

# HOUSTON CHRONICLE

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THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE

## A SESSION OF FIZZLED AGENDAS

■ Many promises of GOP majority apparently won't happen this time

**AUSTIN BUREAU**  
**By R.G. RATCUFF**

**AUSTIN** — This legislative session has dished out to Texas' top political leaders repeated helpings of defeat and disappointment along with a

session of things such as property tax appraisal reform and property tax reform. The session ends May 28.

"The Republicans have squandered a majority," said former state GOP Chairman Tom Pauken, who headed Perry's task force on property tax appraisal reform last year. "We could have gotten a lot more done if we'd had strong Republican leadership. We've got to quit simply saluting because they are Republicans," Perry received a legislative rebuff on building toll roads and selling the state lottery. He also saw his mandate that girls receive the human papilloma virus vaccine overturned.

Little has come of Perry's higher education reforms. And if Perry gets his cancer research fund, it will be paid for with \$3 billion in debt interest payments that will be carried

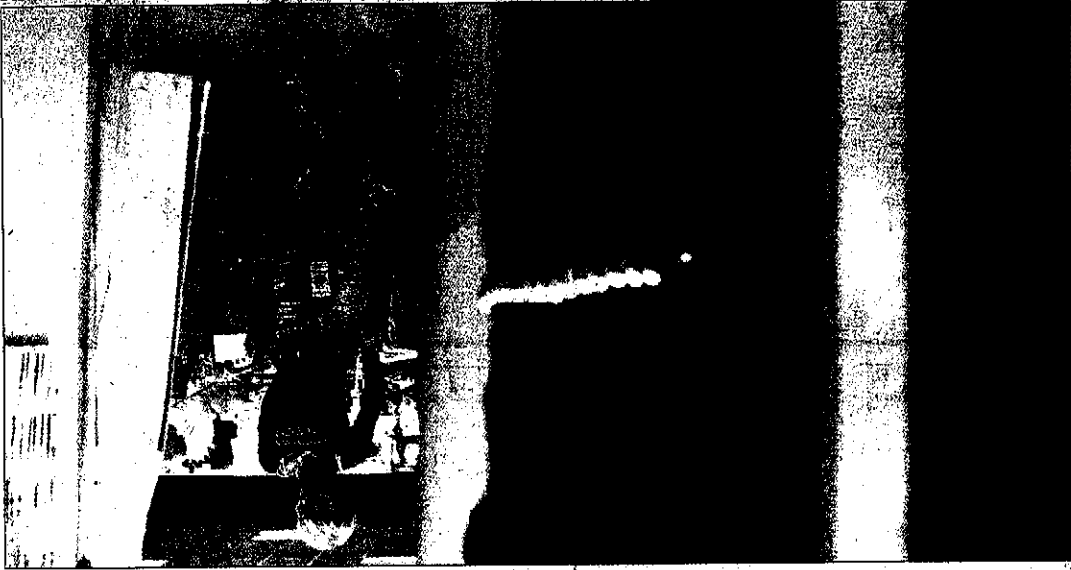
Ranking Houston's top companies The Chronicle 100 appears today, offering an extensive look at Houston's biggest public and private companies, and how the past decade has changed things. **SEE SECTION K**

**SPECIAL SECTION**

Ranking Houston's top companies

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REINVENTING SHARPSTOWN



**THE RIGHT LOOK:** Blondene Thompson checks herself out in a pair of Apple Bottoms jeans at Top Secret clothing store in Sharpstown Center. She says the mall has sexier clothes than what she finds elsewhere.

## HIP-HOP STYLES BRING MALL BACK IN FASHION

Sharpstown Center has lost major tenants over the years, but it's hoping specialty stores

**By DAVID KAPLAN**  
**HOUSTON CHRONICLE**

**O**NCE the city's biggest and best-known mall, Sharpstown Center was never fancy.

Its stores were among America's tried and true. "Basically, Sharpstown's got everything you need," said a young man who would identify himself only as 33. He was at the mall with his friend

apparel stores offer urban clothing influenced by street culture, including labels owned by hip-hop icons Russell Simmons, Nelly and Beyoncé. "Basically, Sharpstown's got everything you need," said

