

Cookie monsters



Girl Scouts at Post Oak Mall (top photo) watch participants in the Girl Scout Cookie Eating Contest wolf down the tasty treats Monday. Corps Commander Matt Poling (left photo), Bryan Mayor

Marvin Tate and College Station Mayor Larry Ringer (bottom photo) were defeated by Fred Brown who ate 27 cookies in three minutes.



Photos by Mike C. Mulvey

Rains

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seen in the classroom." Rains, who was Texas Secretary of State from 1987 to 1989, said the value of a high school diploma in Texas should be backed by a guarantee of basic educational skills.

"When you give people a piece of paper, and they can't pass a simple literacy test, you are cheating them," Rains said. "You're cheating them, and you're cheating the state and the society they are a part of."

Illiteracy and drug abuse are the underlying causes of crime, Rains said. He suggested a combination of

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— Jack Rains, Republican gubernatorial candidate

in-prison education, stricter prison sentences for repeat offenders and more resources directed into law enforcement.

First time non-violent criminals should be put into minimum security prisons, Rains said. These low-security facilities would be less expensive to operate, allowing more money to be spent on longer prison terms for repeat offenders, he said.

"I want hardened criminals off the streets and out of our lives," Rains said. "I plan to treat the violent repeat offenders like the trash they are. I'm going to put them in the garbage can and sit on the lid."

For sex offenders, Rains proposed a mandatory sentence of 20 years for rapists and an option of chemical castration for repeat sex offenders as a condition of parole. He also supports the death penalty for drug kingpins and strict penalties for casual drug users.

Rains said he thinks the state government is being run on a reactionary basis.

"We're managing by crisis in Texas," Rains said. "That's not the way to run your business."

"What we need in state government is planning, commitment to goals and accountability. We don't have that today. We must find it, because the stakes are too high not to."

Cypress swamp endangered

Houston officials survey area threatened by dam

WALLISVILLE (AP) — Environmentalists hoping to save the largest remaining cypress swamp on the Texas Gulf Coast gave Houston officials a first-hand look Monday at what would be lost if the area is dammed so Houston's freshwater needs in the next century can be met.

The Wallisville Reservoir Project, to be built on the Trinity River east of Houston by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, has been on the drawing board for decades.

It would cover 5,600 acres, including 3,300 acres of cypress swamp once patrolled in the early 1800s by famed French pirate Jean Lafitte.

The project has run into stiff opposition from environmentalists who fear it will doom inland wetlands by

the Toledo Bend Reservoir, about 125 miles northeast of Houston, and combine it with a Wallisville project to meet fresh water needs 20 to 30 years from now.

"There is broad agreement that building a reservoir is not a good idea," Houston City Councilman Dale Gorczyński said while touring the wilderness area in a boat. "This is one of the most beautiful natural areas and ought to be a national park."

"But there also seems to be a broad agreement of the need for a salt water barrier. The issue is what type of salt water barrier is going to be constructed and who is going to pay for it."

Gorczyński is chairman of a council flood management committee which is reviewing the city's master water plan and will recommend changes within the next couple of weeks.

He and another councilman, Vince Ryan, with reporters and camera crews in tow, dodging submerged tree stumps and low overhanging tree limbs, were led through miles of narrow canals through the swamp land by members of conservation groups.

"Under the Corps' plan, all of this would be under water," Linda Sheard, director of the Galveston Bay Foundation, said. "All the vegetation wouldn't be here. And you lose the communication with the bay."

Environmentalists are favoring an inflatable salt water barrier instead of a permanent concrete structure favored by the Corps of Engineers.

"I think we can have it both ways if we are smart enough," Gorczyński said of getting the needed water and preserving the environment. "But we also could foul things up pretty good if we cut off the flow to Galveston Bay. We could do irreparable damage."

"You do get a definite sense of the importance of ecology out here," Ryan, who serves with Gorczyński on the water panel and was getting his first look at the Wallisville area, said.

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— Dale Gorczyński, Houston city councilman

flooding them and devastate the ecological system of Galveston Bay, into which the river flows, by cutting off the natural supply of fresh water and nutrients. The river provides the bay with 70 percent of its fresh water.

Another concern is that salt water from the bay could contaminate the fresh water area during times of low inland water levels.

A concrete dam was 70 percent complete before environmentalists in 1973 obtained a court order to halt construction.

Houston city council members are reviewing a master city water plan which recommends using water from

Driver

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will be used to raise awareness of alcohol-related accidents.

"Our goal is to make people aware of using this program," Sorrell said. "We want students to be aware of alcohol, to drive safely and be responsive to those who abuse alcohol."

Sorrell began organizing the program in the fall when the Center for Drug Prevention and Education received a \$27,000 grant from the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation. She pre-

sented the program to student organizations and resident halls, and recruited volunteers after each presentation.

Volunteers' jobs consist of going to bars and restaurants and telling the manager or owner about the program, Sorrell said.

She said volunteers issue promotional materials such as buttons and cups for non-alcoholic beverages and posters with advertisements that say, "Be the life of the party, be a designated driver."

"We have about seven volunteers, and we are trying to increase our

numbers," she said. Sorrell said a misunderstanding that many may have about the program is volunteers drive intoxicated people home.

The purpose of the program is to encourage people to car pool and not to drive individual vehicles. One group member should volunteer to be the designated driver for the night, she said.

The program members meet at 6:30 p.m. every Monday in 218 A.P. Beutel Health Center. Those interested in volunteering for the program can call Sorrell at 845-0280.

Candidates

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ology health major, said he was disappointed in the candidates' lack of professionalism.

Political Forum Chairman Matthew Wood, a junior political science major, said the candidates' attendance shows why those five people

do not have a significant showing in the polls.

Cude told Political Forum Monday that he had been at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and his voice was not strong enough to speak, Karr said.

Otwell's campaign spokesman said Otwell was on his way at 6:30 p.m., but Otwell never arrived. His

political literature, however, was there, even though the rules of the forum prohibited printed campaign material, Karr said.

Holmes arrived at 3 p.m., two hours early for his speech, but had to be in Houston Monday night so he did not stay, Karr said the candidates' contracts listed the specific times they were to speak.

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