

Court denies Westheimer school district

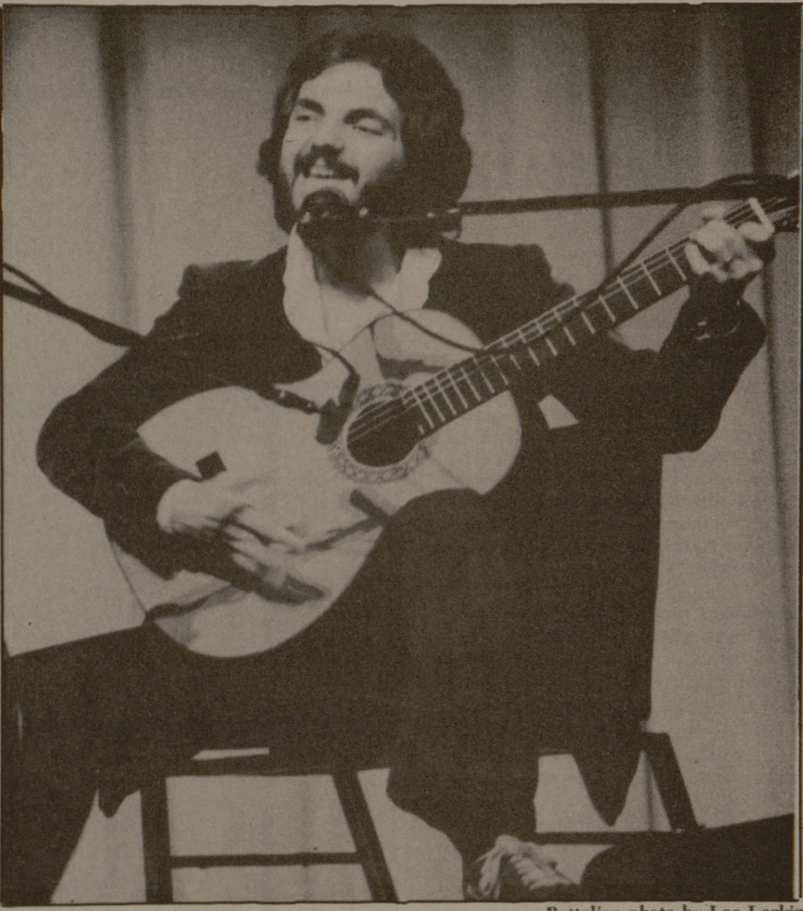
United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — A federal appeals court says establishment of a predominantly white Westheimer Independent School District in Houston would damage the city's desegregation efforts but the court did give WISD supporters hope.

A three-judge panel of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Monday blocked formation of the WISD, which has been the subject of litigation since it was proposed in 1971.

However, the court struck down as too broad an order by District Judge Finis E. Cowan that permanently prohibited any acts relating to the creation or organization of the Westheimer district. It said the proposed WISD could remain a corporate entity and resume efforts to operate separate schools when it shows a change in circumstances indicating that such implementation will not impede the HISD desegregation process.

Residents of Westheimer, an affluent, predominantly white residential and commercial section of Houston, have been seeking to establish the district and remove their students from the Houston Independent School District. HISD officials, however, said that would jeopardize a desegregation plan ordered by a federal court.

The opinion said WISD would be 89.6 percent white — greatly disproportionate to the HISD — and would encourage white flight.



Battalion photo by Lee Larkin

Emerging singer plays here

Phil Keaggy, one of the most popular religious singers around, performed Monday night in Rudder Theater. After making an auspicious start in rock music in the '60s, he switched to performing with Christian musicians when his mother died in 1970. Since then, he has released three albums that have been popular among religious music fans. The concert Monday was sponsored by Chi Alpha and Waterbrook Concerts.

U.S. offers to aid China tap energy

United Press International
TOKYO — The United States has offered to help China develop its immense energy reserves in what would be the first joint economic venture between the two countries since the 1949 Communist revolution, Energy Secretary James Schlesinger said today.

The United States would help dig Chinese coal mines, design an atom smasher and build a huge dam on the Yangtze River, he said.

Schlesinger, who arrived in Japan from Peking Sunday, said China and the United States had agreed to hold working level talks on cooperation in five energy related areas: digging coal mines, hydroelectric power, renewable energy, oil and gas and high energy physics.

He said that an exchange of missions of coal mining experts will be carried out "as soon as possible," and that talks on other aspects of the program will get under way early in 1979. "As a result of our discussions, a substantial agenda for cooperation between our two countries has been established," Schlesinger said.

"This visit to China was a manifestation of an important step in the improvement of Chinese-American relations. We achieved a clear understanding on mutual questions in the energy field. We identified energy projects of mutual benefit to both countries."

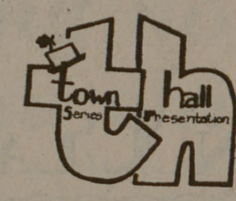
U.S. Ambassador to Japan Mike Mansfield predicted Oct. 16 that the world's next big pool of oil would be found off the coast of east Asia, much of it in Chinese waters. Scientists predict China has reserves of 30 billion barrels or as much oil as all the proved reserves of the United States.

Mansfield also disclosed that five American oil companies — Union, Exxon, Phillips, Gulf and Penzoil — have sent missions to Peking seeking an American role in developing it.

