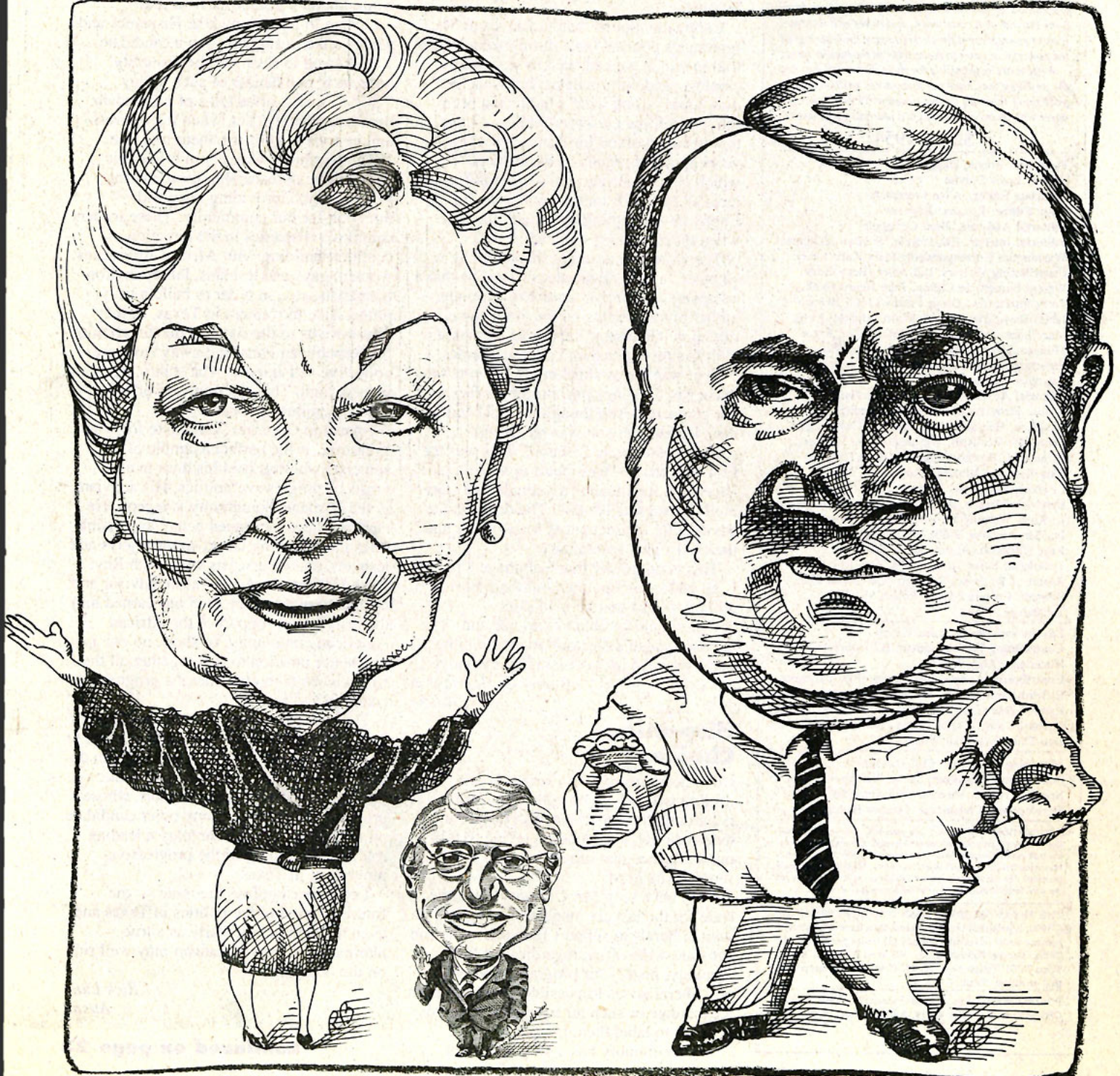


THE TEXAS Observer

**Primary
Election
Picks**

A JOURNAL OF FREE VOICES

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RICHARD BARTHOLOMEW



A JOURNAL OF FREE VOICES

We will serve no group or party but will hew hard to the truth as we find it and the right as we see it. We are dedicated to the whole truth, to human values above all interests, to the rights of humankind as the foundation of democracy; we will take orders from none but our own conscience, and never will we overlook or misrepresent the truth to serve the interests of the powerful or cater to the ignoble in the human spirit.

Writers are responsible for their own work, but not for anything they have not themselves written, and in publishing them we do not necessarily imply that we agree with them because this is a journal of free voices.

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Subscription Manager: Stefan Wanstrom

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DIALOGUE

Lest Ye Be Judged

This is self-defense against the double-barrelled barrage leveled by Judge Bob Gammage and his former law clerk, Cappy White. They objected to my criticism of a very important case in which Gammage voted against worker's privacy rights and, even worse, voted to assess \$51,000 in attorney's fees against our client, Brenda Jennings.

Cappy mentioned that he had sat at Ms. Jennings's counsel table during some of the trial in which we had tried to stop suspicionless random urinalysis; but what he didn't say — and what would have been fairer to tell the *Observer* readers — was that he had worked for Gammage a few years ago, and remains a close friend — which is quite alright; but it's helpful to have all the cards on the table. Nor did Cappy have anything to do with the case when the appeal crystallized.

There are two issues at stake. One is whether "employment-at-will" means that a company can force a worker to surrender all her privacy rights on the job without justification. Gammage supported this arcane 19th Century precursor of Reaganomics.

That was not as shocking as his vote to make Ms. Jennings pay attorney's fees to her company, even though her husband was disabled and her son was receiving reduced-cost meals at school. This was the first time that a Texas court upheld attorney's fees against a plaintiff in a state civil rights case like this. The decision has devastating consequences for workers and the civil rights community.

This is not to say that Gammage's record is all bad — as I pointed out the first time around — just that he's no saint.

One should be able to criticize and debate a judge's electoral merits without being branded an "assassin" by the judge.

*James C. Harrington
Austin*

Hispanic Choices

I was heartened by your recent article dealing with what you call "Cisnerismo." It is particularly important that Hispanics lend their voice to yours in taking to task our arrogance that turns logic and good sense on its head.

I too have seen Mr. Cisneros travel the state for the last six months or so calling on white liberals to support Hispanics who run for state-wide office regardless of their ideology, history, or program. And when any liberal arises to possibly challenge such a candidate or such an argument, Cisneros is quick to label them racists.

My community has a long history of

progressive activism consonant with our objective social, political, and economic conditions. Our self-interest lies in supporting candidates who promote progressive policies, regardless of their ethnicity or gender. Obviously, because our people have been excluded from running for the state's highest offices, there is a tendency to support the symbolism of any Hispanic state-wide candidacy. Mr. Cisneros preys on that tendency and on white liberal consciousness of that exclusion to try to browbeat Hispanics and whites alike to support such a candidate. You do well to flush out the absurdity, arrogance, and danger of such a ploy.

Mr. Cisneros often talks of his disdain for white liberals. Yet, when it's convenient he tries to guilt-trip them into line.

The Hispanics we elect to office this year will be in leadership positions for years to come, providing hope and direction for our community. These leaders can move Hispanics in the direction of coalition-building with African Americans, women, gays and lesbians, labor, environmentalists, etc., in order to build a truly progressive movement in Texas, or they can move us to the right, in the direction of the Republican Party and away from our collective self-interest. The stakes are, indeed, high. This election year offers Texas a unique opportunity . . .

Armando Gutierrez, candidate for State Treasurer, is the perfect example of someone who has paid his dues in all facets of progressive politics. His activism in the Hispanic community is legend. He has also, however, taken active and visible roles in supporting labor, women, gays and lesbians, and others. His work with Rev. Jesse Jackson since 1984 as an advisor and campaign manager in 1988 has earned him the respect and support of the African American community. In short, no one is in a better position to pull together all the right elements to construct the progressive coalition and to win.

The point, of course, is that progressives do not have hold their noses this election to vote for a Hispanic candidate. They can do as Cisneros says — vote for a Hispanic — but one who deserves the support, whose program is as liberal as any other candidate on the ballot and who can play a leading role in the building of the progressive movement in Texas.

Let no one confuse the issue — the future of progressive politics in Texas and even the Democratic Party as a true alternative to Republicanism may well ride on the outcome.

*Rick Luna
Austin*

Continued on page 23

EDITORIAL

Towards an Endorsement

There is no Jess Unruh of Texas Democratic politics. No political Caesar so powerful that he can divide Gaul into three parts, as some thought might happen three years ago when Bill Hobby, Ann Richards, and Henry Cisneros stood contemplating the state's political landscape. So it is inevitable that it comes to this. A choice between two candidates, either of whom Ag Commissioner Jim Hightower predicted would provide voters the opportunity to vote for "the most progressive governor since Jimmy Allred." (This preceded Mark White's entering the race, altering the electoral equation, and offering the voters a third way: an opportunity to vote for the most progressive governor since Mark White.)

Of these two heirs to the tradition of Allred we expected a bitter but at least an enlightened campaign. We were only half right. What we have, it seems, is one campaign that says all the wrong things and another that says nothing.

Jim Mattox is the candidate with the longest and most progressive record. A former member of the Dirty Thirty in the Texas House and founder of the now-defunct House Study Group, an organization of liberal and moderate legislators who analyzed harmful bills and mapped out strategies to defeat them, Mattox has always been one of us. He worked to create the Public Utilities Commission and remains one of a few elected officials who will, when pressed, advocate electing rather than appointing commissioners — a concept that is anathema to the utilities. In Congress, Mattox voted in opposition to the Ronald Reagan legislative agenda. Ratings from COPE and ADA — the latter rated him at the top of the Texas delegation — corroborate his progressive voting record. As attorney general, Jim Mattox took on the bullies and the bastards, earning a national reputation for anti-trust and environmental litigation and paying the price when Mobil and Fulbright & Jaworski came after him.

Yet the Mattox campaign tells us nothing about this record. It offers, rather, the promise of more state executions, increased prison construction, and continued regressive taxation. It is, essentially, a Kent Hance campaign with a body count.

Ann Richards's resume, as Jim Mattox argues, seems a bit short. Richards managed the state house campaigns of former State Rep. Sarah Weddington and Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, both of Travis County. Then, in 1976, she challenged incumbent

Jimmy Vouhouris and won a seat on the Travis County Commission, a position she held until 1982 when she learned that State Treasurer Warren G. Harding was about to be indicted for official misconduct. In an astute political move, Richards resigned her county commissioners position to run against Harding. She won 47 percent of the vote in a three-candidate primary, prevailed in the runoff, then easily defeated a Republican opponent in November.

What kind of record can one compile as a county commissioner and a state treasurer? Richard Moya, who served with Richards on the Commissioners Court, credits her with introducing to the Travis County commissioners the idea of a social-services agenda. "She was extremely sensitive to trying to help those folks who hadn't been able to get help in the past," Moya told *Dallas Morning News* reporter Sheila Taylor in 1982, after Richards was elected treasurer.

"She bought sensitivity to the court that was missing and a dimension we hadn't had. . . . She knew what county government was all about and she put in the time. Before she came we couldn't be called sensitive to the problems of the people. We were all busy with roads and bridges. She helped start an innovative program of providing human services and now we fund 39 agencies that provide human services."

Richards is also credited with introducing computers and electronic deposits to the creaky department of the treasury, and with putting in place programs that made possible the advancement of women and minorities beyond the clerical positions traditionally reserved for them.

There is no question that in a side-by-side of the Mattox and Richards histories, Ann Richards doesn't measure up to Jim Mattox. Yet candidates for public office must be judged by what they offer as well as what they have achieved. What is it, then, that Jim Mattox and Ann Richards offer?

The Mattox media campaign, the only component of the campaign that the average voter sees, has embraced two themes: state executions and a lottery. Executions and longer jail sentences, the attorney general suggests, will deter crime. The lottery will raise money for public education, eliminating the need for a state income tax.

It is hard to conceive two issues more repugnant to progressive Democrats. In the state that leads the nation in executions, where 32 men have been executed since the *Fru-man* and *Jurek* decisions were handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1976, and

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where two innocent men on death row came dangerously close to execution during the past two years, to run statewide television spots that whip up public support for capital punishment is immoral. And, if we were to enter the execution debate, we would note that those executions were something of a windfall for Mattox. He was attorney general in those years after the Legislature fine-tuned the statutes in response to the *Jurek* decision and the doors to the death chamber at Huntsville were re-opened. Had Mattox served one term earlier, he would have been denied those 32 opportunities by the U.S. Supreme Court.

That the death penalty is racist in its application is not conjecture. The Supreme Court admitted as much in the *McClesky* decision handed down in 1987. Since executions resumed in 1977, of 118 persons executed nationwide, 48 (41 percent) were black and 100 (84 percent) were executed for the murder of white victims. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals operates independently of the Governor's office, but it does not operate in a vacuum. To create a climate favorable to state-sanctioned execution applies a subtle pressure the court cannot ignore.

To offer a lottery as a solution to the crisis in funding of public education — and as a

source to fund prison construction — is at best disingenuous. Not only is a lottery a form of regressive taxation, albeit voluntary taxation, it creates the impression that the state's dependence on the ad valorem and sales taxes to finance education does not need to be changed. Progressive candidates communicate about the income tax with nods and winks. The "Yes to a Lottery and No to Income Tax" component of the Mattox campaign will only serve to hold the future at bay. This is too much nodding and winking.

So there you have it. The man with one of the most progressive records in Texas government, certainly the best and most aggressive attorney general since (yes) Jimmy Allred dedicated his tenure in that office to busting trusts, campaigning on behalf of a regressive system of taxation, more prison construction, and state executions.

The Richards campaign is most notable for what it hasn't said. It has not promoted prison-building, slammed jail-cell doors, taken the pledge on income taxes, nor offered up a revenue panacea. It has, in fact, said very little of substance, offering up instead an almost subliminal appeal on behalf of the candidate to "trust me." And at least in that

sense the campaign has not been reckless. It has not worked to create a climate in which the changes required to make this state a minimally decent place for all of its residents will be impossible to achieve.

Ann Richards has proven herself a capable administrator at the State Treasury. She has advanced the interests of women and minorities, provided small, minority-owned contractors with the opportunity to bid on government work and purchases, and improved the operation of the agency she directs. Richards is something considerably less than an exemplary candidate for progressive Democrats. Her close ties with Lloyd Bentsen and her cautious, white-bread, centrist campaign seem to suggest that she has bought the Democratic Leadership Council's argument that the only path to electoral victory is the one in the middle of the road.

Yet in what has become an executioner's-soung campaign, with Jim Mattox and Mark White engaged in a ghoulish fight over bragging rights to 32 corpses, Richards's silence on some issues sounds like eloquence. Better, we argue, to recognize that political discourse is dead than to accept what Mark White and Jim Mattox offer up in its stead.

After months of grappling with the issue we endorse Ann Richards. Through a long, difficult campaign she has exemplified grace under pressure. She has avoided all the right temptations. And she is probably the most electable candidate in the Democratic field.
L.D.

