

# State and Local

## Briscoe says citizens tired of professional politicians

By CRAIG RENFRO  
Staff Writer

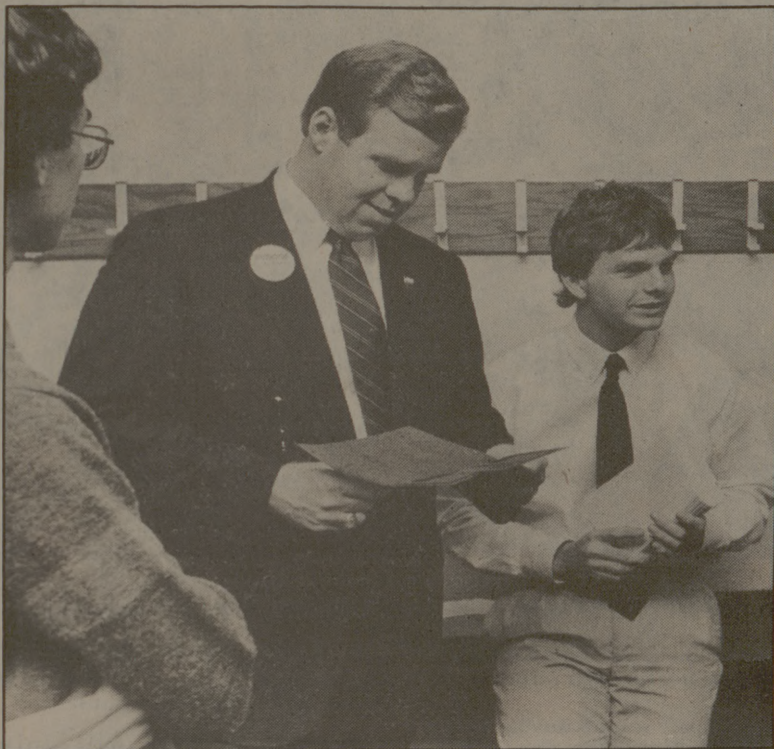


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Andrew Briscoe III, a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, speaks to students in 510 Rudder before his speech.

"This has certainly discouraged oil exploration."  
"We need to go to the oil industry and ask them what we can do to help them raise revenues, because for many years they supported this state," he said.  
Education is another area in need of reform, he said. Disciplinary problems and teacher competency

are areas that must be addressed. He said if elected, he would call a summit for all education association groups to look at the problems and find solutions.  
Briscoe, the second cousin to former Gov. Dolph Briscoe, said pollsters have indicated that he may receive 40 percent of the vote because of his name.

Andrew Briscoe III, a 1986-87 Democratic gubernatorial candidate, said Wednesday night at Texas A&M that he believes he will win because citizens are tired of professional politicians.

Briscoe, A&M Class of '74, said people are tired of "form politicians" and want someone who is honest, and open to public input.

He said Gov. Mark White can be defeated in the May 3 primary because he will not have the education or agriculture vote.

Briscoe said he agrees with some of White's proposed budget cuts, but the proposed 13 percent reductions for the A&M System would not be needed if such areas as administrative costs were cutback.

"I haven't heard of any budget cuts in the governor's office, and that's where some should be made," he said.

He said new sources of revenue need to be encouraged to bring the state out of its economic woes. The most efficient way to raise revenues is to increase the state sales tax, he said.

Briscoe said he encourages the formation of a Southwest stock exchange to bring in state revenues and assist agriculture. He said this program would require state investment at first but could eventually operate without state funds.

Briscoe said White's administration has discouraged business in the state. Financial institutions and the oil industry have been hurt the most, he said.

"White imposed a 800 percent increase in drilling fees," he said.

## A&M psychologist studies male-female roles in groups

By MELANIE PERKINS  
Reporter

Women in work groups are initially perceived as being less competent than their male counterparts, said a Texas A&M psychologist whose research focuses on sex differences and interaction styles in task performing groups.

Dr. Wendy Wood said, "People use gender if they don't have a more valid measure of competence."

She said this is especially true in newly formed groups where the only thing the members have to go on are assumptions. People don't have the same initial expectations of female group members as they do of male group members, she said.

"If you don't know anything else about members of a group (besides gender), you naturally assume that men are more competent than women — both men and women do this," Wood said.

She attributes this to the fact that men typically fill roles perceived to require competence, such as managerial roles.

Wood said the team sports theory says males generally have a higher status in the work force because of team sports. This theory says that because women don't tend to play team sports — at least not as often or

as regularly as males — they are missing out on the skills and abilities gained from working on a team.

However, Wood said she thinks a woman's interaction style facilitates task performance.

Her research shows these preconceived gender notions break down in the face of other indications of competence, such as work experience and education level.

Wood said in many employment situations the perception of competence rests solely on the job title and other relevant factors.

"If you provide people with direct information on competence as well as on gender, then interaction style is not likely to be influenced by gender," she said.

Wood said differences in competence will override gender differences. If everyone is of the same sex, sex differences will come into play, she said.

She said initial differences in the behavior of men and women in newly formed groups have been observed in laboratory experiments.

Female groups show more positive interpersonal behavior than male groups and female members take the time to get to know each other.

"Women's behavior clearly facili-

tates performance of certain kinds of tasks, such as those involving negotiation and compromise," Wood said.

She said male groups don't bother to get to know each other. Though there is less clear evidence, indications are males may do better at tasks requiring a high level of task behavior, such as brainstorming, she said. And, she said, males are good at bouncing ideas off each other.

Wood said interaction between males and females does affect group productivity.

She said women in group situations tend to think they have to prove themselves to the group.

"One way of convincing other people of concern is to act friendly a lot, agree with other people a lot, and just engage in positive behavior in order to convince others of concern for the group," Wood said. "Then people will listen to you."

Men in groups make more suggestions and freely give their opinions, she said. She said group members who are perceived as competent can solicit opinions and other group members will pay more attention to them. Gender will not be a perception factor when men and women are distributed equally in social roles, Wood said.

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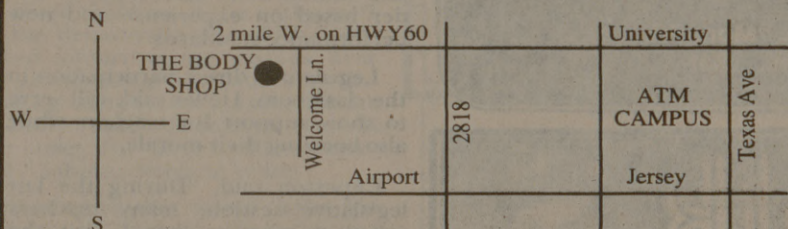


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