

Editorial

School board endorsements

Of the eleven persons seeking three seats on the A&M Consolidated School Board in tomorrow's election, none are incumbents for the position.

In Place 1, ELLIOTT BRAY is the best choice. A manager of data systems at A&M, Bray would be a valuable asset to the board in coordinating the sale of bonds and other administrative duties. He is well-informed on the issues and has served the past year as president of the College Hills Parent-Teacher Organization. He was on the Citizens' Advisory Committee which prepared the bond issue in a thorough manner. His concerns about the district's needs are genuine. Lambert Wilkes has served on the board for five years and also seemingly understands the district's urgent needs. Yet, he is the only board member who is not supporting the bond issue.

In Place 2 we support the candidacies of two candidates, ELIZABETH NAUGLE and HOY RICHARDS. Both are well-informed of the district's needs, and the voters would be well-represented by either one. Naugle is a former elementary schoolteacher and is well acquainted with the school curriculums. She has attended board meetings for four years and her involvement indicates that she's a candidate who is genuinely concerned about the school system. Richards is a transportation economist at A&M and his expertise would be invaluable in the area of fiscal responsibility. His experience on the Board of Equalization and as a former board member gives him knowledge of the revenue needs of the district. His non-support of the bond issue must be questioned however.

Roger Feldman is also concerned, but while he supports the bond issue he is a lackluster candidate and offers few specific programs for improvement. George Boyett opposes the bond

issue on the grounds that its figures are inflated and some of its provisions are unnecessary. As a member of the city planning and zoning commission he displayed an indifference to careful zoning measures. We believe careful planning is needed on the school board also.

HELEN WILBORN in Place 4 appears to be the best candidate for Place 4. She is a lifelong resident of the city and was educated in the school district. Her young age, 23, gives her a close familiarity with the present situation in the schools, and a better understanding of the student's needs. As a black woman, she would give able representation to a large segment of the population. A drug abuse counselor, she stresses the need for counseling in the schools, and increased community awareness of board actions.

Bruce Upham, Fred Bouse and William Wasson are also competent alternatives. Upham is an A&M student and has only been out of the Consolidated school system a couple years. Again, his young, responsible voice would be helpful in evaluating school programs and needs. Bouse supports stronger community relations. In his support of the bond issue he emphasizes the importance of a strong vocational program. Wasson is a systems audit manager for A&M and his experience would help in the area of financing and administration work.

William Fitch has been spending a lot of money during the campaign, stressing the alleged extravagance of the bond issue. He is a local land developer, so we must wonder where his experience and expertise were when those construction estimates were first made. His criticisms of enrichment and special education programs and "spendthrift" ways are examples of knee-jerk obstructionism.

Vote yes on bond issue

While many students may regard the \$6.4 million school bond issue on tomorrow's ballot as unimportant, it will affect them directly.

If the issue is approved, property taxes would be raised to support the bonds. Although very few students own property locally, two-thirds live off-campus, and you can be sure that landlords will pass the increased taxes on to their tenants.

The proposed bond issue was unanimously recommended by a Citizens Advisory Committee and also unanimously approved by the school board. Eight of the 11 school board candidates support the issue. All admit there are serious needs in the school district.

A new vocational facility is drastically needed, especially considering that nearly 50 per cent of

the Consolidated students are not going on to college. Classrooms alone can't prepare someone for a job.

If anyone doubts the overcrowding and maintenance needs covered in the bond issue, walk through any of the district's four schools. Erosion is eating away at foundations and counselors have offices in janitor closets.

A similar bond issue last November was narrowly defeated. Some are urging that this one be similarly tabled. If some think the present cost estimates are too inflated, they should check them again in a few months when inflation has increased some more.

We support the bond issue and urge its approval. To delay a solution any longer would be an insult to the educational process.

Listen Up

Homosexuality not crime or sin

Editor: In response to Ms. Fisher's letter (March 25), I would like to point out a couple of misleading statements she made.

First, homosexuality is not illegal. In Texas, homosexual sex acts are illegal. Thus, in order for someone to be arrested under that law, a gay couple would have to be caught in the act of having sex. Considering that most sex acts (gay and straight) take place in private homes, the law is virtually useless.

