

THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT
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Letter to the Editor

Time to stop the 'witch hunt'

Letter to the Editor:
I'm sick and tired of seeing the name of Major Bengé dragged through the mud by the administration of Rice CISD.

Even though Bengé has been cleared by a grand jury, the administration continues to show absolutely no support for the 26-year, faithful employee of this school system. Instead, a continued effort to ruin his reputation appears to be the main objective, despite overwhelming support from the teachers at his school

A comment from the Editor

By Jeannine Fearing
Mr. Fmk's letter may seem a little late to those of you who have not been hearing talk around town of the ongoing "problem" concerning Major Bengé.

Yes, all we have heard is talk in the coffee shops and on the streets. Talk is that Bengé will be fired. Talk also has it that he will be forced to make a public apology for something which, to most of us, was nothing to apologize about.

Maybe it's time for the Rice CISD School Board and its superintendent to make a public statement concerning this problem and put a stop to all the talk. Maybe it's time they realized this is not Houston ISD and Frank Petrucci is not the superintendent.

It's my hope that the upheaval in Moscow will prove to be nothing more than the last gasp of communism in the land where it was born and where it will die," he said.

"As George Washington observed, 'Democracy, when it takes root, is a plant of rapid growth,'" the

senator said.

The events occurring in the Soviet Union are profoundly significant and could suddenly and dramatically change the world in which we live," Gramm said, "particularly if the new rulers make the mistake of attempting to reassert Soviet authority in Eastern Europe."

These events show why President

Bush was right to resist the idea of providing direct aid to the Soviets, he said.

"I am totally supportive of President Bush's decision to delay most favored nation trading status to the Soviet Union until a legitimate government is in place again and until the economic and political reforms are restored," Gramm said.

Texas will end the 1991 fiscal year on Aug. 31 with a cash balance of about \$700 million, Treasurer Kay Bailey-Hutchinson reported last week.

This \$700 million cash balance estimate is great news for Texas taxpayers, Hutchinson said. She said the surplus is due to steady growth in the state's economy.

Other Highlights

• State Rep. Curtis Soileau, D-Lumberton, announced between special sessions that he won't seek reelection. The Beaumont attorney said too many special sessions keep him away from his family and "I don't want to be a part-time Dad."

• Money Magazine named five Texas cities in its list of 20 best cities to live in, and put 24 Texas cities on its list of 300. The ranking had Bryan-College Station in 3rd place; Lubbock, 5th; Austin, 9th; Galveston-Texas City, 13th; and Waco, 17th.

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

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Eagle Lake has entered the 1966 National Cleanest Town Achievement Award Contest. Its entry has been received at contest headquarters in the Nation's capital.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe French are very pleased over the adoption of a daughter, Deanna Kay, who arrived here Wednesday, Jan. 4. She was born Dec. 11. Deanna's new brothers are Doug, 8 and Dale, 5.

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(See 24 & 48, Page 3)

State workers' pay raise is down the tubes

State workers' ardent hopes for a three percent pay raise next month were dashed last week when the state's chief revenue estimator said funds for the raise will be unavailable when the new budget year begins Sept. 1.

The Texas Legislature approved a three percent raise for state workers for each of the next two years but made the raise contingent upon Comptroller John Sharp certifying that the money will be available.

Scrambling for Money
Tom Plant, Sharp's chief revenue estimator, said he and others are scrambling to find enough revenue just to certify the \$59.1 billion spending bill without the pay raise.

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"We're fresh out of money," Plaut said.

It would cost about \$385 million to give workers a three percent raise for the next fiscal year and \$394 million to fund the raise for the next two years.

Reacting to the news, spokesmen for employee groups expressed outrage.

Attorneys for several South Texas residents, who filed a suit against the state because they were not counted on the census, had asked Ramirez to sue the preliminary injunction to force legislators to create new political boundaries. The lawsuit is set for trial Oct. 1.

Attorney General Dan Morales said he will appeal the decision either to the 13th Court of Appeals in Corpus Christi or the Texas Supreme Court. That will stay the court's order while the appeal is pending, Morales said.

House Okays Redistricting

Meanwhile, the House last week narrowly passed a congressional redistricting plan, over the objection of most of its Republican members and a handful of white and black Democrats.

The vote of 74-65 differed only slightly from the 72-63 vote by which the House passed a similar plan Aug.

7, during the first special session. That plan died when the Senate failed to act on it before the 30-day session expired on Aug. 13.

As expected, the plan maintains safe districts for Texas' 27 incumbent congressmen while creating three new districts in the Dallas, Houston and San Antonio areas that are predominantly minority residents.

Rep. Tom Uher, D-Bay City, chairman of the House Redistricting Committee, said the preservation of incumbents is necessary to maintain Texas' clout in Congress.

But House Republicans blasted the plan which protects Democrats and ignores population growth in GOP strongholds.

"It looks like the birthmark on Mikhail Gorbachev's scalp," said Rep. Randy Pennington, R-Houston. "Really, this is silly because it's going to the courts."

Gov. Ann Richards said she is reluctant to add ethics legislation to the special session agenda, even if the bill is a non-controversial one to fix technical glitches.

"We made an agreement (with legislative leaders). This is going to be a short session," Richards told reporters.

She said her staff is reviewing mistakes in the much criticized ethics bill passed in May and government reorganization legislation passed in a special session earlier this month.

But she said she is trying to avoid adding anything else to the agenda unless it is absolutely necessary.

"Once you start opening a call to one issue, the list is 200 to 300, and they are all very worthy," Richards said.

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Notice of Effective Tax Rate

1991 Property Tax Rates in Rice Consolidated ISD.

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Last year's tax rate:

Last year's operating taxes \$2,554,816

+ Last year's debt service \$495,892

+ Last year's total taxes \$3,050,708

+ Last year's tax base \$298,294,154

+ Last year's total tax rate \$1.01510/\$100

This year's effective tax rate:

Last year's adjusted taxes \$3,021,284

+ This year's adjusted tax base \$287,415,532

+ (after subtracting taxes on lost property)

+ (after subtracting taxes on new property)

+ This year's effective tax rate \$1.05122/\$100

x 1.03 = maximum rate unless unit publishes notices and holds hearing

\$1.08275/\$100

This year's rollback tax rate:

Last year's adjusted operating taxes \$2,505,178

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