

# Briscoe denies patronage

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Gov. Dolph Briscoe, after twice trying to avoid confronting the issue, Tuesday denied that he rewarded political contributors with appointments to state boards and commissions.

His Democratic primary opponent, former Rep. Frances Farenthold, said in a statement that 183 Briscoe appointees or their spouses had donated a total of \$247,942 to his campaigns.

"I do not want to be unfair to the current governor, but this list does raise a serious question as to whether appointments to state boards and commissions are still for sale to campaign contributors," Mrs. Farenthold said in a statement that was accompanied by an itemized list of appointees and their contributions.

Briscoe was asked for his reaction following a swearing-in ceremony for Robert Shelton of

Kingsville, the governor's latest appointee to the Texas Public Safety Commission. Shelton said later he had not contributed to any Briscoe campaign.

"I am going to run a positive campaign . . . based upon the record of this administration—a record I am very proud of," was Briscoe's first response.

When pressed, he said: "I am very proud of those I have appointed—men and women of top

quality."

Then, when asked whether there was any relationship between contributions and appointments, Briscoe said: "Absolutely none."

Earlier in the day, his campaign press secretary, Bob Hardesty, had said Briscoe would issue no comment on the Farenthold statement.

Briscoe also was asked for his position on the pari-mutuel horse race betting referendum on the Democratic and Republican primary ballots, something that Mrs. Farenthold has made an issue in the campaign.

He referred newsmen to his earlier statements, apparently to his remark in Victoria last Wednesday that "I am not going to involve the office of governor in that issue."

The governor was asked if he was willing to make a commitment to holding regular news conferences if re-elected. He has held 19 formal news conferences in Austin since he was sworn in Jan. 16, 1973, according to his office records. Usually these have been in conjunction with an announcement he wished to make.

"When there is a need for them or a reason for them," he replied.



THE EASY-GOING rock music of the Eagles will mellow the insides of G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday night. The group will appear in the Town Hall series in cooperation with RHA Weekend and will begin at 8 p. m.

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## UT controversy still in the air

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Dolph Briscoe said Tuesday he will not comment now about the possible reappointment of controversial Regent Frank Irwin Jr. of the University of Texas.

He also told reporters he wants

to wait a while before giving his reactions in detail to the article on the executive branch that has been tentatively approved by the Constitutional Convention.

Erwin's present six-year term expires in January. He has come under fire from some students recently because of the regental decision to eliminate mandatory student funding for the Daily Texan, the UT-Austin newspaper. The paper has been critical of both Erwin and the board.

"That is beyond this election," Briscoe said of the Erwin matter. "I have not made any decision on appointments that expire—I'm not sure I'm using the right word—anyway, the terms end beyond the election."

Of the executive article, Briscoe said "the part providing for removal of state board and commission members I think serves a very good purpose. A safeguard should be there where a governor could not arbitrarily remove those

appointed by other governors. The check where it would have to be approved by the Senate is a proper check."

He also said he agreed with a limit of two four-year terms on all governors and approved of the section requiring the governor to submit a plan to reorganize state agencies to the legislature.

As for the balance of it, "I would like to respond at a later time in detail," Briscoe said.

### bulletin board

WEDNESDAY  
FREE UNIVERSITY will present a film at 7:30 p.m. in Room 607 of the Tower. The movie will be "Fur Putsch".  
POLITICAL FORUM will present Jim Granberry in Room 225-226 MSC at noon, admission is free.

THURSDAY  
PANHANDLE HOMETOWN CLUB will meet in Room 501 MSC Tower at 8 p.m.  
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## Death dominates Free University

By LATONYA PERRIN

Field trips to cemeteries and funeral homes are not the usual activities of a university class.

The Free University class in Death and Dying plans to do just that. Students in the class taught by James L. Rawson are also required to attend Silver Taps at least once during the semester.

"I think it is important for people to adopt a more healthy attitude about death," said Rawson in a recent interview.

Rawson is a junior environmental design major at TAMU. He said that he got the idea for the class when he read that many schools offered such a course.

"Some of the schools on the West Coast have courses in death and the views concerning it," said Rawson. "The purpose of these courses is to help the individual prepare both himself and his family for death."

Rawson noted that most of the people taking the course had a specific topic in mind when they signed up for the course. Some wanted to talk about suicide, euthanasia, arrangements to be made and death in literature. Some did join from curiosity as well, said Rawson.

"I am a sort of amateur theologian," said Briggs Myrick, one of Rawson's students. "I am interested in the moral aspects of death—especially euthanasia."

