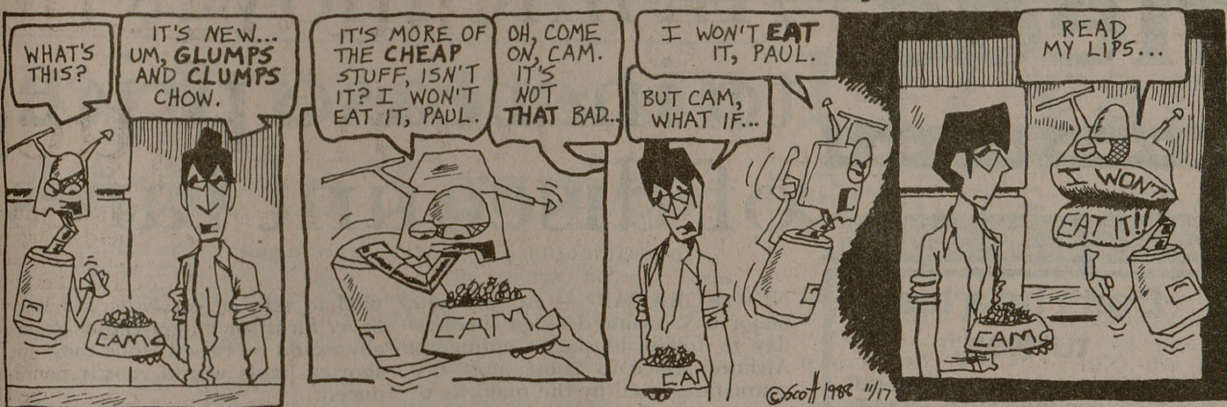


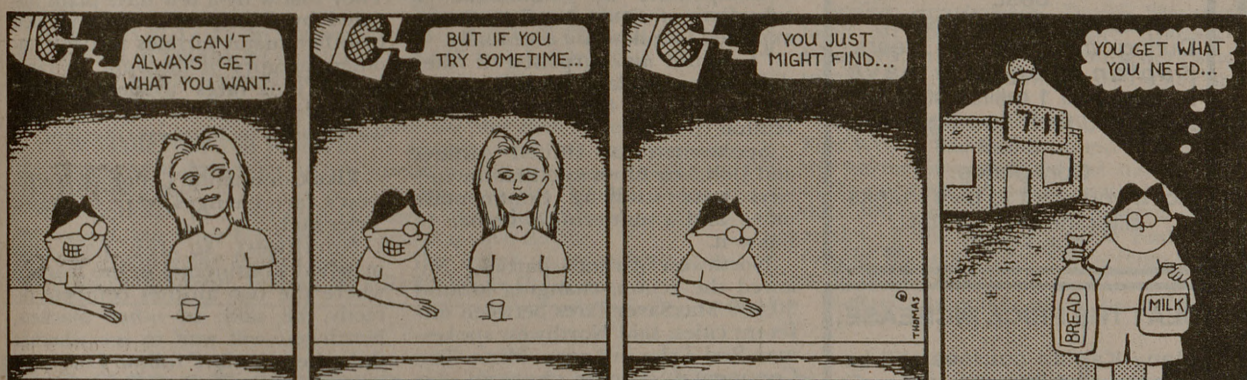
Warped

by Scott McCullar



Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Experts: Texas outranks other states for emissions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas outranks all other states in carbon emissions from fossil fuels linked to a global warming trend that may render vast ranching areas into desert and disrupt timbering and aquaculture, officials said Wednesday.

A study by Renew America, a Washington-based conservation group, said Texas in 1986 released 155 million metric tons in carbon emissions from fossil fuels, almost double the second-ranking state, California, which spewed 85.23 million metric tons into the air. Each metric ton equals about 2,205 pounds.

Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower, a member of the Renew America board of directors, said Texans' penchant for the pickup truck and lack of mass trans-

portation in urban areas, the oil industry, coastal area refineries, and chemical and plastics plants all contribute to the emissions level.

Of all the gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect, carbon dioxide is the largest single element at about half, Renew America said.

"Substantially cutting carbon dioxide emissions is a crucial, and achievable, approach to the goal of stabilizing the atmospheric chemistry," the report said. "At the same time, reducing fossil fuel consumption can help ease the problems of acid rain and ground-level ozone pollution."

The report recommended improvements in energy efficiency, a switch from oil and coal to natural gas in generating electricity, and the

transition to an energy system based on solar and other renewable, non-fossil energy resources.

Hightower said the global warming could have staggering implications on Texas farmers, who may be robbed of vital rainfall coupled with higher evaporation. The Piney Woods of East Texas and the timbering industry, as well as the aquaculture industries along the Gulf Coast — such as tourism and fishing, also could be hurt if global warming is not stabilized.

