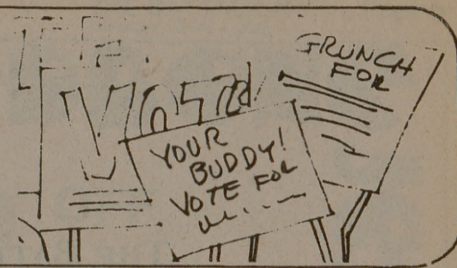


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Comedian's talk — a very good night for 'country folk'

By ANDY WILLIAMS

It was a bad night for rich people, rock stars, and city slickers.

It was a very good night for farmers, country folks, and those who heard Jerry Clower's talk at Texas A&M University's Student Agricultural Convocation Monday night.

Clower, the Country Comedian of the Year for the past five years, gave his usual outrageous performance. As always, his anecdotes sprang from his roots in Amite County, Mississippi.

The audience demonstrated its suitability for a Clower show early in the evening. The Texas Department of Agriculture gave a slide show for the boot-and-hat crowd; the show lauded the heroism of the Texas farmer. The crowd whooped, Aggie-style, throughout, except when it paused to hiss the occasional photos of the ever-expanding city which threatened the farmer.

Clower made the most of the nature of the group.

"I backed into show business," he said, after whooping back to the crowd in greeting. He told of growing up in rural Mississippi, and of dedicating himself to being like his 4-H Club director.

"Well," he said, "It's a shame they don't pay 4-H Club directors enough."

Instead, Clower became a fertilizer salesman. And he found that telling stories was more enjoyable for the groups he spoke to than a straight sales pitch.

And one day, to hear Clower tell it, "A fella run up to me and said, 'Jerry, them stories is fuunnyyy.' And the man recorded Clower's next talk, which was made into his first album. The album made \$1 million in the first two months.

But Clower said he was glad to be in the line of work he came into, because he found that now it's easier for him to tell "egghead politicians" things like, "It is obvious that you are at your best when you are not inhibited by facts."

Clower's talk centered around a recent publicity tour of his book, "Ain't God Good."

As usual, he managed to add a bit of fiction to his tales of his tour adventures, just to keep his audience amused.

Accompanied by Marcel Ledbetter, his ever-present friend from Amite County, it seems that Clower arrived in Boston to start his tour. He recalled that he'd been to Boston not long before, and drew bigger crowds than "Englebert Humpledinkum," as well.

Finding the hotel to be "about 100 degrees," Clower and Ledbetter turned off the heat (produced by natural gas taken away from Texas and Mississippi, he noted frequently) in their room and went to supper.

"You'd be surprised how much a help it is to a man in a hotel if he can breathe while he's in it," Clower noted, adding that he and Marcel found they could revive themselves by swabbing the condensate from the windows onto their foreheads from time to time.

Clower dealt masterfully with what few interruptions he had. "There's a fella drunk, and we ain't even had a social hour yet," he said after one particularly loud yell from the crowd.

Rich ladies in Hollywood got a bit of Clower's criticism, too, especially the one who was sickened by the thought of the lizards that had to die so that Clower could wear his boots.

"You would kill a pore, he pless lizard," she says. And I said, "No ma'am, a Greyhound bus run over this lizard on a highway. And I run out and fought the buzzards for him."

And, as Clower tells it, the woman had the gall to show up on a television show with him, wearing a fur coat. "An act," Clower said, "that caused me to want to vomit."

Dwelling on his fury at the woman's hypocrisy, Clower said, "And I'm settin' there prayin', cause I can just visualize the headlines in the Los Angeles paper the next mornin': 'Grand Ole Opry Star and Born Again Baptist Whups Woman on TV Show.'"

Naturally, Clower found a more subtle method than that to deal with the woman. He told her of the time he and his brother Sonny fed their dog so many live rats they could see the rats moving in the dog's stomach.

"Last time I saw that woman, she was runnin' through that CBS parking lot, going 'WHAAA! WHAAA!'"

His audience Monday night had a somewhat different reaction.

New officials join Council

By GARY WELCH

Newly re-elected mayor Lorence Bravenec stalked into the silent College Station City Council chambers shortly after 4 p.m. Monday, bringing the business and activities of a new term with him.

