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Sheriff debate turns out to be one-sided talk

By Kimberly Motley
Reporter

A debate scheduled for candidates for Brazos Valley Sheriff Tuesday turned out to be more of a one-sided discussion by Sergeant Choya Walling.

Incumbent Sheriff Ron Miller was not present because of a misunderstanding, said Deputy Sheriff John LeFlore, who represented him at the debate.

Walling, an A&M graduate, discussed topics from drugs to computer technology, with little comment from LeFlore.

This is the first time two Republicans have ever run for sheriff, so it is the first time a debate for the position was held in this county, said mediator Jim Kuboviak, county attorney and A&M professor of political science.

Walling said the most important problem in Texas right now is drug abuse. It is a statewide problem that affects housing conditions in jails.

"The Texas Department of Corrections is supposed to be like a water purification plant," Walling said. "You run dirty water through it, clean it and flush out pure water. But when you start putting through more than the system can handle, the plant flushes out dirty water."

The TDC is not adequately helping criminals with drug and alcohol problems, Walling said, so they go back on the streets to commit more crimes and end up back at the county jail.

Education is vital to helping this problem, he said.

"I want to bring all drug abuse agencies together in the area schools so all the schools are doing the same thing," he said. "This way, if students transfer, they'll still be exposed to the same program."

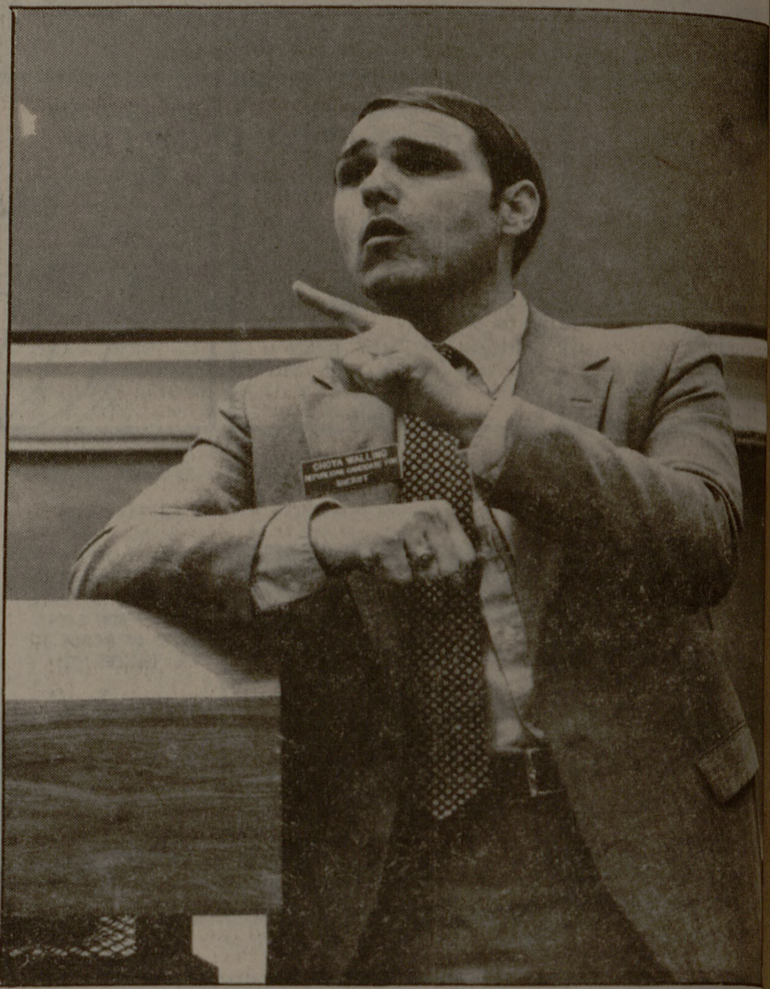


Photo by Fredrick D. ...
Sergeant Choya Walling, Class of '74, speaks at a debate Tuesday in Harrington Education Bldg. The other Republican Sheriff candidate, incumbent Ron Miller, did not show up.

LeFlore, Miller's representative, said the drug problem is 99 percent peer pressure.

"All crimes stem from drug or alcohol abuse and I would like to see stiffer penalties," LeFlore said.

But Walling said stiffer penalties are not the solution.