Unanswered Questions

Serious unanswered questions remain concerning a \$200,000 gift that was admittedly conveyed to Jim Mattox or his brother and/or sister by Danny Faulkner, of now-collapsed Mesquite Savings Loan, and about \$125,000 allegedly set aside by a litigant to be conveyed to the Attorney General to influence the outcome of litigation. The latter claim was made in a courtroom, yet Mattox has repeatedly refused to respond to interview requests from *Observer* Publisher Ronnie Dugger and from a reporter from the *Dallas Morning News* who also followed the story. The *Observer* welcomes General Mattox's comments.
L.D.

Statewide Races

Hightower, et al.

Armando Gutierrez is our choice for the office of state treasurer. Gutierrez's politics were cooked in the crucible of the Raza Unida Party, which 20 years ago altered the rightward course of the Texas Democratic Party. He has taught at the University of Texas and the University of Houston, directed the Jesse Jackson campaign in Texas, and served as an advisor to two Mexican Presidents. But what is most important about Gutierrez is that he would use the office as a bully pulpit for consumers and borrowers. The Texas Department of Agriculture, we should remember, once devoted all of its bureaucratic energy to inspecting eggs and certifying scales. We believe that Gutierrez would redefine the office of Treasurer in the way Jim Hightower redefined the office of Ag Commissioner. While out-of-state mega banks look to Texas as a large deposit franchise and coordinate the sort of expatriation of capital common to the Third World, an aggressive, pro-consumer Treasurer could make a difference. Gutierrez would only be one of three votes on the bank board, but we suspect that he would use that vote, and his position on the board, to advance the interest of the people.

Incumbent Agriculture Commissioner **Jim Hightower** faces six candidates sponsored

by the Farm Bureau, a tire and insurance company that claims to represent the interest of farmers. We endorse Hightower, who remains the most enlightened and progressive leader in the state. His office has survived one investigation, which after an audit appears to have been politically motivated. Even the Governor had to tone his rhetoric down after it was discovered that he had eaten one of the meals he was complaining about.

Hightower's office is again the subject of investigation. It will likely continue to be investigated as its progressive populist agenda makes it a lightning rod for a new national Republican Administration much more inclined than its predecessor to turn the machinery of government against its enemies. The recent investigation of a Hightower consultant — which looks bad — will perhaps return the Ag Commissioner to a more hands-on management system. Yet it seems more than coincidence that all of this occurs in February, just a month before the primary. Hightower's reelection cannot be taken for granted. Republicans are spending big money in the Democratic primary and are prepared to do it all again with Rick Perry in November.

Clint Hackney gets our support in the race for the Railroad Commission seat vacated by Kent Hance. Hackney, a former state repre-

sentative from Houston, ran against Hance last time around. Hackney is anything but telegenic, but has a progressive record as a legislator. His opponent, former Congressman Bob Krueger, didn't enter the race until December and has been something of a compromised candidate in the past. We'll back the Hack.

For the Supreme Court Place 1 position, vacated by Franklin Spears, we support San Antonio Judge **Fred Biery** who now sits on the Fourth Court of Appeals. Progressive and moderate lawyers that we talk to contend that Biery is the only legitimate candidate in the race. His opponent, Gene Kelly, is described as a lightweight. An attorney from Universal City, near San Antonio, Kelly is attempting to use a time-honored mechanism in Texas electoral politics. That is, to use a familiar name to dance into office. Fred Biery is the only qualified candidate in the race.

In Place 2, we support **Clifton "Scrappy" Holmes**, an East Texas populist in the tradition of Franklin Jones, whom Holmes counts among his supporters. Holmes is running against Houston Judge Ross Sears and Austin Judge (and one-term Houston Congressman) Bob Gammage. Sears is the most conservative of the three candidates.

Perhaps the most difficult decision facing

progressive voters is the choice between Frank Maloney and Morris Overstreet for Place 1 on the Court of Criminal Appeals. A third candidate, Jeff Van Horn, a Caldwell County District Attorney, has positioned himself to the right of most Republican candidates for public office, and seems to ignore the accusatory nature of the American judicial system. Morris Overstreet is a black Potter County District Judge who narrowly missed a chance to be the Democratic Party candidate for the Supreme Court when the State Democratic Executive Committee supported,

by a 33-24 vote, Karl Bayer. Bayer went on to replace resigned Justice James Wallace and was defeated by Republican Eugene Cook. Overstreet goes up against Frank Maloney, who one Austin civil rights attorney describes as "one of the best authorities on legal procedure in the state." And the Court of Criminal Appeals deals with procedure. We endorse **Maloney**, 67, who has a longer and more notable criminal-defense resume than anyone currently on the court. An African-American candidate on a statewide ticket is obviously long overdue. And

Morris Overstreet is at least as qualified as several current members of the Texas Supreme Court. Yet the opportunity to elect a jurist like Maloney to the body that is the court of last resort for all criminal cases outweighs the very important issue of minority representation.

For Place 3, we recommend **Pat Barber**, who is running against incumbent Justice Bill White. White has never denied his predisposition toward prosecutors. Barber is backed by criminal-defense attorneys.

L.D., A.F.

Attorney General

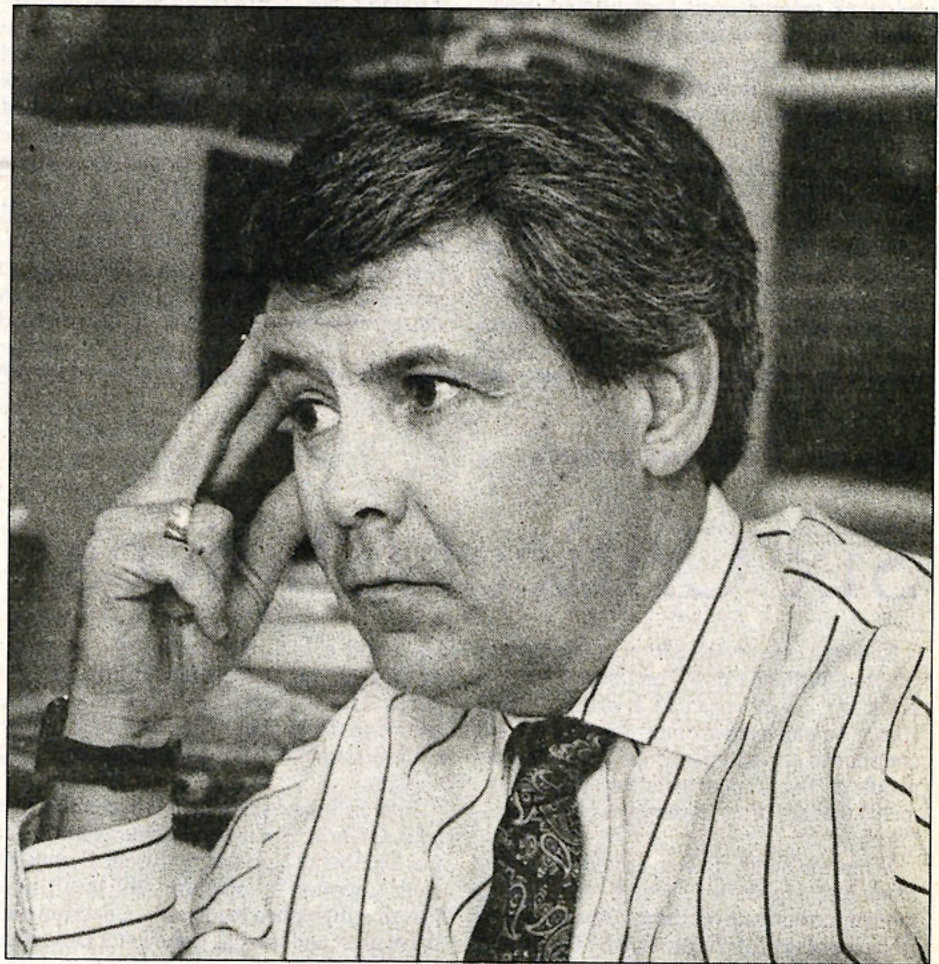
The People's Candidate

The *Observer* endorses **John Odam** for attorney general. Odam served as an executive assistant attorney general for John Hill before Hill abandoned — in principle — his party ... and in practice his principle. Odam, a Houston trial lawyer, has conducted the most peculiar sort of campaign for public office — at least when measured by the standard against which we measure most political campaigns today. John Odam has been talking to the people. He has visited every county courthouse in the state, talked with county commissioners, local officials, and voters in places where most candidates for statewide public office won't even buy airtime.

Odam has also served as Harris County Democratic Party Chair and as a legislative liaison to the Mark White administration. He is endorsed by the progressive Harris County Democrats and backed by the Texas Trial Lawyers Association. While trial-lawyer bashing has become fashionable, particularly among some of the more shrill newspaper columnists in the state's major dailies, it might be wise to pause and recall the Texas Supreme Court when it was a subsidiary of oil and insurance companies. Only after plaintiffs' attorneys organized and began backing candidates did progressive justices such as Bill Kilgarlin and Ted Z. Robertson begin to win elections.

While we don't confuse the profession with the Sisters of Charity, we do recognize that trial lawyers' self-interest more often than not coincides with the interest of most working people in the state.

Odam would have won the support of the Texas AFL-CIO, if their convention had endorsed candidates rather than adjourning when they were unable to resolve a bitter fight between Jim Mattox and Ann Richards. He had both of the convention committees' endorsements which are a prerequisite to endorsement on the floor.



ALAN POGUE

John Odam

So we will go with Odam, the more experienced and more progressive of the two candidates. He is backed by the right people, seems inclined to pursue the same aggressive environmental and anti-trust course charted by Jim Mattox, and will probably improve

the backlogged child support division. While John Bryant and Lloyd Doggett would have been our first and second choices, Odam is the better candidate in March and will run a strong race against Pat Hill or Buster Brown in November.

L.D.

I'll Take Morales

Dan Morales deserves his due. This three-term legislator from San Antonio and candidate for attorney general is no liberal paragon. He is not a populist hero or a tireless crusader. He is an ambitious career politician who has demonstrated some political guts on behalf of the working people of Texas.

It is true that Morales is a conservative on criminal justice matters. To further his criminal justice agenda, he has formed alliances with the likes of Republican Buster Brown, the state senator and candidate for attorney general. He recently backed Proposition 10, an odious measure approved by voters in November that allows the Legislature, in effect, to curtail the rights of defendants. The Morales criminal justice agenda often reflects a disregard for individual rights.

If the attorney general had broad prosecutorial powers, the conservative side of Dan Morales would be of concern. But the attorney general's role in criminal prosecutions is so limited that Morales will rarely — if ever — have the opportunity to flex his prosecutorial muscle on criminal justice matters. His criminal justice record might play a signifi-

cant role in the campaign; the people seem to demand tough-on-crime prosecutor types to fill the role of the state's top lawyer. But governance and reality are another matter.

In areas of substantive concern, in areas where an attorney general actually has some clout, Morales's record is more agreeable. Morales has pledged to represent the consumer and the public interest on such important issues as insurance reform, utility regulation, and education reform. As a representative, he has supported indigent-health care measures, the enforcement of groundwater standards, the rights of gays, insurance reform, and workers' rights. He is on the record in support of continuing the good work current Attorney General Jim Mattox has accomplished in such areas as anti-trust litigation and reform of the utilities. While other statewide candidates skirt the income tax issue, Morales remains open to it.

"With regard to criminal justice issues, I would say it probably is a fair characterization of my voting record and my positions to say I am a conservative," Morales said in an *Observer* interview. "But in terms of broad

consideration of non-criminal justice issues I think the only fair and objective way to characterize my record is of a progressive record."

In his tenure in the House, Morales's high-profile criminal justice record has fueled intense criticism of the candidate. Morales is aware that he is not well-liked in some progressive circles. In the *Observer* interview, he attempted to dispel this image and insisted that liberal-minded Democrats examine his record more closely. Perhaps Morales, a charming, Harvard-educated lawyer, wanted to use the *Observer* interview to appear more liberal than he is. Maybe Morales needs the support of a liberal constituency to secure the nomination. But the Morales record does reflect a man committed to many of the principles the *Observer* has over the years steadfastly supported.

He is pro-choice despite his roots in a Catholic culture. In a conservative state, this is a candidate who went on the record as left-leaning and progressive. He is eager to talk about taxation in responsible terms. And he appears sincere in representing the interests of the working class.

A.F.

Senate Endorsements

Six Critical Choices

Should a conservative Republican such as Clayton Williams or — and here I place a black rag on my head as I write — Kent Hance be elected governor, the Senate will continue to serve as the firewall between the people of Texas and legislation and appointments that are often nothing less than pernicious.

When the Senate fails to protect the public from bad legislation, which often gains momentum as it moves through the House, or from appointments offered up by the Governor, the results can be disastrous. And bad public policy is not unlike the woman's love described by a father to a dejected son in a Larry McMurtry novel: It's like the morning dew, "as likely to settle on a horse's turd as a rose." Ultimately, it affects all of us. The recently enacted workers' comp bill is one such example. Working people in the state will, as the law takes effect during the next two years, begin to understand what they

lost. And a look at electric bills in many regions of the state will confirm that the public lost a great deal when the Senate approved the appointments of Public Utility Commissioners Marta Greytok and Bill Cassin.

Fifteen Senate seats are up for election this year. Of those, six involve contested races in the Democratic primary. Bryan Democrat Kent Caperton's departure will result in a loss of enlightened leadership. Caperton had the respect and trust of Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby and was known to be a reasonable moderate-to-progressive member of the body. It was Caperton, along with Port Arthur Senator Carl Parker, who led the almost-successful fight against workers'-comp reform in the recent special session. And two years ago it was Caperton holding the line against tort reform. If Caperton is replaced by Republican Rep. Richard Smith — again the black rag — then Caperton's loss to the

Senate will be measured exponentially. Smith carried the water for big business on workers' comp, steadfastly refused any attempts at compromise, and generally voted against progressive, consumer, and labor issues when they made it to the House floor. Beside all of that he is an odious and unpleasant fellow.

Two Democrats are involved in a close race to replace Smith. Jim Turner, a former House Member and now mayor of Crockett, and Ron DeLord, president of a law enforcement association. Turner generally voted with the rural conservative bloc as a House member and more recently was one of several attorneys on the losing side of the landmark *Edgewood v. Kirby* education-finance lawsuit. Turner represented intervening school districts opposed to equity in funding among the state's 1066 public school districts. Ron DeLord is a former law enforcement officer, attorney, and president of CLEAT, the statewide law-officers' professional association

and lobby group. He is generally pro-worker, having lobbied the Legislature on behalf of the state's law-enforcement officers. DeLord has twice run the Cops Against Clements campaign and Bill Clements has only run for governor twice. DeLord's public positions on education are progressive. He is running a pro-equity campaign, making "quality education for all of the state's children" his principal campaign issue. The *Observer* endorses **Ron DeLord**, anticipating that he will be the better candidate to run against Smith in November and a good member of the Senate in January.

