

## Loeffler campaigns at A&M, differs with White's policies

By Frank Smith  
Staff Writer

Tom Loeffler brought his gubernatorial campaign back to Texas A&M Thursday, saying his campaign has the grass-roots momentum necessary for him to win the May 3 Republican nomination.

The fourth-term U.S. congressman from Hunt spoke to an audience of about 125 at Rudder Fountain.

In his speech Loeffler echoed the themes he has emphasized throughout the campaign, including tough talk on prison reform and criticism of Gov. Mark White's "inflexibility" on House Bill 72, the governor's educational reform package.

"It's a sad day when the governor of Texas turns loose convicted criminals from our penitentiaries before they've served out their terms," Loeffler said.

He said the state's increased crime rate can fall squarely on the back of Mark White.

Although Loeffler said HB 72 has succeeded in starting to give the school day back to the process of learning, he assailed White's unwillingness to amend the law, particularly the no-pass, no-play provision.

"I believe in no pass, no play because I want a system, first, that puts discipline into that student to get into those books and to learn," Loeffler said. "I want a no-pass, no-play concept that also encourages our young students to move up the higher basic elective courses."

Mark White's inflexible position on the six weeks no-pass, no-play penalty box fails on the second.

Loeffler suggested a three-week penalty period as an alternative.

He said discipline needs to be returned to classrooms, teachers need to be relieved from an abundance of unnecessary paperwork, the governor needs more input from teachers and the teacher appraisal system needs improvement.

Loeffler also called the teacher competency test a total waste of

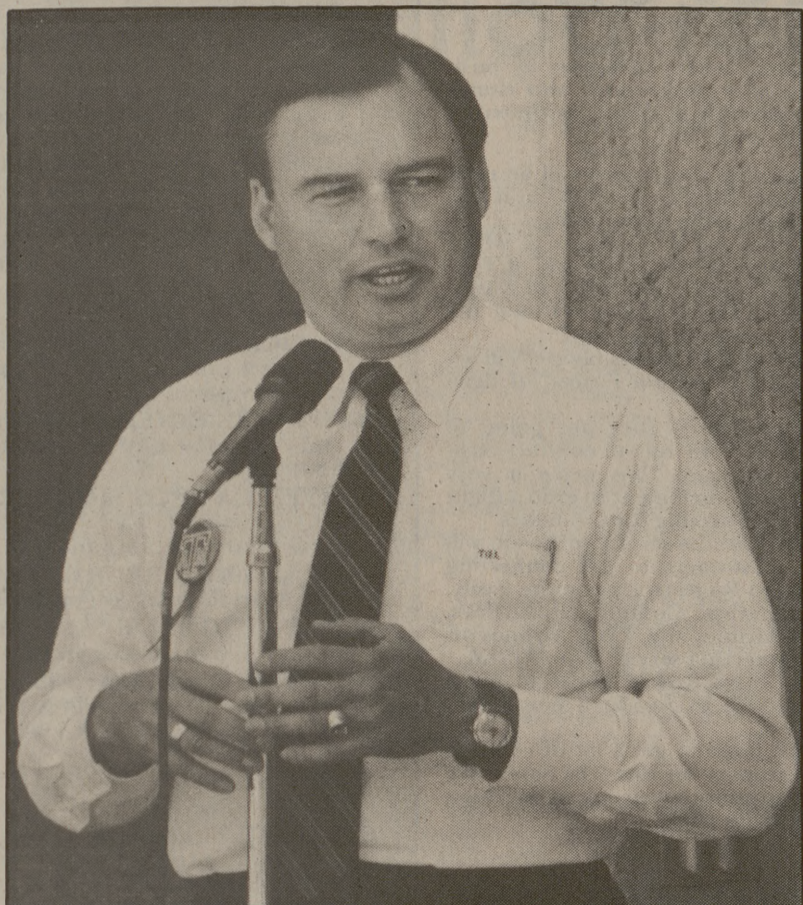


Photo by Greg Bailey

Republican gubernatorial candidate Tom Loeffler

teachers' time and taxpayers' money.

In addition, Loeffler said Texas needs to diversify its economic base.

He praised the work of A&M's Texas Agricultural Extension Service with farm interests and said all universities must likewise reach out to the business sector by sharing technology and research.

Loeffler also said he had a better chance than his Republican opponents, Bill Clements and Kent Hance, of defeating Democrat White.

"It's a fact that Bill Clements lost and lost big to Mark White when he was governor," Loeffler said. "And it's fair to ask the ques-

tion, 'If he lost when he was governor, can he win as a challenger?'"

Similarly, Loeffler questioned Hance's electability in light of his loss to Lloyd Doggett in the 1984 Democratic primary for senator.

Following his speech, Loeffler said his grass-roots support effort throughout the state is moving rapidly and, despite predictions of low voter turnout for the primaries, he said he was confident of his chances.

He also praised President Reagan's call to repeal the windfall profits tax.

