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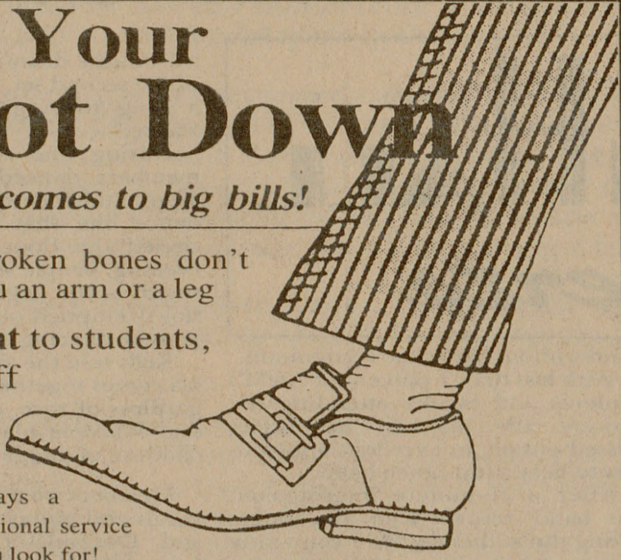
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**Texas justice
has conference
about politics**

By Stephanie Richard
Reporter

Texas Supreme Court Justice Barbara Culver held a news conference for A&M students Saturday in Rudder Tower.

She discussed her experience, her position in politics and what it means to be a woman Republican.

Culver, who occupies Place 4 on the Court, studied journalism at Texas Tech University and received her law degree from Southern Methodist University.

She has 25 years experience as a judge and was appointed to the Texas Supreme Court in January by Gov. Bill Clements.

If she is re-elected Nov. 8, she will be the first woman in Texas history to be elected to the Court.

She said her career as a judge began in 1962 when she was elected in Midland County.

She was re-elected in 1966 and has not had an opponent until now.

She said her 15 years of trial court experience will benefit her in the upcoming election.

"We need to credit the people who have paid their dues," Culver said.

Democrat Jack Hightower is Culver's opponent in the race.

Culver said she is the only qualified candidate because her opponent has no judicial experience. "He has never been a judge," she said.

Campaign issues center around political contributions.

"I have limited my campaign contributions to \$5,000 from any individual or political action committee," Culver said. "I'm making a statement. I'm not for sale; my vote cannot be bought. I am one who can be fair and impartial in a case that comes before me."

Elizabeth Ferrell, chairman of Aggies for Culver, said Culver has distinctive views on the law.

"She calls herself a pragmatist in interpreting the constitution," Fer-

"I have been a conservative Republican and am proud of it. I have no intention of changing my political philosophy. I have been a product of this partisan election system since 1962; it would be rude to kick the system that brought me here."

—Iver, Texas state Supreme Court Justice

rell said. "She doesn't believe in making the laws."

Culver said, "Legislators are supposed to write statutes and enact laws. The role of the Court is to interpret and apply those laws to the facts at hand."

Culver considers herself a strict constructionist.

"I have been a conservative Republican and am proud of it," she said. "I have no intention of changing my political philosophy. I have been a product of this partisan election system since 1962; it would be rude to kick the system that brought me here."

Culver said she is for partisan elections.

"I hope we can stimulate you to think of ways to improve the judicial system," she said. "Until a better system comes along, I'm still standing for elections. I'd rather campaign the voters instead of the committees."

Culver replaced Justice Robert Campbell on the Court in January.

At this time, there is not another woman on the state-wide ballot. "This is an important challenge," Culver said.

What's Up

Monday

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL: will meet at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder.
MSC SCONA: will have a committee meeting with Dr. Harold Hawkins addressing "The Japanese Educational System" at 7 p.m. in 501 Rudder.
EAGLE PASS HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet new members and take group pictures at 6:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Academic Building.
TAMU SNOW SKIING CLUB will meet to discuss the Christmas ski trip at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder.
STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: Jr. Fulbright grant applications are due by 5 p.m. in 161 Blizell West.
MINORITY ASSOCIATION OF PRE HEALTH AGGIES: Demetrius Pearson of UTMSC in Houston will speak at 7 p.m. in 302 Rudder.

