

THE DAILY SKIFF

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Voters to consider new constitution

Changes in courts, tax system proposed

By MARTA SZARAN

Merging the courts, strengthening the governor's office and restructuring the tax system are some of the major revisions in the proposed Texas Constitution.

On Nov. 4, each registered voter may go to the polls to decide if the proposed 1976 constitution will become the constitution of the state of Texas, and replace the present 100-year-old constitution.

The proposed revision of the constitution is submitted in the form of eight separate amendments, each to be voted on individually. The Bill of Rights will be retained in full and will be unaltered.

The first proposition contains three changes in the law-making process. In the present constitution the legislature meets every two years; the proposed constitution provides for annual legislative sessions. Governor Dolph Briscoe is not in favor of this change, claiming the legislature will tend to spend more money and pass more laws.

The second major change permits a three-fifths membership vote to veto a bill or to override a veto instead of the two-thirds vote required in the present constitution.

Lastly, the legislature would be prohibited from setting

Common Cause to visit

"Common Cause of Fort Worth" will sponsor a discussion of the proposed state constitution Thursday, Oct. 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the Jarvis lobby. The event is hosted by TB-J. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

policy for individual local governments and should not be burdened with local bills.

Under the proposed constitution, a salary commission will make annual recommendations on maximum compensation and allowances for members of the legislature. "Those who oppose a commission represent lobbies that



GOV. DOLPH BRISCOE

want lawmakers to remain underpaid and therefore dependent on the largesse of the lobbyists," said Ray Hutchison, state Republican chairman.

The proposed executive article makes provisions to

strengthen the governor's control. As chief executive officer of the state, the governor could be granted power of fiscal control by the legislature. He can remove appointed officers of state governmental agencies and reorganize the executive branch. He would be limited to serve for two consecutive four year terms, and would report to the legislature every two years.

The only change of significance in the revision of the Judiciary Provisions is summed up in the term "unified judicial system."

The proposed constitution provides for the merger of the state Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals. Intermediate courts of appeal have criminal as well as civil jurisdiction. Governor Briscoe said merging of the courts will slow the process of justice.

"The unified system will make full use of judicial manpower," said Truman Roberts, judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals. Roberts explained that a judge is capable of deciding any case, be it criminal, civil or juvenile.

The new constitution will allow 18-year-olds to vote in state and county elections, conforming to the 26th Amendment.

Education provisions are revised in the fourth proposition. The proposed constitution guarantees equal educational opportunity and local enrichment of educational programs by school districts.

Higher education also has constitutional status. The proposed constitution establishes a Higher Educational Fund to finance permanent improvements for public senior colleges and universities not included in the University of Texas and Texas A&M system.

A portion of the funds will be allocated to state vocational and technical institutions. The proposed constitution prevents state universities from issuing bonds, which make up most of the existing state debts, without legislative authority.

Property tax is the major revision in the finance provisions of the constitution. The proposed constitution requires that all real and tangible personal property be taxed on the basis of market value. The present constitution reads "on the basis of value." Separate formulas for the appraisal of farms, ranch lands, and timber land will be made by the legislature.

"This will alleviate tax burdens now imposed on citizens of urban counties such as Tarrant," said Hutchison. Citizens would be able to pay taxes under protest and sue for a refund in district court.

No sales tax on agricultural machinery, fertilizer, feed, seed, prescription drugs, medicine or food will be levied.

Revision of general provisions includes the enforcement of environmental protection by the legislature. Discrimination against the handicapped is prohibited.

The last proposition establishes a procedure for constitutional amendments requiring a two-thirds vote of each house of legislature and majority approval by voters.

The proposed constitution is less than one-third the length of the present document. The new document is considered more readable because it is written in colloquial language. "The new language would let us retire our horse and buggy government," said House Speaker Bill Clayton.

A toll-free number has been set up in Austin for people who have questions concerning the proposed Texas constitution. The number is 1-800-292-9628.



