

Scores higher

Back-to-basics study pays off in schools

United Press International
DALLAS — A "return to the basics" in the all-black East Oak Cliff school district apparently has paid off for students, who scored higher on achievement tests than black students in the city's integrated schools, a new report shows. Superintendent Nolan Estes Sunday announced the results, part of an intensive six-year study compiled by the Dallas Independent School District's research and evaluation department under the direction of Dr. Bill Webster. Estes said the study, conducted from 1972 to 1978, showed second grade students in East Oak Cliff, a residential neighborhood in the southwestern part of Dallas, achieving at a "slightly higher" level than black students at integrated schools.

Achievement levels of middle-class whites showed no decrease, he said, and in fact, "there has been no decrease in achievement among any group of students." The higher scores in the East Oak Cliff district, where second graders have improved by 26 points in the last year, are attributable to the more intensive, back-to-basics curriculum offered there since the Dallas desegregation plan went into effect in 1976, Estes said. "We are putting more teachers, more materials in Oak Cliff. The court order required that we give priority to East Oak Cliff," he said. But Estes said black students at integrated schools were better off "attitudinally" than those in segregated schools. The superintendent stressed that

the findings do not indicate desegregation is undesirable, because achievement increases are offset by the "attitudinal" improvements at integrated schools. "I'm saying that all other things being equal, students are better off going to school in an integrated district. If that's not possible (as in East Oak Cliff) then there have to be major programmatic adjustments in order to compensate for it," Estes said. He said the study, compiled chiefly from the results of achievement tests given all DISD students every two years since 1972, showed the achievement level among the district's 10,000 second graders has risen significantly since 1972 and that the greatest gains have been

among black and Mexican-American students. The findings will be presented to the school board's evaluation committee Thursday.

Texas sculptor to create bust for Kleberg Center

A new sculpture will be added to the Kleberg Animal and Food Science Center Soon. Texas sculptor Electra Waggoner Biggs visited Texas A&M University Thursday to become better acquainted with the future home of her sculpture of the late Texas rancher, Robert J. Kleberg Jr. of the King Ranch. The Texas A&M facility was dedicated last spring in honor of Kleberg, who headed the ranch operation for more than a half-century, during which he developed the Santa Gertrudis breed of beef cattle. He was a major influence on agricul-

ture in general and a powerful proponent of wildlife conservation. A group of Texas A&M University dignitaries headed by Clyde H. Wells, chairman of the Board of Regents, escorted Biggs on a tour of the center in an attempt to help the artist learn more about her subject, a man she did not know well in life but with whom she will become more familiar as her work on the bust of Kleberg continues. Biggs is best known in Texas for her sculpture of Will Rogers on his horse, which is seen by thousands of Texans and visitors at the Will Rogers Coliseum in Fort Worth. Other castings of the Will Rogers piece, as well as busts of Presidents Eisenhower and Truman are on display around the nation and in Europe.

Biggs is the King Ranch family's choice to create the bust for the center, Wells noted. She began her career as a sculptor in Europe when she was 17. Her first completed sculpture, a bust of her maid, won her third place in a Paris salon showing at age 20. From that time on, her fascination with both sculpture and all parts of the casting process has grown. While still in Europe, she worked in a bronze foundry to better understand the process by which her models were eventually cast into metal. The artist explains that there is no exact timetable for completion of her bust of Kleberg, due mainly to the impossibility of a set schedule for her creative process and for the work of the skilled craftsmen and artists who will eventually cast the bust in bronze. The casting is a complicated process, she noted. "The sculptor begins the work by modeling in clay, and eventually

Shades may save on fuel bill

United Press International
FORT COLLINS, Colo. — A Colorado State University professor claims pulling down the shades at home may do more than stop peepers from looking in. It also could save some money on the fuel bill. Craig Birdsong, assistant professor of family housing with the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension Service, said use of window shades in a typical residence in a moderate climate can cut as much as 8 cents off every dollar spent for heating, and 21 cents on cooling.