Chet Brooks was one of three Democratic Senators on whom all eyes were trained during the final days of the 1989 special session on workers' comp. With the body closely divided on the issue, it was up to Brooks, fellow Chet, Chet Edwards, and Laredo Senator Judith Zaffirini to hold the line. None was a true believer in the pro-worker comp bill sponsored by Carl Parker and Kent Caperton. Therefore the three converts were under the most intense sort of pressure from the insurance and big-business lobby. Five days before the final vote, *Dallas Times-Herald* columnist Molly Ivins wrote that though the pro-business package had been voted down twice, working people in the state shouldn't rest too easy with three days remaining in the session and their fate in the hands of "the Chets." In the end, Ivins wrote, the Chets would bolt because "character is destiny." Ivins couldn't have been more prophetic. Brooks has been doing this for years but the fact that this time it occurred in a one-topic session, where the pressure and the house lights were on, let everybody in on it.

For years Brooks has also been making a healthy living off the Senate, were members earn \$7,200 a year. Recently the *Austin American-Statesman* did a story on Brooks's use of his officeholder account to funnel money to his one-man public relations firm.

Brooks is challenged by Galveston Rep. **Lloyd Criss**, whom the *Observer* endorses without reservation. In the House Criss has been excellent on labor issues and generally good on consumer issues. (There was one drug-testing bill, however.) Criss has passed worker-safety legislation and bills requiring the removal of asbestos from public buildings. Two sessions ago he faced a hostile House with a resolution against the English-only movement. He's hitting Brooks where he is most vulnerable, on the ethics question. If that's below the belt then Brooks had a high waistline. And Criss knows where to find the worst of Chet Brooks's old bills and votes. He's digging them out and offering them up for the public to examine. Demographics could also be on Criss's side; the strong labor vote from the south side of the district is bound to benefit Criss, who represents Galveston and counts on the support of labor. Vote early and often for Lloyd Criss in the 11th District.

If Hugh Parmer's departure from the Sen-

ate to run against Phil Gramm is bad news, the good news is that he might be replaced by **Art Brender**. Brender, a highly regarded civil rights lawyer from Fort Worth, won't exactly replace Parmer, who has consistently been the best of the Senate. But Brender might come close. The *Observer* encourages voters in the state's 12th Senatorial district to vote for and work for the election of Art Brender. He has earned the endorsement of every progressive group in the region and is easily the best of a four-candidate field, where his strongest opposition comes from former County Judge Mike Moncrief. Writing in the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Kaye Northcott speculates that Moncrief might lose some of his voters who, because of their conservative nature, will be drawn into the Republican primary.

Frank Tejada is one of several senators who too often vote against the interests of their constituency. The recent workers'-comp fight provides an example. There was never a question about whether Tejada would support the Bill Hobby pro-business bill or the pro-worker bill advanced by Parker and Caperton. Tejada, who represents one of the largest working-class constituencies in the state, in San Antonio, signed on with the Hobby plan. (The Parker-Caperton bills were the only ones that promised to reduce employers' comp rates while protecting most benefits.) Trial lawyers and labor are backing **Steve Price**, in a primary race that includes four candidates. The *Observer* endorses Price in District 19.

The toughest choice for progressives is in the Lower Rio Grande Valley District 27 where Brownsville Rep. Eddie Lucio and Edinburg Rep. Alex Moreno are trying to unseat incumbent Senator Hector Uribe. For progressives, Lucio doesn't enter the picture. But the fight between Moreno and Uribe is a tough call. Uribe is a working-class *diputado de la raza* in every sense. He has always been close to Valley Interfaith, has been a leader in the House Mexican-American Caucus, and almost always votes right. Uribe is urbane and a little more distant from his constituency. But he always votes right, has an interest in education finance, and is the Senate sponsor of the Edgewood plaintiffs' plan for equity in public-school finance. The race presents a difficult choice and if anything makes the difference, it is Moreno's vote on workers' comp. If it was a calculated attempt to bring in business contributions to a Senate campaign, it backfired. The chambers of commerce went with their lobbyist, Rep. Eddie Lucio, who has raised more money than Moreno. We'll go with **Uribe**, who dug in and fought for worker's rights in the Senate. We wish that Moreno had attempted the same in the house.

Senate District 29 in El Paso presents a rare opportunity to replace a compromised and not terribly effective incumbent with a smart, principled pro-consumer challenger. **Peggy Rosson** is running against veteran El Paso Senator Tati Santiesteban. Santieste-

ban has so little to run on that he is attempting to paint Rosson as a utilities lackey, citing one vote she cast on the Public Utility Commission that he claims cost El Paso ratepayers some \$60 million. Rosson, however, had no choice on that particular vote in which the utility complied with a requirement by which rates were automatically raised.

El Pasoans would be wise to listen to Austin-based attorney Don Butler, who has made a career of representing cities and consumers before the Public Utility Commission:

"No one on the commission ever demonstrated more concern for the public and more knowledge of the regulation process than Peggy Rosson. She was not only the fairest but the most knowledgeable of the regulation process." Butler said that Mark White, who appointed Rosson, "was never properly appreciative of her ability and that was a reflection on his intelligence."

El Pasoans might also ask why their Senator is running an electric-rate-protest campaign after his law firm had been retained and paid by El Paso Electric for years. And why Santiesteban voted for Bill Clements's appointees to the Public Utility Commission, Bill Cassin and Marta Greytok (both had established records clearly hostile to consumers during the interim between appointment and Senate approval) when there was a credible attempt to defeat them on the Senate floor. As to why El Paso County Judge Luther Jones didn't retain Santiesteban's law firm to fight the low-level waste dump in nearby Hudspeth County, it was probably because Jones recognized that Santiesteban had already allowed then-freshman Senator Judith Zaffirini to run over him with a bill locating the dump near El Paso, rather than in South Texas. Rosson would be a big improvement in the Senate, providing El Paso with the sort of knowledgeable and committed representation it now has in the House with Republican Rep. Jack Vowell. The *Observer* endorses Peggy Rosson without reservation. If endorsements were rated, this paragraph would be followed by five stars.

L.D.

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House Elections

A Long Way to Go

ONE PROGRESSIVE campaign consultant in Austin contends that the House is just two or three elections away from becoming something like a decent deliberative body. The guy who makes the claim has to be considered among the best and the brightest in his field and seemed sober and clear-eyed when he said it. It's hard to see how a body this bad can be healed that fast. But in the interest of hastening that day *Observer* Editorial Assistant Brett Campbell and I got on the phone and talked to political insiders and state representative candidates scattered across the state in an attempt to ferret out the best candidates. We did not make endorsements in all of the 37 contested races in the Democratic primary. Those races in which we do endorse, and a few for which we explain why we did not, are listed below:

In District 6 Gary Morgan, a Tyler attorney with labor-council support, is attempting to defeat David Hudson, who has served five terms in the House. Public interest lobbyists describe Hudson as a reasonable legislator whom they can usually work with. The *Observer* supports **Hudson**.

EAST TEXAS

In the District 11 East Texas seat vacated by Dick Swift, Buck Bonner goes up against Elton Bomer. While we don't know enough about Bonner to make an endorsement, we recognize Bomer, a banker, as a former Legislator who spent considerable time and energy representing the interests of utility companies when the Public Utility Commission was being reviewed by the Sunset Commission. When he was finished as a legislator Bomer signed on as a utility lobbyist, not unlike the work he was doing when he represented the 11th district in the House. Voters might want to have a careful look at Bonner, a ranch hand and former Justice of the Peace. There are already enough electric chairs in the House.

If Brad Wright was the quixotic and sinister Knight Errant of the Homophobic Order during the last session, Billy Clemons of District 17 was his Sancho Panza. A bit more practical and corpulent — and quite honestly not as mean — than his master, Clemons carried the shield for the man who exemplified the sort of hatred and fear of one's brother that is peculiar to certain strains of Christianity. Together, they held AIDS funding hostage for as long as they could, hell-bent it seemed, on forcing gays to recant, repent, or declare themselves criminals before any bill would pass. Clemons has two

challengers. One, Hector Garcia — no relation, we hope, to the good and venerable doctor of the same name from Corpus Christi — quickly convinced us that he has the potential to be worse than Clemons. He's a Farm Bureau man and is touting their agenda. **Dan Jones**, who seems the most reasonable candidate, gets the *Observer* endorsement.

It's not only that Ron Lewis looks like a Cheeto when, on Orange County day he dons his orange blazer, which somehow complements his florid skin tone. The guy is a lightweight who last session injured his leg on a lobbyist-funded ski trip, then complained that the junket wasn't free because the lobbyist didn't pick up his medical bill. But he's honest. Lewis admits that if lobby perks like golf and hunting trips were taken away, the job wouldn't be fun anymore. No kin to Gib Lewis, at least not biological kin, Lewis is a creature of the Lobby. In the interest of sartorial good taste, good government, and upgrading legislative eugenics, we urge a vote for S.W. "**Sam**" Owens, a Bell Telephone employee about whom we know very little. If nothing else, it is hoped that Owens will provide the transition in a district where the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers ought to be able to find at least one qualified candidate.

Attorney **Curtis Soileau** is a bright, young, pro-labor freshman from Lumberton in District 20. His defeat would be a bitter pill for progressives to swallow. The *Observer* endorses him and urges East Texas voters to turn out on his behalf. We were sufficiently enthusiastic about Soileau in 1988 that we endorsed him in races in two House districts. It is with no less enthusiasm that we endorse him — for only one seat this time around.

Cindy Jenkins is challenging Mark Stiles from Beaumont, another faithful servant of the corporate lobby. Stiles's work against safety standards for tractor-trailers was documented by the *Austin American-Statesman*. The *Statesman* looked at one accident in which an Austin doctor was killed and considered how such accidents might be avoided if the trucking-safety provisions that Stiles was opposing had been enacted. Stiles cited increased paperwork for truckers as a reason to oppose truck safety. **Cindy Jenkins** gets the *Observer* endorsement, not just because Stiles is so bad, but because she is so good. A Mark White appointee to the Board of Medical Examiners, Jenkins served with distinction there. She also ran the Doggett-for-Senate campaign in Southeast Texas. She is a long shot against Stiles but her election would be good news.

Two challengers are attempting to replace Galveston Rep. Lloyd Criss, whom we hope to see oust Chet Brooks from the Senate seat that Brooks has held since sometime before the Woodstock Nation sought recognition at the U.N. Both Gilbert Torres and Mike Martin are said to be qualified and progressive candidates. The *Observer* endorses **Mike Martin**, a lawyer who has organized labor's support, and only wishes that one of these guys lived in Al Edwards's district. Martin was a Babe Schwartz aide when Schwartz was doing good things in the Senate.

SOUTH TEXAS

Phyllis Robinson is hanging it up and returning to Gonzalez, the town, that is. Former Democratic Rep. Tim Von Dohlen, who served in the Legislature in 1980, has the redistricting experience from the past. What voters in the 31st District need to know is that the experience was all bad. **Timothy Curtis** was an aide to Senator Eddie Bernice Johnson, knows the Legislature and is expected to be good on most issues. The *Observer* supports Curtis.

The *Observer* urges District 37 voters to vote early and often for **Irma Rangel**, the Dean of the Valley Delegation and the House Hispanic Caucus. Rangel has voted right for so many years that nobody seems to notice anymore. Like Carlos Truan in the Senate, she's not afraid to be identified as ideological. She clearly understands the difference between them and us and has the most droll sense of humor in the House. A challenger came close in the last Democratic primary, so this year she's out campaigning, for herself and Jim Mattox. With redistricting coming up, the forces of light can't afford too many losses.

Larry Warner, one of the most thoughtful voters in the House, is giving up his seat to run for the 13th State Court of Appeals in Corpus Christi. Warner's election would improve the quality of justice in South Texas. Four candidates are after the District 38 seat and two of them are worth supporting. Sam Lozano is the former mayor of Harlingen and a reasonable politician. **Ken Medders**, according to several sources in the Valley, is the most enlightened of the four. Medders has served as a city commissioner in San Benito. The *Observer* endorses Medders.

Blind ambition might have led Eddie Lucio to a futile challenge of Brownsville Senator Hector Uribe. If so, then ambition here is something less than a grievous fault; it could mean deliverance for District 39 voters, for two sessions too long represented by Lucio.

If he were as smart as he was compromised he could have been dangerous. But his departure heralds the return, we hope, of Rene Oliveira, the Brownsville attorney who held the seat before Lucio won the Democratic Primary in '86. **Rene O. Oliveira** gets the *Observer* endorsement. He faces one opponent.

Alex Moreno's leadership will be missed in the House. Moreno is also running for the Senate seat held by Hector Uribe. We only wish that Alex had waited a session or two because it seems that Uribe is headed for a Supreme Court seat sooner or later. Sources in the Valley suggest that we sit this one out. There are races where the voter can't go wrong. This, we are told, is not such a race; two regulars Eddies, Eddy Gonzalez and Eddie de la Garza (yes, of the Kika family) here seek the nomination. The kicker here for some voters might be the latter's biological bond to the congressman.

Juan Hinojosa, who has to be counted among the best of the House, is leaving after nine productive years. **Rosalie Weisfeld** seems to have Hinojosa's support in a crowded field of five. Weisfeld probably won't be the leader that Hinojosa was. But she is a bright, articulate Valley native running a smart campaign. She knows the Legislature, having served as an aide to Senator Hector Uribe. The *Observer* endorses Weisfeld, who seems headed for a runoff.

Eldon Edge, the Democrat from Poth, voted against most consumer issues, voted against the TDA sunset bill, and against worker safety. He is being challenged by Tom Cate, an attorney. The one thing that distinguishes Edge from most rural-bloc conservatives is his hairstyle, which according to several informed sources resulted in at least three phone calls to the Mojo Nixon's "Elvis Sighted Hotline (dial 619 239-KING)." The *Observer* is inclined to give the edge to **Tom Cate** in this one.

CENTRAL TEXAS

Austin businesswoman **Sherri Greenberg**, a bright entrepreneurial type, offers Democrats the best hope of recapturing the West-Austin seat vacated by Republican Terral Smith. Greenberg has the backing of some of the best political insiders in Austin and is running in a field of four. The winner will face a Republican in what is sure to be a challenging race in November. The *Observer* endorses Greenberg.

Elliott Naishtat is more than a veteran of the *Observer* softball team. This disclaimer out of the way, we will give him the nod for the leadoff position in a three-man Democratic primary race that includes as good a field of candidates as can be found anywhere in the state. Naishtat is an attorney, who for two sessions has worked as legislative counsel for Austin Senator Gonzalo Barrientos. He faces Erwin McGee, an Austin attorney who worked for Lloyd Doggett in the Senate and John White in Washington; and Fernando Dubove, another attorney (most Austin

residents are attorneys or closet attorneys) who has worked as an aide to Rep. Irma Rangel. Hard to go wrong here, but of the two most experienced candidates, Naishtat has shaken off advice to demagogue the tax question and McGee hasn't. To continue to ride a paragraph full of belabored baseball metaphors toward an *Observer* endorsement of Naishtat, let us note that the count here is three and two, three Democrats against two Republicans, the worst of whom is Bob Richardson, once a minor-league Democrat and now something of an embarrassment to Republicans. Here's hoping that Naishtat sends him to the showers in November.