Only councilwoman Anne Hazen and members of the press were waiting for Bravenec. The rest of the councilmen, old, new and current, along with various city officials and other interested persons, followed on the mayor's heels.

After a bit of informal discussion the council, including the two departing members, Lane Stephenson and Jim Gardner, seated itself and addressed the first item on the special session agenda, the canvassing of city election results.

Bravenec read a resolution stating the winners in Saturday's city elections and the council unanimously adopted the results as valid.

Bravenec then stood with a smile and announced it was time to swear in the newly elected officials. He stepped down to the podium, and with his right hand raised was sworn in by councilman Jim Dozier. Dozier started back to his chair.

"Hey, wait a minute," Bravenec said. "While you're up here, why don't I swear you in?"

Dozier then took his oath of office and signed it.

"Congratulations," Bravenec said.

"Same to you," Dozier replied.

Bravenec then swore in Homer Adams, a former member of the council who has been absent for two years. Stephenson stepped down and Adams took his chair to murmurs of "Welcome back, Homer."

Patricia Boughton, now the second woman on the council, was sworn in, replacing Jim Gardner.

Gardner read a parting statement thanking the city council for its cooperation and joke that he would leave the "mundane" problems of the airport, moving the railroad tracks from west of the Texas A&M University campus and metropolitan transit to the remaining council members.

Councilman Gary Halter introduced a resolution thanking Gardner and Stephenson for their faithful service.

"I'll use the gavel on this one," Bravenec said after the resolution passed unanimously.

The council then considered an appeal from a restaurant executive whose company bought land and wants to erect a building on the east side of Texas Avenue at Park Place.

The College Station Planning and Zoning Commission had rejected the company's application on the grounds that the restaurant would cause more traffic congestion on Texas Avenue.

The council voted to return the plat to the Planning and Zoning Commission with instructions that they "seriously consider"

approving it. Results of the city bond elections were canvassed and accepted unanimously.

Suggestions for future council operation were voiced at the end of the meeting. They included increased effort to condemn unsafe buildings, holding council "workshop" meetings in more informal places and establishing better relations with Texas A&M students.

No decision reached in Coleman trial

By TERESA HUDDLESTON

The jury failed to reach a decision Monday on the Coleman case after four and a half hours of deliberation.

Coleman, 19, is charged with the Jan. 12, 1977 shooting death of Lawrence Baugh, a former Texas A&M University instructor.

Lawyers in the case agreed to let the jury go rather than sequestering them until a decision is reached. Judge John Barron Sr. dismissed the jury Monday, warning them not to read about or discuss the case or their deliberations.

District Attorney Roland Searcy asked the jury to return a verdict of guilty on charges of murder. Alternatives to this guilty verdict are charges of voluntary manslaughter, involuntary manslaughter and criminally negligent homicide.

Defense Attorney Kent Caperton told the jury to reread Coleman's statement in which the defendant described the manner in which the gun fired. Coleman had said Baugh put a gun to his chest and, after a struggle, Coleman hit Baugh in the head with the gun and the gun discharged.

Defense Attorney Fred Davis contended that testimony of a co-worker of Coleman was a weakness in the state's case, as it was the prosecution's only evidence.

Charles Kornegay told the court he sold a gun to Coleman and had seen the defendant on the night of Jan. 12. At this time, Kornegay said, Coleman told him, "I walked up to him and shot him between the eyes and threw him in the river."

Davis said Coleman's actions before the murder were not those of a person who planned to kill another. He said Coleman caught a ride to Baugh's house with some friends and talked with a man who was working next door to Baugh. Davis contended that if Coleman had planned a murder, he would have been less outgoing.

The jury was dismissed at 12:15 p.m. for deliberations, and at 4:25 p.m. they asked to see part of the testimony. Deliberations were scheduled to continue at 9 a.m. today.

Care of handicapped rests with schools

By MICHELLE BURROWES

Handicapped education will be the responsibility of every school district in Texas starting next fall, the A&M Consolidated attorney told school board members Monday night.

Without additional federal or state funds, school districts will be made to comply with the HEW regulations to provide evaluation, placement, and education of the handicapped, regardless of the nature of the handicap, said attorney Jack Woods.

