

Familiar Faces Should Highlight Next Gubernatorial Race

By RICK BROWN

Grover is in there again. Briscoe is on the campaign trail. Hobby smiles and nods. Price Daniels, although he won't tell anyone what exactly he is running for, is tossing his hat in the ring, too.

What? We just had an election. Not that election, the next one. Yes, frantic voters, a day to catch your breath and the next race is on.

Even Sissy is thinking of getting into the act. After last year's election she said she was "disenchanted" with state politics preferring the lime light the national variety confers. She now seems to have become dis-

enchanted with being disenchanted, especially since McGovern did not ask her to be his running mate. In any event she will probably announce her candidacy at an Austin Parent-hold appreciation dinner scheduled Dec. 1. Her appearances indicate she will try for either the governorship again or one of the two seats available on the Railroad Commission. A lady railroad commissioner? Yes, you chauvinist pigs and since when did the Texas Railroad Commission have anything to do with railroads anyway?

Hank Grover gave a few seasoned politicians a fright last year in his strong Republican challenge against the 100 year dem-

ocrat rule of Texas. He did it without the aid of the party leaders who divorced themselves from Grover and his campaign because of his refusal to be a "yes man" to John Tower and other party officials. Grover has been campaigning ever since last year's defeat. Once again the party leaders, particularly Tower, have made no attempt to hide their dissatisfaction with Grover as a candidate. Tower is pushing George Bush to enter the race and divide Grover's supporters. Asked what he will do if Bush enters the race, Grover replied, "Beat the hell out of him."

Most Texans who vote for Republican candidates for governor do so out of convictions or party allegiance. One person I know has a different reason. He said, "We should all vote for Republicans for governor since they obviously haven't worked out as Presidents."

Hobby wants to be governor. Being of sound mind, however, he realizes now is not the time. He will run for re-election as Lt. governor and win.

Daniels is in somewhat of quandary. He is an ambitious man, but all the top jobs seem to be filled with qualified and competent men already. He, like Sissy, will

probably end up running for the Railroad Commission.

State Comptroller Calvert will lose next year. His flippant remarks concerning "nigger women" have insured his own defeat. His successor appears to be Bob Bullock, a shrewd politician with a good campaign organization.

And coming back to haunt us from the Sharpstown days is Ben Barnes, who also appears interested in the Railroad Commission. Barnes is still the hero of the people in some parts of the state. He is also thought of as a dirty politician (whether justly or unjustly) in other areas. In view of his showing in the last election I would say more people hold the latter view than the former.

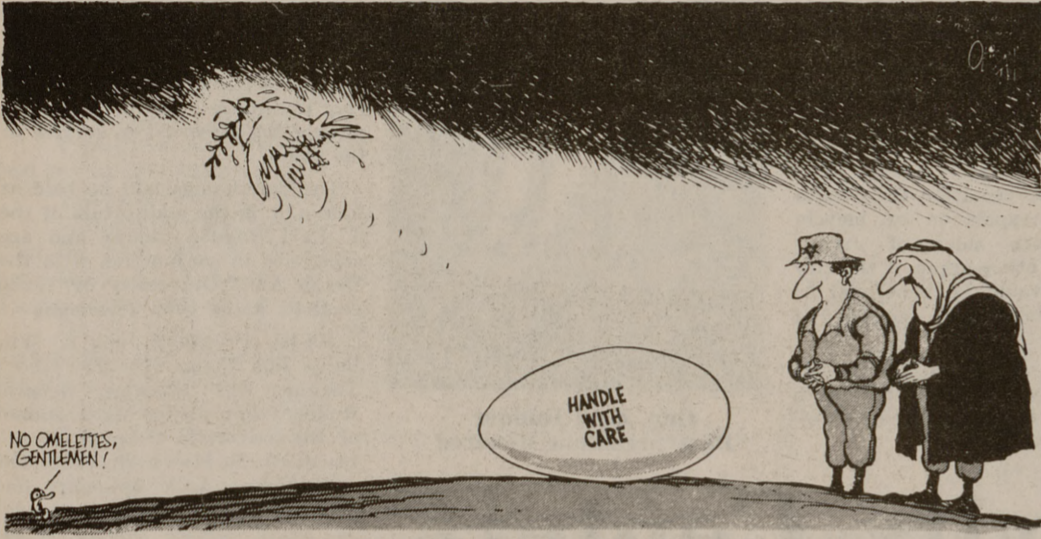
The "Daily Texan," UT student newspaper, has called for the impeachment of the President. Its editorials have repeatedly listed crimes, near crimes and malicious rumor upon which they base the appeal. Anyone who watches the news is aware that the "Texan" is not alone in its efforts. Traditionally conservative publications, groups and organizations have joined in the massive sway of public opinion towards a procedure built into our constitution as a last resort