In Belton (District 53) two Democrats are out to replace T. Boone Pickens look-alike Hugh Shine, who joins three Republicans in pursuit of the seat vacated by U.S. Congressman Marvin Leath. Temple attorney Jack Jones is running against **Aliceanne Wallace**, a member of the Silver-Haired Legislature, by all accounts a progressive group which meets in Austin to debate public-policy questions. The *Observer* endorses Wallace, an issue-oriented woman who is frequently in touch with legislators.

Mike Smiddy of Mineral Wells in District 54, an attorney and former county judge from Palo Pinto County, seems the best of three candidates running to replace Rick Perry, who bolted the Democratic Party for the opportunity to run against Jim Hightower. Smiddy supports the Bullock Plan for school-funding equity, says that the need for more funding for education is evident, and that the sin tax (tax on liquor and cigarettes) might be an option. He describes the personal income tax as being the least palatable source of revenue.

WEST TEXAS

Pete Gallego, an Alpine attorney and former assistant attorney general under Jim Mattox, goes up against incumbent Dudley Harrison in District 68. Dudley worked hard to protect the department of agriculture from the chemical lobby during the past session, sticking his neck out and working as a floor leader in an effort to keep pesticide regulation where it belonged. But Gallego is the more progressive of the two candidates. And the district, by demographics, is Hispanic. Harrison usually votes with the rural conservative bloc. Gallego should be an improvement.

NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

In Fort Worth's 90th, perennial Legislator **Doyle Willis**, who served in the state House when Ralph Yarborough was breaking onto the statewide scene, remains our sentimental favorite.

Dallas voters in the 103rd District face a difficult choice. Steve Wollens is a bright, articulate, and capable legislator. Public-interest lobbyists describe him as a representative who can take the floor on a difficult issue and actually make a difference. He is challenged by Dallas inner-city lawyer Domingo Garcia, who for years has been involved in grass-

roots electoral politics and public interest lobbying at city hall. We like both candidates here.

SAN ANTONIO

In the 119th District, San Antonio incumbent Jerry Beauchamp is challenged by attorney **Robert Puente**. Beauchamp's voting record is hardly one befitting an urban representative. Labor is supporting Puente, who also gets the *Observer* endorsement.

Residents of District 124 will have more progressive representation than they had when represented by Dan Morales, who is running for attorney general. St. Mary's University political professor Nef Garcia, who in 1988 ran against Republican Senator Cyndi Krier, and Christine Hernandez, of the American Federation of Teachers, are both good candidates. The *Observer* here gives the edge to **Nef Garcia**.

HOUSTON

In District 128, former state Rep. Henry Allee is attempting a comeback. Allee's district was merged with Tony Polumbo's during redistricting. Polumbo is now leaving the House and **Allee**, who has labor backing, seems the best choice in a three-candidate contest.

Ron Wilson has drawn two opponents. Though Wilson sometimes files the strangest bills (remember handguns for all?) he is right on most issues. And, perhaps the best procedural parliamentarian in the House — an important skill for minority faction reps. Never mind the sartorial excess, it's tough down on that floor and leather pants are a more manly means of covering one's ass than the paper and excuses that most of these guys use. We'll stay with **Ron Wilson**.

In District 138, Pipefitter's Union business agent Ken Yarborough is going up in a four-candidate race for the privilege to run against Ken VanderVoort. We will go with **Yarborough**, whose background seems similar to that of Lloyd Criss. Yarborough has the support of Harris County Democrats and organized labor.

Incumbent **Senfronia Thompson** seems the best of a field of three running in the 141st District in Houston.

In District 146, word that neither of the two challengers is better than incumbent Al Edwards, has left most observers bewildered — sort of like Al. But we have it from good sources that **Edwards**, who sponsored a bill that would have established severing a finger as a punishment for drug dealers, and another requiring official English on all job sites, is the best candidate. What can we say? Give 'em the finger, Al.

In 147, we will stay with incumbent **Larry Evans**, one of the sharpest members of the Houston House delegation, though we were disappointed to learn that Evans's bandaged finger last session was not a silent and eloquent protest against Al Edwards's finger bill, but rather the result of a mugging.

L.D.

Nikki Van Hightower

The Competent Candidate

Nikki Van Hightower was born in Billings, Montana, on August 14, 1939. She received her B.A. and M.A. from the University of Houston and her Ph.D. from New York University in 1974. A former assistant professor of political science at the University of Houston, she served as Houston's women's advocate from 1976 until 1978. She was appointed to the post by then-Mayor Fred Hofheinz, and went on to serve as the executive director of the Houston Area Women's Center from 1979 to 1987. She was elected Harris County treasurer in 1986. Hightower was interviewed by Observer Editor Louis Dubose and Associate Editor Allan Freedman in Austin on January 24. The editors were accompanied by Austin photographer Vic Hinterlang. An interview with treasurer candidate Armando Gutierrez will appear in the next issue.

This is a very low profile race.

Oh yes.

What are the issues here?

This is a nuts-and-bolts office. It's extremely important. The revenues in the next fiscal year are going to be about \$28 billion. That money flows through the treasurer's office. The treasurer is responsible for taking care of it. There's probably about \$180 billion in transactions that take place in the treasurer's office. But in terms of stirring passions it just doesn't.... What I'm promising is a good-government office, one that provides the maximum security for public funds and that generates the maximum non-tax revenues.

Is there a political role for the state treasurer to play? Do you see a political role for your office?

Very much so. I think the state treasurer is in a key position to be speaking out on the funding of issues that are going to be the most vital for the state of Texas in the next decade to come. I've always been a very vocal person, have been in Harris County, taking stands on the fiscal affairs of Harris County and I would continue to do so at the state office. . . [A state treasurer] can either be out there on the forefront trying to generate decent funding for our schools, the environment . . . or they can just pull the rug out from underneath



VIC HINTERLANG

Nikki Van Hightower

our political leaders when they get up and start . . . saying "we don't have the funds for this. We can't tax our people anymore." In terms of the political role, it's a key political role, educating the public, keeping them informed. But it's not a policy-making role.

Are there issues you feel you're going to have some influence on?

Absolutely, I think that the estimates I hear on what the cost of fair funding will be, responsible funding for the schools is anywhere from a billion dollars a year for the next five years on up to \$20 billion for the next five years. We're going to have to make some hard decisions on where that money is going to come from, how we're going to restructure our tax system in this state. And I

intend to play a real active role in that.

How would the treasurer play a role?

Certainly treasurers can do active lobbying. [State Treasurer] Ann Richards has always done that. She's always been very involved with the Legislature. But I think public education is one of the key things we're going to have to deal with. We're going to have to get out there and tell the public about these issues and where the revenue sources are going to be coming from.

Probably over the next five years, education will be the primary funding issue in this state. What sets you apart from your principal opponent, Armando Gutierrez, on that issue?

I don't think we're apart on that issue at all. Our philosophical belief in what services a government is supposed to provide and what's important, probably we're very close together. We're very far apart on who has the experience to do the job. I speak from three years of experience coming from the county treasurer's office. You don't just walk in and take over one of these offices. It takes some background and skill. He has never served in public office, never handled public monies, and he's running for the state treasurer's office. It's baffling to me. I've been active for the past, well, real active for the past 15 years to generate public confidence in what I'm doing, to sell myself to the public. And I'm running against someone — he has never served in public office, and he's now a candidate for a statewide office. But as far as I can tell, he has no particular interest in and absolutely no political background in.

I'm picking up a little bit of frustration in you talking about Armando.

Yeah. There has been some frustration. I see someone who's just jumped up and, really, I don't think has paid his dues. But he's generating support. He gives good presentations. He sways people. He generates a lot of emotionalism. And I've got a long track record of service. . . . I do at a smaller scale exactly what the state treasurer does. . . . And I think people just don't understand the importance of handling money and the key role it is in the whole governing process. . . . He [Gutierrez] talks about things that he either knows nothing about, or he's just trying to pull the wool over people's eyes, just a lot of snake oil on this, and that's very difficult to combat because we don't have the forum to really do that. . . . He makes ludicrous comparisons between the interest generated on the general revenue funds coming into the state and the interests generated on pension funds, either not knowing or not caring that one is very long-term investment and the other is a very short-term investment. One is highly restricted by legislative guidelines in terms of the investments you can make. The

other one has a lot more latitude. He talks about red-lining banks as if the state treasurer has the sole option to go in and determine what banks are going to be chartered in the state and what banks are not, rather than as one member of the bank board that gives the charters out. I'm hearing a lot of this stuff and it's very persuasive stuff, snake oil.

Aren't there some areas where the state treasurer's office could make a difference? And I wonder what you think about those, possibly link deposits, banks that would be less inclined to red-line, using the state's money as a lever?

Absolutely, I think some of that can be done. However, we're in a setting right now in the state of Texas where the banks aren't very eager to have state monies. It's expensive. We demand high interest rates. Every cent of it has to be collateralized. It ties up their capital. A lot of the smaller institutions you would most want to benefit by doing this

"I've got a long track record of service."

don't want it. The state could back off and say we'll take a lower interest rate, which is essentially the linked deposit program. The link deposit program, I will need to study that pilot program to see how effective it has been. There is no lack of liquidity in the state of Texas. There is money to make loans. . . . So, I'm thinking, and what I would want to look seriously at, is whether it would not be better to make our deposits in banks, making the determination on their deposit-to-loan ratio. Give the banks the most service that make the most loans and certainly be sure that those loans are tied into areas like — and certainly in the alternative agricultural program, that's one that really needs some pumping up. Make sure that it's tied into the areas that it's fair to minority businesses and that sort of thing. . . . But we're really talking about a nominal sum of money here, \$5 million, and I don't think all of that has been loaned out at the present time. So it's certainly no great loss to the state. That's a long slow developmental process to attract industries into our state. . . .

How about, I'm not sure exactly what I'm asking, the use of the state's proxy vote in securities to influence public or private sector policy. Is that a possibility?

Yeah. You know, again, that comes more with a long-term investment. Most of the state's revenues are invested overnight to 60 days. We're in and out real fast. And maybe that's a possibility. I really haven't looked into getting involved in the policies of firms because we have investments through those firms. I don't know that the state treasurer's office has much capability to be doing that. I don't mean to understate what the treasurer's office can do. It's a statewide elective office, and it's a powerful office. But in terms of just taking money and putting it here and putting it there, we've put real restrictions on our state's money and I think that that's proper. We don't want anyone in there deciding that they're going to put money in this business or that business, and risking public funds.

Is there a legislative agenda that you would have in terms of changes you'd like to see in the office once you're elected? Other than appropriations for the office, are there things you would go to the Legislature asking for?

There may be some changes or modifications in the investment program, because that's always changing, in terms of what can be comfortable and safe investments for the state. . . . So, anytime I think there's an area of possible investment that generates higher interest where the security is there we're going to want to move and change, but that has to be done through the legislative process. I think we've got some really major issues coming up at the state level — school funding, prison systems, health care — costly, very costly items, things that in the education area, I keep using that 'cause that's right in front of us right now, that I feel very strongly about, that every child in the state of Texas should have equal access to education and equal funding. I'm going to be working with the legislative body to help come up with a plan to help sell the plan to the citizens of Texas.

In the same way that, for instance, Richards came up with this \$600 to \$800 million one-time money proposal for the upcoming legislative session. Is that the kind of thing you're talking about? Identifying resources within current state revenue? Looking at ways in which state money could be used more efficiently?

That certainly is part of the role. I think that coming up with additional funds and letting our legislative body know what could possibly be made available. I just think there's no doubt that there's going to be some restructuring in our revenue-generating process. Being out there talking about which plan will be most equitable for citizens, which plan is most reasonable, most fiscally responsible, and then participate in the selling of that to the community.

You mention the limitations of the office in reference to Armando and his sense of a

social agenda which you don't think is necessary, probably couldn't be brought forth.

There is nothing wrong with his social agenda.

Yet isn't there something to be said for a statewide candidate who is pushing the realm of the debate, who is raising social issues, whether he can actually do something about it or not? There is no single candidate that I know about that's talking about red-lining. Isn't that an important role for a candidate to play in any case?

Well to some extent it is. You're running for a certain office. And you're supposed to be telling the public, or I interpret my job anyway, telling the public what I can do for them in that office. I'll be glad to talk about my philosophical beliefs in other areas. . . . But I'm not going to outright lie to the public about what can be done out of that office. I'm going to tell them what the office does. I've got a proven track record. . . .

How important is the position of the state treasurer on the state banking board? I'm not making the argument for a social agenda—

Sure it can, in cooperation with the other people who are on the state banking board. Much of that depends on who sits in the governor's office, who those other appointees are. I think the state banking board could be a key agency for —

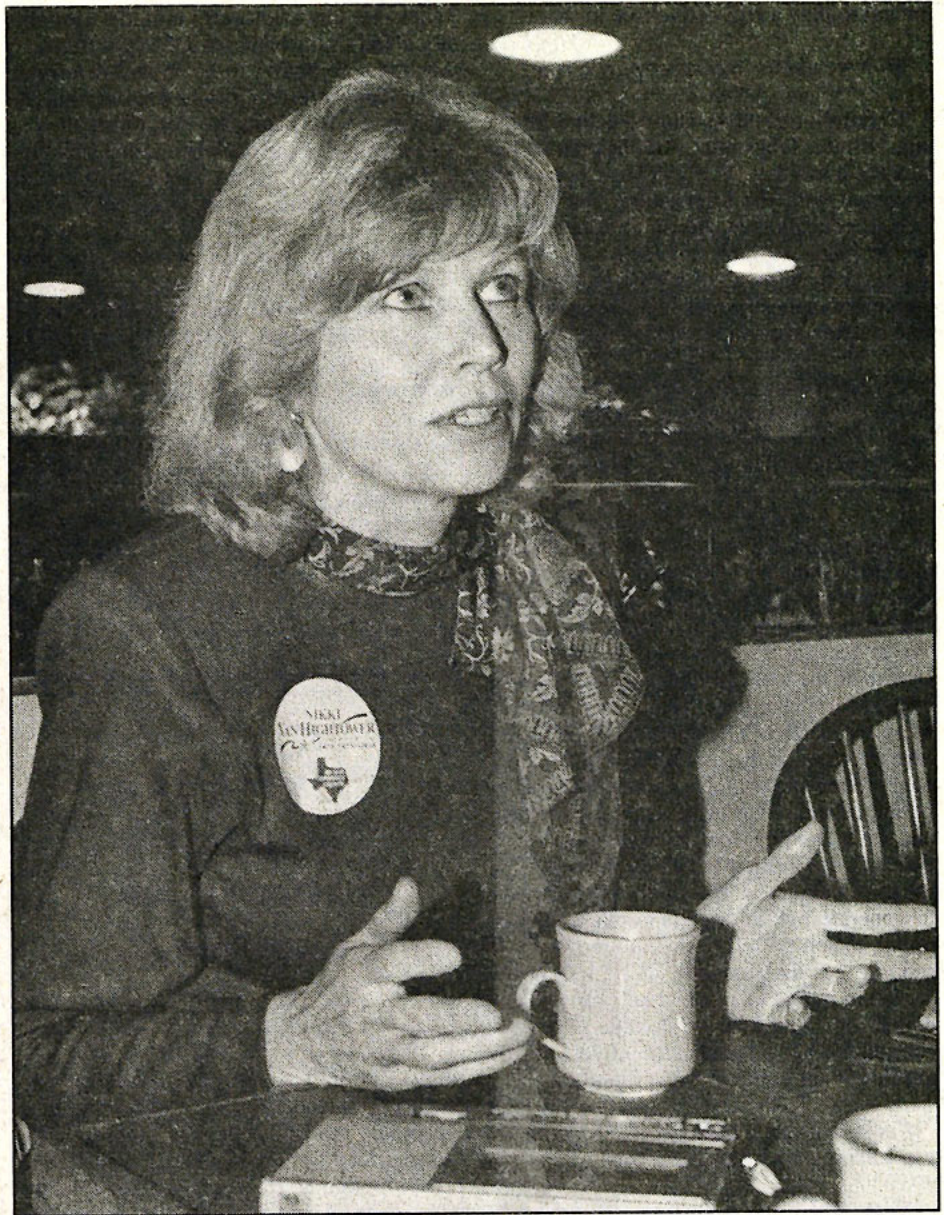
Considering the number of bank failures, to which there should be given some attention to —

Oh absolutely, absolutely, it's there to monitor them. I think it is a key body to sit on in terms of doing something if you have the support of other people who sit on it.