"The sooner we can do that, the better," Loeffler said.

## CS finance department unveils budget proposal

By Craig Renfro  
Staff Writer

The College Station finance department presented the city's proposed \$62 million operating budget for fiscal 1986-87 at the City Council meeting Thursday night.

About \$44 million of the budget revenues will be derived from the city's utility fund. The city's general fund will contribute an additional \$13 million to the budget.

The rest of the budget will be derived from the hotel-motel tax fund, the debt service fund and the sanitation fund.

City manager William Cole said this year's proposed budget represents a \$1.38 million dollar increase over last year's budget. The main reason for the increase is rising utility costs, he said.

Assistant city manager Van Van-Dever said each city department has made its individual budget as streamlined as possible. The proposed budget will not allow for the addition of new programs, or additional personnel, he said.

"Each department is going to have to tighten their belts a little," Van-Dever said.

Cole said this year's budget is a reflection of the economic conditions in the city.

"This has been a particularly difficult year in Brazos County," Cole said. "This budget is an attempt to reflect the conditions in the county."

Cole said the city expects to receive \$100,000 from the federal government's revenue sharing fund. This represents a \$550,000 decrease from last year, he said.

The city's general fund will make up for the decrease, Cole said.

A public hearing will be held May 8 to consider how the city should divide the money in the revenue sharing fund. The budget is scheduled for final approval June 6.

In other action the council approved a resolution that will allow the city to obtain reimbursement from the State Highway Department for issuing littering citations.

City attorney Cathy Locke said under this incentive program the city will receive \$20 for every citation issued. The purpose of the program is to promote public awareness of stricter litter law enforcement, she said.

Under the program the city stands to make \$25,000, she said.

## Mexicans 'vital' in development of Texas

By Bridget Brennan  
Reporter

Mexican-Americans have played an active yet unacknowledged role in the settlement of Texas, Dr. Joe Graham of Texas A&M's Department of English said Wednesday in a panel discussion on the role of the Mexican-American in Texas history.

The discussion, sponsored by the Memorial Student Center Committee for the Awareness of Mexican-American Culture, featured guests from five academic departments at A&M. They were Graham, Dr. Robert Calvert of the Department of History, Dr. Victor Arizpe of the Department of Modern Languages, Dr. David Hinojosa of the Department of Educational Administration and Dr. Norma Williams of the Department of Sociology.

Graham, who spoke on Mexican-American folklore, said, "Much of our built environment has the stamp of brown hands all over it, if not even their very fingertips."

"It was Mexican hands who built the ranching industry in Texas. They also built the railroads in the Southwest. They provided the most important element — the hands — even though they had no money."

The most profound evidence of

*"We're (the United States) a salad bowl — we're not a melting pot at all."*

*— Dr. Robert Calvert of the Texas A&M Department of History.*

Mexican-American culture is found in the language, he said.

"It'd be difficult to even talk to each other about the way things are in Texas without using Spanish words," he said.

Calvert said Mexican-Americans are affecting the current political realignment.

"This is the first time in my lifetime, or at least in the last 15 years, that the Republicans have had an interest in the Mexican-American," he said.

He said Mexican-Americans demanded their political rights when they came back from serving in World War II.

"They had the highest percentage of medals of honor, saw a high percentage of combat, and when they came back to this country, their re-

sponse was, 'We're not going to take it anymore,'" he said.

Arizpe said he had a fresh perspective on the Mexican-American in Texas after living outside the state for 12 years.

"We are trying to justify and find our own place in the history of a land which was once the homeland of our forefathers," he said.

Arizpe said that politicians use whatever term for Mexican-Americans they think will get them the most votes.

"We are used and abused for different goals," he said. "Universities lump us under the improper heading of Hispanics."

Arizpe said although he feels Texas is very fortunate to have such cultural diversity, many people don't like it. People have a tendency to criticize anything Mexican-American, he said.