Birdsong based the findings on a research study carried out by the Illinois Institute of Technology. Scientists at the school have proved lowered shades block out up to 54 percent of the sun's rays and hot air that normally enter a home through windows in the summer. Shades also contained up to 31 percent of the heat that normally escapes through windows during the winter. "In each instance, the shades outperformed more expensive venetian blinds and draperies by a wide margin," Birdsong said. Energy experts estimate as much as half of the \$30 billion spent yearly on home cooling and heating is wasted, partly due to heat gained in summer or lost in winter through windows. "In summer, 10 times as much heat may enter a house through a sunlit window as through the walls surrounding it," Birdsong said. And in winter, Birdsong said, heat losses were typically three to four times greater through windows than through adjacent walls. "Shades (should) be raised during the day in winter to let in sunlight and thereby reduce demands on the heating system," Birdsong said. "In turn, during cold mornings and after dark, the shade should be drawn to prevent interior heat from escaping."

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Her present studio is on the Waggoner Ranch in Vernon. Love of ranching, said Wells, is the tie that binds the artist and her subject together. Biggs' family owns and operates the Waggoner Ranch in North Texas, the nation's largest contiguous ranch. Kleberg spent most of his life dedicated to the King Ranch, the nation's largest ranch overall. "Both the sculptor and the subject are descendants of our nation's greatest ranching families," said Wells. "It is only right that both their works are heralded here at Texas A&M, where we, too, are dedicated to serving the needs of the nation and the state."

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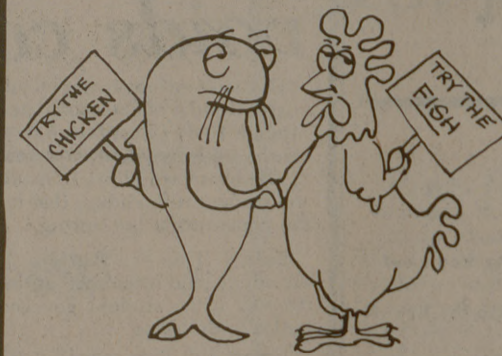
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PUBLIC NOTICE SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS GENERAL ELECTION NOV. 7, 1978

"The Tax Relief Amendment" (H.J.R. 1)

H.J.R. 1 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution allowing the legislature to exempt intangible personal property, requiring the legislature to exempt certain household goods and personal effects, and allowing the legislature to exempt all or part of the personal property homestead from state and local property taxation. The amendment requires the legislature to provide for the taxation of farm and ranch land on the basis of its productive capacity instead of its market value and allows the legislature to provide for the taxation of timber land on its productive capacity. The amendment permits local governments to extend the present exemption of not less than \$3,000 of the residence homestead of persons 65 and older to include certain disabled persons. The amendment grants an exemption from public school property taxes of \$5,000 of the market value of the residence homestead. It authorizes the legislature to grant an additional exemption from public school property taxes of an amount not to exceed \$10,000 of the market value of the residence homesteads of persons 65 years of age or older and certain disabled persons. If a person 65 years of age or older qualifies for this exemption, the total amount of public school taxes imposed on that person's homestead may not be increased. The amendment prevents local governments from increasing property taxes unless the governing body provides public notice and conducts a public hearing. The amendment requires the legislature to provide by law for each property owner to receive notice of the revaluation of his property and the amount taxes will be increased. The amendment limits appropriations from state tax revenue to an amount not to exceed Texas' estimated economic growth rate, with the legislature authorized to make exceptions for emergencies. The amendment prohibits the statewide appraisal of real property for property tax purposes. Enforcement of uniform standards and procedures for appraisal of property for property tax purposes is required to originate in the taxing

authority where the property tax is imposed. The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for tax relief for residential homesteads, elderly persons, disabled persons, and agricultural land; for personal property exemptions; for truth in taxation procedures, including citizen involvement; for a redefinition of the tax base; for limitations on state spending; and for property tax administration."