The Eastern Brass performs tomorrow at 8:15 p.m. in Ed Landreth Auditorium. The five musicians play a

variety of instrumental pieces ranging from ragtime to classical. The performance is free to students.

Reader feedback

Pitcock conversion held newsworthy

Editor:

I am writing in response to Brad Ennis' letter in last Wednesday's Skiff. At the risk of being called a religious fanatic or even condemned by sincere non-Bible-toting, anti-social stereotypes, I wish to express my equally valid conviction that the Pitcock conversion kind of story may have a valid place in a "secular" newspaper.

I admire Ennis, for such a statement of conviction requires some courage. To offend him, however, is not my purpose; rather I question his questioning the newsworthiness of Pitcock's personal conversion.

I heard only positive comments except for Ennis' letter. Some may think that he deserves any praise shown him, as the letter did reveal some possibly valid arguments against the article; however, I think Ennis' comments are an equally justifiable target of criticism.

Why shouldn't a person's testimony be communicated, since it may draw at-

tention to Christ's power to transform the life of an individual, and also tends to turn some people on?

I commend Keith Clark for using the Mustard Seed as a source of reference for the Skiff. It appears that he and the Skiff found a potentially newsworthy story, so they chose to pass it on to their readers.

Hardly can a letter with such a presuppositional approach be considered objective. Some motivations were revealed, perhaps because Ennis was unaware of his defensive and biased opinions. If this was the reason for writing the letter to the editor, perhaps he should not have so quickly nibbled at the bait.

On what basis does Ennis make a non-Christian more objective and less biased than a Christian? I think Ennis attempts to define an "appropriate context" for everyone else by suggesting that Pitcock's article belongs in either the guest editorial box or the letters to the editor, box.

I would rather read the Bible than be subjected to such bigoted, crusader type letters aimed at saving me from the evangelistic Christian threat.

In closing, I wish to say that I wonder about many of these "under-cover" defensive "Christians" in this world. There is no defined pattern of lifestyle that a mature Christian should lead, nor does he need to hide his convictions from others. He may manifest his love for God and humanity by actions, honest and open

words and any form of symbolism available to him.

It is unfortunate, as Ennis himself quoted Pitcock in the Skiff, that people play religious games for self glory and actually hinder the Person of Jesus Christ.

George Garcia
Graduate



Davis clears up misstatement

Editor:

You have misrepresented me still another time. As usual, the deviation from my actual statement is only minor, but it does change the meaning of my statement. I do not have proof of what my words were, but my wife, Cathy, who overheard my end of the conversation with the Skiff reporter, understood what I said to be clearly as I shall in-

terpret it below.

This is not a matter in which our interest is mutual, so the only reference she had heard me make prior to the appearance of the article in question was in my conversation with the reporter.

I am referring to this statement in your lead article of Oct. 23: "Davis had not talked to Dr. Moudy on what qualities (emphasis added) Dr. Moudy is looking for in the new vice chancellor. 'Until I can talk to Chancellor Moudy more, I haven't really thought what the

qualifications of the executive vice chancellor should be.'" (Please pardon my conversational grammar.)

While prudence would require that I take some interest in what qualities Dr. Moudy is looking for in the new vice chancellor before I volunteer my advice on the specific matter with which the article was concerned, the more pertinent topic at this point in time is the definition of the responsibilities of the new position.

Since such a definition has not, to my knowledge, been determined, and until I understand as precisely as possible what the new vice chancellor will be doing, I cannot responsibly comment on what I expect of the individual who will assume this job.

When I explained this to the reporter, she politely continued her questions along the impertinent line of concern about the particular qualities of the individual who might become executive vice chancellor, explaining that these were the questions which she had been instructed to ask by one of the editors.

So what I plan to discuss with Dr. Moudy at this time is the question of what will be entailed in this new position. I hope that he will seek out the advice of several student leaders in the process of making this decision which, by the way, will involve a number of persons.

Once this definition has been made, I will probably have much more to say about what qualities to look for in the new vice chancellor.