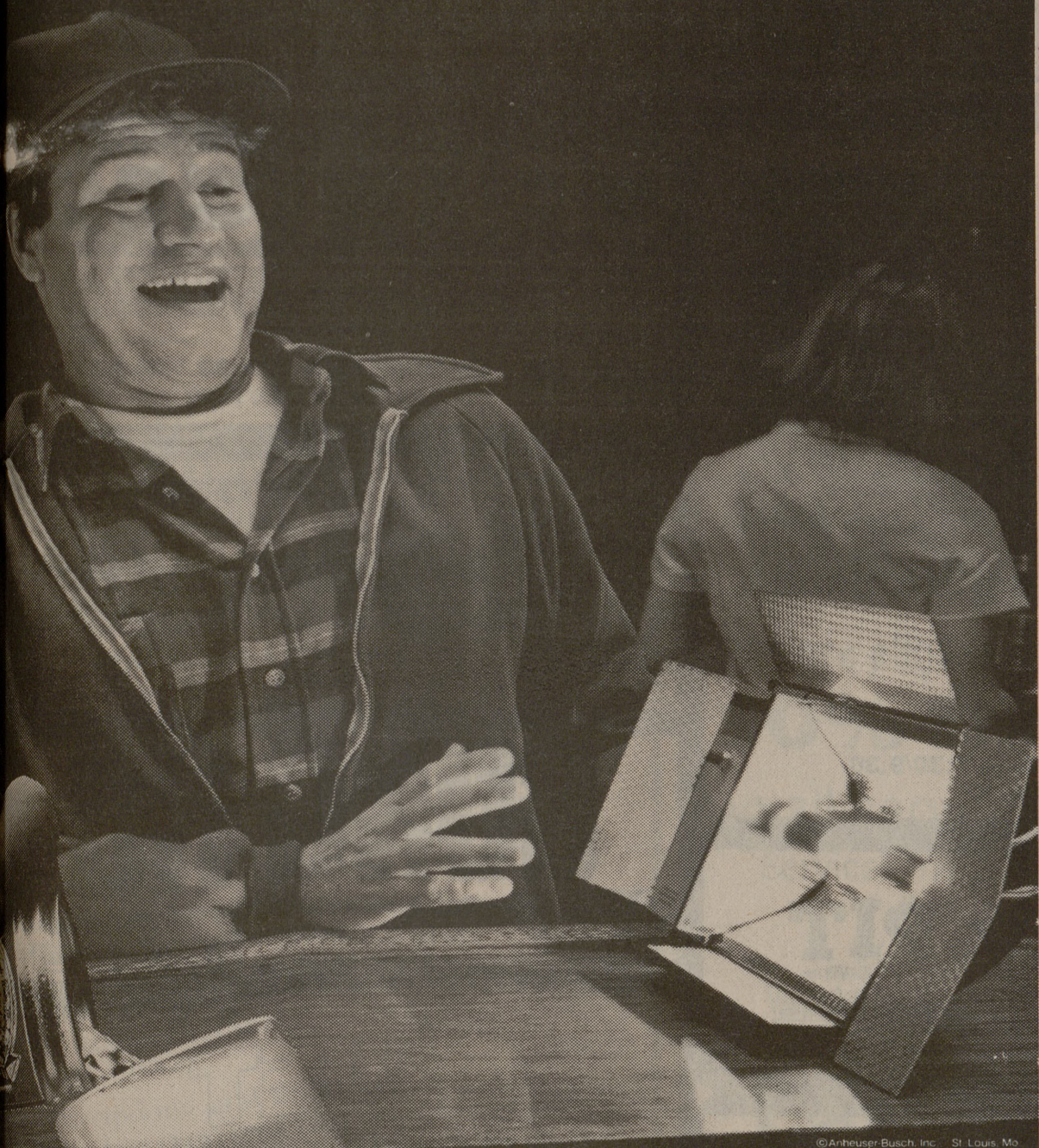
"The melting pot idea is no longer valid," he said.

Calvert said, "We're a salad bowl — we're not a melting pot at all."

But Hinojosa said times are much better than they used to be for Mexican-Americans in Texas.

"I believe in the Texas dream — where people have the opportunity to become upwardly mobile, to be in the mainstream," he said.

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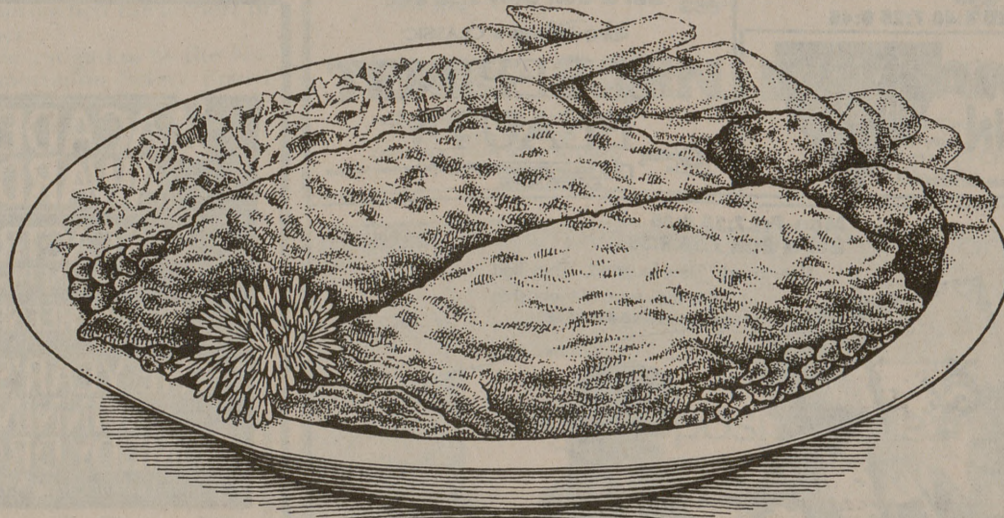


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