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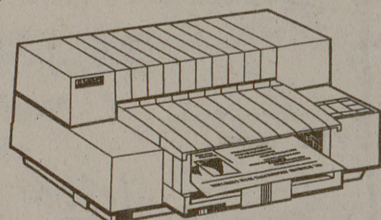
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**November 9 and 10  
7:30 p.m.  
MSC Rm. 201  
Reception Following**

Brought to you by the '93 - '94 MSC Political Forum



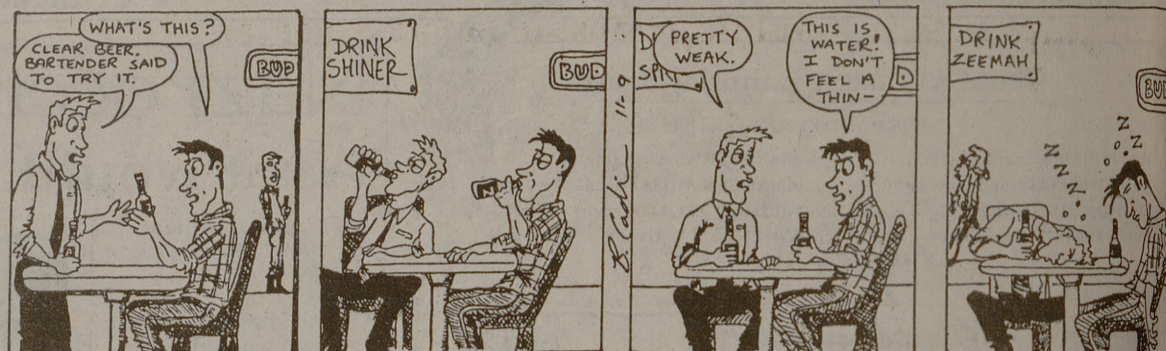
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The views in this program do not express the views of MSC Political Forum,  
the MSC, or Texas A&M University.

**Tubularman**

By Boomer Cardinale



**Fritch**

By Critch



**This week's  
weather**

**Tuesday:** Cloudy with scattered rain in the morning, decreasing clouds and warmer in the afternoon. Highs near 70.

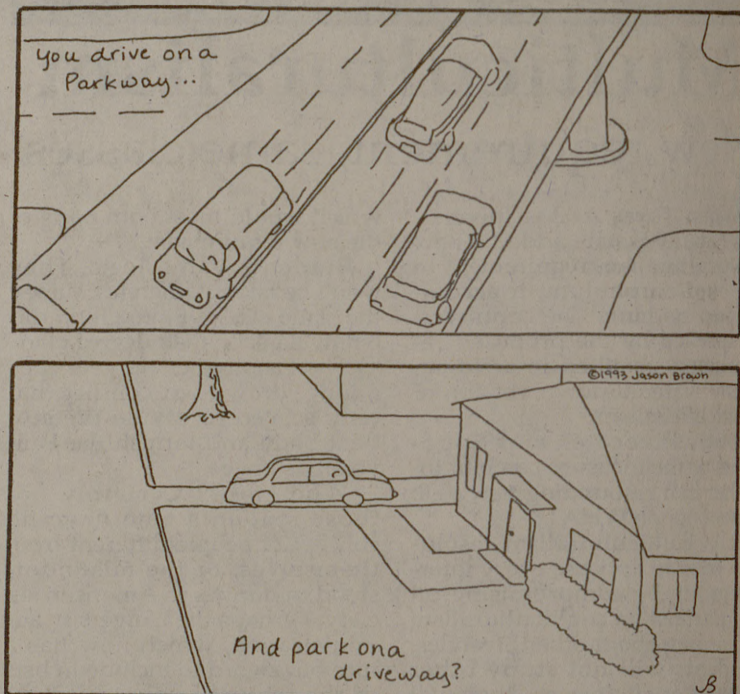
**Wednesday:** Partly cloudy with highs in the 70s.

**Thursday:** Increasing clouds, highs near 70.

**Friday:** Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of thunderstorms.

**Weekend outlook:** Cloudy, turning colder.

**JUST THE BEGINNING**



By Jason Brown

**'One is as old as he feels, and I feel pretty well.'  
Author of Roe vs. Wade turns 85 Friday**

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court Justice Harry A. Blackmun's eyes grew wide with surprise, and he hurried to his desk to retrieve a chart of former justices.

A quick scan confirmed that, indeed, the author of the 1973 decision legalizing abortion is the fourth oldest person ever to serve on the nation's highest court.

He'll become the third oldest before the current court term ends in June.

"Holy smokes. I hadn't been aware of that," said a chuckling Blackmun, who turns 85 Friday. "I may have to start packing my things."

But he turned serious before answering the next question: Is this term Blackmun's last?

"I prefer not to comment on that yet," he said in an interview with The Associated Press. "I know how old I am. One is as old as he feels, and I feel pretty well."

Blackmun is best known for Roe vs. Wade and for his role in subsequent abortion rulings.

It's made him the most vilified Supreme Court member in history, the recipient of more than 60,000 pieces of hate mail in the past two decades.

For years, the court appeared on the verge of overturning Roe vs. Wade and letting states outlaw abortion once again. But a ruling last year reaffirmed women's constitutional right to end their pregnancies.

"I think it's now a settled issue with this court," Blackmun said. "There isn't the same emotional reaction there once was among the justices. We've weathered the storm."

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, considered a strong supporter of the right to abortion, has joined the court

since last year's ruling. And any successor to Blackmun chosen by President Clinton is likely to hold similar views.

Blackmun, the court's senior member, has contemplated and talked about retiring before. Now his three daughters are lobbying him to leave the lifetime job he's held since 1970 and move to Florida.

Blackmun acknowledged that Byron R. White, a mere 75, "beat me to the punch" by retiring last June.

White's move ended great inside-the-Beltway speculation about Clinton's first opportunity to make a Supreme Court appointment. And it ended a running gag between White and Blackmun.

"We'd pass each other in the hall and he'd ask, 'Have you retired yet?' I'd say, 'Nope, have you?'" Blackmun said.

"I'm still here. I still enjoy the job," he said. "I don't know what I'll do when I retire."

He returns to Rochester, Minn., for a physical examination each summer at the Mayo Clinic, where he served as general counsel in the 1950s.

"These days," Blackmun said, "the final report always begins, 'Well, considering your age....'"

Oliver Wendell Holmes didn't retire until he was 90, in 1932. Chief Justice Roger Taney died in office in 1864 at 87.

Justice Hugo Black, with whom Blackmun served one term, retired at 85 years and six months — a milestone Blackmun will pass this spring.

A lifelong Republican and a federal appellate judge for a decade, Blackmun was considered a staunch conservative in his early days as a justice. Today, he is considered to be the court's most liberal justice, but he has told friends the court's politics have changed more than his own.



**Supreme Court Justice Harry Blackmun is the fourth oldest person ever to serve on the nation's highest court.**

**The Biomedical Science Association**

**Will be having a Luau**

**November 9th  
7:00  
MSC Room 225.**

**All Biomedical Science Association members are invited to come and join your professors in games and fun.**