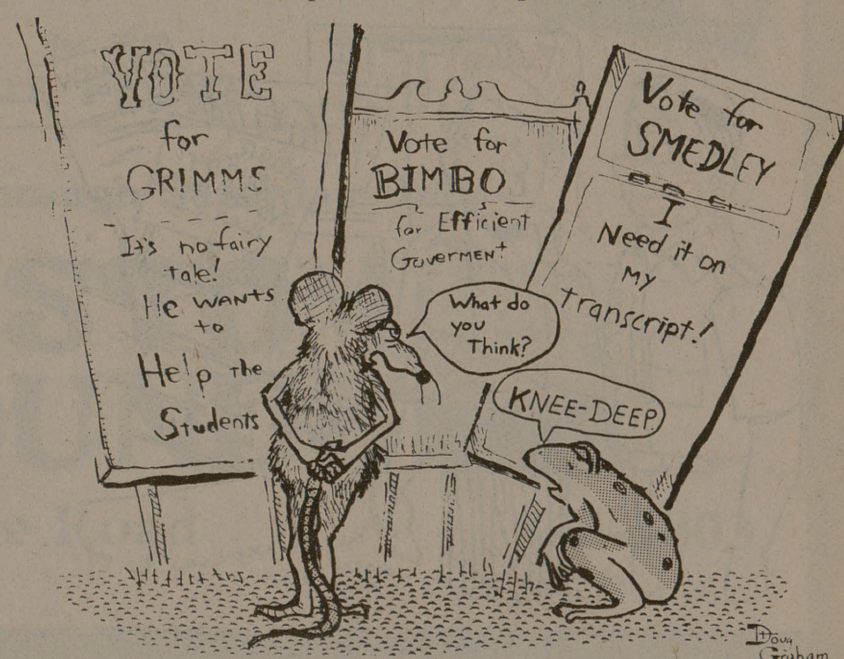
The board will hold a public hearing to inform taxpayers of the regulations at an undetermined future date.

The school board also swore in Bill Wasson, who was elected Saturday to replace Roger Feldman. A run-off election was called for April 15 between Ann Jones, a housewife, and Bruce Robeck, who is currently serving as school board president. Absentee voting will be from April 5 to April 11.

Emmett Trant, a local architect who was hired by the board two weeks ago to draw up detailed plans for the proposed field house, presented those plans at the board meeting. Plans were needed so that bids may be accepted for the construction. Bids will open at noon on April 20, and the contract will then be awarded. The plans are posted for public inspection in the school district's main office.

Louis Hecox, an unsuccessful candidate for the school board, made several inquiries at the meeting. He said injuries at a recent baseball game made him wonder if school personnel were required to have first aid training. The board replied that there were no such requirements, and put discussion of the subject on next meeting's agenda.

Hecox also asked if the board had considered putting a limit on the amount of money a candidate for school board could spend, and suggested that \$500 would be a fair amount. This was also placed on the next agenda.



Battalion photo by David Keashey

Grand Ole Opry's Jerry Clower tells his audience a story during Monday's Student Agricultural Convocation at Rudder Auditorium.

The secret to his success

Clower's stories are for real

By MARTHA HOLLIDA

What's Jerry Clower's secret of success? He says it's telling people about his upbringing.

Clower's stories center around his family, the small country school he attended, and life on the farm.

"The characters of my stories are real people — and they feel great and think that it's nice that I want to talk about them," he said.

"My first two albums the stories were just about all true," he remarked.

Clower, who is known as the Mouth of the Mississippi, started telling his stories to improve his sales techniques while working for the Mississippi Chemical Corporation.

He proudly boasts of his agriculture background and says he is the only member of the Grand Ole Opry to have an agriculture degree. He graduated from Mississippi State University in 1951 with a degree in agriculture and minor in agronomy and animal husbandry.

Clower grins broadly when asked about the Grand Old Opry.

"It is unbelievable, fantastic and to me the greatest on earth. It is 52 years old and has more class, sincerity,

honesty and a greater reputation than any other organization," he says.

Besides being a member of the Grand Old Opry, Clower performs on the radio program "Country Crossroads" and television program "Nashville on the Road."

Clower said he was glad to be back in Aggieland and enjoyed being around people — especially Aggies.

"I used to come here as a fertilizer salesman to recruit some of these fine agriculture students to work for Mississippi Chemical Corporation," he said.

