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Editorial

Larger issue has surfaced here

Since the first of the year, and more recently since residents were asked to make a decision about the future of the community's airport, several side issues have surfaced. One, depending on how it is viewed, has become more important than the airport itself.

This is tearing the community apart, with a contention that divisive issues should be avoided, describes the issue. While overstated, the result could be beneficial, no matter what happens to our air facilities.

From the negative view, the issue indeed can be tearing this community apart. But, when you think about that in a serious enough vein, you will know those who believe it are not the people we need (take my ball and go home type) on our side. After all, the world is not a perfect place. Daily, most of us face conflicts in some form or another. If conflicts, for differences of opinion) were avoided because someone might disagree, then what kind of numby-panty world would we live in?

On the other hand, such differences make us stronger. It is better to discuss something and understand feelings and opinions, because it gives us future direction (something we haven't had for some time). It also teaches us that we can disagree, and remain a community. Thirdly, it prevents ill feelings because not knowing how someone feels breeds negative mental images which can be worse than reality.

We have a choice:

1. Avoid issues which might cause disagreements, and live in a marshmallow-bland community, or
2. Discuss the pros and cons of ideas offered, and make intelligent decisions.

Fellow residents, the issue is called Life.

— John Fearing

White trails Clements; 'fine-tunes' education

Only a few days after Gov. Mark White agreed to fine-tune his education reforms, a Texas A&M poll showed him trailing his GOP opponent, former Gov. Bill Clements, by a 47-33 percent margin.

Among independent voters, Clements leads White 52-21 percent with 27 percent undecided. Respondents favored White over Clements in public education policy 37-32 percent, but preferred Clements 40-13 on the issue of state taxes.

A few days earlier, White announced he would alter some of his controversial education reforms, but vowed not to change the hottest topic: the no-pass, no-play rule.

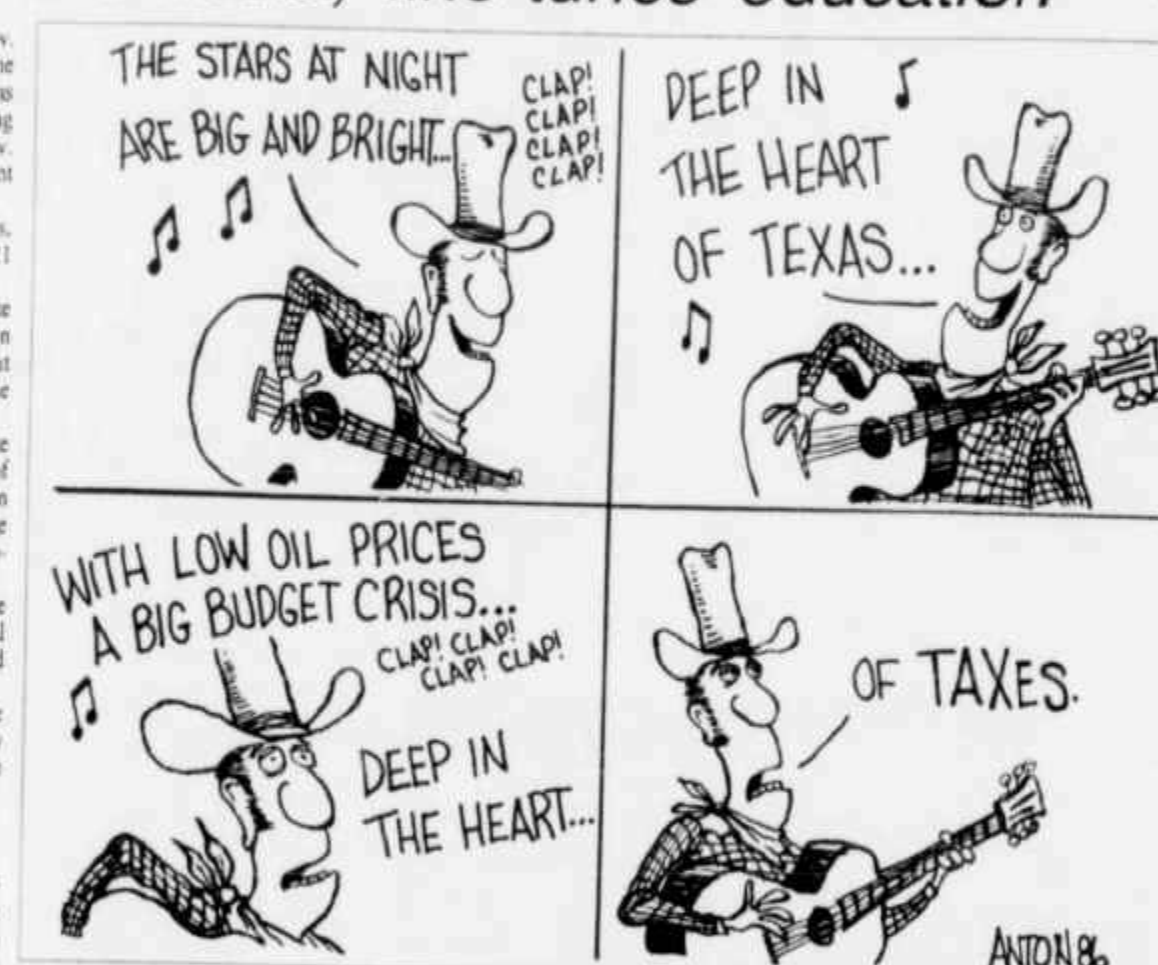
What he will change is the policy towards teacher appraisal programs, incentive pay and teacher paperwork.

