

Election official urges Texans to participate

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas' top election official has a simple message: Vote or shut up.

Secretary of State George Bayoud has been traveling statewide trying to register voters and telling people if they don't vote in the Nov. 6 general election they have no right to gripe about the results.

"That would be a mistake," Bayoud said. "It's imperative that all Texans who are eligible to vote participate in the Democratic process."

The League of Women Voters is also using voter registration drives and direct mail campaigns to try to increase the turnout.

"Voting is the most basic step for citizens to make a democracy work," Diane Sheridan, president of the League of Women Voters of Texas, said.

Sunday is the deadline for registering in time to participate in the Nov. 6 general election, although mail registration will be accepted until Oct. 9.

"We are the world's greatest democracy, and we need to lead by example here in Texas," Bayoud said.

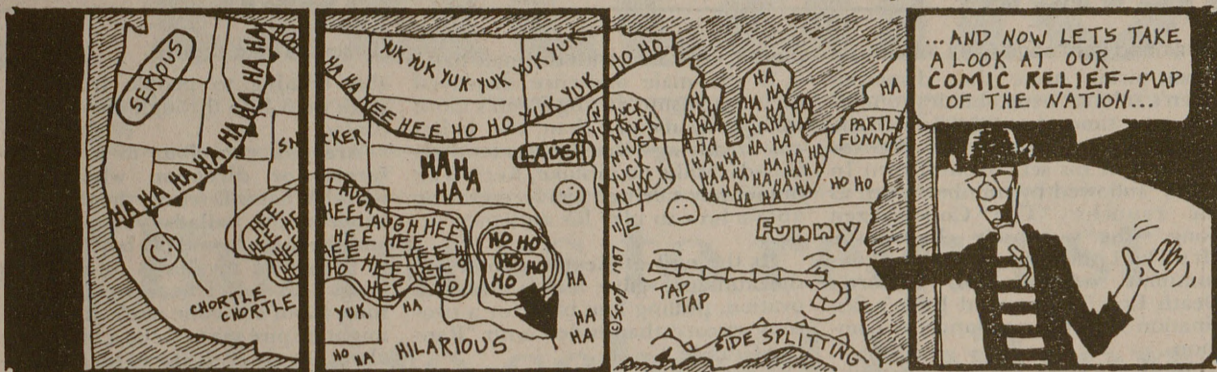
So far, Texas has led by mediocrity. Prior to the March 13 political party primaries, about 8.3 million Texans, or 66 percent of the 12.4 million eligible voters, were registered to vote, the secretary of state's office said.

That is a little below the national average of 67.5 percent, Mark Toohey, a spokesman for Bayoud, said.

The primaries produced a record turnout for a non-presidential election, but that had more to do with population growth than a surge in political awareness.

The turnout of 2.3 million represented 28 percent of the registered voters.

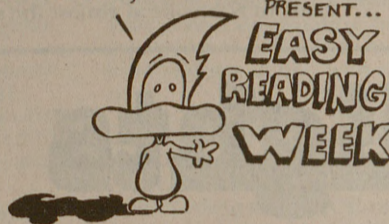
WARPD



by Scott McCullar

Spade Phillips, P.I.

GREETINGS, GENTLE READERS. REALIZING THE LUST THAT THE AVERAGE A+M STUDENT HAS FOR BOLD, UNFAMILIAR, AND INNOVATIVE IDEAS, THIS STRIP IS PROUD TO PRESENT...



by Matt Kowalski

Tubularman



by Boomer Cardinale

Natural fuels favor economy, ecology

LONGVIEW (AP) — Skyrocketing gasoline prices in the wake of the Persian Gulf crisis have many searching for cheaper alternative fuels to power cars and delivery trucks.

In Longview, one independent gas supplier said he has seen a phenomenal increase in inquiries about converting cars and fleet vehicles to run on propane or natural gas.

Already, General Motors has announced that its GMC Truck division will manufacture and sell light-duty trucks which run on compressed natural gas. The company plans to market at least 1,000 of the trucks in Texas and California next year.