Any particular interest that you would have there? Or any changes you would make? Anything that you would do that's not being done?

I think that part of the role of that body is to see that our legislative policies governing banks don't allow for what has happened to savings and loans institutions, and that means we've got to have restrictions on the kind of investments our banks can make, the security they have to have to back them up on these investments so that we don't end up insuring institutions that can go under and the government foots the bill. Certainly, I think we need to do the sort of thing that the federal government let slip on that, monitoring in that way, and I'm sorry I kind of lost my train of thought in that, I had something else in mind.

I don't say this critically. But you have not been restrained by the clerical role that your colleagues in Houston, Harris County might



VIC HINTERLANG

have imposed upon your office. Would you pursue the same kind of activist role as treasurer, you know seeking AG opinions, as you did defining the powers of the office in Harris County?

That's who I am. That's what I am. I'm running on a platform of doing that. . . .

Is there a singular achievement in that office in Harris County that would suggest that you're qualified? What two or three things would you point to?

I would point to two things. I walked into an office that was almost useless in terms of its role in the fiscal checks and balances of Harris County. Most of the duties have been taken out of the office. The systems of the office were done all manually. Very behind the times. Inefficient. And I have totally modernized the office. It's now fully auto-

mated. We get our checks out of that office in a matter of three days where it was like two weeks before, sometimes longer than that. We have far better cash flow, so we can have more money invested at any given time. That's one thing. The other thing is bringing the duties back into that office so that the office could perform the watchdog duties that it was supposed to perform, which it was not doing at all. The auditor was performing the functions of the treasurer. No one was auditing the auditor. No one was keeping an eye on what was going on with the fiscal affairs of Harris County. Not only have the duties been brought in or being brought in, but it generated a whole new analysis of our fiscal systems. We are now redesigning our financial reporting system. All of our accounts payable. Bringing it up to state of the art. This was a result of the work I've done in the treasurer's office. . . . As a result of what I've done in Harris County, those roles, and

the fiscal checks and balances, have changed in counties all over the state of Texas. Duties have moved back into treasurer's offices. I think that in the three years I've been in that office, I have pretty much revolutionized the fiscal systems of Harris County and had an impact on the fiscal affairs of counties throughout the state.

In that sense, Ann Richards is running for governor in part on her revolutionizing the office of state treasurer. What needs to be changed in the state treasurer's office?

I don't know it's a matter of what needs to be changed as what needs to be continued. Ann certainly has gone a long way. She'll be the first to admit we got a long way to go in terms of modernizing, staying up with the technology. . . . There was a bill passed in the last state Legislature that mandated all taxpayers over \$2 million to wire their tax payments in. That means, rather than a one-week, two-week delay perhaps in getting money in, it's instantaneous. . . . And so this changing technology opens the door for a lot of opportunity for generating more tax revenue for the state.

Consolidation of funds? There are 250 some funds. Should there be some consideration of consolidation?

Probably so, because we probably have about half that many in Harris County. I've never quite understood the proliferation of funds. And I don't really get involved with it in Harris County because that's the auditor's role. That would be something that isn't under the treasurer's purview at the state level, and that's something I would have to look at.

You once quoted Roosevelt Ross Kenner as saying that women often populate organizations but rarely run them. Is there something of a feminist agenda in your candidacy? We're talking to two minority candidates in a way, even though women are not a numerical minority —

There's always a feminist agenda in everything I do. I think that the sort of thing that I stand for there ought to be applied, can be applied in hiring practices. Can be applied in promotional practices. It can be applied in an educational role, in continuing to inform the public on what this means now. I think the treasurer could possibly . . . push things like maternity leave and child care for state employees, that sort of thing. . . . I'll always push for that because I think that's good government. And equitable hiring at all levels. I've just got a long record of doing that.

How about minority hiring in the treasurer's office in Harris County?

When I came in, there were no minority supervisors at all. But the treasurer's office in

Harris County is a fairly small office. But no minority supervisor. The vast majority, I'd say two-thirds, were Anglos. We now have approximately one-third Hispanic, one-third Anglo and that's at both the management level and the staff level. There will be equal opportunity in the positions in my office.

The same sort of hiring practices that Ann Richards has —

The same practices. And also the same practices as far as our purchasing. That's an area where the state treasurer's office generally can have clout, doing business with organizations that have good affirmative action programs.

You're engaged in a primary with two opponents and [could face, in the general election in November, Republican] Kay Bailey Hutchison who's out with Maureen Reagan really building up a bankroll. How do you see her as an opponent beyond the primary?

She's got to raise more money than I do. For one thing, she doesn't have the name identification that I do starting out, although she was in the Legislature and on television in the Houston area, she's been pretty much low-profile for the last few years. So she's got to spend some money to get some name identification, and after the primary I'm going to have a little breathing room for catch up there . . .

Just one last question. By your framing issues, and by your sense of the race, the choice here is between a very competent candidate who has the experience to run the office and the proven administrative skills and your primary opponent, who is more ideological, more thematic, talking more about ideas that don't have much to do with administrative skills. What's the strategy that you design to deal with that kind of candidate, to break through what you would consider the lace of substance?

. . . I do want to say that it's not that I'm not

ideological. It's not that I'm not an activist. I have a long record of that, and will continue to have a long record of that. It's that I'm going to talk about what the voters are going to be voting on. And the person who takes the office. I'm not going to flim-flam them about it. You operate with kind of a basic faith in doing that, that you're talking to intelligent people and that ultimately they're going to make the decision based on rationality, not on the fervor of the moment. . . .

Will gender help you as much as it seems to be helping Ann Richards?

Yeah, I think it will help me. I think that women like Hispanics and blacks, they feel very strongly right now there's an issue in the forefront of politics right now, the pro-choice issue, and women are very mobilized on that issue, they want to see people in office who they know they can trust and who will be out there, a spokesperson on those issues as they know they can count on me to be. I think I'll have a strong base of support among women activists.




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Bidding for Influence

Who's Financing the Democratic Governor's Race?

Here is a campaign contribution list for Jim Mattox, the Attorney General and gubernatorial candidate. This partial donation list, compiled from records at the Secretary of State's office, includes contributions of \$1,000 or more donated to two campaign funds, the Jim Mattox Finance Committee and Mattox's Candidate Officeholder Report of Contributions and Expenditures. This list only includes campaign donations and in-kind donations made between July 1, 1989 and January 5, 1990. Mattox collected in cash donations more than \$520,000 in this reporting period. According to Mattox campaign officials, Mattox currently has \$3.4 million on hand. The list was compiled by *Observer* Intern Eva Llorens.

W. H. Adams	\$1,000	DRIVE-Local 745 (teamsters)	\$7,500	Willard M. Johnson	\$1,000
Temple		Dallas		Houston	
Williams H. Adams	\$1,000	DRIVE Political Fund	\$5,000	Charles R. Jones	\$1,000
Duncanville		DRIVE-Local 745	\$10,000	Brownsville	
George Almaraz	\$9,000	Mr. and Mrs. Dial Dunkin	\$1,000	Jones-Day-Reavis-Pogue	\$5,000
Edinburg (in kind)		Harlington		Good Government Fund	
George Almaraz	\$1,500	EAGLE PAC	\$5,000	Cleveland, Ohio	
Edinburg		Houston		Jones & Granger	\$2,000
George Almaraz	\$5,000	Don Faust, Sr.	\$5,000	(City not available)	
Edinburg (loans)		Houston		Robert Jones	\$2,250
Zelma Almaraz	\$1,500	Hill A. Feinberg	\$2,500	Houston	
Edinburg		Dallas		Jack D. Knox	\$1,000
Roland Angelle	\$1,000	Angel A. Flores	\$1,000	Dallas	
Beaumont		Randolph R. Gillum	\$1,000	Laborers Political Lg-Dc	\$1,000
Charles E. Argubright	\$1,000	Mesquite		Washington, D.C.	
Corpus Christi		Oliver Gould	\$1,000	Troy LaGrone	\$1,000
Robert Aspromonti	\$1,000	Nolanville		Fort Worth	
Houston		Curtis C. Gunn, Sr.	\$1,000	Thomas H. Laramey	\$1,000
Don R. Ball	\$1,000	San Antonio		Austin	
Irving		Bob R. Hanna	\$1,000	Lloyd-Gosselink-Ryan	\$1,000
James C. Barber	\$1,000	Abilene		& Fowler	
Dallas		Hardberger & Rodriguez	\$1,400	Austin	
Arturo T. Benavides	\$1,000	San Antonio		Robert J. Longenecker	\$1,000
Bruni		Reed Hawn	\$5,000	Irving	
Ken Blewett	\$5,000	Austin		Sandra Longenecker	\$1,000
Rockport		Robert T. Hayes	\$5,000	Irving	
Malcolm Bracham	\$1,000	Dallas		E. A. R. Lord, Jr.	\$1,000
Dallas		Heard-Goggan-Blair	\$10,000	Houston	
Buster Brown	\$2,000	& Williams		Barry John McAllister	\$1,000
Fort Worth		San Antonio		San Antonio	
John D. Byram	\$1,000	Walter Helm	\$1,000	Dirk C. Martin	\$2,000
Austin		Sulphur Springs		McAllen	
James R. Cochran	\$1,000	Mark Herfort	\$1,000	Michael R. Martin	\$1,000
Austin		Rosenberg		Plano	
Cole-McManus Cole	\$1,000	Jack E. Hillman	\$1,000	Jim Mattox,	\$3,891,736.12
Victoria		Houston		officeholder account	
Crowley & Fugler	\$1,000	Richard G. Hoffman	\$2,500	Austin	
Bryan		Austin		Michael A. Mauger	\$1,000
David J. Curran	\$5,000	Rex Houston	\$1,000	Corpus Christi	
Houston		Henderson		Kenneth W. Murphy	\$1,000
James L. Donald	\$1,000	Joe O. Huggins	\$2,500	Dallas	
Dallas		Houston		Fred Miccio	\$1,000
		IBEW-COPE	\$3,000	Seabrooks	
		(electrical workers)		Edward Miller	\$1,400
		Washington, D.C.		Texarkana	
		Morris D. Jaffe	\$1,541.84	J. M. Miller	\$2,000
		San Antonio		Houston	
		Morris D. Jaffe	\$4,911.05	Daniel T. Munier	\$1,000
		San Antonio (in kind)		Garland	
		Dahr Jamail	\$5,000	John L. Nau III	\$1,500
		Houston		Houston	
		Irving Joel	\$10,000	R. E. Neuwirth	\$2,000
		Richmond, Va.		Plano	
		Jane M. Joel	\$10,000	Steven Dale Oleson	\$1,200
		Richmond, Va.		Austin	
		Johnson & Gibbs	\$10,000	C. W. Philips	\$1,000
		Dallas		Corpus Christi	
		Gregory Johnson	\$1,000	Jimmy Phillips	\$2,000
		Austin		Angleton	
				James D. Pitcock, Jr.	\$15,000

Houston	
Joe A. Polichino, Jr.	\$1,000
Houston	
Harry Poll	\$1,000
Edmonds, Wash.	
Hugh B. Preston	\$1,000
Burkburnett	
Maury L. Ray	\$1,000
Dallas	
Chester J. Reed	\$2,500
Houston	
Carlos Rodriguez	\$1,200
Weslaco	(in kind)
John Schaefer, Sr.	\$1,000
San Antonio	
Schwartz-Page & Harding	\$1,000
Houston	
Fritz Schenkel	\$1,000
Dallas	
Sheet Metal Workers	\$5,000
Local 68 PAL	
Eules	
Harold Simmons	\$5,000
Dallas	
Robert S. Sims	\$1,000
Houston	
Carl J. Smith, Jr.	\$4,500
Collinsville	(in kind)
Smith & Associates	\$2,500
Houston	
C. William Spencer	\$3,600
Denton	
State Cope Fund	\$1,000
Tom F. Steele	\$1,000
Tomball	
Dr. Ty N. Talcott	\$2,000
Dallas	
Texans for	\$1,000
Quality Health CARE PAC	
Austin	
John P. Thompson	\$1,000
Dallas	
Paul J. Tillman	\$1,000
San Antonio	
Travis County	\$1,987.65
Democrats for Mattox	
Austin	
M. W. T. Troth	\$1,000
Coppell	
United Transportation	\$1,000
Political Education Legislative Board	
Austin	
USA District 37 PAC Fund	\$2,000
Houston	
James W. Vandever	\$1,000
Dallas	
Ben F. Vaughan III	\$2,500
Austin	
Genevieve D. Vaughan	\$2,000
Austin	
Dennis A. Vickery	\$1,500
Houston	
Robert S. Walt	\$1,000
Austin	
Del R. Wall	\$1,000
Dallas	
Irving Wallerstein	\$7,200
Austin	(in kind)
James R. Warncke	\$1,000
San Antonio	

Jeffrey S. Weislow	\$1,000
El Paso	
Hoyt W. Whidbee	\$1,000
Austin	
Monte B. White	\$1,000
Dallas	
Ward B. White	\$1,000
Dallas	
Bill Whitehurst	\$1,000
Austin	
Jim Willhite	\$5,000
Houston	
Roy Wilson	\$1,000
Kerrville	
Royce E. Wisenbacker	\$25,000
Tyler	
Oscar S. Wyatt	\$1,000
Houston	
Oscar S. Wyatt	\$15,437
Houston	(in kind)
Paul M. York	\$6,000
Corpus Christi	

Here is a partial campaign contribution list for Ann Richards, the State Treasurer and gubernatorial candidate. This list, compiled from records at the Secretary of State's office, includes major contributions donated to the Ann Richards For Governor campaign committee. Only campaign donations made between July 1 and December 31, 1989 are included. The committee reported \$1.3 million in contributions during this period. Only donations of \$1,000 or more, and several donations by notable contributors, are listed. *Observer* Intern Stephen Merelman compiled the list.

