

Monday, April 23, 1990

Williams' admission about prostitutes causes concern

AUSTIN (AP) — The admission by Republican gubernatorial candidate Clayton Williams that he paid prostitutes for sex as a young man raises new questions about his attitudes toward women, his opponent's campaign said Sunday.

"In recent months, the Republican nominee has made several comments which taken together drive this wedge between men and women, and I think that's unfortunate," said Glenn Smith, manager of state Treasurer Ann Richards' gubernatorial campaign.

Richards was vacationing and not available to comment on Williams' admissions, which appeared in a copyright story Sunday in the Houston Post.

"I've never claimed to be a perfect man," Williams told the newspaper in discussing his patronage of prostitutes. "It's part of growing up in

West Texas. ... It's like the Larry McMurry book, The Last Picture Show," said Williams, a 58-year-old Fort Stockton native.

Williams' campaign reacted angrily to the newspaper report, saying that Richards also should be closely scrutinized by the media.

"One of Clayton's greatest strengths as a person is one of his greatest weaknesses as a politician; he always tries to be honest," his press secretary, Bill Kenyon, said in a statement. "When Clayton was tracked down by a reporter chasing outlandish rumors about Clayton's past that have been fanned by the Richards campaign and other Democrats, he dismissed them as absurd.

"Most politicians would have stopped there," the statement continued. "But when the reporter went further and asked if he had ever visited a prostitute, Clayton surprised

some folks by conceding once again that he's not perfect and by telling the truth about incidents earlier in his life, even when it wasn't politically expedient."

Williams was in Arizona and not available to answer questions. Kenyon said he hoped that when Richards is subjected to the same type of scrutiny, "she displays the same kind of candor when questioned about her personal life, past and present."

During an interview at an independent oil group meeting in Scottsdale, Ariz., on Saturday, Williams told the Houston Post that he paid prostitutes a number of times in Texas and Mexico. He said it had been at least 35 years since he visited

"It was kind of what the boys did at A&M. It was a lot different in those days. The houses were the only place you got serviced then."

— Clayton Williams, gubernatorial candidate

As a teen-ager, it's part of growing up in West Texas. You go to Mexico. It's part of the fun," he said, adding that he also patronized pros-

titutes while he was a student at Texas A&M University.

"It was kind of what the boys did at A&M," he said. "It was a lot different in those days. The houses were the only place you got serviced then."

Richards' campaign said the Democrat didn't wish to comment on Williams' admission of patronizing prostitutes.

"His private behavior is best left to him and his family," Smith said. "We don't believe it's a legitimate subject for discussion in the context of a public, political debate."

Women's groups, including the National Organization for Women, did not immediately return telephone calls Sunday from the Associated Press. Many NOW officials were out of state and unavailable, said the organization's Washington office.

Prostitution is legal in some areas of Mexico, including most border cities. Officials said such women must have health cards and undergo weekly checkups.

In Mexico City and some other areas, prostitution is illegal but tolerated.

Richards won the Democratic nomination on April 10 after a mudslinging runoff campaign in which her opponent, Attorney General Jim Mattox, accused her of using illegal drugs as recently as 10 years ago but offered no evidence.

A recovering alcoholic, Richards declined to give a yes-or-no answer when asked about drug use, saying her addiction had been alcohol and that public discussions might discourage others from seeking treatment.

Brazos Valley Museum to change directors, new location; accreditation may be in future

By SEAN FRERKING
Of The Battalion Staff

Although many people don't know about it, the Brazos Valley Museum has a lot to offer.

Randy Smith, museum program coordinator, said most people don't even know that Brazos County has a museum.

"Most people are pleasantly surprised when they find out about our museum," Smith said. "The museum is supposed to serve the residents of Brazos County and the sooner they learn what and where we are, the better."

Smith said the museum has been at its present location at 3232 Briarcrest for more than eight years. The museum was originally founded more than 20 years ago by the Association of University Women, he said.

A&M also volunteer their time and expertise, Smith said.

"We'll take as many volunteers as we can get," he said.

