



The heroes return

The 1939 championship Texas A&M football team walks on to Kyle Field before the A&M-University of Houston game Satur-

to be introduced to the crowd. This year marks the 50th anniversary of their national title.

Photo by Jay Janner

Commission investigates charges of misconduct for judge's remarks

DALLAS (AP) — A public hearing begins Monday into misconduct charges against state District Judge Jack Hampton, who made derogatory remarks about homosexuals to a newspaper reporter after a murder trial.

Numerous protesters are expected when the State Commission on Judicial Conduct hearing begins at the Dallas County Courthouse.

The commission charges followed Hampton's remarks published Dec.

16 in an interview with a Dallas Times Herald reporter.

Hampton told the reporter that he gave 18-year-old Richard Bednarski a light sentence in part because his two victims were "queers."

"These two guys that got killed wouldn't have been killed if they hadn't been cruising the streets, picking up teen-age boys," Hampton said, two weeks after sentencing Bednarski to 30 years in prison.

"I don't much care for queers cruising the streets for teen-age boys," he said.

The Republican judge said John Lloyd Griffin and Tommy Lee Trimble were "asking for trouble" by soliciting sex.

During the 1988 trial, Bednarski testified that the victims were trying to pick up men to satisfy their sexual

urges.

Hampton later apologized for a "poor choice of words" and insisted that he believed the interview was off the record.

He has refused to talk to reporters since then.

The Texas Human Rights Foundation and the Dallas Gay Alliance, which has distributed brochures announcing the hearing, are expected to rally outside the courthouse.

"Judge Hampton has said that no one would remember this by 1990," Gay Alliance president William Waybourn said. "Our goal has been that nobody forget it."

Critics flooded the judicial commission with letters of protest demanding Hampton's removal from the bench.

A May 31 letter from the commission announced Hampton was

charged with violating conduct canons barring judges from commenting on pending cases.

Bednarski's attorney had filed a motion for a new trial at the time the statements were published.

Hampton is also accused of damaging public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

Retired appeals court Judge Robert R. Murray of San Antonio will preside over the hearing.

Murray will make no recommendation, but will submit a statement of facts determined at the hearing.

He said the report likely would take about a week to compile.

The commission could dismiss the allegations, censure Hampton or urge his removal from office by a seven-judge tribunal.

Proposition 3 calls for bonds to aid farmers

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas voters on Nov. 7 will be asked to consider \$75 million in state-backed bonds for loans to agricultural ventures, new products and small businesses passed over by private lenders.

The Texas Department of Agriculture estimates the bonds could create 15,000 new jobs in the food and fiber industries and promote \$500 million in annual sales.

But, opponents say the bonds would increase state debt to subsidize private enterprise. And they say the Legislature should not be asking voters to reconsider an idea they rejected two years ago.

Brian Mueller, the Agriculture Department's economic development coordinator, said the proposal has been scaled down from the \$125 million sought in 1987.

"It will not cost Texas taxpayers anything. It will only generate revenue," Mueller said.

Proposition 3 on the ballot — one of 21 proposed constitutional amendments — also is backed by the Texas Department of Commerce. It calls for:

- \$25 million for agriculture-related enterprises.
- \$25 million for new product development.
- \$20 million for fledgling businesses.
- \$5 million for a loan program aimed at revitalizing rural areas and small towns.

Gubernatorial candidates agree education tops campaign issues

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Five gubernatorial candidates speaking to Texas broadcasters Sunday stressed education as a top issue.

Democrats, Attorney General Jim Mattox and state treasurer Ann Richards, and Republicans, Railroad Commissioner Kent Hance, Dallas lawyer Tom Luce and former secretary of state Jack Rains, spoke to approximately 250 people at a Texas Association of Broadcasters luncheon. Republican businessman Clayton Williams was the only declared candidate absent.

Education — particularly the state's school finance system — was a prevailing topic during 10-minute speeches by the candidates, who also talked about economic development and drug battles.

The Texas Supreme Court has given legislators until May 1990 to reach a solution for improving funding disparities between rich and poor school districts.

Hance said the state must work toward "quality education" and concentrate on reading and math in early grades. Schools should host academic banquets in addition to sports banquets, he said.

A former congressman and state senator, Hance also spoke out against a state income tax and said as governor he would spend time each

week trying to recruit businesses to Texas.

Luce said the state hasn't followed up on education reforms started in 1984 with passage of House Bill 72.

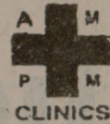
"The Texas Supreme Court has given us a golden opportunity to improve on House Bill 72," Luce said. "We need to scrap the entire school finance system."

"The Texas Supreme Court has given us a golden opportunity to improve on House Bill 72. We need to scrap the entire school finance system." — Tom Luce, gubernatorial candidate

Texas no longer competes just with other states in education, but against nations such as Japan, Korea and West Germany, he said.

Mattox, who spent some of his allotted time telling the broadcasters he has long been a proponent of open meetings and open records, said the state is not planning for its future.

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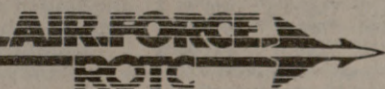
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