The Chihuahuan Desert of Mexico is already moving deeper into Texas, Hightower said, a direct result of global warming.

Hightower said his office is examining the trend's effects on the state, and said the research indicates the most serious implications are its impact on water resources.

"Water is the most severely limiting factor on agricultural production," Hightower said. "The climate models we are studying indicate that, while much of the Northern Hemisphere may receive more rainfall, we are likely to get less rain in West Texas and Northern Mexico."

Even if rainfall remains stable, warmer temperatures will mean more evaporates and less finds its way into ground and surface water supplies, Hightower said.

"Less rain and more evaporation means the farmers with wells have to pump more, accelerating the exhaustion of aquifers, including the Ogallala which irrigates much of the Midwest in addition to the Texas High Plains," Hightower said. "One model we're looking at predicts a 25 percent increase in the demand for irrigation water."

More than 40 percent of the state's crops are already irrigated, Hightower said.

Agriculture is the state's second largest industry, and Hightower said his agency is turning its emphasis toward "sustainable agricultural practices that reduce the energy intensity of agriculture and reduce the use of chemical fertilizers that add to the buildup of greenhouse gases."

Also being touted are sound water and soil conservation, development of organic food production, and localized food delivery systems that reduce transportation costs and fuel combustion.

Hightower uncertain he'll challenge Gramm

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower said Wednesday he would decide around the first of the year whether to challenge Republican Sen. Phil Gramm's expected reelection bid in 1990.

Hightower said he had raised no money for the campaign, but had been talking recently with Democratic fund-raisers and politicians throughout the country about the possibility of running and raising money for the campaign.

"If I'm going anywhere, that's where I'm headed," Hightower said.

Hightower was in Washington attending the release of a study on global warming by Renew America, a Washington-based conservation group.

Hightower, a Democrat, said he would like to raise \$8 million to \$10 million for the campaign against Gramm.

Gramm will be seeking his second term in the Senate. Gramm spent about \$10 million

on his first Senate race in 1984 against Democrat Lloyd Doggett, whom he beat 58.6 percent to 41.4 percent.

Hightower said Doggett raised \$6 million and that he has a much bigger fund-raising capacity than Doggett.

Hightower said he has a lot of support in Congress and is encouraged by what exit polls revealed in presidential election.

"All populist issues played very strongly," Hightower said, and stand for the kinds of issues that he campaigns on.

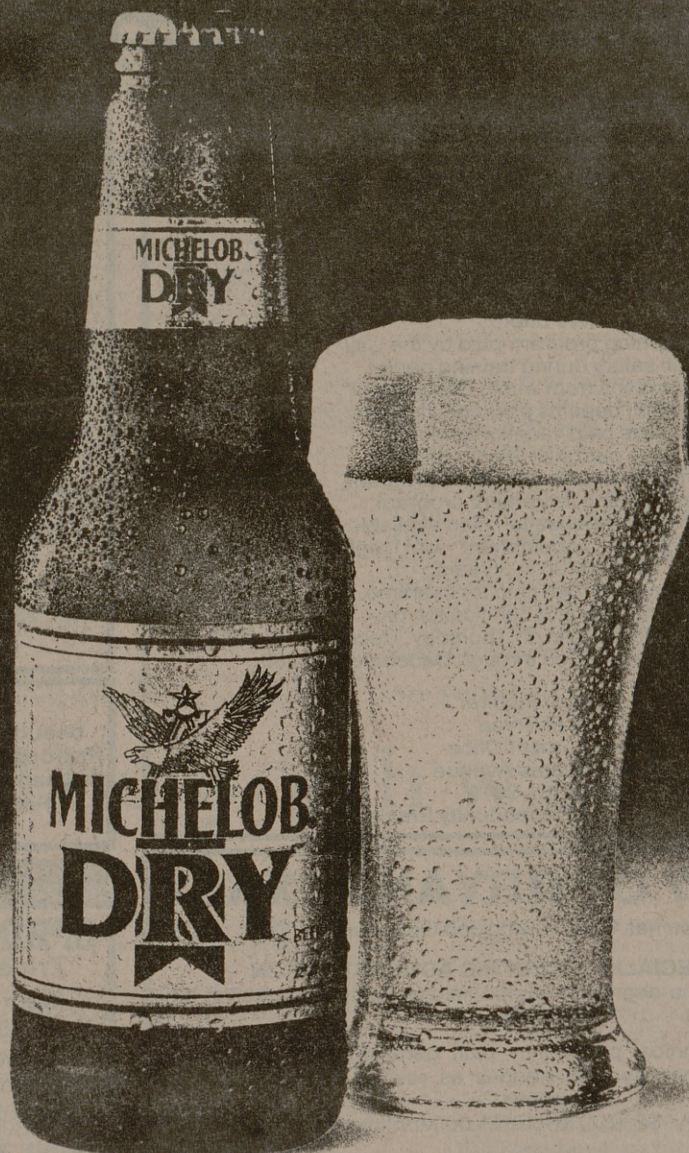
Hightower was first elected agriculture commissioner in 1982 and was re-elected in 1986.

