



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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CITY OF EAGLE LAKE
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Letters
to the Editor

What happened to Bengé unbelievable

Dear Editor:

I have known Major Bengé for 22 years as a friend and fellow educator. During that time I have had numerous discussions with him about our profession. I have never known him to make an unprofessional remark. I have always found him to be patient, tolerant, and caring, a model of professional probity. It is, therefore, tragic that, after devoting almost his entire career to the education of the children of this community, after his many years as a civic leader, Mr. Bengé should find his qualities as an educator questioned, his morals and his ethics impugned. It is unbelievable that a man of Mr. Bengé's integrity

should be arrested, photographed and fingerprinted.

I believe Mr. Bengé will prove he acted in accordance with district policies, common sense, and sound educational practice. His vindication, however, will not be without cost — both financial and emotional. Certainly, his family and his many friends will continue to voice their support, but I cannot help but wonder about the evidently lukewarm support for Mr. Bengé from the central administration and the board of education.

I do understand that the new superintendent is just that — a new superintendent. I do understand that a board

never enjoys controversy. I wonder, though, what it would have cost the superintendent and the board to issue a timely and strongly-worded statement of support for Mr. Bengé. I also wonder what their timidity has cost the students of the district. If you were a principal or a teacher in the Rice District, how would you feel about enforcing the rules governing student conduct, rules designed to ensure the right of all children to learn in an orderly environment? How much would you expect to get from your leaders?

Michael Cooper
Eagle Lake

Focus on a quality education experience

Dear Rice CISD parents, trustees and administrators:

When the Garwood, Eagle Lake and Sheridan schools were consolidated years ago, Eagle Lake gained a wider and richer tax base with which to work. They also gained a responsibility that is shared by each and every one of us to provide the best education possible for every student in these boundaries.

Like it or not, the economics of the

situation seem to point out more and more clearly that providing programs in triplicate at the junior high level is becoming much too expensive for his district to bear and still provide a quality, equal educational experience for all our students. There are so many enriching classes and subjects that can't be offered because of the cost of maintaining three separate, unequal campuses.

The sports programs also seem to be in jeopardy at the three campuses. With the advent of "no pass, no play" there are items when we (each campus) are in danger of not having enough players to go on with the program. As a point of information, Sheridan and Garwood individually do not have enough students to have separate teams and have been combined for years. The expansion of the school building in Sheridan has made using their field almost an impossibility.

When we say everyone should have a quality educational experience for their children, we mean each and every one. As long as sports is considered a part of that education, fine. It should be available to each and every student whether they live in Eagle Lake, Garwood or Sheridan. The school administrators and trustees are aware of the extra expense involved in providing these programs in triplicate and are searching for the most acceptable way to address all these problems, one of the main problems being the taxpayers' wallet. A lesser problem being having to travel a few miles to see your students play. An even smaller problem being the burger shop that will sell a few less burgers the night of the game because it's held at the Rice Campus.

Each of these kids is as important as the next one.

Carolyn Brisco
Carmen Jackson

Texas on the brink of tax reform

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Taxes, Cuts & Mergers
Sharp hasn't recommended a tax rate, and small firms would be exempt, but a 2.39 percent rate like Michigan's would likely raise \$2.1 billion in the first two years.

The remaining \$3 billion might be raised by a new state income tax proposed by fearless Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock.

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State to Buy SBA Loans
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The State Treasury will work with the Texas departments of Commerce and Agriculture, Texas Chamber of Commerce, Independent Bankers Association and other groups to spread the word on financing assistance.

Representatives of those agencies will travel the state, holding seminars.

White vs. Perot
Attorneys for former Gov. Mark White and Dallas businessman H. Ross Perot will face each other in court next month over a \$2.5 million letter of credit.

Ironically, White and Perot as allies were the two top principles on the political team which rammed the controversial HB 72 education reform through the Legislature in the mid-80s.

Perot's company supplied the letter of credit to back up a \$5.1 million loan White used to buy a Beaumont radio station last year.

Now the companies want to withdraw the letter, claiming White still has not paid \$7,800 in fees under the agreement. White argues Perot's collection procedures were not proper.

Other Highlights

Gov. Ann Richards signed a major insurance regulatory bill last week and then said she will bring the Legislature back to Austin next year to tackle the issue of health insurance.

Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry launched his campaign to process Texas-grown farm and ranch goods in new plants here, not out of state. By exporting our raw commodities, we are, in effect, exporting jobs, opportunities and dollars that would otherwise go into Texas' pockets," Perry said.

Here's a new twist: Federal law allows Indian tribes to operate casino gambling on their land, if a state allows casino gambling anywhere within its jurisdiction. A Connecticut judge has ruled, now, Indian tribes in Texas say they might open casinos if the Legislature allows cruise ships gambling in Texas waters.

Long Star in U.S.S.R.

The flag of the Lone Star State will stand somewhere in Moscow, once prominent Texas Robert Strauss is installed as the new U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union.

President Bush, in naming Strauss, made a bipartisan choice of a Democrat with credentials few in either party can match.

A top power-broker and veteran in world trade, Strauss was a Midstate

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