The class is conducted on a lecture series basis. Each lecture and discussion are separate enough that people who enter late or miss a week are not left behind, said Rawson.

Papers will be written—though not graded—by the class on various topics. Guest lecturers will be asked to explain various aspects, Rawson said that he plans guest lectures on "Death and the Supernatural," "The Psychological Aspects of Death," "Death as a Biological Function" and others as they present themselves.

"I am just learning in this class, too," said Rawson. "I am not qualified to speak on this subject any more than any other subject, but I am trying to organize the course to include experts."

The class has seemed to level off at about 14 people, said Rawson. He said that it was somewhat larger before the class changed the meeting night.

"It seems to be a good size for lots of discussion to take place," said Rawson.

The class seems to be a success, said Rawson and he is considering offering it again next year. Many people not in his class have expressed an interest to Rawson, but have said that they simply cannot make the meetings at the time he has scheduled them.

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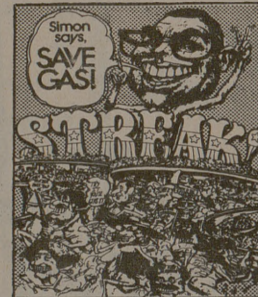
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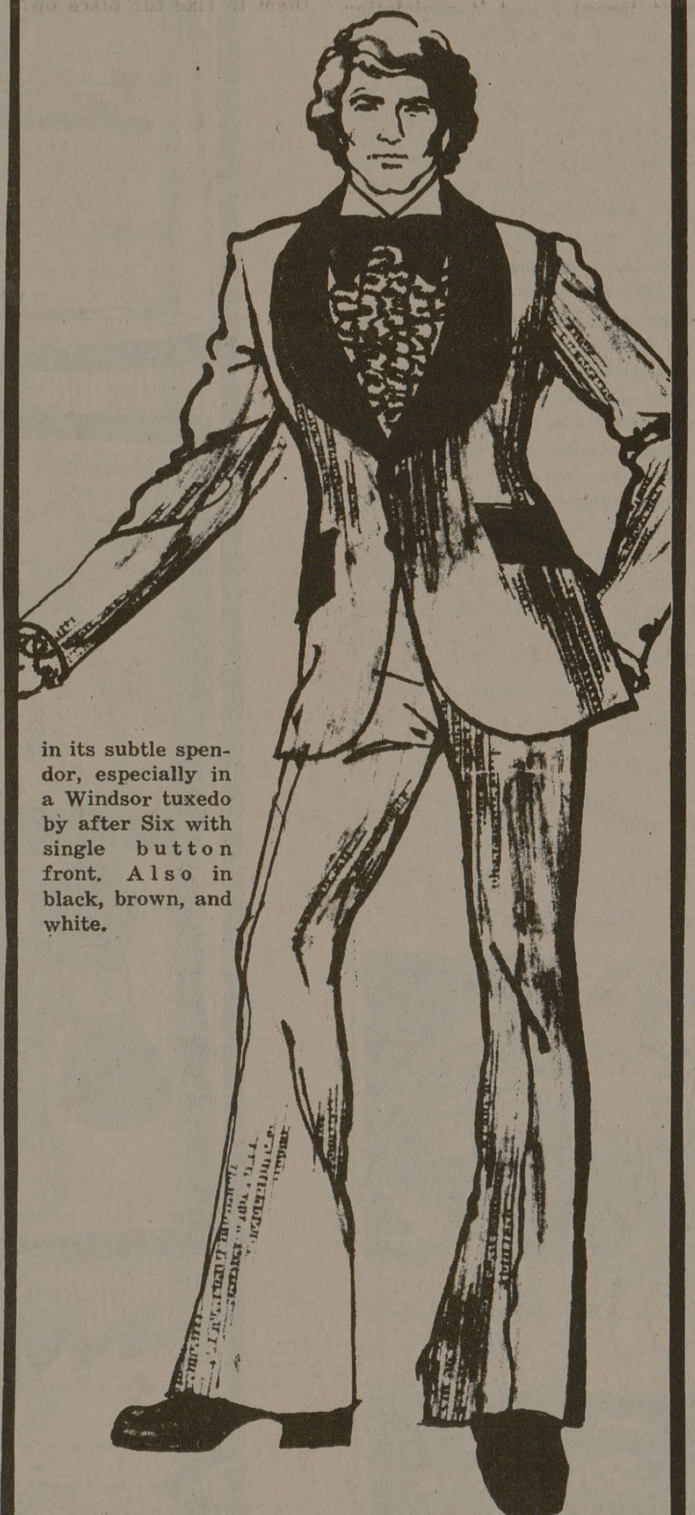
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