"I let the Aggies sing their fight song on radio from coast to coast when they were my guest at the Grand Old Opry." He was referring to a group who visited the Grand Old Opry on an agri-business seminar field trip during spring break.

As Clower autographed programs and visited with fans, he asked them questions and introduced them to the people with him and other waiting for his autographs.

Clower performs about 200 shows a year and says he spend about two-thirds of his time away from his family.

Clower, who speaks freely and proudly of his faith in God, says his philosophy on life is to "do the best you can with what you got and do it now."

Congressional campaign

Gramm 'wants to carry Texas A&M' in Sixth District race

By JANICE STRIPLING

"I don't know how many people are going to vote, but I know that I want to carry Texas A&M," said Phil Gramm, sixth congressional district candidate to his newly-appointed Texas A&M student steering committee.

Gramm met with the 12-member committee Monday in the Memorial Student Center (MSC), where he expressed appreciation for the committee's support.

Gramm stressed that with the help of the student committee, every voter on campus could be reached.

"I believe this broad-based steering committee represents a new coalition of young people who are concerned about the future of our country," Gramm said.

"I share that concern and will work in Congress to assure a revitalization of private enterprise, continued economic

growth and efficient and responsible government."

Gramm said his main concern is getting the people involved in their country and its future.

"If we can get the people in Texas as interested in their country and its future as they are in the Dallas Cowboys, we wouldn't have a problem," he added.

Gramm said he will hold a barbeque in the Fiesta Ballroom on April 24. He added that the barbeque is not a "fund raiser," and that the \$4 admission is to cover the price for the food and entertainment.

The Texas A&M Steering Committee also had some suggestions they felt would benefit Gramm's campaign.

Vicki Young, member of the committee, suggested that Gramm invite all the student leaders of Texas A&M government and dorms for a get-together, in which Gramm could ask for their support.

Gramm said that since the on-campus vote is regimented, the bulk of his campaign should be geared to them.

Although the on-campus voter is more accessible, the committee felt that the off-campus voter should not be neglected.

One member suggested putting pushcards in the apartment offices because students go there at least once a month to pay rent.

The steering committee considered that on election day (May 6) there will be many activities going on (finals, graduation, and students preparing to leave town) and this could be a detriment to voter turnout.

One member of the committee suggested that students be reminded of absentee voting.

Ron Godbey formally opens Brazos campaign office

By ANDREA VALLS

As the municipal elections finally come to a standstill, state and national elections are just gaining momentum. And the race on.

Ron Godbey, sixth-district Democrat congressional candidate, formally opened his Brazos County Campaign office Monday at 2601 Texas and named his Brazos County staff and steering committee.

Godbey, candidate for Olin Teague's position, said his 26-member campaign team, headed by campaign manager Pete Palasota, has been active for several weeks in precinct organizational work. "We're now working on the second phase of the campaign — the visible part," he said.

Godbey elaborated on some of his major concerns in Congress. "One of my princi-

pal efforts in Washington will be meaningful tax reform," he said. The amount of excess tax cuts in the past four years, \$12 billion for individual taxpayers, is approximately the same amount taxes have gone up due to inflation, therefore, there was no real cut at all, he said.

Godbey said he prefers "indexing" the tax tables to the rate of inflation. Under this system, if the cost of living goes up 10 percent in a given year, the tax bracket would be adjusted accordingly by the IRS. This would prevent a family whose income kept pace with the inflation rate from being thrust automatically into a higher tax bracket, he said. A balanced federal budget is the solution to this problem, said Godbey.

If elected, Godbey said he will try to create a beneficial climate in Washington

for the sixth Congressional District. Industry will be moving into Texas from the North because of the abundance of coal, he said. Texas is not ready for that industry and the state needs to develop a regional airport and a four-lane highway system between Houston, Bryan, and Austin; and between Ft. Worth and Bryan, he said.

There should be some limits on the term length of office for Congressmen, said Godbey. If someone has been in office more than 12 or 15 years, he said they begin to lose touch with the district and lose effectiveness in Congress. "I think 8 to 10 years in office is reasonable," he said.

On other matters, Godbey said he is pleased with the way the campaign has been progressing thus far. "I intend to base my campaign on my own merits and not on the demerits of my opponents, he said.