

The politics behind the new court

Sen. Moore, Judge Vance not best of friends

By ROD SPEER
Bill Vance, the county judge, didn't realize his job had become so complex that it would be split into two positions, until he heard the word from the State Legislature.

Early this year, State Senator Bill Moore of Bryan sponsored a bill calling for the establishment of a county court-at-law for Brazos County. The bill will take the responsibility for the county's civil and criminal jurisdiction away from the county judge, allowing him to concentrate his efforts as top administrator of the county.

The bill, which will take effect in 1977, transfers the work of the County Court to the court-at-law, phasing out the County Court. The County Attorney, County Clerk and Sheriff will work for the new court, but a separate judge will be elected to the new court-at-law.

The bill has passed the Senate and the House and awaits the governor's signature.

Bill Moore contends the county needs a fulltime judge over civil and criminal cases. In an interview Wednesday, he talked about the county's fantastic growth.

Judge Vance, County Attorney Roland Searey and the county's elected administrators, the Commissioners Court, don't understand what's all the fuss over a county court-at-law, when the county court's current caseload hasn't

been significantly different from recent years.

The commissioners passed a resolution condemning the creation of the new court, calling it an unnecessary expense. (The commissioners say the court will cost the county an additional \$75,000 the first year and \$60,000 in following years. (Those figures are padded somewhat, including salaries for a court reporter and bailiff, which the County Court is managing without.)

Neither Moore, nor State Rep. Bill Prenal, who sponsored the bill in the House, talked with county officials about the need for court-at-law.

Moore said in a tone of bitterness and impatience, "I certainly didn't talk to them (the commissioners)," adding they're not qualified to speak on the question. He said he's managed to introduce a host of bills in this legislature without consulting the county commissioners.

Prenal told The Battalion he talked with the record keepers in Austin, who indicated there is a need for the new court. He said he also talked to District Judge Bill Davis and "many constituents and attorneys in Bryan."

Judge Davis said Thursday he is "not for or against" creating the new court. He said he told Prenal last year the area needs another district court, but establishing a court-at-law would help the pressure on his

court. The new court-at-law will have more civil jurisdiction than the present County Court, which has a set civil jurisdiction under the state constitution.

Davis told Senator Moore the time was approaching when a new district court would be added. Moore told him a new district court would be hard to get, but he would be for the court-at-law.

Vance is not sure what motivated our state senator to push the bill on emergency basis, a bill which seems to serve only to split the authority and influence of the county judge. Vance does think personality conflict could be involved. For the record, he would only say, "I don't think he (Moore) likes me." Off the record, Vance related a few recent incidents which have caused more than a small bit of friction between the two men.

Moore denied any personality conflict with Vance, but several times in Wednesday's conversation Moore showed he has no love for the county judge or the county commissioners.

"If I really told you what I thought about the man," Moore said, "you wouldn't be able to print it." At another time, the state senator said Vance is being paid more than he's worth.

Moore called the commissioners court a "mutual admiration society," whose only objection to the new court is having to pay for a new judge and having less funds to

raise their own pay. Regardless of the reasoning behind it, the Brazos County Court-at-Law is about to become reality. And in 1976, Bill Vance will have to choose between directing the paving of county roads or remain the administrator of justice for DWI cases and marijuana offenders by running for the judgeship of the new county court-at-law.

Listen Up

Dead elephants vote

Editor: Student Government has shown an admirable desire to make elections more meaningful through the regulation of filing and campaign practices. But it has overlooked a far more serious source of voting distortion.

As a graduating senior I took little interest in the recent election, assuming that I could not participate. However, I heard that seniors were being allowed to vote, and confirmed this by obtaining a ballot myself.

Surely it is reasonable that SG office-holders and yell leaders should not be chosen by people who will be Former Students during the effective term of office (next semester). Therefore, I suggest to Student Government that it make future election results more valid by disenfranchising graduating seniors.

Bill Thompson

did, so do not damn me now. Susan Warren

Greeks speak

Editor: Now and then, people pre-judge matters without taking both sides of a situation into consideration. This

appears to be the case in the appalling, slanted letter to the editor. (A Greek A&M?, March 19). We are active members of the oldest social fraternity associated with A&M. Sigma Phi Epsilon was formally initiated in March 1973. Before that it was Phi Delta Sigma.

It was began as a social fraternity way back in 1965. If fraternities aren't A&M, please explain our organization's 250-plus membership and ten years success. We invite all comments and/or questions. Jon Vander Wilt Jack Lopez

Editorial

The voters' choices

Dunn not 'flashy' but has good record

The perennial candidate for student body president, Doc Shroff, is out of the running again. And the students may now choose Jeff Dunn or Tom Walker as their official spokesman and representative.