Walling also said if elected as sheriff, he would like to establish a hiring

process for police officers that more involved than just sending someone to an academy and hiring him on that basis.

He said he would like to run the sheriff's department like a business and require mandatory training programs for employees.

LeFlore also said training programs are important.

Shootout in car lot leaves one man dead, two injured

HALTOM CITY (AP)—A father and son remained hospitalized Tuesday with injuries suffered in a shootout with a man who returned to their car lot shortly after they fired him, authorities said.

The former employee was killed in the gunfire Monday, said Haltom City police, who declined Tuesday to release the dead man's identity.

Tarrant County medical investigator J.L. Kirkpatrick said the man died of a gunshot wound to the chest.

Aubrey Stamps, 57, a former Haltom City councilman and owner of

the used car lot, was in good condition Tuesday at Harris Hospital in Fort Worth. His son, Tommy Stamps, 30, was in critical condition at the same hospital, officials said.

Haltom City Police Lt. R.W. McQueary said the fired employee returned to the garage and first got into an argument with another worker.

The men then went into the main office, where Stamps and his son confronted the former employee, who was armed with a pistol.

Several shots were exchanged, witnesses told police. When the shooting stopped, the former employee managed to get into his car and pull into the street, where the vehicle jumped a curb, rammed into cars in an automobile repair shop parking lot and knocked over a natural gas meter.

Police found two revolvers at the scene, but said late Monday they have not determined who owned the weapons or how many shots were fired. They would not release other details Tuesday.

U.S. study shows rising poverty rate among Hispanics

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Poor Hispanics are becoming poorer and the Reagan administration's federal budget cuts in the early 1980s continue to hurt many of them, researchers said Tuesday.

A study, which compiled published and unpublished U.S. Census Bureau data on Hispanics, indicated that the poverty rate among Hispanics rose from 21.8 percent in 1979 to 27.3 percent in 1986.

It also showed that in 1979, anti-poverty government programs helped lift 35.4 percent of poor Hispanics out of poverty, but the figure dropped to 20.1 in 1986.

Among Hispanic children, the poverty rate increased steadily since 1978, hitting an all-time high of 39.9 percent in 1985, the study said.

Dubbed "Falling Through the Safety Net," the study was compiled jointly by San Antonio's Southwest Voter Research Institute and the Washington-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Dr. Robert Brischetto, executive director of the voter research insti-

tute, said there are 18.8 million Hispanics in the United States and that in 1985, 5.2 million of them lived below the poverty line of \$11,203.

Brischetto said the current federal budget needs to be balanced, but that the poor also need attention.

Government "benefits have not been increasing to keep up with inflation and as a result we are finding an increasing social problem and unless we deal with it we are going to need more drastic measures," he said.

The study also indicated that the poverty rate among Hispanics in 1986 was slightly less than the rate among blacks and one-half times the proportion of poor whites.

Willie Velasquez, president of the voter research institute, said the study was conducted so that voters would be informed to pose tougher questions to presidential candidates.

All Democratic presidential hopefuls have asked for the study. Vice President George Bush was the only Republican who requested the report.

Grand jury subpoenas deputies

TYLER (AP) — A grand jury scheduled to consider whether murder charges should be filed in the death of an East Texas jail inmate, subpoenaed two sheriff's deputies already indicted on civil rights charges in the case.

A Sabine County grand jury on Jan. 4 indicted three white officers for allegedly violating the civil rights of Loyal Garner Jr., a black Louisiana truck driver who was arrested Christmas Day on traffic violation, taken to the county jail in Hemphill and died two days later.

After being jailed, Garner suffered head injuries and was transferred unconscious to the Sabine County Memorial Hospital.

He was later taken to the Tyler Medical Center in Smith County where he died.

Two friends arrested with Garner, Johnnie and Alton Marie claim Garner received a fatal house beating. The indicted officers have repeatedly refused comment.

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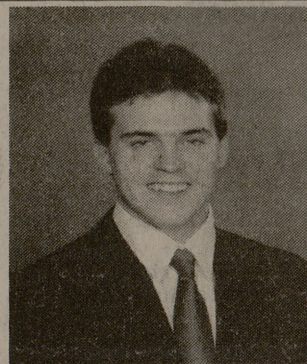


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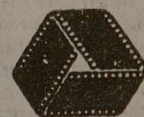
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