The Chinese so far have favored Japan as a partner in offshore oil drilling ventures, though Japanese oil industry sources say frankly that in deep water drilling American technology is superior and probably will be necessary.

Schlesinger said the Chinese would continue discussions with the American oil companies on a possible role for them in development of China's offshore oil resources. There will be exchanges of oil and gas experts, but no dates for this were set.

Accompanying Schlesinger to China was a party of 23 scientists and Energy Department officials, and 10 American reporters.



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Tax cuts top election issue

Incumbents could lose seats

United Press International
The odds say people who already hold public office are the candidates most likely to win elections. But if the polls are right, 1978 may be the year when that political rule of thumb gets sharply rapped by the voters' hammer.

As the mid-term congressional and state campaigns wound down Monday, at least a dozen incumbent senators and governors of both major parties were being written off as likely or possible losers today.

Several times that many House members were regarded as down the tubes or in deep trouble. Yet the balance sheet of governmental control is unlikely to be radically changed by the election results. The Democrats now control Congress, the governorships and the legislatures by such wide margins that it would take a political upheaval of earthquake proportions for the Republicans to take over.

The Republicans are not predicting the ground will shake and break open today. They are talking only about narrowing the 62-38 Democratic hold on the Senate, 288-147 majority in the House and 37-12 dominance of statehouses.

In terms of things to come, the voters' choices between candidates Tuesday could be the tail of the election dog.

Sixteen states and a number of smaller governmental units have on the ballot referendums on tax reductions and spending restrictions — practically all of them spinoffs of California's thunderous Proposition 13 vote last summer.

Approval of measures sharply cutting state and local taxes or snapping lids on the spending authority of legislatures and city or county lawmakers could have a far more profound effect on the impact of government on the people than the names and party affiliations of the candidates seeking office this year.

The states voting on taxation or spending restrictions are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota and Texas.

The story of today's election may be in the rollcall of losers.

Near final public opinion polling showed Sens. John Tower, R-Tex., Robert Griffin, R-Mich., Edward Brooke, R-Mass., William Hathaway, D-Maine, Wendell Anderson, D-Minn., and Floyd Haskell, D-Colo., trailing their challengers. Gov. Bob Straub of Oregon was regarded as in the same fix and Gov. Martin Schreiber of Wisconsin was trailing slightly in a race too close to call. Both are Democrats.

Several other incumbents were said to have made late campaign recoveries that may pull them through. Sens. Charles Percy, R-Ill., and Jennings Randolph, D-W.Va., and Govs. James Rhodes, R-Ohio, and Hugh Carey, D-N.Y., were in that category. In Michigan, GOP Gov. William Milliken also was struggling for survival in a race regarded as a virtual tossup.

As the last pre-election polls were published, a number of the races appeared to be changing. Among them was Illinois, where Democrat Alex Seith had established a surprising lead over Percy, but a poll showed the two-term GOP moderate had made up 7 of an 8 percent straw vote deficit in a week.

Despite the poll lead Democratic Rep. Bob Krueger held over Tower, that race also was regarded as a standoff for prediction purposes, just as Anderson appears to be near dead-even with Republican challenger Rudy Boschwitz in Minnesota.

Also holding leads in local polls were Democratic Rep. Paul Tsongas over Brooke in Massachusetts, GOP Rep. William Armstrong over Haskell in Colorado, Republican Rep. William Cohen over Hathaway in Maine and former Detroit City Council President Carl Levin over Griffin in Michigan.

Republican State Sen. Victor Atiyeh led Straub in Oregon, and while Schreiber was behind Republican Leo Dreyfus in Wisconsin, the figures were so close the contest was called a tossup.

However, Rhodes apparently was making a late charge against an early lead held by Democratic Lt. Gov. Richard Celeste in Ohio, and Carey was shown in a weekend poll to be leading GOP candidate Perry Duryea in New York for the first time.

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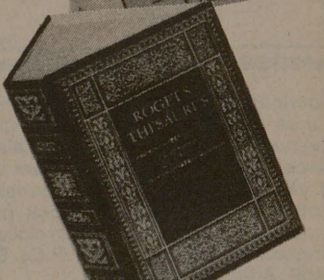
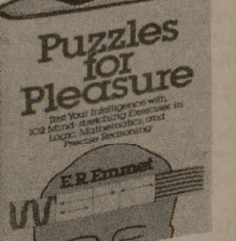
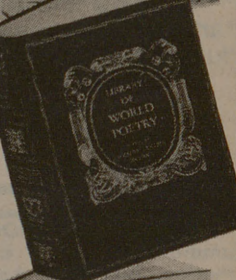
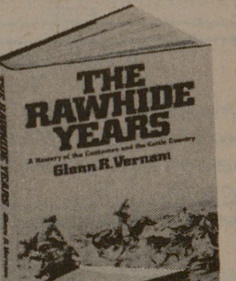
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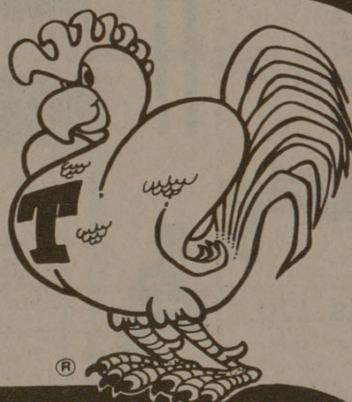
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