A student body president should have two minimum qualities: the ability to get things done and the ability to generate new ideas. Tom Walker, '74-'75 student government executive director has proven he can get things done. He organized the Book Mart and he is completing a project which would provide a pool of student volunteer workers for local civic service. But Walker's direction has been largely governed by the executive committee. His job is to administer ongoing projects initiated by Student Government.

Jeff Dunn has proven himself not only as a man of action but also as a man who initiates action from his ideas. For several years, student government has been talking about published professor evaluations and published professor assignments. This year, TAMU saw the first of these publications through the efforts of Dunn as vice president for academic affairs. Dunn is now asking for choice of professors and two university committees have begun studies on the necessary procedural changes. He was not so fortunate at the state Democratic convention earlier in the school year where he tried to pass a resolution favoring student control of services fees. But he tried. And if track records are indications of future performances, the student body can trust Dunn to work hard and initiate directions for action rather than use student apathy as an excuse for inaction.

Dunn does not come off as the flashy friendly candidate. But his non-aggressive appearance is misleading if one equates that appearance with a lack of desire or inaction.

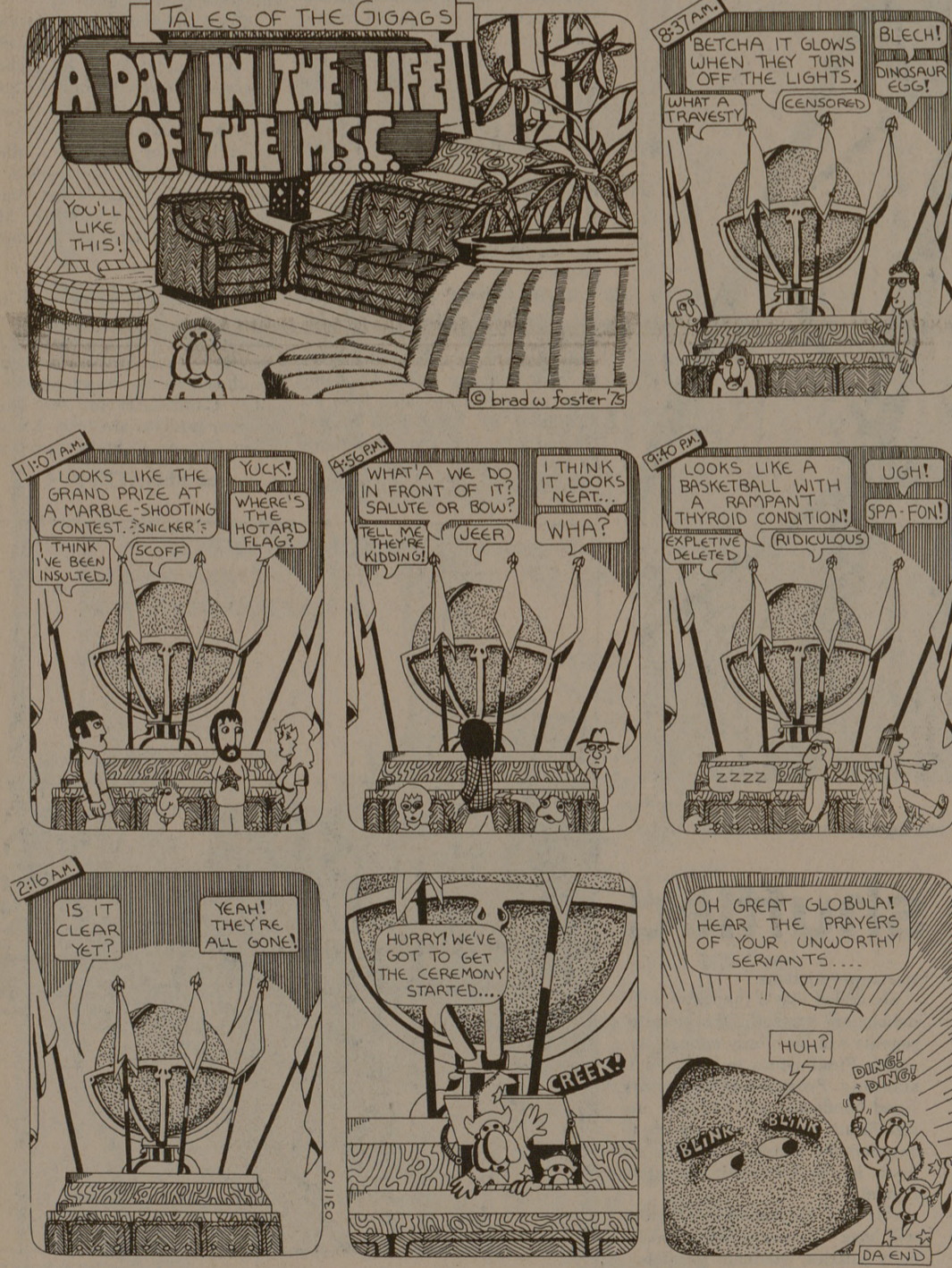
Death throes

Editor: To whom it may concern — just for the record. From: Election Commissioner Subject: Last Will and Testament of a dying elephant

