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TEA Critics Lauded By Rural Texans

AUSTIN (AP) — Rural Texans applauded critics Wednesday of Texas Education Agency's proposal to eliminate all public school districts with fewer than 12 grades.

A. J. Wallace, Potter County school superintendent, pleaded with the Senate Education Committee — "When you lose the school in these small places, you've lost everything."

Ben Howell of El Paso, chairman of the State Board of Education, said the proposal was designed to give Texas school kids a better chance at getting a good education, and he added that the small districts often provide "tax havens."

The bill was sent to a subcommittee after nearly two hours

of testimony. An illustration by Lynn Moak of the TEA staff, specifically mentioned an "extreme example" in Wharton County, where the Provident City Independent School District has only three students with a rich gas field which gives the district property worth \$30 million and a tax rate of "almost zero."

He said the district conducts classes every other year to avoid a law which would require it to consolidate if it missed classes for two consecutive years.

The average tax rate of the 153 districts with fewer than 12 grades is 21 cents on \$100, he said, compared to the statewide average of 63 cents.

In Titus County, Moak said, Mount Pleasant is the only school district with 12 grades and it has a tax rate of 73 cents and the six districts in the county with fewer than 12 grades have an average tax rate of 14 cents.

Former Sen. Bill Tippen, an Abilene lawyer, led one group opposing the TEA bill, and he insisted, "We're not here to protect tax havens—we're here for the best interests of the children."

He said he was surprised at the crowd, which overflowed from the Senate chamber into the balcony, applauding when a speaker made a point they liked.

"Us older folks who have gone to small schools haven't done too bad," said Sen. Raul Longoria, D-Edinburg, and a question for Howell was drowned out by the applause.

"We don't want to drown the dog to get rid of a few fleas," said Sen. W. E. Snelson, D-Midland, and there was more sustained applause.

It was noted that there is a law, adopted in 1949, allowing smaller districts to consolidate, and there were several thousand consolidations in the early 1950s, but this trend has slowed down.

"Is the almighty dollar going to rule education," asked Dominick Greco of Fruitvale, in Northeast Texas. In the small schools "we give something you cannot get in the large cities—personal attention — I'm talking about love . . ."

Wallace said he had been Potter County superintendent for 15 years, and the three rural districts there had turned out six valedictorians and two salutatorians at Amarillo high schools

during that time.

The alternative to the small schools, he said, is transporting children to schools farther away, and "I've never seen a student get very much education on a school bus." Interrupted by applause, he continued:

"We don't apologize to nobody about the quality of education our students receive."

"Keeping our small ones close to home is our plea," said Mrs. J. E. Pybas, whose children have gone to the Sivells Bend school.

"I don't think they are being deprived . . . the school is the most vital unifying factor in our area—it's the heart of our community."

James Cunningham, school superintendent in Spearman, said the high school there takes students from three rural schools, and "they are quality students." He said the average grade of the transfer students in the ninth grade is 87.7 per cent.

"We are literally your grass roots," said Mrs. Pybas.

Conventional Fan To Vanish If ME Project Successful

Fans and conventional cooling devices will possibly become a thing of the past if a new research project in A&M's Mechanical Engineering Department is successful.

The project, titled "Investigation of a Dry Cooling System Based on Corona Wind Cooling," will be an attempt by principal investigator Dr. Ronald Holmes to develop cooling techniques that will obsolete the conventional fan.

Dr. Holmes said the basic idea of the project is that electrical fields might possibly be used to increase heat transfer from air-cooled surfaces.

"Initial experiments indicate that initial heat transfer factors be increased by a factor of as much as 40 over the factors for conventional cooling systems," Dr. Holmes noted. "A system such as we are working on could be used to replace fans as a means of cooling in many different systems."

He said the uses for such a system would be virtually endless. He said, for example, that fan-less cooling could be used as a heat rejection system in electrical power generation. Air conditioning systems would no longer have to blow to cool a room

and radiators and fans could possibly be eliminated in automobile engines.

Dr. Holmes completed basic work on the program before joining the Mechanical Engineering Department staff. He previously researched the problem at Battelle Memorial Institute in Columbus, Ohio.

The project has been initially funded with a \$17,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Holmes said the grant would fund the project for 18 months, sufficient time to lay solid groundwork for more detailed studies.

"In the early phases of the project," he continued, "we're really concerned with defining heat transfer coefficients and determining any economic advantages the system might have."

"Some of the potential advantages of the system would be low noise levels of operation, high heat transfer coefficient and variable heat transfer capabilities."

Initial efforts on the project will find researchers working with thin tubes to define heat transfer coefficients over a large range of conditions. They will move to bundles of tubes, then use their overall findings to arrive at preliminary designs of a practical working system.

