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Richard Corliss, Time David Ansen, Newsweek

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“FUNNY”

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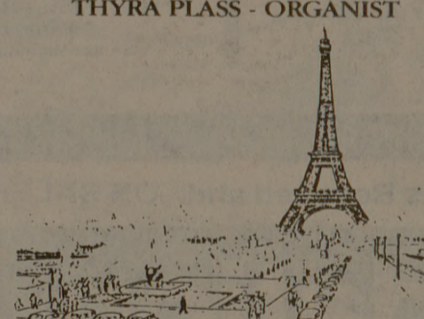
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CS Council advised to open branch library soon

By CRAIG RENTRO
Staff Writer

The College Station City Council on Wednesday received a recommendation from its library committee to open a branch library as soon as possible.

The council also discussed whether it should allow the 6 percent hotel-motel tax to drop to 5 percent June 30. The tax will be reduced if the council does not enact an ordinance preventing the change.

Mayor Gary Halter said official action will be taken on these issues by March 13.

The committee said the library would be established as a branch of the Bryan Public Library, which is a member of the Central Texas Library System.

The library committee suggested leasing a temporary site for three years and purchasing the necessary furnishings. Choices for the site included the Southwood Valley Athletic Park, College Station Community Center and Bee Creek Park.

The city has budgeted \$194,000 for the establishment of the branch library.

But Larry Ringer, chairman of the Library Committee, said if a temporary site were constructed, it would cost about \$135,000 to build and another \$96,000 to maintain. These costs exclude utilities and insurance.

In other action the council discussed the city's hotel-motel tax fund. Nearly 75 percent of the fund is appropriated to the College Station Community Center, the College Station Chamber of Commerce and the contribution debt service.

These agencies will use \$383,000 of the \$513,500 that the 1985-86 hotel-motel tax is expected to earn, leaving \$130,000 for other appropriations.

The council also passed an ordinance to participate in an anti-crime package prepared by the Criminal Justice Task Force.

The Task Force is finishing preparation of a comprehensive anti-crime package to present to the 70th session of the Texas Legislature in January.

Warped

by Scott McCool



Waldo

by Kevin Thorn



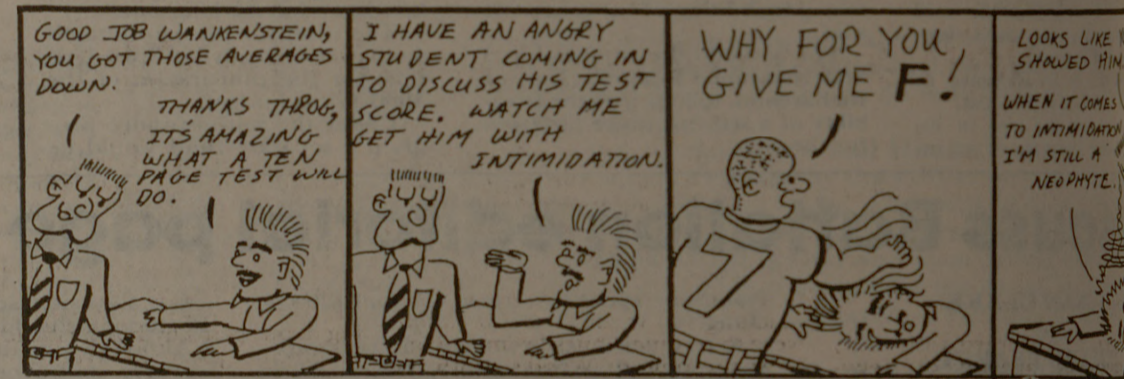
Coon's Kingdom

by D.C.



Harsh Reality

by D.C.



Court says senator ineligible for race

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Handed a Texas Supreme Court opinion declaring him ineligible to run, state Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown all but abandoned his race for attorney general Wednesday.

"My campaign for attorney general for 1986, in my estimation, ends today," Brown said, calling the high court's decision "obviously political."

Although he technically could ask the court to reconsider, Brown said, "My guess is we will not utilize that motion."

The Lake Jackson Republican said his lawyers are reviewing his prospects. But he noted that all nine Supreme Court justices are Democrats and said asking for reconsideration likely would be a waste of time.

"When it's a political decision, a motion for a rehearing is wasted. They could have taken the legal road or the political road. They wrote a political opinion today," he said.

In its 6-3 decision, the Supreme Court rejected all arguments Brown presented for having his name placed on the May 3 GOP primary ballot.

The justices said that because the 1985 Legislature — of which Brown was a part — raised the salary for the attorney general's office, Brown isn't eligible to seek the job.

The 1st Court of Appeals in Houston earlier ordered state GOP Chairman George Strake Jr. to place Brown's name on the ballot. Strake appealed to the Supreme Court, asking it to tell the lower court to withdraw that order. The high court did.

The majority opinion, written by Justice James Wallace, noted that the Texas Constitution clearly states that members of the Legislature aren't eligible to seek another office in midterm if lawmakers increased the salary for that office.

The 1985 Legislature gave the attorney general — and other state

workers — a 3 percent annual pay raise.

Brown argued several points, a main contention being that the pay raise was insubstantial.

The Supreme Court disagreed.

"The constitution makes no distinction between a small increase in emoluments and a large one, between an insubstantial increase and a substantial one," the opinion said. "Had the framers of the constitution not intended to include all increases, they would surely have said so."

But Justice Raul Gonzalez said, "A 3 percent across-the-board raise to all state employees is not an increase in emoluments of a civil office, which offends (the constitution). . . . No worthy objective or policy is served by holding Brown ineligible in this case because of a 3 percent increase to all state employees."

Brown, whose Senate term runs through 1988, said that despite the court's ruling he will continue pushing his law-and-order themes.

"My work is not finished. I set out several years ago to improve state government criminal justice system, and I'm going to continue that."

To (Attorney General) Mattox and those who sought me off the ballot, I say I heard the last of Buster Brown.

Three Republicans remain on the ballot, seeking to challenge who is unopposed in the primary. They are Ed Walker, Williamson County district judge John Roach, a district judge McKinney, and San Antonio Judge Roy Barrera Jr.

Brown said he hasn't decided whether to endorse a Republican for the primary. But he said he will work hard for Mattox's defeat.

Mattox said the court's ruling was no surprise and good news. "It makes me pleased from a perspective that he's my opponent," Mattox said.

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