Natural gas is a clean, abundant, safe and cost-effective alternative fuel, according to the Texas General Land Office. It cuts pollution by roughly 90 percent compared with gasoline.

Concern over air pollution pushed Texas legislators to pass a clean-air bill in 1989, forcing large state and school fleets to buy vehicles powered by clean-burning natural gas.

American Gas Association officials say emissions tests show natural gas produces 70 percent to 90 percent less of the air toxins that make up low-level smog and air pollution.

In all, natural gas can eliminate about 50 percent of gasoline by-products that cause air pollution, Daniel Montoya of the Texas General Land Office said. "And because it burns cleaner, compressed natural gas helps spark plugs last longer and reduces vehicle maintenance," he said.

State Land Commissioner Garry Mauro recently cited a Radian Corp. study that said if all the fleet vehicles in Houston ran on compressed natural gas, pol-

luting gases would be reduced by almost 16 million tons per year, enough to fill 12 Astrodomes.

The study also says that fleet operators would save almost \$16 million in fuel and maintenance costs.

Under the Texas Plan, state agencies with more than 15 vehicles, metropolitan school districts with more than 50 buses, private fleets with more than 25 vehicles and all metropolitan transit authorities must buy only clean alternative fuel vehicles after Sept. 1, 1991. These entities must convert 90 percent of their fleet to alternative fuels by 1998.

"In the past couple of weeks, we have had a lot of interest in gas conversions," Arles Johnson, owner of Spring Hill L.P. Gas, said. Johnson sells liquid petroleum gas, or propane.

"Right now, I can sell a gallon of propane at \$1.07," he told the Longview News-Journal. "In some instances, I take a truck to a company to fill up their fleet."

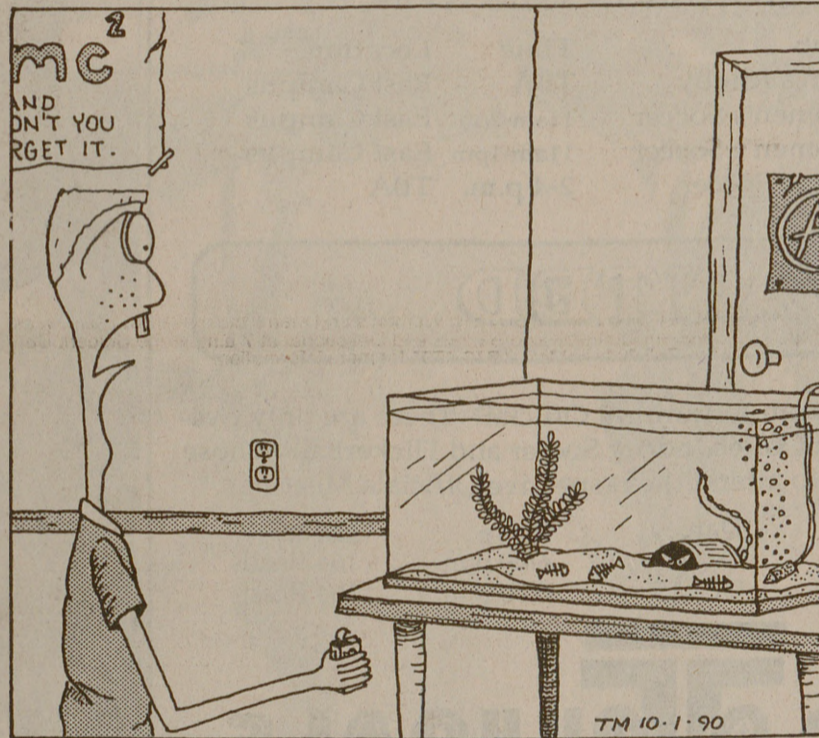
Johnson said he will convert two vehicles next week to alternative fuel, which costs about \$1,100 for a normal car.

