

Close to election — close to vest

Demos have no surprises

By SCOTT PENDLETON

Battalion Staff
Virtually no political surprises were in store for local members of the Mexican-American Democrats as they listened to local party candidates Thursday night.

With only 11 days before the election, the race, as Congressional candidate Phil Gramm described it, is like the last two minutes of a basketball game.

None of the candidates were about to risk what in some cases is certain victory by a surprise move late in the game.

No new issues were discussed. In fact, Kent Caperton, representing gubernatorial candidate John Hill, even declined to state the issues.

"I think it would be repetitious to tell you who he is, what he stands for, and what his qualifications are," Caperton told two dozen MAD members in attendance.

About the closest anyone came to making a campaign promise was when Caperton said that John Hill is going to remember you.

Phil Gramm, who said he has stuck to the issues all through the campaign, repeated his stands in favor of putting the federal government on a budget, deregulating natural gas, and reducing the amount of government regulation of business.

GAO reports metric liquor may cost more

United Press International
WASHINGTON — If you've argued with your liquor dealer that liter bottles of booze seem to cost more per ounce — or centiliter — than the old quart or gallon jugs, you now have a government agency on your side.

A General Accounting Office study Wednesday showed wine and beer bottled in new metric containers can cost consumers up to 10.5 percent more than the old bottles.

The GAO found the switchover, approved by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, resulted in a "largely detrimental" impact on consumer prices, and said the agency should inform buyers of the change.

The switch to metric bottling will be completed for wines at the beginning of 1979 and for liquors a year later.

The GAO found wines increased in price by 2.9 percent when changed from a four-fifths quart bottle to a 750-milliliter container.

The increase was even more — 10.5 percent — for the conversion of one-half gallon to 1.5-liter bottles of wine. And the gallon to three-liter change cost consumers a 6.7 percent price hike.

In an interview while MAD conducted other business, Gramm said he would not propose any specific legislation to help Mexican-Americans. He said that a healthy business climate would benefit all citizens.

"We're all being hurt by exactly the same things," Gramm said. "Certainly, poor people are hurt more."

Weren't his policies and attitudes a little Republican?

"I think the day has passed when any reasonable person would stand up and say all Democrats are good and all Republicans are bad," Gramm said.

"Nobody'd believe it," he said.

If both parties would improve their candidates, the process would improve the country, Gramm said.

But before Brazos County Republicans can improve their candidates, they are going to have to find them.

Bike stolen from man, 53, cycling across continent

United Press International
NUEVO LAREDO, Mex. — Carlos Leopoldo Sanchez pedaled eight months through seven countries only to have his specially equipped bicycle stolen.

Sanchez, 53, left Panama on Feb. 17 and made his way through Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico.

On arrival in this city across the Rio Grande from Laredo, Texas, this week, Sanchez went to a newspaper to have his photograph taken and give a progress report on his trip that was scheduled to take him to Canada and then back south to Cape Horn.

One of the candidates at the meeting, Travis Bryan III, has no opponent for the position of district attorney of the 85th judicial district. Democrats run unopposed in seven other races.

Bryan told the MAD members that he would try to stick by his campaign promise of "an open door and a firm hand."

Bryan advocated strong punishment for criminals who are repeat offenders or who commit violent crimes.

Referring to a large increase in crime in Brazos County, Bryan said, "I want to do my part to ward off some of that."

Bryan, sheriff candidate Bobby Yeager, and incumbent tax assessor-collector Buddy Winn invited the audience to come in and discuss problems, or see how their offices run.

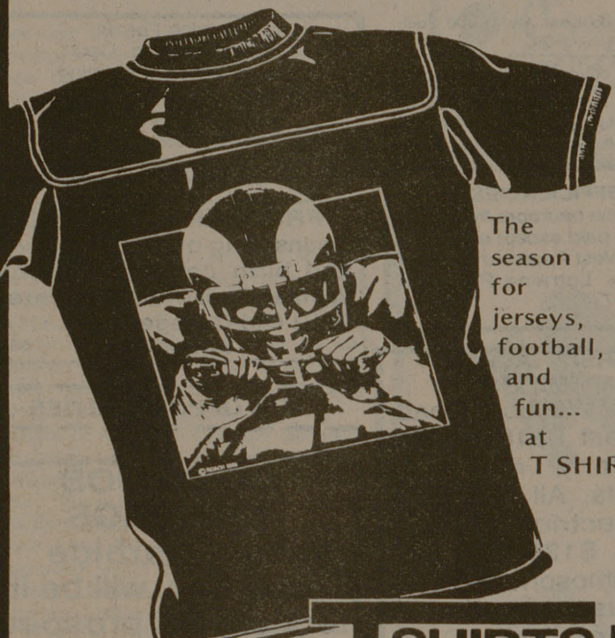
While inside the newspaper building, someone stole his bicycle.

Sanchez remained on foot in Nuevo Laredo waiting news from police on whether they had recovered his two-wheeler.

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