I offer my apologies if anything I said led to this misunderstanding.

David Davis
Student Body President



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BAYLOR BUS

Students interested in riding a bus to the Baylor game: Bus tickets, \$2.00 available at Student Center Information desk. Game tickets, \$3.50, available at Daniel Meyer Coliseum Ticket office—ask for creative programming trip. Bus leaves from in front of Student Center at 11:30 a.m. Saturday Nov. 1.

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Busing problems only minor here

By BILL DAVIS

Busing is not the problem in Fort Worth that it is in some parts of the country, according to Randy Ingle, director of transportation for the Fort Worth Public Schools.

No angry citizens have entered the streets to hurl stones at school buses or harass police officers, and serious opposition to the present busing plan has not been presented, he said. Yet, more than 28,000 students are affected by the system, he said.

The school system realized last fall, however, that the minority population in several of the elementary schools had grown out of proportion with the white enrollment. Therefore, last September about 230 black elementary students in nine of

the 16 clusters (groups of schools) were reassigned to other schools in order to keep the black-white ratios at an acceptable level.

The district is operating under 1971 and 1973 court orders, which call for busing for integration purposes only on the elementary and middle school levels, Ingle said.

The district's integration plan involves 16 elementary school clusters. In each group there is one feeder school and several satellite schools.

The feeder school on the elementary level houses the first-grade students in the neighborhood and the second-grade students from all of the schools in the cluster. The third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students from the

feeder school are bused to the satellite schools.

On the junior high level, the sixth-grade students all attend the feeder school, and the seventh and eighth graders attend the satellite schools.

No busing plan has been implemented on the high school level, Ingle pointed out, and as agreed to by the NAACP and the school district in court in 1973, Dunbar High School and Middle School remain all black. Of course, if a white student wanted to transfer there, he

would be permitted to do so, Ingle said. Also, Polytechnic High School, even though it's listed as an integrated school, is over 95 per cent black.

No figures for the current school year are available, according to Ingle, but during the 1973-74 school year, figures supplied by the district indicated that blacks comprised 31.6 per cent of the school population with whites making up 68.4 per cent.

Chicanos are listed as whites in the Fort Worth district.

Intercultural lab considered

International Student Adviser Gail Beaty will use ideas presented at last week's regional meeting of the National Association for Foreign Students Affairs in planning next spring's University intercultural lab.


She also learned of several new programs offering American students the chance to study abroad and other foreign exchange services. She will receive a directory of these services next month.

Beaty was one of about 200 international student advisers, counselors, admissions personnel and English teachers who attended the Tulsa, Okla., meeting, Oct. 22-24.

While attending intercultural workshops at the meeting Beaty

gained new ideas about involving administrators, faculty and students with international students for an intercultural lab. Planning is in preliminary stages, she said.

The lab will be "an experience in understanding differences in culture among our international students," Beaty said.



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Waldrep files \$3.5 million suit

Former Frog football player Kent Waldrep, who was injured in the Alabama game last year at Legion Field in Birmingham, filed a \$3.5 million damage suit Monday, claiming the artificial playing surface was unsafe.

Waldrep remains paralyzed from the injury and is confined to a wheelchair. He was a special guest for Saturday's game in Birmingham.

The action was filed in Jefferson County circuit court and named as defendants five firms allegedly connected with the manufacture and installation of the Poly Turf, which was on the field at the time of his accident.

The five firms include American Biltrite Inc.; American Biltrite Rubber Co.; Monsanto Co.; Weston and Sampson Co.; and Patton Contracting Co., Inc., Birmingham.

Following Alabama's 1974 season, the Poly Turf was replaced by AstroTurf.

"Actually I'm not all that familiar with the suit," said Waldrep. "A law firm in Houston is handling it. But my contention is that the field was laid out wrong. If we're going to play on artificial surface, it's got to be safe."

