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To The Editor & You

Was the circus in town?

Is graduation supposed to be a circus? Some of the graduates and their families hoped that it would be a special and memorable night to celebrate 13 years of hard work, dedication and friendships. Unfortunately this graduation will be remembered with sadness, disappointment and embarrassment by many people.

In the invocation, Kristen said that many special people have molded them into the young adults they are today. We commend and thank them for becoming young adults that we can be proud of.

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My 2¢ worth

By Jeannine Fearing, Publisher
 I thought I could get past this week without climbing up on my soap box, but the reported behavior of several of the Class of 1996 at Rice High School was more than I could stand.

I have heard everything from deep concern for these young people's futures to total disbelief as the way they acted during what is supposed to be an important, memorable occasion.

As Kathy Stienke said, I'm sure most who were there or were told about the "ceremony" will never forget it.

I did not attend the high school graduation because I was already frazzled from running all morning and half the afternoon with my eighth grader, getting her ready for her ceremony. I'm glad I wasn't able to go all the way out to Altair, because surely I would have just gotten in the car and returned to Eagle Lake without one ounce of guilt for having not taken pictures.

I did attend the mid-afternoon ceremony for Eagle Lake Middle School's eighth grade class. Maybe the seniors should have been made to attend also... they would have seen how one should act during just such a gathering.

Eagle Lake's contribution to the Class of 2000 could not have improved on their behavior. I thought that maybe one of the teachers, the principal or someone had "read them the riot act", but according to them and Ray Sykowski, no such thing happened. Following their practice an hour before the program was scheduled, they were only told to behave... and that they did... like champs!

Maybe some sort of "incentive" is needed to make sure that the graduates (See Opinion, Page 4)

'Committee on Tax Relief' sworn in

Gov. George W. Bush has sworn in the 16-member Citizens' Committee on Property Tax Relief, the first step in a plan to study how \$10 billion a year in property taxes might be replaced.

Bush said the committee's job will be to determine "whether the people are hot enough about property taxes to replace them" - or support an overhaul of the state tax code. Texas business and homeowners, whose plea for tax reform is growing louder, presently shoulder more than 90% of the property tax burden.

Committee members were furnished with state figures showing that Texans are paying a continually rising property tax even though property values are increasing.

The committee will be taking public testimony on other ways to fund state government at 14 hearings to be held across the state. The panel is to report back to the governor by the end of Sept.

Bush said he would not support any plan that raised more or less money than the property taxes, and he reiterated his insistence that a state income tax is not an option.

So far, three options under consideration are:

- Expanding the 6.25% state sales tax to include items not presently taxed;
- A business activity tax; and
- A gross receipts tax on all business and investment income.

Texas Insurance Commissioner Elton Bomer is chairman of the committee.

AG Issues Handgun Ruling
 Texas Attorney General Dan Morales has ruled that transit authorities can't charge licensed handgun carriers with criminal trespass for taking their handguns on city buses.

That's because criminal trespass only can be committed on "real property," he said.

State Sen. Jerry Patterson, R-Pasadena, told the *Houston Chronicle*, "We knew these restrictions (by transit authorities) were unenforceable from the beginning and the attorney

'We apologize'

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to the people of Colorado County for being somewhat slow in answering calls due to the abundant reports of cattle being out, probably caused by the drought over the last two months.

The tempting green grass in the ditches has probably caused the cattle to get out, which in return requires deputies to respond by answering approximately five cattle calls per day.

We are asking all ranchers and cattle owners to please assist us by fixing your fences.

Thank you,
 Colorado County Sheriff Bill Esterling

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Kid Fish raised over \$2,100 to keep this program alive. Congratulations!

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE BUSINESSES WHENEVER YOU CAN!



These Kids Will Go To The "KidFish Classic" Fishing Tournament June 15!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Many More Thanks Go Out to These Groups:

Rice Consolidated Independent School District: Dr. Richard Gott, Superintendent; Larry Varley, Sheridan School Principal; Frank Middleton, EL Primary School Principal; Deborah Matthys, EL Middle School Principal; Lorene Lanier, Garwood School Wintermann Library, Charlene Rodgers: Veteran's Memorial Library, Kathy Stienke: Sheridan Memorial Library, Lillian Gohlke.

47 New students have enrolled in the summer reading programs at these community libraries!

We thank the parents for taking an active role in the education of their children! A child's mind is a terrible thing to waste.

Many Thanks to All the Kids and Parents Who Turned Out for KidFish!
 Let's Make Next Year Even Bigger and Better! Tom & Deborah Reed, and the staff of Lake Motors, Inc.