

Editorials

Approval of bond issues recommended for progress

The Battalion recommends that College Station voters pass all nine of the capital improvements bond issues on the June 29 ballot.

The Battalion's city staff, through its coverage of the city's governmental body meetings during the past year, is satisfied that all of the proposed improvements are badly needed.

These bonds would provide remedies for problems which have received mention at frequent intervals at City Council meetings during the past year.

The proposed move away from

Bryan for utilities can only be hailed as a step in the right direction. Bryan's seemingly unjustified annual rate increases are taking money out of the pockets of College Station residents. With a partially independent electrical system and a wholly independent water system, less money would be taken from College Station residents and more of the profits would remain in College Station.

In light of the tremendous population growth, College Station residents have to make plans and put those plans into action in order to stay a step ahead of the problems.

It's nice to communicate

We would like to thank the Administration for so promptly informing us of Dr. Williams' release from Houston Methodist Hospital last Friday.

The Administration's secrecy about Williams' condition had prompted last week's editorial. We now wish to commend the Administration not only for notifying us so promptly but also for notifying us first.

Aspiring journalists offered opportunity

Aspiring journalists, budding ace reporters and shutter-happy photographers should sharpen their pencils and clean their camera lenses.

The Battalion is searching for volunteer reporters and photographers for the remaining summer months. Positions are open for feature writers and campus and city reporters. All applicants would be asked to do one or two stories per week and would be

able to work on their own time. Stories would be submitted to the Battalion in time to meet the weekly deadline.

Any student with a little free time and a desire to see his name in print should call 845-2611 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Applicants may also leave their name and phone number with the Student Publications secretaries in Reed-McDonald 217.

Congress involved in more than sex scandals

Editor's notes

WASHINGTON — Just in time for the summer doldrums, there is a genuine sex scandal breaking on Capitol Hill. The newspapers are mobilizing their investigative resources in the greatest display of moral outrage since Watergate.

Platoons of top-flight reporters are going down the names in the congressional staff directories of recent years, looking for the former secretary who will spill the beans on her boss. Predictably, they will find her and her sisters, and the resulting exposes will provide enough headlines to compensate for the absence of a contest at the Democratic convention.

In time, there will be remedial legislation proposed. The same reformers who thought the answer to abuse of power in the executive branch was to cut off private sources of campaign financing will undoubtedly argue that the remedy for the sins of Congress is to cut the members off from intramural sex.

A bill will be passed and some scoundrels purged at the polls. Everyone will relax with the warm glow of a moral triumph. And all the serious problems of Congress will still remain.

That is not to say these men do not deserve the censure they are getting. Of course it is an outrage if some old goat of a congressman keeps his girl friend on the payroll and procures his pleasures with public funds.

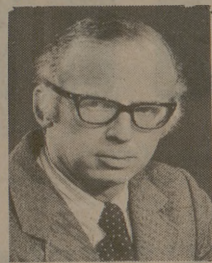
Of course it is an affront to decency if the hiring policies of some congressional offices reflect the sexual appetites of the boss rather than the competence of the prospective employees.

But one cannot help but being struck by the selectivity of the indignation the press and public display on this question. These scandals, gamy as they may be, are tangential and trivial compared to the real abuses of power on Capitol Hill.

Wayne Hays had been a chronic violator of the standards of political behavior for years before any allegations were raised about his private conduct. Elizabeth Ray, for all her headlines, is not the first woman on Capitol Hill to cross Hays' path.

As House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) writes in his new book on Congress, "The Futile System," there was an incident last year that should have — but did not — receive equal publicity.

"During debate on a controversial



David S. Broder

pay raise for members of Congress," Rhodes writes, "Hayes... had a spirited exchange with freshman Republican Millicent Fenwick of New Jersey. The high point... occurred when Hays threatened to cut off the staff allowances of Republicans who objected to the pay raise."

"I think," Mrs. Fenwick said softly, "that we have heard something here today for which we are all going to be sorry and ashamed."

But the next day, Rhodes notes, there was not a trace of Hays' threat in the Congressional Record. The Ohioan had used his privilege to revise his remarks right out of existence.

That story had both the elements — abuse of power and cover-up — of Watergate, but it was a one-day item in the press.