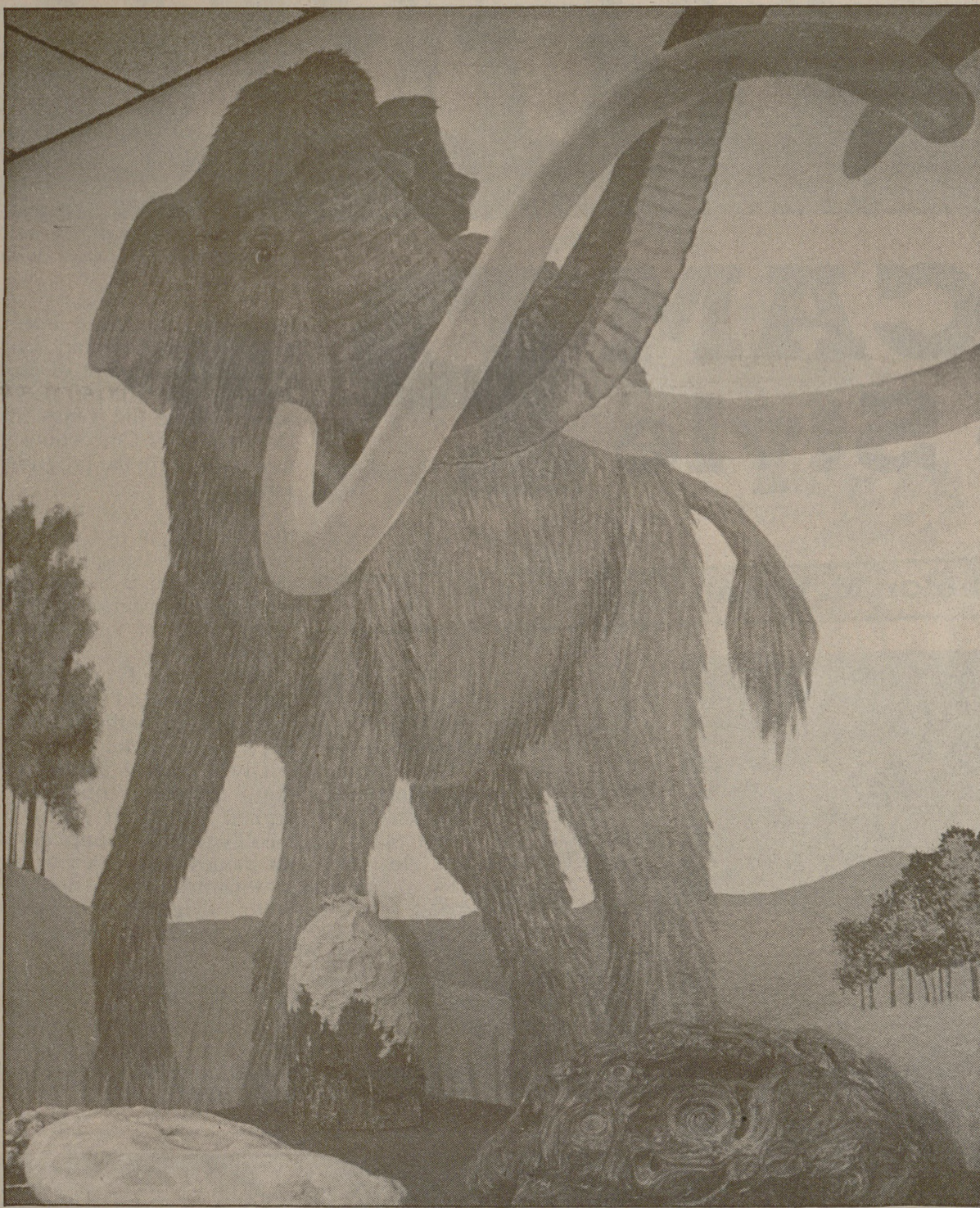
With all of the programs and events the Brazos Valley museum has going on, the museum has out-

grown its present housing, Smith said. On May 1, Dr. Ron Young from the state museum of Nebraska will become the new director of the museum, he said. A new facility is Young's first priority, Smith said.

Young also wants the museum to

receive national accreditation within the next five years, Smith said. The new building will elevate the status of the museum, he said.

"It's nice to grow and improve already a high quality museum."



The Brazos Valley Museum's Discovery Room, marked by a huge mural of a mammoth, features fossils and other objects found in the Brazos Valley area. Children can touch the room's artifacts.

