



ELY MARSH/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Incarnate Word Academy girls still feel the thrill of victory

Incarnate Word Academy basketball players (from left) Roberta Powers, Valerie Valero and Tricia Perrone still sport the look of winners yesterday after Incarnate Word's capture of the Texas Christian Interscholastic League Class 3A championship Saturday in San Antonio. The IWA girls romped past Brownsville St. Joseph's, 56-26, in the title game.

Council requests charter specifics

By A.J. Plunkett
STAFF WRITER

The City Council is expected to place 12 amendments to the city charter on the ballot for the April 4 election today, but last night council members asked for more input from the Charter Revision Commission.

After listening to the recommendations of six people during a public hearing, the council asked the charter commission to consider those recommendations and advise the council.

The recommendations included refining sections of the charter revision that detailed initiative and referendum, the setting of city election dates, and planning commission duties and powers.

Although the council must place proposed charter amendments on the ballot before Feb. 18, which is 45 days before the April 4 election, City Attorney Hal George told the council last night that changes in those amendments may be made until 30 days before an election.

That leaves the Charter Revision Commission about two weeks to gather and consider the recommendations made at last night's public hearing.

During the hearing, local attorney

John D. Bell urged the council to alter wording in the charter section outlining initiative and referendum to allow citizens to call a vote on an ordinance "in a more timely fashion."

The section on initiative and referendum, which is new to the city charter, now says the vote must be held at the next City Council election, which occurs only every two years, said Bell.

Bell recommended allowing the vote to be taken at the next uniform election date.

Such a referendum requires at least 6,000 signatures on a petition within 60 days, Bell said. If an ordinance causes sufficient controversy to spur that many signatures in so short a time, waiting up to two years for the vote would be unreasonable, he said.

The council also heard a recommendation from City Secretary Armando Chapa to change the wording of the charter revision that states when a city council election should be held.

Arnoldo Moreno, chairman of the city's Planning and Zoning Commission, also recommended refining the wording of the section outlining that body's duties and powers.

University system seeks funds

By Dana Palmer
HARTE HANKS AUSTIN BUREAU

AUSTIN - The three institutions in the University System of South Texas asked a higher education budget subcommittee yesterday to support the funding necessary to keep good faculty members, as well as money for several special budget items.

Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Tom Uher, D-Bay City, also asked interim system Chancellor B. Alan Sugg what the regents think about a Select Committee on Higher Education recommendation that Pan American University become a comprehensive university.

"They did not say it would be the only comprehensive university in South Texas," Sugg said, noting that the regents and the Corpus

Christi area legislative delegation also want the University System of South Texas to become a comprehensive system, with the ability to offer doctoral programs.

Universities without that comprehensive designation would be relegated to offering undergraduate and master's degree programs.

Sugg, also president of Corpus Christi State University, noted that bills calling for comprehensive status for the University System of South Texas, as well as for Pan American, will be before the Legislature this session.

On funding, Sugg said, "my urgent plea to you is that some way and somehow this committee at a minimum make recommendations to restore the funding cuts made to public universities during the 1986

special session."

He told the subcommittee of the House Higher Education Committee that "unless new funding is provided, there could be real and serious deterioration in the quality of the faculties within our universities."

Already good people have been lost, Sugg said, especially in engineering, computer science and business. Within the University System of South Texas, "we're having to rely on temporary and part-time faculty appointments," he said.

Sugg said a large part of the faculty salary problem will be solved by budget bills now under consideration in both the House and Senate. Under those, CCSU would receive \$9.1 million in each year of the 1988-89 budget biennium.

Beaver trial is slated for today

Connie Jean Beaver, the woman who led police on a monthlong chase last summer after a theft at a local security firm is expected to reveal her story during a trial scheduled to start today.

Judge Jack Hunter of the 94th District Court will preside over Ms. Beaver's trial today in which the defendant faces charges of felony theft. Jury selection is expected to begin about 9:30 a.m.

Ms. Beaver was charged with felony theft after the June 15 theft from Loomis Armored Inc. 1020 Blucher St. Almost \$300,000 in cash, checks and food stamps was taken from the security firm, where Ms. Beaver was a former employee.

She currently is free from the Nueces County Jail after posting a reduced \$10,000 bond in December.

Mustapha Saaid, a native of Morocco also was arrested and charged in connection with the theft. Saaid, who was released from County Jail in October after posting a \$5,000 bond is scheduled to go to trial May 18. Court records show

Election is set for firemen's fund

By Leslie Williams
STAFF WRITER

An election to increase Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund benefits has been scheduled for Feb. 23 through 25.

The retirement fund board yesterday voted to call the election to increase the fund's multiplier from \$57.09 to \$62.24, said Board Vice Chairman Homer Serna.

"It won't change the benefits for those now receiving retirement benefits. It will be only for those who retire after Feb. 26th," if the elec-

tion passes, Serna said.

At least 80 percent of the 350 firefighters who contribute to the retirement fund would have to vote yes for the proposition to pass, Serna said.