"We have had inquiries from several companies with large truck fleets concerning conversion," he said. "If a company converts a large fleet, it can be a very cost-effective change. And on the new cars with fuel injection systems, there is little or no performance difference."

Compressed natural gas is about 40 percent cheaper than gasoline, Montoya said. The natural gas equivalent to a gallon of gasoline will cost anywhere from 70 cents to 85 cents.

Some drawbacks to compressed natural gas are limited travel range and public availability.

Nerd House by Tom A. Madison



HERBERT DISCOVERS THERE'S NO NEED TO FEED THE FISH TODAY.

Pollution, traffic force debate over Houston's transit policy

HOUSTON (AP) — A gathering of mass transit officials from around the country has reopened a long-simmering debate over whether Houston, the nation's largest city without a rail system, should end its addition to the automobile.

As gasoline prices once again skyrocket, public transportation advocates increasingly must defend programs that some say have failed to wean Americans from their beloved cars.

The debate over how to forge a workable mass transit policy comes to Houston this week as thousands of transit professionals gather for the annual meeting of the American Public Transit Association.

Houston is saddled with air pollution and traffic problems that are among the worst in the nation, yet its leaders are mired in a rancorous debate over whether to proceed on a \$1 billion, 22-mile rail project.

The debate has its roots partly in reports questioning whether recently opened rail systems have been getting motorists off the roads.

These reports have found that the number of people driving their own cars to work continues to rise and that many expensive rail systems have failed to draw a substantial number of new passengers. At the same time, Americans continue to move to outer suburbs, where there is little or no public transit.

Albert's Hair Design
A FULL SERVICE SALON
209 Dominik College Station, TX
(409) 696-3003
We fix \$6⁰⁰ haircuts

NIGHT-TIME HEARTBURN STUDY
Do you experience night-time heartburn? VIP Research is seeking individuals for a short-term research study of a currently available medication. A \$100 incentive will be paid to those who enroll and complete this study.
CALL VOLUNTEERS IN PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH®
776-3603

Aspire to see Germany Summer 1991
Live the history and culture of Central Europe and earn TAMU credit
(Pending Course Approval)

Hist 402: Germany Since 1815
Prof. Arnold Kramer 549 Harrington • 845-7105

MUSC 201: Music Appreciation
Prof. Peter Llenwen 402-A Academic • 845-5660

Discover the Possibilities
Tuesday, October 2 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Table in the MSC Main Hallway

161 W. Bizzell STUDY ABROAD OFFICE 845-0544

EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL STUDENT BOOK COLLECTORS' CONTEST

SPONSORED BY FRIENDS OF THE STERLING C. EVANS LIBRARY

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: OCTOBER 5, 1990
CONTEST RULES AND ENTRY FORMS AVAILABLE AT THE STERLING C. EVANS LIBRARY

Loose Diamonds

10% Over Our Invoice!

1/2 carat and larger diamonds
30-day Money-Back Guarantee
CASH PRICE!
Lay-away (slightly higher)
Jewelry Repair
Diamonds for Aggie Rings

John D. Huntley Inc.
"Very Personal Investments"
Rare Coins, Loose Diamonds,
Precious Metal,
Fine Jewelry & Watches

404 University Dr. East • 846-8916

Study International Business in Denmark
All Courses Taught in English

KØBENHAVN

Discover the Possibilities
Tuesday, October 2, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Table in the MSC Main Hallway

ATTENTION GRADUATE STUDENTS

SEE ENGLAND AND EARN TAMU CREDIT

STUDY TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION IN ENGLAND
EARN 3 HOURS OF GRADUATE CREDIT AND SPEND THE FIRST SUMMER SESSION OF 1991 STUDYING THE ENGLISH SYSTEM OF TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

COURSE OFFERED:
INED 609: Innovative Programs in Technology Education

DISCOVER THE POSSIBILITIES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
TABLE IN THE MSC MAIN HALLWAY

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE 161 WEST BIZZELL HALL 845-0544