

Wednesday, April 4, 1990

## Consultant says scientists should work with media

By DAPHNE MILLER  
Of The Battalion Staff

Scientists instead of journalists should be gatekeepers of scientific information, a scientific consultant and former director of communications for the American Association for the Advancement of Science said Tuesday.

Carol L. Rogers said scientists should be able to set the agenda of science news because they know more about what is important for the public to be aware of.

Rogers, who has spent more than 20 years developing and implementing public understanding of science and science communications, has published several books and directed several radio shows for commercial and public broadcasting on this topic. Presently, she is working on case studies, consulting and teaching seminars to scientists on how to work with journalists.

"Much of the science information conveyed by the mass media needs to be more broad," Rogers said.

The public wants more broad information about science, she said. That is obvious by the amount of scientific information in the media.

But, she said, most of the scientific information is event-oriented. Rogers said there are not enough investigative and in-depth stories.

"There are a number of things scientists and journalists can do to cause a positive impact on the public about science," Rogers said.

Scientists need to recognize that they have a responsibility to the public to tell them about their work, they need to have a good understanding about how the media works and they need to be able to convey information in laymen's terms, she said.

Journalists should take the time to research and produce more detailed stories, Rogers said. They should develop a good relationship with the science community, she said, to keep up with scientific developments.

## Richards' politics questioned

### White calls campaign tactics false, malicious

AUSTIN (AP) — Former Gov. Mark White, whose comeback bid was dashed in the Democratic gubernatorial primary, Tuesday accused Ann Richards of dirty politics, likened her behavior to that of the head of the Nazi Gestapo and said he would never vote for her.

"I will never endorse Ann Richards," White told a Capitol news conference. "I will never support Ann Richards. And I will never vote for Ann Richards."

Stopping short of endorsing Attorney General Jim Mattox over Richards in the Democratic runoff for governor, White said he would be voting in that race. And he declined to criticize Mattox's tactics during the mudslinging primary.

"I've always thought he (Mattox) was one of the toughest campaigners I've ever seen, but what Ann Richards has done would make Himmler blush," White said, a reference to the Nazi SS and Gestapo leader Heinrich Himmler.

That no-vote policy will apply in the general election, should Richards short of the nomination to challenge Republican Clayton Williams, he said.

"If she gets the nomination it will be without my help," White said. "And I think if she's able to be elected, she'll have it in the same fashion."

White blasted Richards, the state treasurer, for TV commercials and speeches in which she alleged that he had profited from public service and helped his old law firm obtain state bond business while he was governor.

"I think I've probably been madder from time to time, but this one ... they pretty well ripped their britches with me," he said, saying Richards had made remarks that were "patently false, maliciously made and she should have had better judgment."

Richards, the state treasurer, captured the most votes in the primary, 39 percent, while Mattox won 37 percent. White, governor from 1983 to 1987, received only 19 percent.

At a campaign stop interview made before White's comment, Richards said, "I feel very badly about any time there is hard feelings. I feel badly about any personal feelings that ever get into a campaign. I feel sure that all of those wounds will be healed and the Democrats will be together in November."

Her campaign spokesman, Monte Williams, didn't immediately return calls from the Associated Press.

White said Richards deliberately distorted his record and ran campaign advertisements that lied about him.

"Ann Richards willfully and knowingly smeared me with false accusations that she knew at the time to be untrue," White said. "She didn't do it just once in the heat of an argument. She did it with inexcusable regularity in the last days of the campaign."

The former governor said Richards ran the dirtiest campaign he ever witnessed.

"I know tough politics ... I have been in some rough campaigns in my career and I know how to dish it out and I know how to take it," he said. "But there is a difference between negative advertising and unfounded, vicious, personal attacks that are out-and-out lies."

"I think she overstepped the bounds of decency by smearing my name in such a vicious way."

Despite his crushing loss in the Democratic primary, White said he wouldn't abandon his party although he has met with Republican Williams.

## Pro-choicers put Williams atop hit list

AUSTIN (AP) — The state's largest pro-choice group Tuesday placed Republican gubernatorial candidate Clayton Williams atop its 1990 election hit list, saying his recent joke about rape showed insensitivity to women's issues.

"Clayton Williams has amply demonstrated in the last several weeks that he is dangerously out of touch with the lives of Texas women," Phyllis Dunham, executive director of the Texas Abortion Rights Action League, said.

Citing the veto of a strict anti-abortion bill in Idaho late last week, the TARAL leader said electing a pro-abortion governor is crucial to preserving women's rights.

She said Williams' remark — in which he likened bad weather to rape and said it was inevitable to "relax and enjoy it" — showed that he doesn't care about women's issues.

"How can we expect a man who doesn't understand that rape is no pleasure to comprehend that abortion is no mere convenience?" Dunham asked.

Williams has repeatedly apologized for the rape remark — made to three male newspaper reporters during a cattle roundup on his West Texas ranch.

The Republican has said he opposes abortion except in cases of rape, incest or when the mother's life is in danger.