He stopped short of saying he would abolish competency testing, a real sore point with career teachers.

Teacher lawsuit opposed

Last week, one of Texas's largest Hispanic groups voted not to support a teachers' group lawsuit which seeks to have the tests struck down for racial discrimination.

Black and Hispanic teachers scored lower than whites, but the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) blasted the lawsuit as a "form of racism" itself for asserting that minorities



cannot compete equally.

Whether LULAC is promoting a new tax in fighting racism or simply sidestepping a political-legal fray is unclear. But LULAC is playing as a political insider, not an outsider.

Budget cuts sought

Knowing full well that Comptroller Bob Bullock is monitoring his progress on cutting state agency spending, Gov. White moved last week to renew the search for austerity.

The governor, asked agency heads and university presidents to review their budgets and meet his earlier call for 13 percent reductions.

At the Capitol, observers watch a growing competition between White and Bullock over whether White's austerity program will resolve the projected \$1.3 billion deficit. No love is lost between the two rival staffs.

White, now on the campaign trail, says the austerity program will work, but Bullock won't let him make political hay without earning it. On the subject of state revenues, the expert Bullock is calling White's hand every step of the way.

So White is keeping pressure on state agencies, but one reason is because Bullock is keeping on White to produce.

Perhaps the winner will be the taxpayer, if the competition does indeed result in a lower deficit.

Runoff approaches

Voter turnout is expected to be low for the June 7 primary runoff elections because of the lack of top-of-the-ballot races.

Two political influences to watch are Hispanic turnout and pseudo-name identification game.

The name ID game involves relatively unknown candidates with names similar to famous persons. The idea is to stay unknown by not campaigning and still draw lots of votes from voters who don't know the difference.

The Republicans have Aaron Bullock, a Kingwood attorney, running for lieutenant governor, and Grady Yarbrough, a teacher, and M.D. Anderson, a dance-hall operator, for land commissioner.

The Democrats have P.S. "Sam" Ervin, who used the nickname to make the railroad commission runoff against Sen.

John Sharp. Last week, after the Democrats decided he could not Antonio, Rockdale and Austin's Camp Mabry before being legally added "Sam" to his name.

Goddess itinerary

The new Goddess of Liberty II statue is making public display

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