

Funds' uses broadened in Education article

Associated Press
AUSTIN, Tex. — For all the time legislators spend debating the education article of the proposed new Texas Constitution, they came up with very little in the way of change.

Possibly the most intense debate of the 1974 Constitutional Convention, whose work was submitted to the voters by this year's legislature, revolved around education.

But what resulted was an apparently innocuous declaration for "equal educational opportunity," addition of instructional materials to the free textbooks provision and expansion of college and university bonds.

The article says the legislature has a duty to provide a public school system that furnishes "each individual an equal educational opportunity" — a gesture toward meeting the problem of financial inequality that was raised by the Rodriguez case. But it follows this guarantee with a provision that allows districts with plenty of taxable

tion of approximately \$10 per pupil in state aid to 'budget balance' districts — comparatively rich districts — offset by the value of instructional materials those districts would receive.

When Gov. Dolph Briscoe declared his opposition to the new constitution on Oct. 14, his sole mention of the education article concerned university bonds.

"I am opposed to increasing the bonding authority of the Permanent University Fund at a time when enrollment in institutions of higher learning is leveling off," Briscoe said.

The permanent fund consists of invested oil and gas royalties and other income from land dedicated to support of the University of Texas and Texas A&M. Dividends from the investments become the Available University Fund, which can be used to pay off construction bonds and finance "extras" for the two systems.

The new constitution would raise the amount of bonds that can be issued from 20 per cent to 30 per cent of the size of the permanent fund. It also would allow the bond proceeds to be spent on all campuses of the two university systems, not just the main ones, and

add library books and building repairs to the purposes for which the money could be used.

Bullock said repayment of the additional bonds would reduce the amount of the available fund that could be spent on other things, and general revenue would have to take up the slack.

The budget board agreed, but also said bonds could finance some things that now are paid for out of general taxes. It mentioned construction and repairs at UT and A&M system schools that presently cannot benefit from Permanent University Fund bonds.

Schools not in the two super systems would get a "higher Education Fund," with the 10-cent state property tax backing their bonds. The tax now yields \$25.9 million a year, already used to back some college debts.

The legislature could reduce the tax rate if full market value assessment of property sent yield from the property tax soaring beyond needed amounts.

The LBB said "Higher Education Fund" bonds might ease pressure on the general fund to finance items that totaled \$36 million this year, such as construction at the participating schools.

Identification necessary

Editor:
This may seem like a minor thing, but I would like to express my opinion about something. I would like to know why it is necessary to print the name, hometown, and major of persons who are arrested and charged with possession of illegal substances on campus. It would serve just as well to print the facts without the actual names of those involved.

This campus is not unlike a small community, and I feel confident that the people who are charged with such crimes have enough hassles without their professors and classmates being aware that they are the ones they read about in the paper. I urge you to reevaluate your policy concerning this matter.
Brian Cunningham

A newspaper's purpose is to provide a complete and accurate account of news events. When a student is arrested, it becomes a news

event, and accurate coverage is provided throughout his trial proceedings. In order for the report to be complete, it must include the student's name.

For the protection of innocent persons, The Battalion must be as specific as possible.

Parking

Editor:
During the previous football games held here, several hundred automobiles have used the bonfire site as a parking lot, with the approval of Campus Security.

These automobiles are destroying the grass cover and are turning this field into a hard packed, dust covered area ill-suited for the intramural sports which are held there.

After the winter rains commence, because of the destruction of the grass cover, it will be transformed

Listen Up

into a mud covered wasteland useless for parking and subject to erosion.

I know that large crowds are expected for our remaining home games. That is great, but I don't think we should allow temporary expediency to foreshadow the longer term disadvantages.

Following the commencement of the winter rains, which will render the site useless for parking, an alternative solution will have to be found. Why not find such a solution now? Perhaps these cars which park on the bonfire site could park in the large lot across from Zachry Engineering Center. This lot is largely empty on a Saturday, even when there is a home football game scheduled.

The shuttle bus system buses

could be employed to transfer football fans between the parking and Kyle Field. These buses can travel between the stadium and parking lot at regular intervals. This would allow the football fans to arrive and depart when they wish.

This plan may not be a perfect solution but it is better than the present parking policy.
Joe Scam...

OMBUDSMAN

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property to continue "enriching" their program meaning the rich probably can keep their edge over the poor in educational quality.

State Comptroller Bob Bullock contends the "equal educational opportunity" guaranteed "should increase pressures for more spending for public school education." The \$100 million now appropriated for "equalization aid" is only "a minimal example" of what will follow, he predicts.