against a President incompetent or deemed incompetent by the people. We are all sick of corruption, ineptitude and deceit, of watching daily as new scandals and bumbles by our "leaders" are revealed.

All of this is not designed to introduce a stirring commentary on the evils of Watergate or the President's inability to properly manage the office entrusted him by the people, or even to present an argument for or against impeachment. It is instead, dear reader, a sly insidious method of working into this column a letter I received from nine-year-old Gina Robyn Griffin of Hereford. Ms. Griffin wrote to inform me that she had "a column that will really rock 'em out," the text of which follows:

Watergate is just plain mean. When ever you change to your best channel to watch your best tv shows instead of that you get Watergate. Watergate Watergate Watergate and still more Watergate. There ought to be a law against it.

I sympathize with Ms. Griffin's plight, and only wish the occasional inconvenience suffered by TV viewers was the worst result of the unending Nixon Administration scandals.



OH, BROTHER—DON'T MAKE ME GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN!

Batt Commentary

Of Bottles and Nipples...

About 300 years ago, in the town of New Haven, Conn., a set of laws dealing with irrelevant behavior on Sunday was printed, bound in blue-covered books and included in the criminal statutes of the city.

Included in the statutes was a rule stating that no one except a clergyman was allowed to cross a river on Sunday; a rule that everyone must walk very slowly, no running was allowed; a rule against walking in a garden from sunrise until sunset on Sunday; a rule against cooking of any kind; a rule prohibiting a man from shaving, or anyone from washing; and in order to be still more pleasing in the sight of the Lord, all playing of musical instruments was unlawful, with exception of the drum, the trumpet and the jew's harp.

The rules, and their inscrutable exceptions, go on and on. Anyone reading these statutes today would be inclined to chuckle. And they are humorous, looking on them from our place in the 20th century world of enlightenment.

Laugh at these rules if you want, but as you do, think about Article 286a as written into the statutes of the penal code of the State of Texas.

The article deals with the sale of goods on both the two consecutive days of Saturday and Sunday. The purpose as stated in section 4 of the article, is "... being to promote the health, recreation and welfare of the people of the state ..."

On both the two consecutive days of Saturday and Sunday, you may purchase: tobacco, but no toys; a hammer, but not nails; beer or wine, but not a baby bottle (although you may buy the nipple); shotgun shells, but not baby diapers; souvenirs, but not a connection to repair a broken water pipe; and a coffin but not a light bulb. These are just a few of the disparities found in Article 286a.

The entire article abounds with vagaries. Far too many of the specified items are gray and completely outside the bounds of certain, or even reasonable, interpretation.

For instance, cosmetics may be sold, but not mirrors (what about a compact case?). Silverware cannot be sold; does this include stainless steel eating utensils? Lamps cannot be sold; can you buy an auto head lamp, or not? Toys may not be sold; is a bicycle a toy, or not?

Soft goods may not be sold; does this include support hose, jock straps and disposable diapers? Footwear may not be sold; does this rule out arch supports, corn patches and orthopedic shoes? Who can say?

