

Experts say area water may be unfit in 15 years

By **DANNY MYERS**
Reporter

College Station might need a new source of drinking water by the year 2000 because water from its 3,000-foot well might become too salty to drink, says College Station Mayor Gary Halter.

Salts sometimes dissolve and pollute wells, making the water unfit to drink, he says.

He says the city is studying several alternatives to using well water.

"Desalination of the Brazos (River) has been proposed, but the cost would be \$30 to \$40 million," Halter says. "The only money for this would come from the cities that could use the water."

But, he says, salinity levels in the Brazos River fluctuate.

One proposal is to dam the Brazos when salt levels are low and create lakes, he says.

The water would be treated there, then pumped to College Station, he says.

Another proposal is to get water from the Navasota River, which has better quality water than the Brazos, Halter says.

"This would be very costly — too costly for College Station, Bryan and Texas A&M," he says. "The only way this could be done is to get the city of Houston involved."

College Station City Manager William King Cole says using water from the Navasota would mean building a dam and digging miles of aqueducts.

Charles Otto, an assistant water treatment attendant at the city's treatment center, says the city's water is 120 degrees when pumped to the surface, then pumped into a large cooling tower that works like a giant radiator.

The water is mixed with chlorine in the cooling tower to kill bacteria, and then is transferred into a 3-million-gallon ground storage tank where it is kept until pumped to the

residents of College Station, he says.

Lloyd Deuel, president of Deuel and Zahray Laboratories, says the water already contains an abundance of sodium and recommends that people with dietary restrictions drink bottled water.

Deuel says sodium can cause high blood pressure and can make the body retain fluids, causing weight gain.

Too much sodium is as harmful to plants as it is to people and continuous watering with College Station tap water could kill plants, Deuel says.

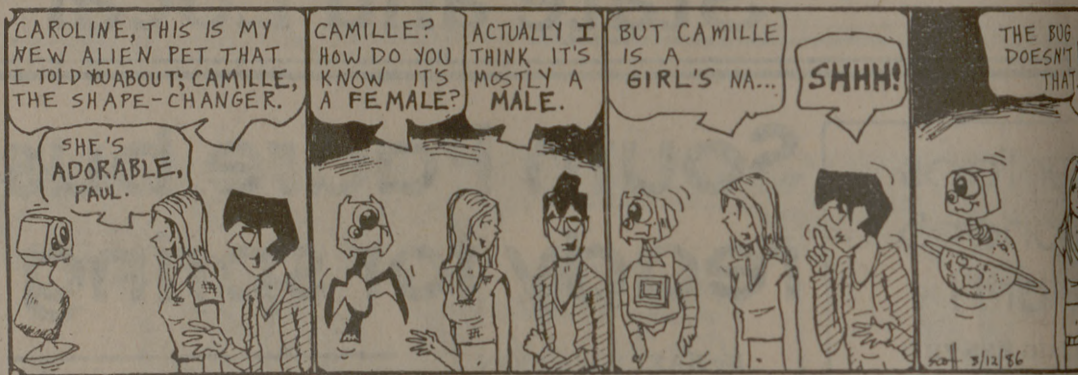
The best way to handle that is to use more rain water and use less city water on plants, Deuel says.

He suggests adding gypsum to plants. This adds calcium, which competes with the sodium and prevents sodium buildup, he says.

Gypsum is available at most greenhouses that sell fertilizers, he says.