NUMBER ONE (S.J.R. 50)

S.J.R. 50 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to delete an archaic reference to the "Deaf and Dumb Asylum." The amendment would allow the State of Texas to purchase products and services done by handicapped individuals in nonprofit rehabilitation facilities without complying with bid requirements applicable to other state contracts. The amendment also would eliminate the formality of the approval of certain state contracts by the Governor, the Secretary of State and the Comptroller of Public Accounts. The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows: "The constitutional amendment deleting the archaic reference to the 'Deaf and Dumb Asylum,' allowing certain products and services of handicapped individuals to be used by agencies and departments of state government, requiring the procurement of other products and services required in the operation of state government to be made under bids awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, making all such procurement processes subject to laws enacted by the legislature, and eliminating the requirement that the Governor, the Secretary of State, and the Comptroller of Public Accounts of Texas be personally involved with such transactions."

NUMBER TWO (S.J.R. 55)

S.J.R. 55 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to permit local governments to issue bonds for the reconstruction or acquisition of facilities (land, equipment and improvements) designed to develop employment opportunities. These

bonds would be payable solely from the revenue from the sale or lease of these facilities. The building or acquisition of such facilities must be determined by the local government to be necessary to develop employment opportunities. The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows: "The constitutional amendment to provide that the legislature may permit political subdivisions to issue revenue bonds to develop employment opportunities for its citizens."

NUMBER THREE (S.J.R. 44)

S.J.R. 44 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution which would allow the legislature to authorize cities and towns to issue tax increment bonds to finance the redevelopment of blighted areas. The bonds are to be paid solely from revenue from municipal tax increments. Payment cannot be made from the revenue of municipal taxes, utilities, or other services. The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows: "The constitutional amendment to give the legislature the power to authorize cities and towns to issue bonds to finance the redevelopment of blighted areas and prohibiting any city or town from granting its money or lending its credit for such purposes."

NUMBER FOUR (S.J.R. 53)

S.J.R. 53 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to allow the legislature to exempt from taxation solar or wind-powered energy devices. The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from taxation solar and wind-powered energy devices."

NUMBER FIVE (H.J.R. 37)

H.J.R. 37 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to grant exclusive jurisdiction to justices of the peace in civil cases where the amount in controversy does not exceed \$200, except where the legislature gives exclusive jurisdiction to another court. The amendment grants justices of the peace concurrent jurisdiction with county courts where the amount in controversy is between \$200 and \$500, except where the legislature gives the county court exclusive jurisdiction. The amendment also grants justices of the peace concurrent jurisdiction

with both county and district courts where the amount in controversy is between \$500 and \$1,000, except where the legislature gives the county or district court exclusive jurisdiction. The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows: "The constitutional amendment to extend the jurisdiction of justices of the peace in civil cases."

NUMBER SIX (S.J.R. 45)

S.J.R. 45 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to allow the legislature to expand the number of judges on any court of civil appeals. Presently courts of civil appeals are limited to a chief justice and two associate justices. The amendment also would allow the courts to sit in sections, with the concurrence of a majority of the judges sitting in the section necessary to decide a case. The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows: "The constitutional amendment permitting the legislature to increase the number of justices on a court of civil appeals, permitting a court of civil appeals to sit in sections, and requiring a concurrence of a majority of justices to decide a case."

NUMBER SEVEN (S.J.R. 48)

S.J.R. 48 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution eliminating the State Building Commission and the State Building Fund. The authority of the State Building Commission has been transferred by law to the State Board of Control. The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows: "The constitutional amendment to repeal the constitutional authority for the State Building Commission and the State Building Fund."

NUMBER EIGHT (H.J.R. 42)

H.J.R. 42 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution allowing certain political subdivisions or districts in the state that can presently issue bonds or otherwise lend its credit to engage in fire-fighting activities and to issue bonds or otherwise lend its credit to support such activities. The wording of the proposed amendment as it will appear on the ballot is as follows: "The constitutional amendments authorizing certain districts to engage in fire-fighting activities and to issue bonds or otherwise lend its credit to support such activities."