The Acme Fund	\$5,000
Houston	
AIA-PAC	\$1,500
New York, N.Y.	
Suzanne Ahn	\$5,000
Dallas	
Arlene Alda	\$2,000
New York, N.Y.	
Stanford and Joan Alexander	\$3,000
Houston	
Joseph Alioto	\$1,000
San Francisco, Calif.	
Allied Partners, Ltd.	\$1,000
Houston	
Maurice and Robert Amon	\$1,000
New York, N.Y.	
Ann Richards Public Service Committee	\$6,664.73
Austin	
Anita Arnold	\$2,000
Texarkana, Ark.	
R.L. Atwell	\$1,000
Kerrville	
Richard Atwell	\$4,000
Houston	
AUSPAC	\$5,000
Austin	
Anne Bartley	\$1,500
Washington, D.C.	
Karen Bartoletti	\$2,500
Austin	

David Eric Bernsen	\$1,123
Beaumont	
Sylvia Billue	\$5,000
Linden	
Marie Bogda	\$1,000
Chebanse, Ill.	
Giorgio Borlenghi	\$5,000
Houston	
Richard Bost	\$1,000
Houston	
J. Donald Bowen	\$10,000
Houston	
Latimer Mitchell Bowen	\$1,000
Abilene	
Cloyce Box	\$1,250
Dallas	
Mrs. Cloyce Box	\$1,250
Dallas	
Sharon Brandford	\$1,000
Kensington, Calif.	
Evelyn Brery	\$1,000
San Antonio	
Frances Briggs	\$1,000
Austin	
Richard Brown	\$2,000
Austin	
Jim Burrows	\$1,000
Beverly Hills, Calif.	
BWG-PAC	\$2,000
Austin	
Rebecca Bronson	\$1,000
Austin	
Nolton Brown	\$1,000
Bridge City	
Frances Callan	\$2,000
Waco	
Nancy Carney	\$1,000
Santa Fe, N.M.	
Liz Carpenter	\$2,000
Austin	
Lois Carpenter	\$2,500
Midland	
Eric Carter	\$2,000
Houston	
Susan Carter	\$5,000
Bellaire	
Citicorp Voluntary Political Fund	\$3,000
New York, N.Y.	
James Clark Jr.	\$1,000
Dallas	
Mary Ann Cofrin	\$10,000
Austin	
Lester Coleman	\$1,000
Dallas	
Suzanne Coleman	\$1,000
Austin	
Brenda and Roger Collier	\$1,000
Plano	
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Craft	\$1,000
Jacksboro	
James Crowther	\$1,000
Houston	
Jerry Cunningham	\$2,000
Dallas	
CWA-COPE	\$2,000
Washington, D.C.	
Mrs. John DeMenil	\$1,000
Houston	
Adelaide DeMenil	\$1,000

New York, N.Y.		Sep and Carrie Graham	\$3,000	Deborah Kastrin	\$5,000
Seymour Deutsch	\$1,000	Dallas		El Paso	
Laredo		Charles Graham	\$1,000	Jurate Kazickas	\$1,000
Martha S. Dickie	\$2,500	Elgin		New York, N.Y.	
Austin		Grainger, Howard	\$1,000	Alan Kahn	\$5,000
Frank and Betty Douglass	\$1,000	and Davis		Dallas	
Austin		Tyler		Charles King	\$1,000
Brig. Gen. Lillian Dunlap	\$100	Grayson County Elected	\$4,024.99	Houston	
San Antonio		Women's Association		Alfred Knobler	\$1,000
Diane Dwight	\$2,500	Sherman		New York, N.Y.	
Nederland		Carl Green	\$1,000	Jane and Peter Knobler	\$1,000
Albert Dwozkin	\$1,000	El Paso		New York, N.Y.	
Fairfax, Va.		Jean and Richard Griner	\$1,000	Nancy Kohler	\$2,500
Edwards and Perry	\$10,000	Duncanville		Austin	
Corpus Christi		Groce, Locke and Hebdon	\$1,500	Ronya Kometsky	\$3,000
Electo-PAC	\$2,500	San Antonio		Austin	
Austin		Lena Guerrero	\$100	M. Christine Jurzy Kowski	\$1,000
Mrs James A. Elkins	\$1,000	Austin		Glen Rose	
Denver, Co.		Steve Gutow	\$1,000	Bill Kugle	\$1,000
Mary O'Boyle English	\$25,000	Dallas		Athens	
Stonewall		Norma and Warren Hackler	\$1,000	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lane	\$2,000
Enron PAC	\$1,000	Austin		Dallas	
Houston		Hacker, Norma & Loyd	\$1,000	Stephen Lerer	\$5,000
Elissa Epstein	\$1,000	Kearneysville, W.V.		Dallas	
New York, N.Y.		Dagmar Hamilton	\$1,000	Alton and Nancy Liao	\$1,000
David Epstein	\$3,000	Austin		Plano	
Boston, Mass.		Steven Hammond	\$3,500	Lidell, Sapp, Lively, Hill	\$5,000
Z. Joyce Eskridge	\$1,000	Irving		and LaBoon	
Waxahachie		Charles Hardy	\$1,000	Houston	
Ray Farabee	\$500	Dallas		Roger Dale Linebarger	\$2,500
Wichita Falls		Mr and Mrs Milledge	\$5,000	Austin	
Vernon Faulconer	\$1,000	Hart III		LEAP	\$1,000
Tyler		Dallas		Washington, D.C.	
M. B. Few	\$1,000	Steven Hastings	\$1,000	Ann Logan-Lubben	\$5,000
Waxahachie		Grand Prairie		Dallas	
First City Bancorporation	\$3,000	Gene B. Hazlewood	\$5,000	William Lyons	\$1,000
PAC		Baytown		Austin	
Houston		Wesley Hiatt	\$1,000	Donna Lopiano	\$1,000
First City Bancorporation	\$5,000	San Antonio		Austin	
PAC		Nolanda Hill	\$1,000	Tom and Anne Marie Lordner	\$2,500
Austin		University Park		Dallas	
Fisher, Gallagher, Perrin	\$10,000	Tracey Hilsweck	\$1,500	MAC-PAC	\$1,000
and Lewis		Dallas		Temple	
Houston		HISPAC	\$1,000	Thomas Mackell, Jr.	\$1,000
Parker Folse III	\$1,000	Houston		Rancho Mirage, Calif.	
Houston		Jane Hogan	\$1,000	Barbara Lipshy Marcus	\$1,000
Ruth Forbis	\$2,500	Houston		Dallas	
San Antonio		Houston Industries PAC	\$1,000	Stanley Marcus	\$500
Carol McMurtry Fowler	\$1,000	Houston		Dallas	
Austin		Denise Hubbard	\$2,500	Mrs. Stanley Marsh 3	\$100
Robert and Linda Frazer	\$1,000	Port Neches		Amarillo	
Austin		Independent Action	\$3,000	Douglass Marshall	\$1,000
Monica Fried	\$1,000	Washington, D.C.		Houston	
Dallas		Madeleine Johnson	\$1,000	Susan McAshan	\$1,000
John and Jill Friedenrich	\$1,000	Dallas		Houston	
Cupertino, Calif.		Johnson and Gibbs	\$10,500	McCall, Parkhurst and	\$1,000
J. Kent Friedman	\$2,000	Dallas		Horton	
Houston		Jode Johnson	\$1,000	Austin	
Margaret Lewis Furse	\$2,000	Dallas		Mrs. Eugene McDermott	\$1,000
Austin		Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue	\$5,000	Dallas	
David Garcia	\$2,000	Cleveland, Ohio		R.M. Mignon McGarry	\$1,000
Edinburg		Beth B. Jones	\$5,000	Austin	
Ramon Garcia	\$1,000	Austin		Lore Harp McGovern	\$1,000
Edinburg		John T. Jones	\$1,000	Hillsborough, Calif.	
Frances Geoff	\$1,000	Hempstead		Mary Lucy McGrath	\$1,500
Houston		Mary Jordan and Robert	\$4,500	New York, N.Y.	
Jacqueline Goettsche	\$20,000	DeLaurenti		Malcolm McGregor	\$1,000
Fredricksburg		Rockwall		El Paso	
Charles Goolsbee	\$1,000	Audrey Kaplan	\$4,000	Mr. and Mrs. Mike McKool	\$1,000
Houston		Dallas		Dallas	

Mr. and Mrs. Standish Meacham	\$3,500	Dallas		Marshall	
Austin		R&S Associates	\$1,000	TBC-Austin PAC	\$1,000
Renie Mead	\$2,500	San Francisco, Calif.		Austin	
Dallas		Michael Ramsey	\$2,500	TCU/RCPL	\$1,000
Heriberto Medrano	\$3,000	Beaumont		Washington, D.C.	
Harlingen		Bernard Rapoport	\$20,000	Anne Taft	\$1,000
Melinda Mendelson	\$1,000	Waco		Binghamton, N.Y.	
Berkely, Calif.		Leonard Rauch	\$1,000	Stephen Tatum	\$5,000
Michael Merriman	\$1,000	Houston		Fort Worth	
Kansas City, Mo.		Macey Hodges Reasoner	\$1,000	Mary Taylor	\$2,500
Joe Jack Merriman	\$1,000	Houston		Houston	
Kansas City, Mo.		Susan B. Reese	\$1,000	Texana PAC II	\$5,000
Metlife Employees PAC	\$1,000	Dallas		Austin	
New York, N.Y.		Jess Rickman III	\$1,000	Texas Commerce PAC	\$5,000
Lisa Miller	\$1,000	Dallas		Houston	
Houston		Daniel and Lenore Riley	\$1,000	Texas Good Government Fund	\$4,000
Ed Miller	\$1,300	Dallas		Houston	
Texarkana		John Roberson	\$1,000	Texas Library Association	\$1,000
Minnesota Women's	\$5,000	Houston		PAC	
Campaign Fund		George Roberts	\$1,000	Victoria	
St. Paul, Minn.		San Francisco, Calif.		Marlo Thomas	\$2,000
Vernon Minton	\$1,000	Corbin Robertson Jr.	\$2,000	Los Angeles, Calif.	
Fort Worth		Houston		John Thompson	\$1,000
Don Montgomery Jr.	\$1,000	Michael and Patricia Rochelle	\$2,500	Dallas	
Dallas		Dallas		Mrs. J.R. Thornton	\$1,000
John Moores	\$25,000	Reed Rubin	\$1,000	San Marcos	
Sugar Land		New York, N.Y.		Michael Tigar	\$1,000
Maura Morey	\$1,000	Robert Rubin	\$10,000	Austin	
Tilburon, Calif.		New York, N.Y.		L.C. Tubb Jr.	\$1,000
MORGANPAC	\$2,500	Wolfe Rudman	\$1,000	Fort Worth	
New York, N.Y.		Dallas		Valero PAC	\$2,500
Merriman Morton	\$1,000	Ann Saegert	\$1,000	San Antonio	
Austin		Dallas		Debbie Van	\$1,000
Gary Muller	\$1,000	Jane Saginaw	\$5,000	Dallas	
Kansas City, Mo.		Dallas		Mr. and Mrs. Jay Vogelson	\$2,000
Lucille Murchison	\$500	Patricia Saunders	\$1,000	Dallas	
Dallas		Houston		Mr. and Mrs. Howard Waltman	\$1,000
NWPC Campaign Support	\$3,000	James and Joanne Savarese	\$1,000	Tenaflly, N.J.	
Committee		Arlington, Va.		Lew and Edith Wasserman	\$2,500
Washington D.C.		Arthur and Joyce Schecter	\$5,000	Universal City, Calif.	
O, J and C Company	\$1,000	Houston		Wendy Wasserstein	\$250
Houston		Carolyn Seale and Carol Klose	\$3,000	New York, N.Y.	
Madelin Joan Olds	\$1,000	San Antonio		Mark Weiner	\$1,000
Corpus Christi		John Seidl	\$1,000	Providence, R.I.	
Olson, Stem and Buenger	\$1,000	Piedmont, Calif.		Weisbrod and Weisbrod	\$1,000
Waco		W.A. Sessi	\$1,000	Dallas	
Mildred Oppenheimer	\$1,000	Austin		Mary Nan West	\$11,000
Dallas		George Shipley	\$1,000	Batesville	
Paine Webber Fund for	\$3,000	Austin		Marty Whitehead	\$1,000
Better Government		John C. Sims	\$1,000	San Antonio	
New York, N.Y.		Lubbock		Stephanie Whitehurst	\$1,000
J.R. Parten	\$1,000	Margaret Singh and	\$1,000	Austin	
Houston		Himmat Kulhary		Mr. & Mrs. J. McDonald Williams	\$10,000
Mike Patterson	\$5,000	Frisco		Dallas	
Tyler		Bruce Smiley	\$1,000	Winifred Read Wilson	\$1,000
Margaret Pearson	\$1,000	San Antonio		Darien, Conn.	
Seattle, Wash.		Patricia Smothers	\$1,800	Windom Resources	\$1,000
Sandra and David Petruska	\$5,000	San Antonio		Washington, D.C.	
Dallas		Ratna Solomon	\$1,000	Barbara Winston	\$1,000
Susan Scarle Philips	\$2,500	Dallas		Houston	
Berkely, Calif.		Southwest Public Affairs	\$1,000	Women's Campaign Fund	\$3,000
Susan Place	\$5,000	Committee		Washington, D.C.	
Plano		Houston		Women's Political Committee	\$5,000
Beverly Pletcher	\$1,000	R.C. and Deborah Stack	\$1,000	Los Angeles, Calif.	
Houston		Dallas		John Wright	\$1,000
Claudine Pletcher	\$1,000	Rob and Mary Ann Stein	\$1,000	Grand Prairie	
Houston		Washington, D.C.		Eleanor Custis Wright	\$1,000
Gary Prasher	\$1,000	John Stephens	\$1,000	Austin	
Austin		Dallas		J. Stanley Yake	\$1,000
Charles Purnell	\$1,000	Stokes and Stokes	\$1,000	Rexford, N.Y.	

Peg Yorkin	\$1,000
Los Angeles, Calif.	
Susan Young	\$1,000
Houston	
Kneeland Youngblood	\$1,000
Dallas	
Janna Zumbrun	\$1,000
Houston	

Former governor and gubernatorial candidate Mark White's list of contributors compiled from records at the Secretary of State's office may be relatively short, but his contributors are generous. From July 1 until December 31, the latest reporting period, the Mark White Campaign 1990 Committee and the Governor Mark White Committee took in a combined \$2,720,318.05, including a million-dollar loan from First City Bank of Houston and \$14.01 of in-kind services. The *Observer* has compiled a list of every White contributor parting with over \$1,000. This list was compiled by Intern Stephen Merelman.