The statutes do not provide guidelines for interpretation. The state does provide for judicial interpretation of the law, but this requires a criminal suit in a court of law.

The hypothetical instances of necessity are even more numerous. Anyone who is at all familiar with this article has probably heard most of them and could find more with little effort. The point is this: the majority of people in this state believe this particular law to be ridiculous, antiquated and useless. It is the general consensus that this law should be done away with.

Indeed, the great amount of time, trouble, cost and confusion it has wasted and caused is evidence enough of its value as law. Its worth, in comparison to the turmoil, is next to nothing.

Why then, don't we do away with a law which no one wants? Probably because we are lazy, are not aware of the problem, or otherwise just don't give a damn.

The next legislative session is not until 1975. However, the Texas constitution is soon to be re-written and Article 286a could easily be written out of the constitution.

It takes very little time and effort to make a phone call or post a letter to your state representative or senator. But if you do think it a waste, think about the last time you needed an item on Sunday and could not buy it. How much time and peace of mind did you lose then?

There has been enough talk. Your legislators will have a part in the constitutional re-write. Call them, let them know how you feel.

-By Ronnie Reed
Editor, Odessa College Roundup

Listen Up—

'Illegal Hooch OK'

Editor:

As the hooch situation stands, resident advisors will be able to put pressure on students not exercising a degree of restraint in public. The Student Senate shows its unfamiliarity with the function of maintaining a kind of order. It's understandable since its job entails catering to whims of the moment.

To give an idea of what free campus drinking would do to the people assigned to uphold our standards, consider the pornography scene. Even while it was nominally illegal, many establishments provided that type of entertainment in locales where the public was tolerant. However, if the situation should have gotten out of hand, the places would have been shut down and the owners well knew it. Hence, there was a deep motivation to run a respectable, if illegal, operation.

Nowadays it is generally on the books that pornography is a right, to be limited only in the extent of loudness. How do you describe what is too dirty and what is not? Do you do down and list all possible dirty acts and combinations

thereof and then hire half the city to watch the porno houses for specific infractions? No. Therefore the authorities must enter into subjective arguments involving philosophical vagaries in order to act.

This mechanism applies also to liquor and the various modes of behavior it can inspire. Do you list these modes in the hope that you've thought of all the possibilities? I, for one, don't pretend to have acquired that much "smarts" and I don't expect that many others have either.

I say any person with the least bit of subtlety to them, can understand this situation and the best means of coping with it. Keep liquor on campus nominally illegal, but tell "big brother" to look the other way.

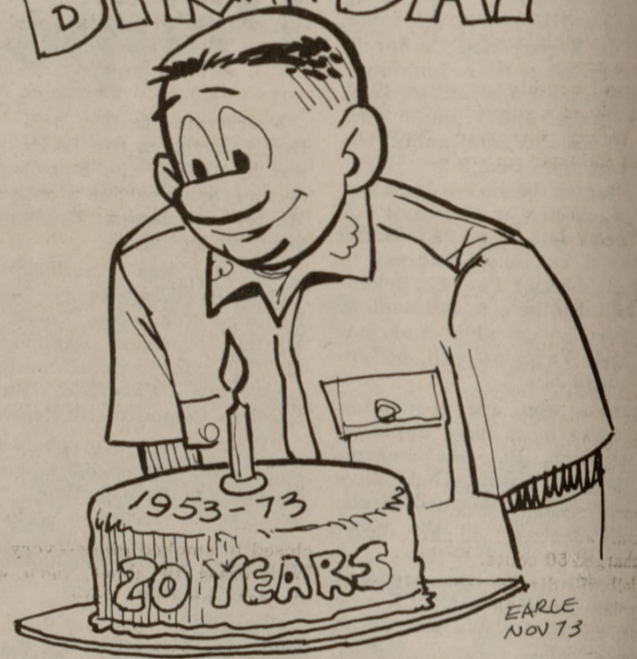
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CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle

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