Gramm, prior to being elected to the Senate, served three terms in the House.

Gramm won his first seat in Congress as a Democrat from College Station in 1978. Gramm resigned after winning re-election in 1982 and was re-elected a Republican in early 1983, in a special election.

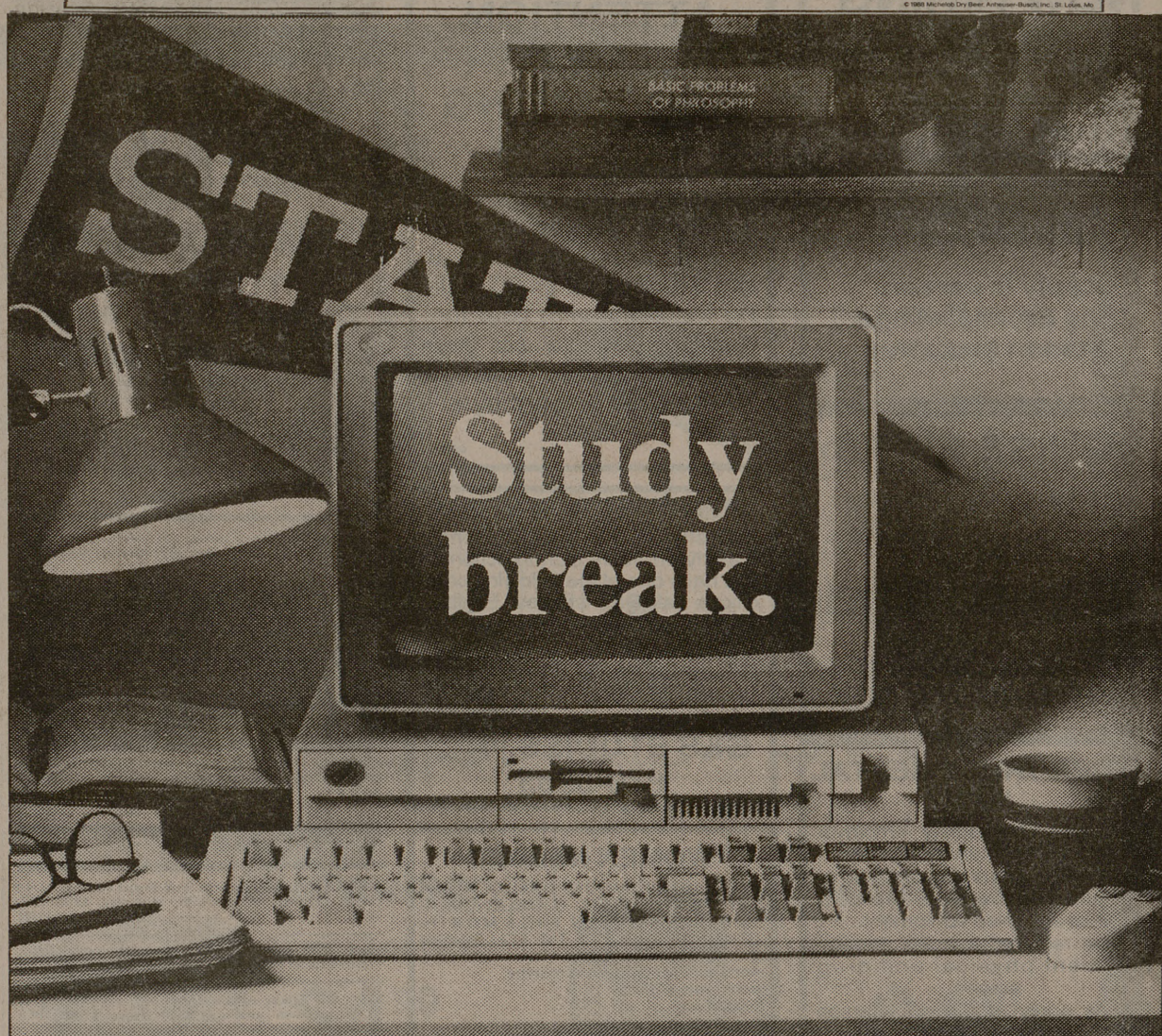
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