Bruce Anderson	\$1,000
Houston	
Robert Bass	\$25,000
Fort Worth	
Bennett and Brooks	\$2,000
Houston	
William Blackburn	\$1,000
Dallas	
Jack Blanton	\$10,000
Houston	
Frank Booth	\$2,500
Houston	
Bill Boyd	\$25,000
McKinney	
Ed Brooks	\$1,000
Houston	
Earl Burke Jr.	\$100,000
Houston	
Phillip Carroll	\$1,000
Houston	
John Chase III	\$10,000
Houston	
Frank Cihak	\$50,000
Houston	
Derill Cody	\$5,000
Houston	
Committee for Education and Criminal Justice	\$50,000
Houston	
James Leard Conner	\$2,500
Dayton	

Robert Crouch	\$2,000
Greenville	
Michael Curran	\$75,000
Houston	
James Dawley	\$10,000
Houston	
Jerry Deutser	\$25,000
Houston	
Thomas Dunning	\$25,000
Dallas	
Enron PAC	\$2,000
Houston	
Alan Feld	\$50,000
Dallas	
Fisher, Gallagher, Perrin and Lewis	\$2,500
Houston	
John Fleming	\$50,000
Dallas	
Ramsay Gillman	\$10,000
Houston	
Richard Hall	\$1,000
Eden	
Lloyd Hayes	\$1,000
Port Arthur	
Gary Hill	\$1,000
El Paso	
John Houchins	\$7,500
Houston	
Robert Hughes	\$5,000
Austin	
Charles Jenness	\$10,000
Houston	
Larry Johnson	\$100,000
Houston	
George Jordan Jr.	\$2,500
Houston	
Coyle Kelly	\$1,000
Austin	
Clarence Kendall II	\$2,500
Houston	
Livingston Kosberg	\$35,000
Houston	
Frank Krasovec	\$1,000
Austin	
Henry Landan	\$1,000
Chicago, Il.	
Robert Lanier	\$10,000
Houston	
Donna Glick Lewis	\$1,000
Houston	
Frann Lichtenstein	\$5,000
Houston	
Harris Lichtenstein	\$15,000
Houston	
David Lucterhand	\$1,000
Houston	
John Massey	\$35,000
Dallas	
Larry Massey	\$75,000
Houston	
Bonnie Jo McMillan	\$1,000
Houston	
Mark Miller	\$8,500
Sugar Land	
Ray Miller	\$25,000
Dallas	
Walter Mischer Jr.	\$10,000
Houston	
John Mobley	\$5,000

Austin	
Richard Morrison III	\$7,000
Houston	
Ralph O'Conner	\$5,000
Houston	
C.N. Papdopoulos	\$1,000
Houston	
Michael Parks	\$2,500
Houston	
James Pitcock	\$25,000
Houston	
William Ratz	\$5,000
Houston	
Hamilton Richardson	\$2,000
New York, N.Y.	
Guy Robertson Sr.	\$5,000
Houston	
Regina Rogers	\$2,500
Houston	
William Rogers	\$1,000
Austin	
Victor Russek Jr.	\$50,000
Houston	
Jim Sale	\$25,000
Dallas	
Antonio Sanchez	\$2,500
Laredo	
Thomas Schieffer	\$1,000
Fort Worth	
Sewell and Riggs	\$5,000
Houston	
Shearson, Lehman and Hutton PAC	\$5,000
New York, N.Y.	
Michael Shelton	\$2,500
Houston	
Matthew Simmons	\$5,000
Houston	
Barry Silverman	\$50,000
Houston	
L.E. Simmons	\$5,000
Houston	
Barry Smitherman	\$25,000
Houston	
Richard Strauss	\$50,000
Dallas	
John Sullivan	\$50,000
Dallas	
Fred Talkington	\$2,500
Dallas	
Larry Temple	\$1,000
Austin	
Ralph Thomas	\$110,000
Houston	
Richard Tinsely	\$2,500
Houston	
Charles Tracy	\$1,000
Houston	
Duong Tranvan	\$1,000
Houston	
Beverly Weitinger	\$2,000
Houston	
Jeffrey Weiss	\$50,000
Dallas	
James Wilson	\$1,000
Houston	
Royce Wisenbaker	\$50,000
Houston	
Raye White	\$3,000
Houston	

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✓ **WHEN PRESIDENT** Bush attended a December 7 campaign fundraiser in Houston for Phil Gramm, he praised Gramm for understanding "the value of good education — he co-sponsored our Educational Excellence Act." But when the Senate voted recently on the bill, Gramm was one of only eight senators who voted against it. "Gramm already has a perfect record on funding education," said Hugh Parmer, Gramm's likely Democratic challenger. "He has never voted to fund any education program. This time he even voted against the principle of improving educational excellence."

✓ **PARMER'S CHANCES** of unseating Gramm haven't improved much in recent months. Gramm's most recent campaign contribution filing with the Federal Election Commission is six inches thick, is divided into four parts and weighs about five pounds. Inside are hundreds of pages of individual contributions, ranging from \$100 to \$1,000, most of them dated in December. Gramm has raised more, spent more, and has more money on hand now than any other senator up for reelection. Since taking office in 1985, Gramm has raised \$10.6 million and has spent \$4.5 million, leaving him with a \$6.1 million campaign war chest. In 1989, Gramm raised \$5.6 million, \$3.7 million of which came from the latter part of the year. Expenses were particularly heavy toward the year's end as his campaign staff geared up for the December 7 Astrodome fundraiser, where President George Bush spoke and country singer Lee Greenwood sang. GOP officials had said at the time that Gramm grossed \$2.4 million from the event. Based on a review of the FEC report, that figure appears accurate. Among other expenses listed are:

- \$278,290 on catering for the event. This apparently includes rental of the Astrodome and the price of chicken dinners and Texas wine served that night.
- \$75,000 paid to the Republican National Committee to reimburse the travel expenses of President Bush and other big names and out-of-towners.

Other expenses which appear to be related to the fundraiser include \$32,100 listed as event expenses paid to two consulting firms shortly before the night. The Gramm campaign also spent thousands on apartments for staffers who worked the event and for special telephone service. The cost of mail was the biggest expense. Various direct-mail firms and the Postal Service divided up \$439,576 in the last quarter of the year, the report showed.

✓ **PERSONAL ALLEGATIONS** from El Paso Senator Tati Santiesteban are causing a stir in West Texas. The *El Paso Times* reports that the 13-member New Car Dealers

Association has made its first political endorsement. Citing concerns with Santiesteban's integrity and morality, the association endorsed his opponent, former Public Utility Commissioner Peggy Rosson, in the March Democratic primary. On the campaign trail, Santiesteban has sought to turn the character issue against his opponent. "There's something I think you ought to know about this consumer-oriented alleged

person that is my opponent," he told the *Times*. "Mrs. Rosson voted for Palo Verde... to increase rates that to this day this district is paying \$60 million because of her votes." In fact, as member of the Public Utility Commission, Rosson earned a reputation as a knowledgeable consumer advocate. On the vote cited by Santiesteban, she only ruled on a finding of fact. Santiesteban's law firm has been retained for years to represent El Paso Electric. □

Berlanga's Cozy Deal

Corpus Christi state Rep. Hugo Berlanga sold his Austin condo in November, and he struck a good bargain: The buyer was a well-heeled constituent and the selling price — \$89,000 — was \$20,000 more than market value. But as the *Observer* went to press news of these financial details had yet to surface in the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, despite the paper's scoop on the transaction.

The condo had caused raised eyebrows for some time. In August 1989, *Austin American-Statesman* reporters Laylan Copelin and Mike Ward broke the story; the *Statesman* reported that \$1,200 monthly interest and maintenance payments were made by Berlanga's political donors. Meanwhile the representative himself paid only \$100 per month toward the principal.

After the *Statesman* article appeared, Berlanga tried to sell his condo on the sagging Austin market. It finally sold in November. The buyer, Robert Kendricks, is a Corpus Christi real-estate investor and attorney; he has been acquainted with Berlanga for four or five years. Kendricks now rents the condo back to Berlanga for \$1,200 a month. According to the *Statesman*, Berlanga's political contributors pick up the tab.

The sale was first reported in the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* by Janet Warren of Harte-Hanks ("Tired of 'innuendo,' Berlanga sells condominium", January 25), scooping the *Statesman* on the second half of its own story. But the Harte-Hanks story did not include several important aspects of the transaction.

In the Harte-Hanks story Berlanga described the condominium as a "terrible investment in the depressed Austin market," and claimed that he sold the property for a price in the "nineties." Berlanga bought the condo in 1984 for \$95,400.

The Harte-Hanks reporter never re-

ported the exact selling price — a matter of public record. Nor did Berlanga's account of a "terrible investment," an investment that resulted in a trivial loss, lead to questions about the actual tax valuation of the property.

The *Statesman* reported on February 5 that Kendricks bought the Westgate condo, located near the Capitol, for \$89,000. The unit's tax-roll valuation is listed at \$58,647, and according to several Austin real-estate agents would sell for \$70,000 - \$75,000. The actual property values were brought to light by Laylan Copelin of the *Statesman*.

Copelin was tipped off to the story by Warren's scoop. "I just saw another angle that hadn't been covered and I covered it," Copelin said. "There are few pieces of real estate in Austin that sell for that much, much less a condo."

Jim Davis, the head of the Harte-Hanks Austin bureau, defended the coverage. He said it is unfair to compare the work of the much larger Austin paper to the Harte-Hanks bureau. "We work our butts off doing the baby stories. I don't think we should be criticized for not trying to compete with the... *Austin American-Statesman*," he said.

"You guys are supposed to be for the little guys," he told the *Observer*. "Well, we're the little guys."

Harte-Hanks owns 12 small and medium-sized papers in Texas.

Said Copelin: "It takes more than one paper... these stories come in bits and pieces." But the more complete version of the story has not yet been aired by the *Caller-Times*.

Davis did say Harte-Hanks is investigating "some ongoing stuff" in connection with campaign finance. Perhaps the story of Berlanga's cozy deal will reach Corpus Christi yet.

Stephen Merelman

An Excess of Love

BY STEVEN G. KELLMAN

ENEMIES: A LOVE STORY

Directed by Paul Mazursky

HENRY V

Directed by Kenneth Branagh

did not have the privilege of going through the Hitler holocaust," writes Isaac Bashevis Singer, who fled Poland in 1935, in a note to his 1972 novel *Enemies: A Love Story*. For such an ordeal, most of us would prefer to be underprivileged. And yet, those who survived the death camps, who were compelled to confront humanity at its worst — and perhaps best — bear a moral authority that is the envy of any mere writer or director. How can others portray the elemental experience of genocide without betraying it?

Except for a few extremely brief flashbacks, *Enemies: A Love Story* is set in the aftermath of Hitler's war against the Jews. The year is 1949, and Herman Broder (Ron Silver), who managed to elude the Nazis by hiding in a hayloft, is now living in New York with his wife Yadwiga (Margaret Sophie Stein), a pretty Polish peasant. It is a marriage of gratitude, as Yadwiga, who used to be the Broder family servant, saved Herman's life by concealing him in her family's barn. Still a servant to her learned husband, the illiterate and superstitious Yadwiga worships Herman, though he discourages her conversion to a faith he has lost, the God of his ancestors. Herman's first wife, Tamara, and the couple's two children perished, he believes, in the Nazi death camps, along with his motivation for getting out of bed in the morning.

"I'm no longer of this world," says Herman to Rabbi Lembeck (Alan King), a very worldly cleric whom Singer describes as "at once thick-skinned, goodhearted, sentimental, sly, brutal, naive." Lembeck employs Herman to write the books, articles, and speeches that he passes off as his own and that enable him to maintain an elegant apartment on Central Park West. For Herman, who is no longer of this world, ghostwriting is his only and invisible means of support. "You're a lost man, Herman," declares long-lost Tamara (Anjelica Huston), who suddenly materializes on the Lower East Side. When Tamara appears at the door of her apartment in Coney Island, Yadwiga is convinced she is seeing a ghost, though she has

Steven G. Kellman is professor of comparative literature at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

been living with another one for years, her phantom husband Herman.

On the pretext of business trips to sell books in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Indiana, Herman spends nights in the Bronx, with the voluptuous Masha (Lena Olin), a veteran of Dachau. "A little crazy but tremendously interesting" is the way Herman describes his third wife, Masha, to his first wife, Tamara, as each of the three women begins to learn about the others. Masha's interest is erotic, as though sensuality were her last claim to life. "Jewish laws and all the other laws mean as much to me as last year's frost," declares Masha, like Herman, a lost soul whose body has become a battleground for a struggle between Eros and Thanatos.

The earnest efforts of a schlemiel to satisfy and quarantine three different wives is farce stretched into pathos. Herman's grotesque trilemma is most effectively visualized when he stands in a subway station facing signs for Brooklyn, Manhattan, and the Bronx; the boroughs in which Yadwiga, Tamara, and Masha, respectively, reside. This is concentration camp humor four years after the ostensible liberation. In Herman's three wives, one senses three components of the human personality, something like Aristotle's tripartite division into spirit, mind, and appetite. He needs them all. The fact that, despite strenuous efforts, hapless Herman is not able to reconcile the three signifies a fragmentation of his identity. Like Woody Allen's chameleon man Zelig or like Jerzy Kosinski's gardener Chance, he is all pendulum and no pith.

The screenplay that director Paul Mazursky wrote with Roger Simon is far more solicitous of Singer's book than Barbra Streisand's *Yentl* is of the Yiddish master's original *Yentl the Yeshiva Boy*. What is most striking about its cinematic realization is a knowing evocation of time and place. Mazursky has recreated a teeming, festive seaside neighborhood that today is but a Coney Island of the mind. His Lower East Side still abounds with Jewish peddlers and pushcarts, and the rural hotel to which Herman and Masha sneak away is a lively buckle on the old Catskill borscht belt. The film is richly textured, with the clothing, the food, the music, and the shadows of a post-War America in which European refugees could find haven but no repose.

The title, *Enemies: A Love Story*, teases with its ambiguities. This is the multiple romance of people torn apart and thrown together by a villainous regime bent on their

destruction. The engaging performances by Silver, Stein, Huston, and Olin make it also a demonstration of how love and marriage go together like sauce and porridge. Finally, Silver's Herman is his own worst enemy, his own most enduring lover. Mazursky concludes his spirited study of immigrant wraiths with the same image with which he begins the film: the Coney Island Wonder Wheel that hurls passengers in orbits that lead nowhere and over which they have no control. Mazursky, who puts in a cameo appearance as Masha's estranged husband Leon Tortshiner, has not reinvented the wheel, merely turned it into his story's emblem of enmity and love.

"May I with right and conscience make this claim?" asks Henry V about his contention that the French throne, like the British, legitimately belongs to him. "Certainly not," is the answer an honest reader of the Shakespeare history plays must needs give. The Archbishop of Canterbury, whose ecclesiastical ambitions require indulging the young monarch, provides just the right blend of casuistry and doublespeak to rationalize a decision that Henry has probably already made: to seek to add France to his royal portfolio. "No king of England if not king of France," proclaims Henry before crossing the Channel on his mission of conquest. By that, he ostensibly means that if defeated in his bid to vanquish France he will also lose England. But the line also suggests that his claim to the French monarchy is as specious as that to the British. If uneasy lies the head that wears the crown, it is a hard pate that would wear two.

We know from *Henry IV* that Henry Bolingbroke's elevation to Henry IV was bloody and unjust. His heir's pretensions to the French throne are based on a challenge to Salic law, which prohibits succession through the female line. Henry V's great-great-grandmother was the daughter of France's Philip IV. However, if Salic law is to be disregarded, Edmund Mortimer, descended from Edward III through his grandmother, has priority over Henry to reign over England.