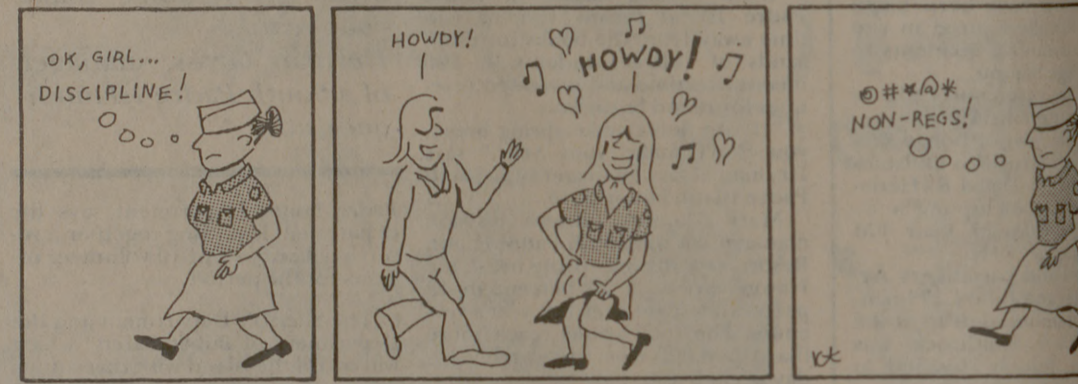
Warped

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Rhino sex life study grant may be blocked

HOUSTON — U.S. Rep. Jack Fields says he's trying to block a request by the Houston Zoo for a \$25,000 federal grant to study the mating habits of Samburu and Marasabit, two rare white rhinoceroses.

"At a time when our country is facing massive federal deficits, even a \$25,000 grant to study the mating habits of the Houston Zoo's white rhinoceroses is an affront to every taxpayer in this country," Fields, R-Texas, said.

Zoo Director John Werler said he was unaware of Fields' opposition to the grant application, but that he thinks the congressman may be missing the point.

Zoo officials want the federal money to help defray the costs of a \$57,600 study to find out why the rhinos have failed to produce offspring.

The study, approved last week by the Houston City Council, would examine the rhinos' reproductive sys-

tems and look for ways to artificially inseminate the beasts.

Zoo officials said the goal of the project is conservation and that information gained about the rhinos' reproductive habits could be applied to other endangered rhino species.

Fields said he has expressed his objections in a letter to Monica Harrison, acting director of the Institute of Museum Services, the federal agency that will decide whether to approve the grant.

White defends education policies from opposition attack

Associated Press

IRVING — Gov. Mark White and five challengers hoping to unseat him in this year's gubernatorial race agreed on many of the problems facing Texas — but few possible solutions — while stumping for support among newspaper executives Tuesday.

White used much of his time to defend the state's educational reform package, including the no pass, no play rule, and said that teachers who just completed the controversial competency test "will be admired as leaders."

Former Republican Gov. Bill Clements,

who White unseated in 1982, lauded his own administration and blasted the incumbent for tax hikes, college tuition increases and across-the-board budget cuts.

Don Crowder, a Democratic hopeful who earlier kicked off his campaign by calling White "a nerd," said a state lottery would ease the current fiscal crunch in Austin.

Kent Hance, a former Democratic congressman who jumped to the GOP to run for governor, called for a push for a diversified economy that would be less sensitive to the ups and downs of the oil and gas industry.

Tom Loeffler, a Republican congressman from Hunt, said he would bring Re-

ganomics "home to Texas" and also said his four terms in Congress would help him lobby for state interests in Washington.

Andrew Briscoe III, a Democratic candidate and second cousin to former Gov. Dolph Briscoe, pointing to his experience as a government employee and as a private businessman, pitched himself as "the most diversified candidate."

White and the five challengers appeared on a panel at the annual meeting of the Texas Daily Newspaper Association.

Each candidate was given 10 minutes to pitch his candidacy to the publishing executives.

"They all want my job and they want to water down our education bill," White said of his opponents.

The governor pledged that he would not back off any provision of the reform package, passed by a special session of the 1984 Legislature.

"We're not going to sit back idly and allow Texas to become a backwater state," he said.

White also was critical of his opponents' remarks about increased taxes and state fees.

"Where do they think the money for increased teacher salaries . . . comes from?" he said.

White said the state has an economy in the education issue and said it should no play perhaps should be called "no earn."

The incumbent said the rest of the United States "has admiration for Texas has done."

Clements, on the other hand, said his administration from 1978 to 1982 de-raised any state taxes or state fees, eliminated the state property tax, cut 3,700 state employees and left a budget surplus of \$1 billion.

Clements also predicted that an overhaul of the state's criminal justice system would be a key priority of the Legislature.

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