, they haven't called us. There is work out there if they want it. Why they want to stand out there in the road and try to stop other people from working I'll never know."

Welke said he felt the unions' main problem was his company is an "open shop," hiring all workers — union or not.

"We've never had any problems like this in Arkansas before," he said. "I think they (the unions) are trying to force the gas company (Arkla) to go union."

Rod Gann, AER's construction superintendent, maintained the pickets involve only Bluewater. He did say, however, AER had no choice but to take a non-union contract.

He also said Line AC, on which the new compressor station will be placed, was constructed by two union contractors — Michael Curran and Associates of Houston and Delta Gulf of Shreveport.

# Hopkins: Technical college provides more course offerings

By SUSAN SCANTLIN  
Executive Editor

State Sen. George Hopkins of Malvern explained the evolutionary changes that will occur in Ouachita Technical School's transition from vo-tech to technical

college.

Hopkins spoke to the Malvern Rotary Club Wednesday about the changes that will be required to upgrade Ouachita Vo-Tech to include a two-year associate degree program.

Ouachita Vo-Tech, through separate legislation sponsored by Hopkins, was added to a list of 11 state vo-tech schools who are seeking technical college status. The legislation now awaits the required signatures, including the governor's, to complete

the legislative process.

Effective July 1, the technical colleges will be under the jurisdiction of the state Board of Higher Education. A local board, appointed by the governor, will control the operations of the school at the local level. Current-

ly, Ouachita Vo-Tech is governed by the state Vocational Education Board.

The General Assembly is considering a one-half percent increase in the corporate income tax on net profit above \$100,000 to fund the improve-

ments and restructuring of the vo-tech system. The restructuring plan will not take place without the additional state revenue, Hopkins said.

"All of this will be fruitless unless

Please see OUACHITA, page 2



# Ouachita

Continued from page 1

pass the tax, but it has the support of all of the major corporations."

The technical colleges will continue to offer vocational-technical programs and will also offer freshman and sophomore level college courses as part of a two-year degree program. The college level work will be transferrable to any four-year institution.

Hopkins stressed the vocational program would not be hampered by the technical college program.

"The foundation of technical education is already laid at Ouachita Vo-Tech and that will not change. We are just adding to the course offerings. We won't be disturbing that program, we will just be adding to it."

One of the first elements added at the school will be a program for remedial education. Students who score below the minimum ACT score required by colleges must take remedial courses to upgrade their educational skills.

The remedial work does not count for college credit hours. Hopkins said one-half of the students in Arkansas entering colleges and universities require some remediation. A night

program could also be developed, depending on the needs of the students.

"Part of what we can do is create a remediation program here at Ouachita Technical College for probably a third of the cost for our local people and allow a person to do it over a period of time. After meeting the remediation requirements, if they don't want to stay here locally, then they can drive to Henderson (State University in Arkadelphia). They will be able to go over there and take college level courses."

Eliminating the need to commute to other institutions for the remediation program will save expenses for students, Hopkins said.

"We need to try to do our part here to make sure local people don't have to drive a long way to get remediation."

The associate degree program that will be offered at Ouachita Technical College will also offer an at-home educational opportunity. Hopkins said in North Carolina and South Carolina, where the technical college concept was first developed, "one person in seven will have taken a course at a technical college in the

course of a year."

The aspect of local input and control is another advantage to the transition, Hopkins said.

"A local board, businesses and the people of the community will now have input in what courses are offered and how the money is appropriated."

Hopkins discussed the timing of the decision to convert from a vo-tech to a technical college at this time.

"It became obvious to me, after listening to the plans to merge other vo-tech schools with nearby colleges, if we did not move Ouachita Vo-Tech, they would eventually merge us with Henderson State University or Garland County Community College."

Hopkins said he met with the vo-tech's advisory board to discuss the change.

"After it was determined we would lose our local autonomy, in all likelihood, our best option, to ensure we keep a continuing institution that responds to local needs, not those dictated from Arkadelphia or Hot Springs, our only choice was to try and move in with this new group of technical colleges."

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# Massoud gallery



Bill and Linda Orr display a Massoud sofa.

## Orr's features Massoud selection

By CHRISTIE LOCKE  
Photo Editor

A selection of 500 Massoud sofa covers awaits customers at Orr's Furniture Center, 411 S. Main.

Orr's recently acquired a Massoud gallery and a selection of 500 covers in a variety of patterns to offer customers. Massoud is a high quality furniture, according to Bill Orr, owner.

Orr's and Massoud agreed if the furniture store would display a gallery of Massoud sofas with accessories, the company would offer Orr's customers a special order service with a wide variety of cover selections.

So, if sofas in the gallery aren't exactly what a customer wants, he or she has the option of selecting a cover through the special order service.

"Malvern hasn't had this much of a selection with such quality before," said Orr. "No one has ever offered 25 groups of furniture with this selection. We can compete with the larger companies."


The sofa covers complete a full range of colors, from light to dark, including tapestry and jewel-tone patterns. This year some featured colors include blue-green, turquoise, midnight blue, mauve and burgundy.

Orr said the pattern and color selections will match and compliment many colors for accessory furniture. Orr's also offers a complete line of accessory furniture to accent the Massoud sofas.

"The samples are available to see in different designs and colors," said Orr. "We're making our grand entry with a 20 percent discount on stock or special order Massoud sofas."

Massoud carries a 10-year warranty on the springs, frames and cushions, said Orr.

Orr said Harvey Norwood coordinated the gallery colors and accessories at Orr's Furniture Center. Other employees of Orr's include Rick Dial, sales; Ronnie Orr, Jay Chenault, Shane Davis and Debbie Bridges, bookkeeping.

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