Tuesday

NATIONAL ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING HONOR SOCIETY: Mark Stein, project engineer at A&M, will discuss opportunities for electrical engineers in the industry at 7 p.m. in 104B Zachry. Yearbook pictures will be taken at 8:30 p.m. in the MSC Flagroom.
PRE-MBA ASSOCIATION: Director of A&M Graduate Business Programs will speak at 6:30 p.m. in 156 Blocker.
NATIONAL IEEE/ACM: Contemporary Computing Issues: there will be a satellite conference with several sessions offered between 10:15 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder. Topics include VLSI, SW Engineering, Office Automation and Machine Intelligence.
DEBATE SOCIETY: will present a parliamentary debate "Should The Last Temptation of Christ" be shown on the A&M campus?" at 7 p.m. in 206 MSC.
PRE-MED/PRE-DENT SOCIETY: Dr. Gonzalez-Lima will speak about research in the biomedical sciences at 8 p.m. in 200 Harrington, and the club will elect a freshman reporter.
DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT SOCIETY: Penzoll will offer information on data processing at 7 p.m. at the University Inn penthouse suite.
THE PLACEMENT CENTER: will have a workshop on what to do with a degree in Liberal Arts from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. in 302 Rudder.
SPEECH COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION: Jo Hudson will speak at the meeting at 7 p.m. in 158 Blocker.
TAMU SAILING CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 206 Military Sciences. Have orders for gear ready.
MSC ALL NIGHT FAIR GENERAL COMMITTEE: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 402 Rudder.
DEER PARK HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 8:52 p.m. in 404 Rudder.
TAMU SCUBA CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.
AUSTIN HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 10 p.m. at Rudder Fountain for Silver Taps.
OFF CAMPUS AGGIES/HAUNTED HOUSE COMMITTEE: will meet at 9 p.m. in 607 Rudder. Any off-campus students interested in helping with the haunted house should attend.
SADDLE AND SIRLOIN CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION: will meet at Carnaby's at 7 p.m. on 3610 S. College, by the Chicken Oil Company.
OFF CAMPUS AGGIES: will meet for Silver Taps at 10 p.m. at Rudder Fountain.
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTION: will meet at 6 p.m. in 305 Fernier to discuss high school recruiting.
STUDENT Y ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 230 MSC.
SPANISH CLUB: will have a taco party at 7 p.m. Call Susie at 696-1773 for directions.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

**Rascal 'Spanky' contemplates future
as spokesman for Justin Boots, Co.**

MIDLAND (AP) — Texan George McFarland has grown up in the motion picture business, again and again.

During a career that began in 1931 and spanned his third through 16th birthdays, he and his gang of friends were some of the best-known and loved childhood characters captured on film.

Known to millions of Americans as "Spanky," McFarland was a long-time little rascal and "Our Gang" member. Now, at age 60, he has begun a new career as the national spokesman for the Justin Boot Co., and the company's Justin Juniors, a line of roper-style boots made especially for children. He recently was in Midland talking about his previous and current careers.

"I was probably 5 or 6 years old before I understood and realized that all kids weren't in movies," McFarland said. "This was my life — get up in the morning, go to the studio and during the day get somewhere in the neighborhood of three hours of schooling — not necessarily at the same time — take an hour for lunch and that leaves five hours of shooting for film."

The studio provided the "Little Rascals" with a private tutor.

"When we were shooting film, we

"Some days you feel like it, and some days you don't, but you go anyway."

— George McFarland, discussing Spanky on the Little Rascals

went to school on the set, and when we weren't shooting film, we had a little room on the studio lot that was our school," he said.

Working on "Little Rascals" was no different than any other job, McFarland said.

"Some days you feel like it, and some days you don't, but you go anyway."

When he went home on weekends, he played with his neighborhood kids, whom, he realized as he grew older, were envious of the fact that he was only in class three hours daily. By state law, children could not be on the set for more than nine hours a day.

But, until he was about 6, he thought the dads of his neighborhood's kids took them to a studio on Monday morning. The reason he didn't see them was quite simple.

"They just worked at a different studio," he said.

He's often asked, "Didn't you miss

your childhood?" His reply is — "No. I had a different childhood, but it was my childhood, and I didn't miss it."

In addition to "Our Gang," McFarland also made 14 feature length movies, including "Trail of the Lonesome Pine," with Henry Fonda and Fred MacMurray, "Woman in the Window," with Edward G. Robinson, and also worked with Jackie Cooper and Wallace Beery.

He recalls a newcomer who was introduced on the set one day.

"We were the stars in that day," McFarland said. "I remember how high he talked — slow and unusual. His hair was fiery red back then, and he laughed a lot."

The newcomer was Red Skelton. McFarland remembers the real life "Little Rascals" getting along with each other for the most part.

"We went to school together and we were friends, but we didn't socialize that much on weekends. We

worked together all week. Come Friday day enough is enough," he said.

He's kept up with what's happened to such "Our Gang" contract players as Alfalfa, Buckwheat, Darla Hood, Joe Cobb and Porky.

Carl Switzer, who played Alfalfa was killed in 1959 in an argument with his partner.

"He pulled a knife, and his partner shot him," McFarland says. "I was really surprised. He was a really mischievous kid, and his parents didn't hold a very tight leash on him, and he wasn't blessed with a clear definition of right and wrong. When it happened, although I was disappointed to hear the news, of course I was sorry — we're all diminished by the loss of one of us — but it just didn't surprise me that much."

Darla Hood, one of the few exceptions where the character used his own name, died of a heart attack in 1979 and William Thomas, who played Buckwheat, died of a heart attack in 1980.

Still living are Joe Cobb, who played Porky, and Darla, used his own name, and Gordon Lee, who played Porky. Cobb is in poor health in a California nursing home and Lee is in Boulder, Colo., McFarland says. He said "Pete the pup died a long time ago."

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