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT

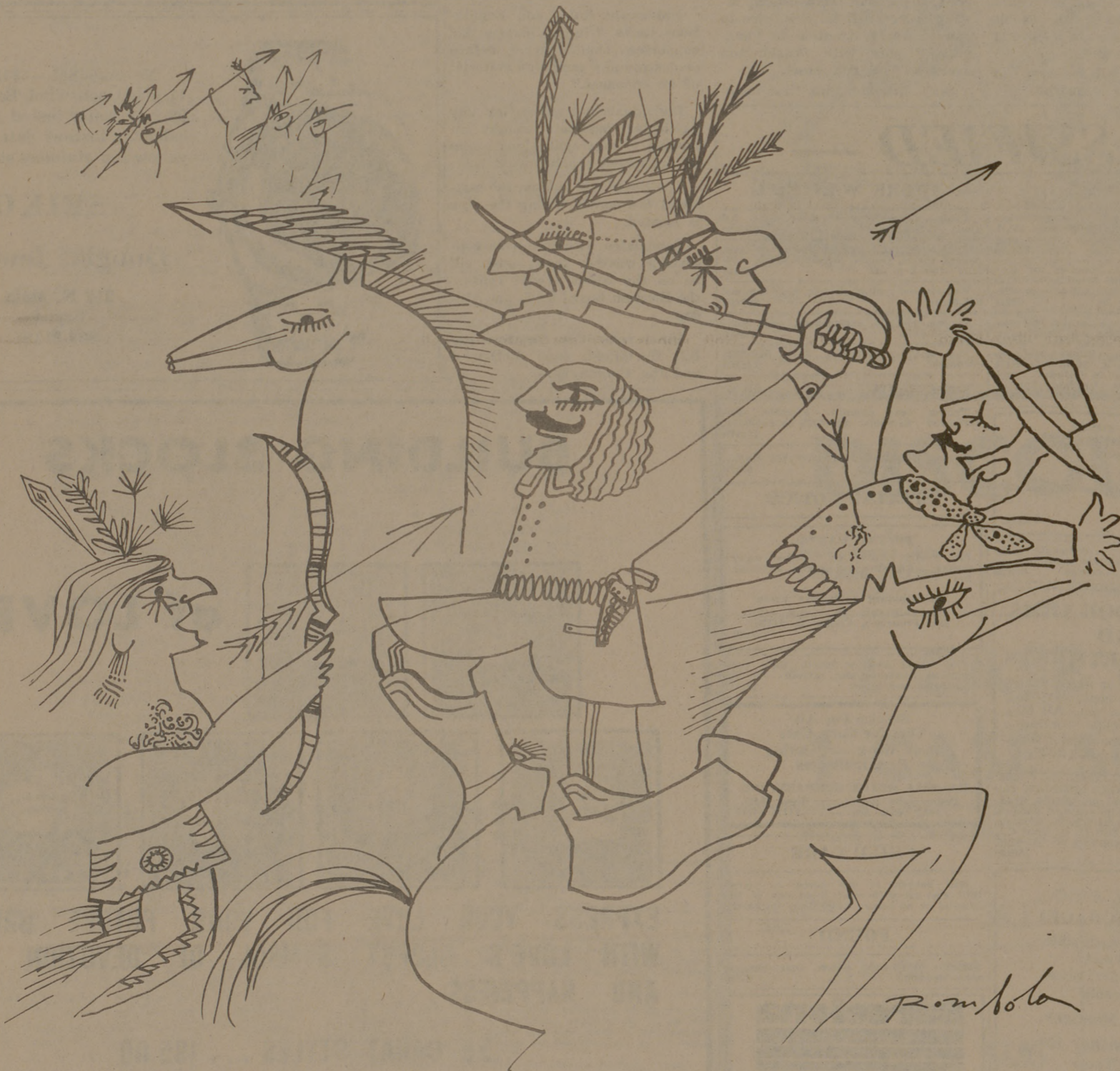
Phi Sigma Beta will meet in the Memorial Student Center Birch Room at 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

Squadron Nine's Carwash will be between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Gay's Texaco at 1405 South Texas Ave. Price is \$2 per car.

TUESDAY

College of Business Administration's Student Scholarship Awards Program will be at 9:45 a.m. in the Zachry Engineering Center Auditorium and will last an hour.



Who, Where, What, When...Why ?

Who comes to mind in discussions of press credibility? You, our readers, that's who.

Where is credibility mandatory? In these pages, that's where. When? Every day.

Why? Because this newspaper's mission is to help you open a window to the world with factual, balanced and meaningful information you can depend on.

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One AP man, Mark Kellogg, went all the way to the Little Big Horn River, in 1876, with Gen. George Armstrong Custer—and Kellogg didn't come back, either.

That's just one indication of how long "press credibility" has been important to newspapermen.

The Battalion

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Alcoholism Tops Herion

(Continued from page 1) accidents and deaths, suicide, broken marriages and job absenteeism.

Heroin is also a serious problem because it is strongly habit-forming, attractive to slum youth and others who are unhappy or bored and often leads to thefts, burglary, drug-pushing or prostitution as means of paying for the expensive drug.

But the commission said that only a tiny percentage of Americans ever try heroin, fewer than half of them keep on using it, it seldom is associated with violent crime and the extent of heroin-related stealing is often exaggerated.

The commission was sharply critical of governmental efforts to curb drug use. It said hasty reaction to public outcry had led to a massive "drug abuse industrial complex," a federal bureaucracy that spends nearly \$1 billion a year on questionable programs.

This bureaucracy may be perpetuating drug use, rather than discouraging it, the panel said.

The commission urged a new federal antidrug agency that would absorb the law enforcement, treatment and prevention functions now spread through nearly a dozen agencies.

The commission also suggested ways to streamline law enforcement, including precautions against corruption of policemen

by drug pushers, and urged states to set up treatment systems paid for mainly by the federal government.

But it said drug use is often an "illness of the spirit" that police and doctors can't cure. It said the cure lies in changing public attitudes about drugs and in improving the social, economic and cultural factors that lead to drug use.

"The most important change in the present response should be a vigorous reinvolvement of the private sector and the reactivation of informal and nonlegal controls on drug-abuse behavior," it said.

Among its recommendations to private citizens were advice to the alcoholic beverage industry to advertise the harmful effects of their products, and to communications media to examine whether drug use is being encouraged by their advertising programs, antidrug announcements and news coverage of drug stories.

The report was unanimously supported by the commission, except for the recommendation to create a new federal agency. Sens. Jacob K. Javits, R-N.Y., and Harold Hughes, D-Iowa, said they agreed with criticisms of present federal antidrug policy, but felt President Nixon's year-old Special Action Office on Drug Abuse Prevention deserved more time to prove itself.

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