Before that, the Democrats in the House had created an obvious conflict of interest situation by allowing Hays to serve simultaneously as the chairman of the House Administration Committee, which writes the election finance laws, and as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, which raises and spends the funds to keep Democratic congressmen in office.

Hays' flagrant efforts to sabotage and obstruct campaign finance reform legislation over the last five years were documented in this column and in many other places.

But the Democratic party which controls the House did not discipline Hays for that, any more than it rebuked him for his threat to Mrs. Fenwick. On the contrary, when the House Democratic steering committee last year summoned the courage to recommend Hays' dismissal from his committee chairmanship, Hays was rescued by a vote of the Democratic members of the House.

Today, many of those same Democrats are complaining of the injustice of being tarred by the Hays' brush. They are right, for the amorality of his demonstrated public record and his alleged private life is not the norm on Capitol Hill.

But will they now have the courage — as they did not last year — to discipline Hays, not on the shaky grounds of the allegations of a rejected lover, but on his demonstrated record of abuse of official powers?

Will the press that is so vigilant in tracing the activities of his one employee devote comparable resources to the story of the millions of dollars being squandered in the mushrooming bureaucracy of congressional subcommittees — one of which provided shelter for Miss Ray?

Will the public learn — in the detail it has learned of Miss Ray's loves — which of the men now running for House majority leader led the

For those of you who look for obscure corners for facts and figures to engrave upon your memory, these: Slightly over more than 30 percent of the 9,528 students enrolled for the first summer session at Texas A&M are women. This translates 2,910 to be exact. One-third of total are graduate students (3,168).

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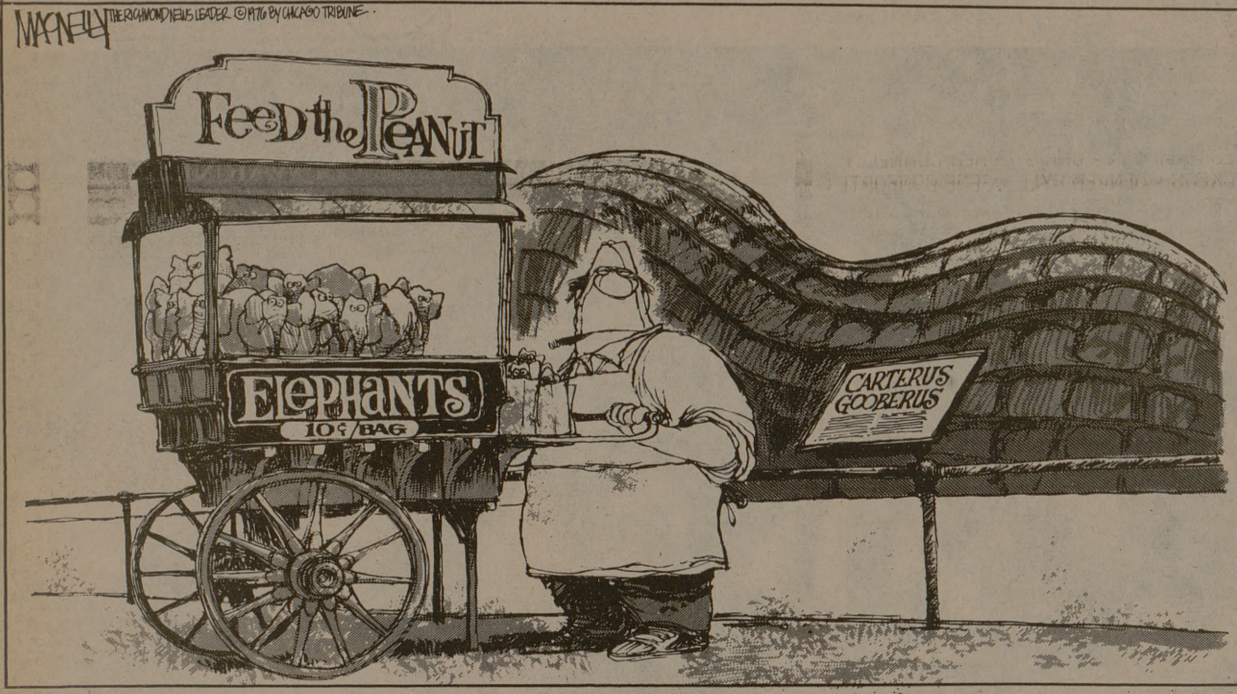
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