It is raining over Agincourt during the climactic battle in Kenneth Branagh's version of *Henry V*. The play has been made admirably cinematic, in its tracking shots, closeups, and meticulous framing. Branagh effectively crosscuts between the French and English camps on the eve of combat. Several of the scenes — the French ambassador's insulting gift of a tun of tennis balls, Henry's

clever unmasking of three noble traitors, Katherine's English lessons, Henry's incognito visit with his soldiers — are memorably photographed. The most violent scene, shot in slow motion with a muted soundtrack, probably appropriated the effect from Akira Kurosawa's superb *Lear* adaptation, *Ran*. The actors seem to be talking, rather than declaiming famous speeches. And Derek Jacobi's intrusive Chorus is intriguingly metacinematic.

However, what is puzzling about this new film is Branagh's decision, as director and title actor, to present Shakespeare's play as the story of the making of an English hero. Laurence Olivier's spectacularly jingoist *Henry V* is best understood as a product of 1944, when an embattled Britain needed to rally the happy few to the defense of its civilization. Branagh's Henry is a less grandiose figure, a young man who is growing into a difficult job that has to be done. But does it? Pat Doyle's uplifting melodies insist it does, but the complex text might suggest otherwise.

"Why the devil should we keep knives to cut one another's throats?" asks Bardolph early in the drama, attempting to quell a barroom

quarrel between Nym and Pistol. It is a question that Branagh's film slights but that could well form the basis of a post-imperialist, post-patriarchal reading of Shakespeare's play. Bardolph's plea for general disarmament might have averted the useless bloodshed that Branagh presents as necessary to the education of a ruler. Bardolph himself ends up dangling from a noose, condemned by Henry to hang for a crime no more heinous than the youthful indiscretions he himself indulged in in Bardolph's company. A flashback to scenes from *Henry IV* in which Prince Hal is carousing with Bardolph, Falstaff and other rowdies, explains the tear that runs down King Henry's cheek as he watches his old friend put to death by his decree. Repeated closeups of Branagh's earnest, sober face suggest, without apparent irony, that the sacrifice of chums is a small price to pay to become a successful warrior-prince.

For all his scorn of Salic law, Branagh's Henry is no feminist. "She is our capital demand" is the way he describes Katherine (Emma Thompson) to her royal father, as though the princess were merely another bit of battlefield booty. When Henry woos her, knowing that Katherine has no choice any-

way, he is as delicate as when he forcibly seizes the town of Harfleur. Defensive about the years he spent in effeminate avoidance of responsibility, he inhabits a world of male camaraderie where one proves oneself through aggression. Shakespeare does not necessarily endorse that attitude, but Branagh seems to. The lighting, editing, and music conspire to persuade us that despite the human loss — in human lives and in the humanity of the survivors — invading France and massacring 10,000 of its soldiers while losing only 29 of your own is a magnificent achievement.

Shakespeare's plays ought to be performed as often as someone has fresh insights to share about them. Olivier's film should not close the book on *Henry V*. Neither should Branagh's. Though it would be hard to duplicate the quality of performances, by a cast that includes Simon Shepherd, Brian Blessed, Judi Dench, Ian Holm, Paul Scofield, and Christopher Ravenscroft, more skeptical approaches to Henry's career are possible when another determined director moves once more unto the breach. It is not necessary to endorse bellicose megalomaniacs like Henry, who make themselves too big for their breaches. □

SOCIAL CAUSE CALENDAR

International Women's Day In Austin

This year the International Women's Day Festival in Austin runs from March 1-8. The University Coop will open the festival with a book signing party for more than 20 women writers including Ann Richards, Liz Carpenter, Pat Ellis Taylor, Marian Barnes, and Susan Bright. A full week of activities featuring art, music, performance art, and literature is scheduled. Events include:

- **March 1** - 11:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Women Authors at the University Coop, 2246 Guadalupe. More than 20 authors. Call 476-7211.
- **March 1** - 8 - 10 p.m. Poetry Reading at the RJK Foundation, 2815 San Gabriel. Readers: Marion Winnik, Marcella Bryant, Minne Mariane Miles. 441-2452. Sponsored by Plain View Press, Women and Their Work, and the City of Austin. Admission \$4.
- **March 2** - 7:30 - 11 p.m. Book signing party for Susan Bright's new book about a trickster character called BUNNY. Art exhibit by Randy Smith Huke including work created for the book. Reception: 7:30 - 8:30. Receiving 8:30. Music by Tina Marsh and Friends beginning at 9:30. Call 441-2452. Admission \$4.
- **March 3** - 7:00 - 10:00 Austin Women's Political Caucus award ceremony honoring women's achievements in politics, culture, and arts. Reception with desert and music by Islas Mujeres at the Hyatt

OBSERVANCES

- February 28, 1906** • Upton Sinclair's *The Jungle* published.
- March 3, 1919** • Supreme Court holds that freedom of speech does not apply to resisting the draft.
- March 5, 1927** • U.S. Marines land in China.
- March 6, 1857** • Supreme Court upholds slavery in Dred Scott decision.
- March 8, 1989** • International Women's Day.
- March 11, 1933** • U.S. troops intervene in Nicaragua.

Regency-Austin on Town Lake. 208 Barton Springs, 474-9783. Donation, \$1.50

- **March 4** - 1:00 - 2:30 surviving Incest Healing the Spirit: A workshop to look at the many ways of healing the inner child after the experience of incest, including a guided visualization on the healing process. Presenters: Donna Descoteaux and Jan MacLean are clinical social workers in private practice in Austin. Both have over 10 years experience working with incest survivors. 4314 Medical Parkway #11. 452-4941. No admission charge.
- **March 4** - 7 - 11 p.m. Mending the Circle, a ceremony to help repair tears in the threads connecting all peoples of the world in a global weaving. Storytelling by Shamaan Ochaum "Shadowsinger". Music by Hope Morgan, Suzy Stern and Friends to begin at 9:20. Donation to help

pay for space \$4. For music \$4. 452-4941.

- **March 5** - 8 - 10:30 p.m. Performance Art Night at Capital City Playhouse with Heloise Gold, Sally Jacque, Beverly Bajema, and more call 441-2452. \$4.
- **March 6** - 8 - 10 p.m. Poetry Reading at RGK Foundation, 2815 San Gabriel with Sherry Soloman, Cecilia Bustamante, Peggy Lynch, Bashira. 441-2452. \$4.
- **March 7** - 6 - 8 p.m. Art Opening: Ester Hernandez at Las Manitas Avenue Cafe, 21ongress, 472-9357. Sponsored by La Pena and the City of Austin Arts Commission. Free.
- **March 7** - 8 - 10 p.m. Poetry Reading at RJK Foundation, 2815 San Gabriel. Readers: Judith Ferguson, Pat Taylor, Peggy Kelley. 441-2452. Sponsored by Plain View Press, Women and Their Work and the City of Austin Arts Commission. Admission \$4.
- **March 8** - 6 - 8 p.m. Art Opening: Women Viewing Women, an exhibit curated by Sidney Yeager and featuring the work of ten women artists at the RGK Foundation, 2815 San Gabriel. Sponsored by Women and Their Work and the City of Austin Arts Commission, 447-1064.
- **March 8** - 6 - 8 p.m. Art Opening at the Austin Women's Peace House, 1305 E. First St., 474-0703, film at 9 p.m.
- **March 8** - 8 - 11 p.m. Women's Music Night at Chicago House, 607 Trinity. Ruth Huber, Kate McLennan, Lourie Boe Dee, Emily Kaitz and more. 473-2542, 441-2452.

Men of Conviction

*A Day in San Antonio with
Candidate Kent and Colonel Ollie*

BY ALLAN FREEDMAN

San Antonio

The day the Iran-Contra story broke, I was hopeful. Then-Attorney General Ed Meese appeared on the defensive. ABC White House correspondent Sam Donaldson made comparisons to Watergate. And President Reagan executed a conspicuous vanishing act sure to prove this political Houdini's undoing. Something was beginning to stick to the Teflon president, or so I thought. Meese weathered the storm, Donaldson went on to host a dull news hour, and Ronald Reagan, well, he just rode happily into the political sunset.

In a decade in which image was used so effectively to dominate the American psyche, it was only fitting that the Iran-Contra affair promoted yet another public official adept at self-promotion by sound-bite. Oliver North turned an appearance before the congressional committee investigating the scandal into a self-promotion gig so heart-warming there was talk of a presidential bid. The scandal had at first raised the possibility that Reaganism would be exposed. Instead, Iran-Contra established the reputation of an American anti-hero.

In this new decade, North has shed his shiny medals but not the boyish grin that has warmed the hearts of more than a few impressionable middle-aged women. And if two recent Texas appearances are any indication, North is doing what any loyal American would do — cashing in on his appeal.

Perhaps it says something about the fate of this republic that instead of occupying a jail cell, convicted felon Oliver North is raising money for Kent Hance. Hance, the Democrat-turned-Republican who would be governor, paid North \$25,000 for a 12-minute speech at a San Antonio campaign fundraiser. The San Antonio event and another appearance on behalf of the Hance campaign helped the candidate collect \$200,000 in badly needed political contributions. (After the Hance events, Steve Stockman, a Republican who wants to unseat U.S. Rep. Jack Brooks, also paid North \$25,000 for a campaign appearance.)

And as for Oliver North, he appeared to take to the Texas campaign trail with the charm of a seasoned captain of industry.

"You all can teach the folks in Washington



GAIL WOODS

a good bit about Southern hospitality," North told about 150 applauding Hance followers in San Antonio.

"What I have seen of Kent Hance is the kind of thing I would hope to see around the rest of America," North declared. "It is a person who is committed not just to those values that made us what we were, but committed to see those values applied to the

future because that, after all, is what this country is about.

"When I am traveling around the length and breadth of this blessed land of ours and have the opportunity to meet the American people, who every month for 20 years sent me a paycheck, there are two things I like to do: first of all to say thank you . . . and second of all that over the course of that 20 years I've

DIALOGUE

come to have an enormous regard for the wisdom and the vision of the American people."

North was officially unavailable for questions. Dressed in a dark suit and carrying a black briefcase, he strode briskly into the medium-sized conference room. His exit was just as swift and determined. Reporters were restricted to a roped-off area at the rear of the medium-sized hotel meeting room and were discouraged from mixing with the 150 or so Hance loyalists.

After the address, Hance made his way to the back of the room and, appearing delighted by all the attention, fielded questions from a pack of reporters eager to ask the same question — or at least a variation on the same question.

"Do you have any other plans to have other convicted felons speak for you?" a reporter asked.

"Well, I was glad to have Ollie North here. If he's good enough for Ronald Reagan, he's good enough for me. I think the American public thinks highly of Ollie North and I was glad to have his support," said Hance.

"This man shredded important government documents, and you stand here today and want to be governor of Texas, and you say you support this man?" asked another reporter.

"I will be a law-and-order candidate, and I will be a law-and-order governor," Hance said.

And so it went. Reporters, primarily television reporters, kept asking questions to provoke Hance into a damaging response. And after dodging each query, Hance flashed a grin and went on to the next question.

In some ways, there couldn't be a more perfect fit than Kent Hance and Oliver North. Hance, a former Democrat, is often described in Grand Old Party circles as a tireless opportunist. The South Texas Friends of Ollie North warned the former lieutenant colonel against associating with Hance, whom the group described in an open letter to North as "someone who has never let principle stand in the way of opportunity." Could North have met his match?

The irony of the North appearance was that Hance was upstaged, much as he is being upstaged by likely GOP nominee Clayton Williams. Williams has used millions of his own dollars to buy name identification and broad appeal. A political newcomer, he has won the respect of seasoned politicians who acknowledge the candidate's skill at creating an image. The Midland rancher and millionaire is, as always, eager to discover new forms of self-promotion. He recently enlisted Jessica McClure to assist in fund-raising efforts. Hance is a dull candidate. Sitting next to the crafty, bright-eyed North, Hance seemed like an unpopular schoolboy anxious to befriend the class bigshot to enhance his status among classmates. Williams has a political personality to sell. Kent Hance doesn't know how to buy one. □

Continued from page 2 **Bob Bullock's Schedule**

You asked, in your January 26th edition, where I was on January 20th during the Public Citizen candidate accountability conference.

I was attending long-scheduled meetings with machinists and with communications workers. As was originally scheduled, I met with these two groups, appealed for their endorsements and received them. My opponent was at neither of these meetings.

As for why the organizers of the conference thought I would be there, you will have to ask them. Public Citizen originally set this conference for January 10th. I told them I had a conflict on that day, as I figured many other Democratic candidates would, since it was the same day the Mexican-American Democrats were meeting. They agreed to reschedule, but I wrote them well ahead of time and told them I had a schedule conflict on their alternate day as well.

On the other hand, I did answer the questions Public Citizen sent along with their invitation. I answered them in detail and I did not avoid the issues. From what I have read, my opponent did far less answering than dancing.

*Bob Bullock
Comptroller of Public Accounts
Austin*

Backwards with Bentsen

James Galbraith, like a number of others, suggests that Lloyd Bentsen would make a good nominee for the Democrats in 1982. In his positive assessment of Bentsen, Galbraith fails to notice that he is describing a good team player, but not someone who would make an acceptable leader for the Democratic party.

Lloyd Bentsen could not possibly have become a major contender for the Democratic nomination on his own. He tried a few years ago and dropped out early. The Lloyd Bentsen that Americans like ran on Dukakis's agenda, not his own.

Lloyd Bentsen was being praised by both sides in 1988's election. The Democrats wanted to demonstrate Dukakis's competence in picking qualified people; the Republicans tried to deal with their Quayle problem by suggesting that the Democratic vice-presidential nominee was better than their presidential nominee. With praise coming from both sides, it is not surprising that many Americans ended up liking Lloyd Bentsen. Lloyd Bentsen will not be the recipient of that kind of

praise should he become the Democratic presidential nominee.

Bentsen's attitudes on foreign policy are anachronistic, his record on the environment is not good, and his stand on abortion has been wishy-washy.

Attitudes in the country today are more liberal than they were a few years ago. George Bush, aware of the changing mood, gives lip service to every liberal concern but does nothing about them. At a time when the country is trying to move forward, why should the call of the Democratic party be, "Backwards with Bentsen!"

*Margie Hammet
Austin*

A Missing Question

Thank you for your splendid interviews with the candidates; but why did you fail to ask John Odom, candidate for Attorney General, his views on abortion issues?

The 1989 Webster decision makes the states battlefields for reproductive rights. This is a major issue for women in Texas; before we vote we want to know where the candidates stand.

Here in El Paso, the Southwest Coalition For Choice, 2500 members of civic organizations, sent a reproductive rights questionnaire to all candidates for state and local offices. The candidates answers to this questionnaire will be published for voter education.

*Beverly Marmon
El Paso*

Waiting for An Apology

Professor James K. Galbraith's praise of Lloyd Bentsen might be easier to take if Bentsen would call an Austin press conference and say, "When I defeated Ralh Yarborough, my campaign staff reflected adversely on Mr. Yarborough's love of country. It was the wrong thing to do and I apologize for it."

Until that apology is made, Professor Galbraith would do well to mind his own business.

*Maury Maverick, Jr.
San Antonio*

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