Director says new Japanese campus step toward increasing students' global awareness

By BILL HETHCOCK
Of The Battalion Staff

A new Texas A&M campus in Koriyama, Japan, will be an important step toward increasing international awareness in the student body, Dr. Jaan Laane, director of the Texas A&M Institute for Pacific Asia said.

"This type of campus will be very good for both sides because it will be an educational process where Texans learn about the Japanese and vice versa," Laane said.

The A&M branch in Koriyama, a city of 310,000 located 120 miles north of Tokyo, will open for classes May 28. Laane said about 75 students are expected to enroll in the first semester of classes there.

19 will highlight more than three years of planning and negotiation between A&M administrators and Koriyama officials. There have been two major visits to the College Station campus by Koriyama officials and several trips by A&M officials to the Koriyama site.

Laane said the idea for an A&M branch in Japan stemmed from a bi-national congressional committee called the U.S.-Japan committee for promoting trade expansion.

"They (the committee) thought that one of the better things the United States had to export was its higher education system, so they proposed this idea," he said.

The committee asked municipalities in Japan to provide incentives such as free land and money to bring U.S. universities to that country, Laane said. U.S. universities were informed of the possibilities of a project of this type by the committee, he said.

Initially, 80 American universities and 30 Japanese cities expressed interest in the program.

A&M officials then went to Japan to look at possible sites for an overseas campus. After looking at all the possibilities in Japan, A&M officials decided that Koriyama was the best place to locate its Japanese branch, Laane said. Koriyama officials also chose A&M as the university it was most interested in working with, he said.

Since that time, Laane said, Koriyama and A&M officials have worked together to develop the plans and start the program in Koriyama.

The first group of students will attend classes in a temporary facility, which will be used for two years until the permanent campus is completed. The maximum student population at the permanent campus will be 900 students.

The entire cost of the campus in Koriyama is being funded by the Japanese, Laane said.

"This program has no net costs to Texas A&M," he said. "The costs come from the Japanese side, either from Japanese student tuition or from contributions from the city or local industry. We're not using Texas state taxpayer's money to run a campus in Japan."

"The bottom line is that it will be very nice for us, it won't cost us anything and we think we'll have a valuable program."

The museum is a private, non-profit organization that receives funding from Astin Trusts and the United Way, and the Arts Council of Brazos County contributes to the museum as well. People from the Bryan-College Station area also support the museum by buying memberships.

With these contributions, Smith said, the museum does not need to charge a general admissions fee.

"We only charge for programs when an instructor is involved with the presentation," Smith said.

The area funding, Smith said, allows the museum to provide the county with a variety of programs. Although the museum's main emphasis is natural science, Smith said it can offer many different exhibits.

Smith said the museum offers special classes for children in the natural history and culture of Brazos county. He said he estimates that 75 percent of the audience who attend programs are children.

"I think that about 2,500 kids go to our programs a year," Smith said.

The museum also goes to schools in Bryan and College Station to educate students in both cities about the history of Brazos county, Smith said.

"Our biggest program of the year is our Summer Nature Camp," he said.

The camp is seven weeks in the summer starting on June 11.

The museum will have Springfest Saturday and Sunday. Smith said the annual event at Messina Hof is the museum's largest fundraiser.

"Springfest is a lot of fun," Smith said. "There'll be a 10K run, a lot of arts and crafts, live music and a grape stomp."

Besides all of the fun, Smith said, the museum offers practical applications for students. The museum even provides internships to qualified students.

The faculty members at Texas

As part of a program to encourage global cultural awareness, students from the College Station branch of A&M would be eligible to attend classes in Japan, Laane said.

"One of the big advantages of the program is that it will allow Texas A&M students to spend a semester or more over there," Laane said. "The courses that are going to be offered in Koriyama are fundamental core courses so many students could easily find a full semester of courses to take."

"Instruction over there is going to be in English, so you don't have to be a specialist in the Japanese language to go."

Courses will be taught by faculty members that are now teaching here, Laane said. Dr. Donald McDonald, executive director for Texas A&M University in Koriyama, will be in charge of determining which faculty members will travel to Japan.

"This program will allow some of our faculty to rotate in and out of Japan," Laane said. "It will be especially good for anyone doing research in Asian studies or history."

An opening ceremony on May

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