The Legislature Budget Board, however, contends the state already is implementing a commitment to "equal educational opportunity and any fiscal implications" of and item "would have to do with the distribution of state school aid rather than the total amount of state school aid."

George Braden, former Yale law professor, said the equal opportunity requirement is "a confused command" that would require many judicial interpretations.

"The compromise between the desire for equal opportunity and the unwillingness to forego the opportunity for local communities to provide themselves with something better than the state average defies logic and altogether satisfies no one," he said.

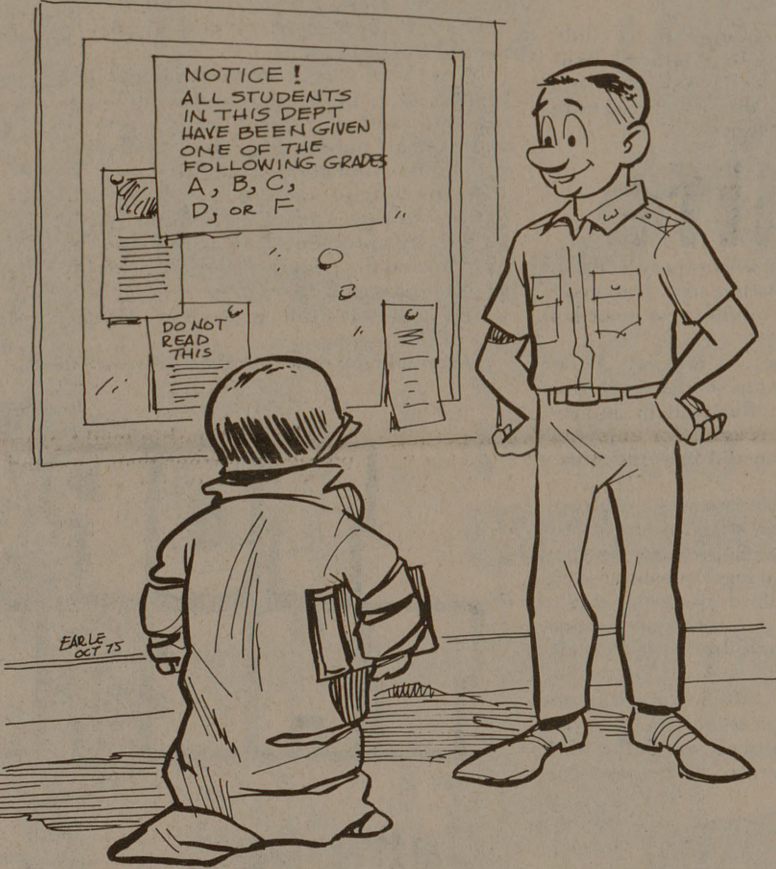
"Nevertheless, the norm of equal opportunity is stated and will undoubtedly have weight with the legislature and the courts."

Under the new document, the cost of instructional materials used in the schools would come out of the Available School Fund, representing a drain of \$20 million to \$24 million a year before the rest of the fund is distributed to school districts on a per child basis.

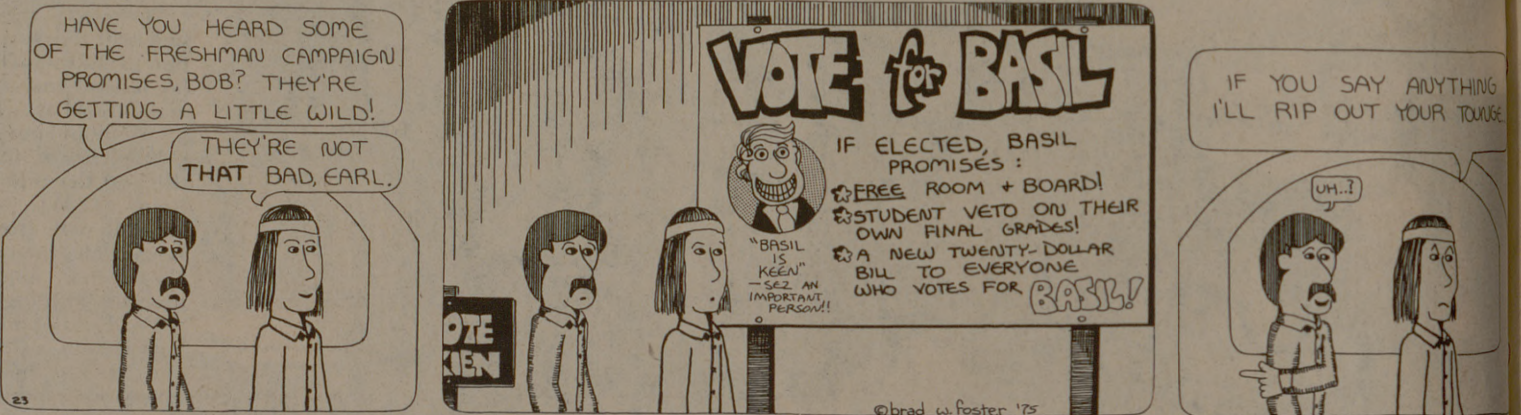
Bullock contended the general revenue fund would have to make this up, but the budget board said: "The net result would be a reduc-

