



# Capitol Network News

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## PORNOGRAPHY ISSUE IN HIGHER ED FUNDING

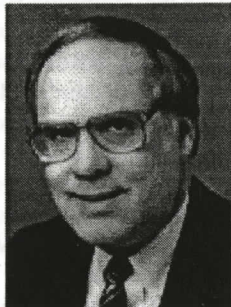
By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) A state lawmaker on Thursday questioned the management of higher education institutions' by pointing to the discovery earlier this year of pornographic materials stored in a university computer system.

"Do you feel there is cause for the legislature to be concerned about how higher educational institutions are being managed," Rep. Fred Perry, R-Tulsa, asked Rep. Jack Begley, D-Goodwell, "when illegal pornography is discovered being stored in one of their computer systems? Doesn't that make you wonder how they're being managed?"

The question appeared to take Begley, author of **SB1809**, which provides funds to higher education, by surprise, and he attempted to shrug off the question. Perry did not relent, pressing Begley for an answer.

At issue was the discovery earlier of a number of files in a University of Oklahoma computer system containing obscene material reportedly downloaded from the Internet. The discovery and resulting outcry, includ-



Rep. Fred Perry

ing that from some lawmakers, led the university to enact procedures restricting access from university computers to some Internet sites known to carry obscene materials.

When Begley suggested that the materials likely belonged to a student, Perry said, "You're missing my point. These materials were stored on the university's computer system. Isn't it cause for concern that such material is getting in there?"

Referring to actions taken at the university, Begley said that "management has taken control of the situation."

See *Pornography*, page 2

## Publisher's Note

This edition was not published until both houses had adjourned.

Due to the length of Thursday's session, the volume of bills, the repetitive action on many of them, and the fact that many bills moved from one house to the other, there is not a "From the House Floor" or a "From the Senate Floor" today. The summary of what happened to the bills, including appropriations bills, is in the Bill Activity Section.

Friday's edition will include an Appropriations Supplement which will contain a summary of each appropriation bill passed.

## SECOND HALF OF PROPERTY TAX REFORM PASSED

By Brandon Beard  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Part two of a property tax relief package passed the House and Senate Thursday. The measure, **HB2198**, by Sen. Don Williams, D-Balko, is expected to save Oklahoma property owners millions in annual ad valorem taxes. The measure would amend the state constitution to accomplish the reform.

Under the measure:

✓ Increases in the assessed value of locally assessed real estate would be frozen at

five percent. Exceptions to the freeze would be in cases where a title is transferred or improvements are made.

✓ Oklahoma citizens over the age of 65 who earn less than \$25,000 each year would have their property valuations frozen after Jan. 1, 1997.

✓ Statewide tax assessment ratios would be set at 11 to 13.5 percent of fair cash value for land and buildings. Personal property including jewelry and large household items would be held at 10 to 15 percent.

Thirteen and one-half percent for real estate and 15 percent for personal property are the most the rates could ever reach under the measure. They may, however, be lowered.

The bill comes after the Senate passed a companion measure, **SB681**, which raises the maximum income allowed to receive a double homestead exemption and raises the minimum annual earning allowed to receive an income tax credit for property taxes exceeding one percent of that income to \$12,000 annually.

The proposed constitutional amendments passed the House with a vote of 99 to 0 and passed the Senate with a vote of 47 to 0. The bill's next stop is the governor's desk.

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