Waldrep said the field had a concrete subsurface rather

than something soft as foam or rubber. Also, the field was said to be worn and paint was added to help its appearance. But, the paint added to the hardness, Waldrep said.

In his suit, Waldrep said he was "severely and permanently injured as a result of the impact of his head and neck against the artificial playing surface of the football field," resulting in his neck being broken and his spinal cord injured.

Waldrep accused the defendants of negligence and said the playing surface was "unreasonably dangerous and not reasonably fit for use as a football playing field."

Triple crown next

Frogs win shootout at UTA

TCU's winningest athletic squad, the rifle team, opened its 1975-76 season with a sweep of the UTA Invitational Rifle Tournament Saturday, taking first and third in team competition and eight individual awards.

Led by junior rifler Bill Kovaric, the Frogs captured the number one team spot, with high individual honors going to Kovaric for his aggregate 568 total and the tournament's top performances in prone and standing.

G. David Tubb and Allen Cunniff joined Kovaric to put together 1,689 points for TCU's first team, besting nearest rivals, the University of Houston by 37 points. About 20 collegiate teams from Texas and Oklahoma competed on the UTA indoor range.

Kovaric, who won the national collegiate free rifle champion title over the summer at the U.S. Invitational Championships, shot a near-perfect 199 out of 200 possible points in prone position and tallied 180 points standing to win first place in those two positions.

One point off Kovaric's pace was teammate Tubb. Named to rifle shooting's All-American team in 1975, Tubb finished

second behind another TCU shooter in individual kneeling competition.

Susan Rieff shot her way into the winner's circle in kneeling and to a second-place award in individual prone competition. Rieff, Ginger Glenn and Robert Hays brought TCU's second team to a third place in the match.

The team is training for the

TCU Triple Crown, a major open invitational to be held on the TCU range on Homecoming weekend, said George Beck, coach of the team.

"The Triple Crown is a very big match and it is followed by important matches in Lexington, Ky., and Manhattan, Kan. So we've got three weeks of hard shooting coming up," Beck said.

\$33,500,000 Unclaimed Scholarships

Over \$33,500,000 unclaimed scholarships, grants, aids, and fellowships ranging from \$50 to \$10,000. Current list of these sources researched and compiled as of Sept. 15, 1975.

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Purple Sportscope

The women's intramural badminton doubles finals will be held today at 5 p.m. in the Rickel Center.

The Horned Frog junior varsity dropped their second game of the year Monday night, as they fell to the Oklahoma JV team, 31-0, in Norman.

The little Sooners racked up 467 total yards to the Wogs' 111, in rolling their record to 3-0. The Wogs are now 1-2.

Ruben Ray led the Wogs with 57 yards on 24 carries.

The Tri Delts won the women's intramural flag football championship, beating BSU 24-0.

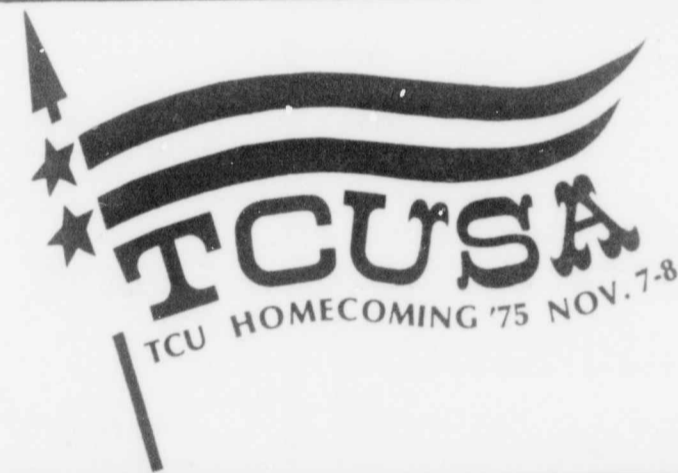
The TCU barbell club is hosting a dual meet with Louisiana Tech this Saturday, Nov. 1, in the Rickel Center's weight room. The meet will begin at 10 a.m.

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