SLOUCH

By JIM EARLE



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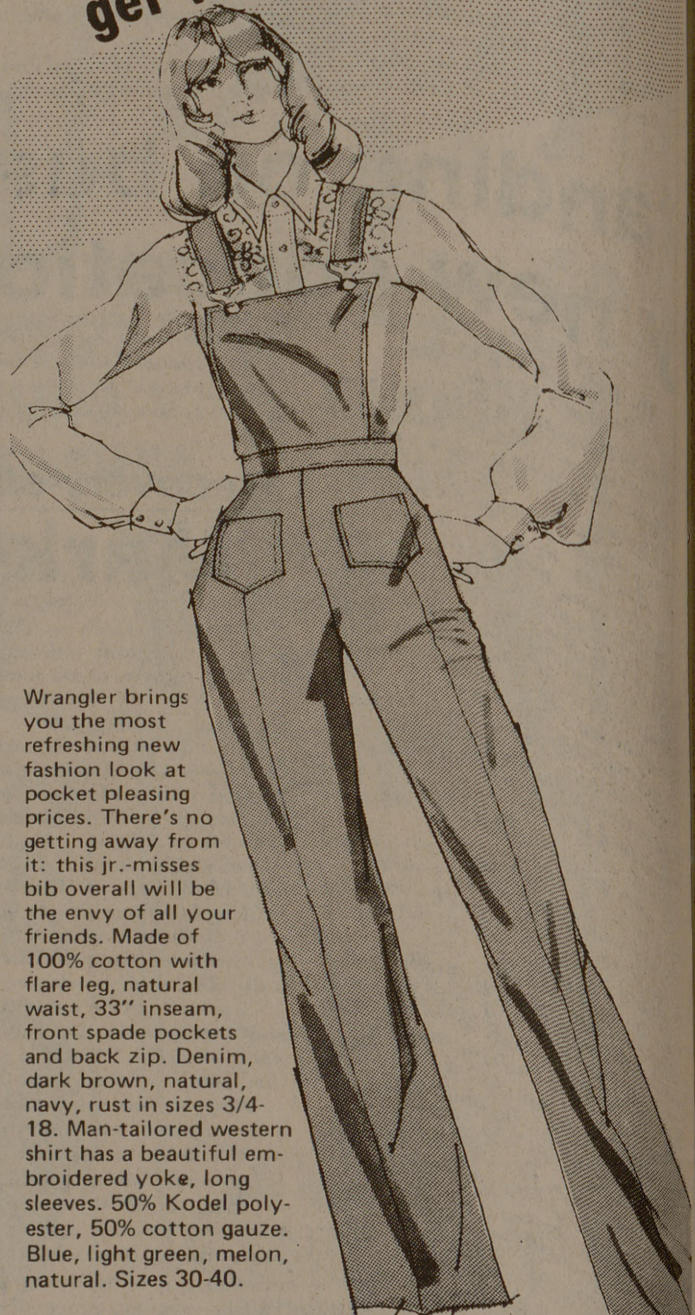
11 A.M. - 9 P.M.
779-3789

Earlier this week two pieces were taken from the College of Architecture and Environmental Design Faculty Art Show.

This is a plea to any person or persons who have any knowledge of this incident to contact the MSC main desk — 845-1611. If the pieces are returned to the desk no questions will be asked.

We urge your cooperation in regard to the reparation of these circumstances as they are sure to affect the future of this university's opportunities for exposure to the arts.

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

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.

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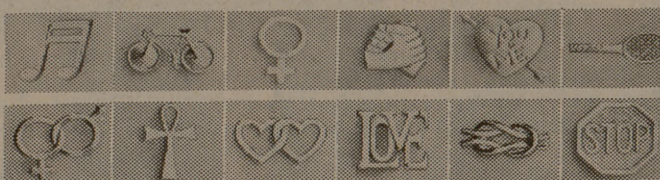
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