Secondly, one can find a quote in the Bible to condemn virtually anything one does not like. Over the centuries, the Bible has been through many translations, altera-

tions and adulterations. I know of few Christians who pay much attention to the books of Numbers, Leviticus and others.

If Ms. Fisher thinks homosexuality is immoral, then she has an obligation to uphold her belief. Her obligation ends when she begins to dictate her morality to others.

Michael J. Garrett

Good coverage

Editor: Three cheers for the Battalion's extensive coverage of the upcoming local elections! This campus has a reputation for being apathetic in politics, and I think it's great that the

Battalion is doing its best to generate student interest. It also gives those interested a good look at the candidates on some important issues.

I hope every student who votes has considered the candidates and the issues seriously. Given the past record of voter participation, there are three students who don't vote for every student who does. That means, of course, that each vote is four times more powerful than it would be with full participation. With statistics like those, the choices suddenly become very important.

So if a student is going to vote, I hope to goodness that he reads up on the issues.

Susie Turner

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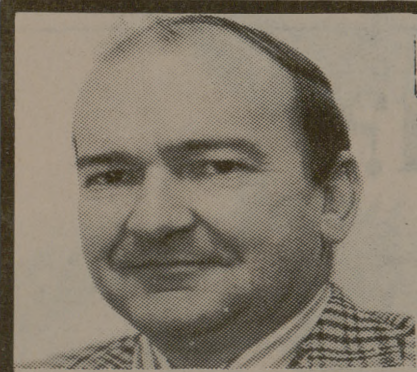
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Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.



ELECT

FRED BOUSE

A&M Consolidated School Board Trustee
Position 4

- Scout leader - 8 years - Pack 802 and Troop 380.
- Little League Baseball - 5 years - Director, President & Trustee.
- College Hills PTA (Playground Renovation Project).
- College Station Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

- Exploring all reasonable alternatives to assure maximum return for our tax dollar.
- A strong preventive maintenance program for all school facilities.
- Professional planning of building site for all new facilities.
- Adequate, well-planned and efficient facilities using only durable construction materials and methods.
- Renovation and repair of existing usable facilities.
- Planned development to realize our community's educational goals.
- Community involvement in determining the needs and goals of our school system.

Fred Bouse
for

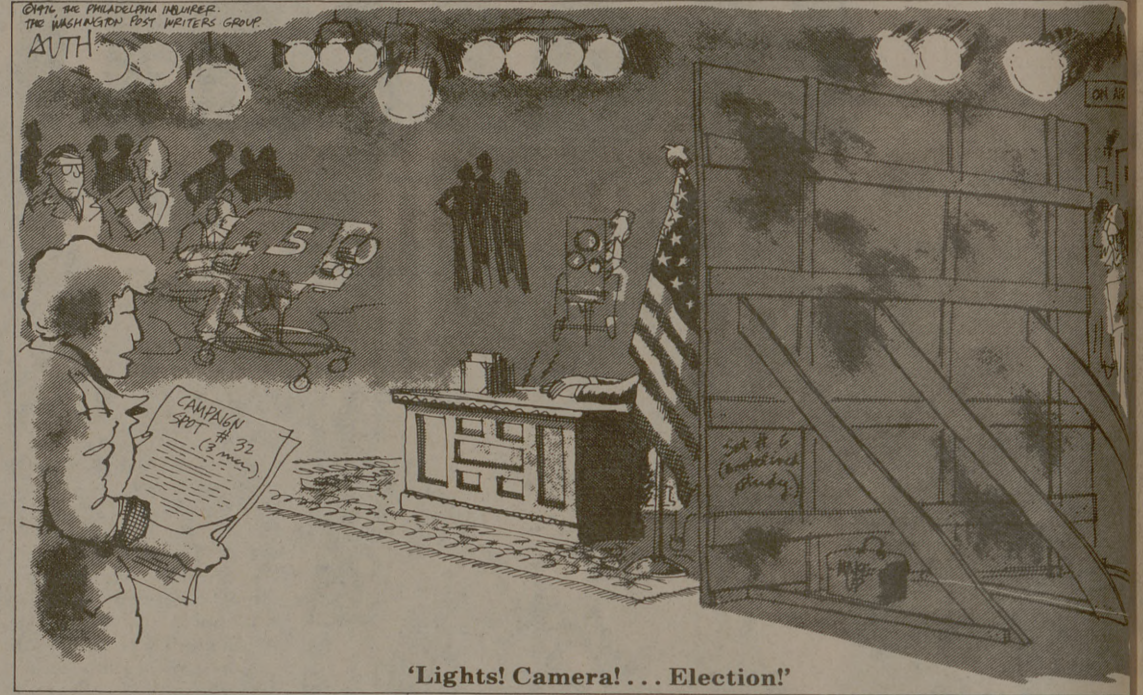
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VOTE SATURDAY, APRIL 3