Whereas, I hereby bequeath my position and self-disrespect to the second biggest ass in the universe, I myself holding the first place in that category. I applied for my position because no one else had and I felt a great deal of shame since no one wished to help their school without holding a title of prestige and honor. After taking the Work Horse puppet position I have found that Honest Abe really had something going when he said "You can please part of the people part of the time, some of the people some of the time, but not ALL the people ALL the time."

I do NOT like my job. I am NOT on a Witch hunt. I feel I am doing my JOB. If you do not like the way I do it and complain then like complaints about the weather I urge you to do something about it. Take over my glorious office. Of course I would be amazed to see this since no one was interested when the office was vacant.

I gave a damn when no one else



AGGIE CINEMA PRESENTS
"ONE OF THE YEAR'S 10 BEST!"
"A BRILLIANT FEAT OF MOVIE-MAKING!"
—TIME MAGAZINE
"ONE OF THE YEAR'S 10 BEST!"
"It flawlessly expresses the belief that manhood requires rites of violence."
—NEWSWEEK
DUSTIN HOFFMAN
"STRAW DOGS"
A DANIEL MELNIOR Production

Aggie Cinema PRESENTS
A MIDNITE FILM SERIES
PRIVATE PARTS
RUDDER THEATRE
Adm \$1.00
12:00
APRIL 11

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the university administration or the Board of Directors. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

LETTERS POLICY
Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Bob G. Rogers, chairman; Dr. Gary Halter; Dr. John Hanna; Roger P. Miller; Dr. Clinton A. Phillips; Steve Eberhard; Don Hegi and John Nash Jr.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

MEMBER
The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Mail subscriptions are \$5.00 per semester; \$9.50 per school year; \$10.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Right of reproduction of all other matter herein are also reserved.

Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

Editor: Greg Moses
Assistant Editor: Will Anderson
Managing Editor: LaTonya Perrin
Assistant Managing Editor: Rosie Hearn
Sports Editor: Mike Bruton
Photo Editor: Glen Johnson
City Editor: Rod Speer
News Editors: Barbara West Douglas Winship

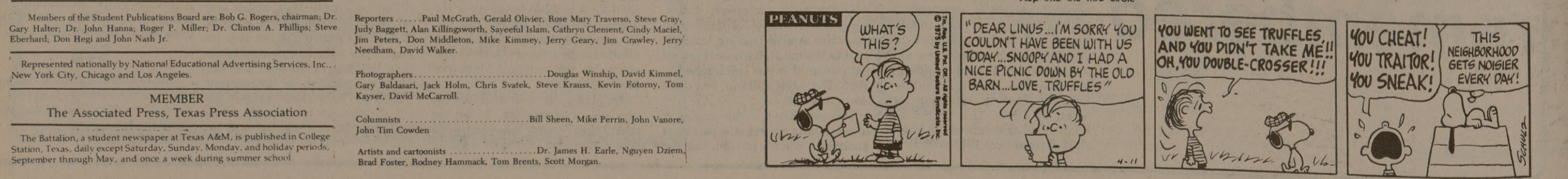
Reporters: Paul McGrath, Gerald Olivier, Rose Mary Traverso, Steve Gray, Judy Baggett, Alan Killingsworth, Sayeful Islam, Cathryn Clement, Cindy Maciel, Jim Peters, Don Middleton, Mike Kimmey, Jerry Geary, Jim Crawley, Jerry Needham, David Walker.

Photographers: Douglas Winship, David Kimmel, Gary Baldasari, Jack Holm, Chris Svatek, Steve Krauss, Kevin Fotorny, Tom Kayser, David McCarroll.

Columnists: Bill Sheen, Mike Perrin, John Vanore, John Tim Cowden

Artists and cartoonists: Dr. James H. Earle, Nguyen Dzien, Brad Foster, Rodney Hammack, Tom Brents, Scott Morgan.

Date April 11-12 Time 8:00 P.M.
Place RUDDER THEATRE Admission \$1.00
step into the mvc circle



Alco
A
So
as
By D
Miatu
order of
philosoph
presented
tural desig
The lec
Who
take
The A&
top places
second an
in College
David
finish line
30-mile r
minutes.
Placing
Gerry Gu
Gougler a
The 38
sponsors
\$12,000
Bryan.
APP
INT
FOF
ZAT
BOE
1975
31)
FLO
AT &
IN
QUE
THE