

State



When Johnnie comes marching home

Brian Petruskie, a junior in I-1, and Sam Wilds, a junior in B-2, display the tools of their hobby — battle re-enactment — at Rudder Fountain yesterday. They are members of the A&M Military and Living Historians and will be giving a demonstration on the main drill field November 15.

Water fund fight heating up, backers boil over rumors

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Critics of a proposed constitutional amendment that would establish a state water trust fund are putting forth misinformation and nonsense about the proposal, says the spokeswoman for the 101 Texas mayors who have endorsed the amendment.

"In the final days of this campaign, we have had a few vocal opponents putting their oars into the water issue and talking a bunch of nonsense," Austin Mayor Carole McClellan, chairman of the Water for Texas Committee, said Monday.

"We have seen a great deal of misinformation bandied around about what this amendment does or does not do."

The amendment, which goes before the voters on Tuesday, would place half the state's surplus revenues into a trust fund to pay for city and county reservoirs,

drainage and sewer improvements, flood protection and other water-related needs.

Opponents have said the fund would tie up millions of dollars in state funds that might have to be replenished by tax increases. But McClellan said the fund eventually would save money and prevent tax hikes.

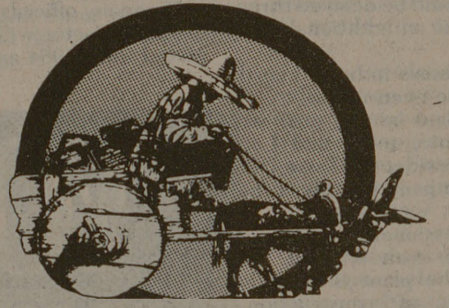
"They (critics) are trying to label the trust fund as spend now, plan later," she said at a news conference held during the Texas Municipal League's annual meeting.

"That is absolutely not true. Failure to pass Amendment 4 will increase the growing cost to pay for water needs in the future and perhaps result in a tax increase. If you want to raise taxes, the surest way to do that is not to plan now — to put it off until a crisis situation."

McClellan said "virtually every mayor and city official in this state" supports the proposition.

The amendment was pushed through the Texas Legislature earlier this year by House Speaker Bill Clayton and also has the support of Gov. Bill Clements.

Opponents of the amendment include: Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby; Texas Common Cause, a citizens lobbying group, and Citizens Against Water Taxes.



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Curriculum cuts suggested

United Press International
DENVER — Higher education institutions should eliminate special programs or merge with other institutions instead of allowing budget cuts to decrease the quality of education, experts say.

Speakers at a regional higher education conference said Monday that colleges and universities should carefully consider where to direct their time and money in the face of declining state and federal funding and lower enrollment.

David Breneman, an education policy expert from Brookings Institute, told conference delegates that funding cuts should not be spread evenly among all institutions and programs.

"Some activities should be eliminated entirely rather than being left to waste away through a spreading disease," he said. "Some colleges should be closed, and

methods must be found to increase resources in areas of growing intellectual or economic importance."

A clear and precise mission statement is needed for each public college or university to help states decide how to budget for education, Breneman said.

Architect Charles Luckman, a California State University and Colleges trustee, urged the higher education officials to leave remedial programs to elementary and secondary schools and community colleges.

"Through coordination and cooperation with other segments, higher education can bring about a clarion call for excellence throughout public education," he said.

The 13-state higher education conference, called to examine critical issues facing higher education, was sponsored by the Boul-

der, Colo., Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

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