Paid for by Fred Bouse Committee, Fred Klatt, Chairman, 1614 Madara Circle



David S. Broder

Carter omits some of the fact



'Lights! Camera!... Election!'

MILWAUKEE — An incident at the Vel Phillips YWCA here one afternoon last week may shed some light on the paradox of the Jimmy Carter campaign. It also shows why some who have been watching him have trouble deciding whether they are covering the most promising political figure to emerge in the 1970's or the most skillful demagogue.

As is often the case when he has a black audience, Carter spoke with an eloquence, a simplicity, a directness that moved listeners of both races.

He spoke of the fundamentals that unite this country — of restoring "those precious things we've lost," like love of country and trust and pride in its government — "the things that made us all proud in the past and have kind of slipped out of our hands."

He reminded us that peasants in Latin America and villagers in Africa "felt when John Kennedy was in the White House that our country, big and powerful as it is, cared about them." He suggested that "those small countries, new and struggling and poor, want a friend. They could respect us if we respected them. They would trust us if we were trustworthy."

And then, having intimated his empathy for the nations on the other side of the great North-South division in the globe, this son of the American South reached out across the great barrier between the races in this land, and said:

"If I've got one solid base of support in this election, it's been among the black people of this nation... and I cherish it as much as anything I've had in my life — that confidence — and I would never do anything to betray that confidence. I would rather die first."

He said, as he has done before to white audiences and black, that Martin Luther King, Jr., had liberated the whites in the South as much as he had the blacks, by freeing them from the burden of guilt and segregation. And he said that his candidacy for the presidency would be quite literally impossible had Dr. King not "removed from the South the stigma of being preoccupied with the race issue."

One would have to be made of stone to be unmoved by the surge of emotion — the communion — between those black listeners and that white speaker who hopes to be their President. And one would have to be blind not to see what a boon it would be for this country to have a President who inspired that trust in blacks as in whites.

And that irresistible surge of hope and belief is what made it all the harder to accept what happened in the next few moments, because if Carter did not "betray that confidence," he had built in his audience, he did little to merit it.

He had been asked, he said, his views on "school integration... and I'll give you the same answer I gave in Jackson, Miss., and Biloxi, Miss., and Montgomery, Ala., and Asheville, N.C., and in New Hampshire."

But the truth is he did not give the same answer he had given in those. He did not even give the same answer he had given three hours earlier to a predominantly white audience at Marquette University, or would give an hour later, to another white audience at a fund-raiser at the Red Carpet Inn.

He gave the blacks at the YWCA about one-third of his standard response, then turned to another topic. And when a reporter, who had been caught up in the emotion of the gathering and had begun to believe that this man was all that his admirers say he is, realized what had happened, the sense of betrayal was as sharp and painful as if someone had punched him in his stomach and knocked the air out of his lungs.

Carter began by saying, as he always does, that the passage of the civil rights acts had been "the best thing that has happened in the South

in my lifetime." He told how his daughter goes to "a typical south Georgia school" and how "last year in the second grade, she had 13 white classmates, 16 black classmates, a black teacher. She's getting a good education. She goes there because she wants to, because her momma

and daddy want her to. And it's typical and it's good and I'm proud. So school integration, I'm proud. It hasn't hurt us; it's helped us."

He stopped his answer there, and YWCA, turning to a discussion of welfare reform, and leaving me (See OMISSION, Page 2)

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