"Clayton believes in such things as parental consent in cases where minors are seeking an abortion," press secretary Bill Kenyon said Tuesday.

"He anticipates this will be a major component of his legislative package dealing with the issue. He recognizes that TARAL disagrees with that and so it's no surprise they're choosing to endorse another candidate," Kenyon said.

Dunham said Williams is the "No. 1 threat" on an evolving TARAL 10 list of abortion opponents. She said nine more politicians will be added to the hit list before the November general election.

Williams didn't receive the endorsement during the Republican primary of the state's largest anti-abortion group, Texas United for Life.

But Dunham said a strong pro-abortion governor could be the last line of defense should a bill restricting abortions pass the Legislature.

## Ping-pong computer virus permeates UTSA campus

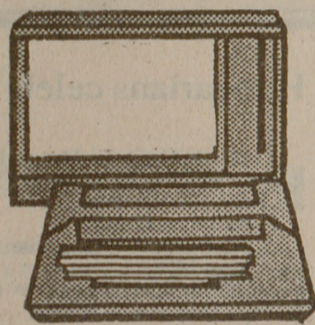
SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A computer virus known as a "ping-pong" or "bouncing ball" spread through personal microcomputers at the University of Texas at San Antonio, prompting the temporary closing of a computer lab.

"It's basically a little dot or ball that bounces across the screen and gets bigger and bigger," David Fischer, manager of the UTSA computer service center, said Monday. "As time goes on ... the computer system's disk becomes eaten up or overlaid with the virus."

The virus was first detected in January in personal microcomputers in the college of engineering and computer science, Fischer said.

While it hasn't affected the main campus computer system and no research information was destroyed, Fischer said the virus now has spread to 12 personal microcomputers used by students in four buildings.

He theorized the virus was purposefully inserted into the microcomputers.



"Sometimes students have time on their hands and they are very creative with computers," Fischer said. "I don't think they meant anything bad or malicious by it."

But, he said, if the prankster is identified, charges of destroying state property are likely to be filed.

UTSA officials said they hoped to purge the virus from the computers by Wednesday.

Computer viruses are hidden programs designed to destroy computer

files. The programs often duplicate themselves and are spread by contaminated diskettes.

Three students discovered the virus late Friday in microcomputer labs in the library and the multidisciplinary studies building, Fischer said.

Later, the same virus was discovered in personal computers in the ROTC building.

The library lab was closed Monday while technicians worked to eliminate the virus, but labs in the other two buildings continued operating because only a few computers in each were affected, Fischer said.

Other departments across the campus were checking their personal computers for the virus, he said.

And Fischer recommended that students who used their own floppy disks in the personal computers have virus-check programs run on any other computers in which they used the disks to prevent further spread of the virus.

## Census bureau finds Texas incomes low

### Starr county poorest in state

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texans saw their incomes rise at a slower rate than the national average during most of the past decade, according to a Census Bureau report Tuesday that found Starr County residents are the state's poorest and those in Sherman County earn the most.

The report also finds Texas has the country's least populated county — little Loving County on the Pecos River in West Texas, and the country's poorest county — Starr, an isolated stretch of land along the Rio Grande in South Texas.

Statewide, the Census Bureau said per capita income in Texas grew at a rate of 47.8 percent between 1979 and 1987, while nationally, per capita incomes grew by 63.4 percent.

Texans had a per capita income of \$10,645 in 1987, compared with earnings of \$7,203 in 1979. Nationally, per capita income grew to \$11,923 in 1987 from \$7,295 in 1979.

Texans' earnings put them in 34th place nationally in 1987, a 10-place drop from 24th in 1979, the Census Bureau said.

The earnings picture was especially bleak for three counties in South Texas, which the Census Bureau said were among the 10 poorest nationwide in 1987.

In Starr County, residents had a meager per capita income of \$3,464. The nation's fourth-poorest county was also along the Rio Grande in South Texas: Maverick County, with per capita earnings in 1987 of \$4,269.

The nation's seventh-poorest county was neighboring Zavala County, with a per capita income of \$4,646.

The state's richest county with a population over 100 was Sherman, in the Panhandle, with a per capita income of \$16,260, earning it a 35th-place ranking nationally.

## The Association of Former Students

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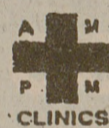
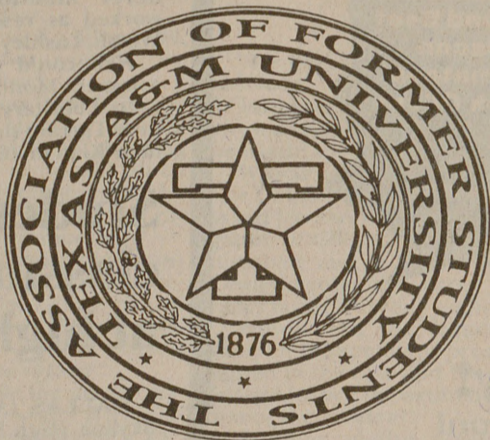
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