Should this occur, annual benefits for retirees and disabled firemen after Feb. 26 would be calculated by multiplying \$62.24 - rather than \$57.09 - times the number of years of service, said Trustee Manuel Hernandez.

Firefighters, said Hernandez, annually contribute 9 percent of the

average annual firefighter's salary into the Firemen's Relief and Retirement Fund.

A firefighter's contribution to the fund would not increase should the election succeed, Hernandez said.

"It's not necessary to raise the contribution due to our investment growth and money from existing contributions," Hernandez said.

A firefighter may not receive retirement benefits until he has acquired at least 20 years of service and is 55 years old or is disabled, Serna said.

Jack Graham joins City Council at-large race

By David Teece
STAFF WRITER

Real estate broker Jack W. Graham yesterday became the seventh candidate to leap into the City Council at-large race choosing the phrase "action not words" for his campaign slogan.



Graham

Passing out graham crackers to a group of supporters, the political newcomer picked the future site of the Texas State Aquarium on Corpus Christi Beach

to announce his candidacy. He said the site represents how a job-creating project can be delayed by "too much talk."

"We're always talking in this city and never getting anything done," Graham said. "We've been talking about the aquarium for 10 years and it still isn't built."

Like many other candidates in the April 4 election, Graham said the creation of jobs will be the key to Corpus Christi's immediate future.

"Jobs just don't happen, they are created," Graham said. "We need to create a favorable political atmosphere in the city."

Graham said the City Council could improve the city's business

climate by uniting behind job-producing projects.

"We need a unified City Council," Graham said. "They need to make decisions and get off the fence. Our No. 1 priority is for all people to unite in a common cause."

Graham, who served as the first president of Corpus Christi Crime Stoppers in 1982, said also he believes the city should hire additional police officers to handle an increasing crime rate.

"What good are jobs if your family comes home and discovers that everything has been stolen?" Graham said. "We have a good police force, but we need additional officers."

Graham, 53, also said he is against any increase in the home-stead exemption for the disabled and people over 65, saying the city currently cannot afford a reduction in tax revenue.

"I don't believe the elderly people realize that if we have to cut city services, they would be affected first," Graham said.

This is Graham's first run at an elected post. He is a native of Corpus Christi and a graduate of Roy Miller High School.

Graham joins Mose Garrett Jr., Bill Read, Mary Rhodes, Cliff Moss, Berney Seal and Cheyenne Eichelberger in the list of announced candidates for the three at-large council positions. Tomorrow is the deadline to file for the April 4 elections.

Man is charged with swindling local oilman on share of well

A Round Rock man sought since October in connection with a swindling case in Corpus Christi was in City Jail last night after his arrest last weekend in Edna.

Floyd Douglas Ellison, 37, was arrested Saturday morning at his mother's residence in Edna, Corpus Christi police said yesterday.

According to police, a man took a local oilman to a ranch in the El Campo area, claiming he owned the ranch.

The man then proposed that the oilman buy a share of an oil well on the property for \$23,000, police said.

Police said the oilman gave the man the money and never saw or heard from him again.

Bush said the victim is a Corpus Christi drilling contractor. He said the incident occurred in June, but was not reported to police until August.

Bond was originally set at \$25,000 in October, but was increased to \$150,000 after Ellison did not appear in court, said Corpus Christi Police Sgt. Larry Bush, in charge of the investigation.

Police looked for Ellison in Corpus Christi, Houston and Round Rock, as well as other cities in Texas, before he was apprehended Saturday morning.

Ellison was transported from Edna to the Corpus Christi City Jail yesterday.

SHARE THE SPIRIT

Watch the CBS Evening News with Dan Rather at 5:30, then...



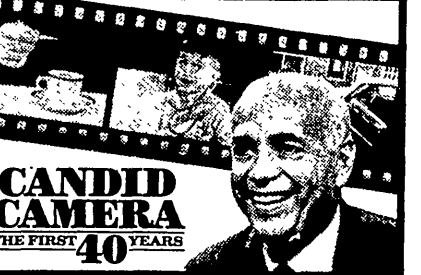
6:00 NEWSWATCH TEN

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ART MACK-"The Sports Attack"
CARL ARREDONDO-Meteorologist

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A CBS SPECIAL PRESENTATION
8PM



Crime Stoppers

Pharmacy-robbery clues are sought

Police are looking for leads in a recent armed robbery of a local pharmacy.

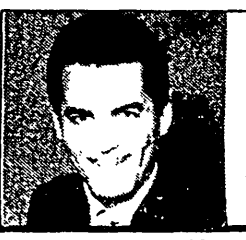
On Jan. 15 two men entered the Burwell Pharmacy, 10733 Leopard St. and one of the men pulled a pistol. He went behind the counter and demanded drugs from the owner according to a Crime Stoppers news release.

One of the robbers had the owner sit on the floor and emptied the cash register the release

said. The second man went to the office and ordered two other clerks to sit on the floor.

The suspects are described as 5 feet 8 inches tall with medium builds. One subject had a dark complexion, dark eyebrows and possibly high cheekbones. He was wearing a dark shirt and olive-drab pants.

If you have information concerning this crime, call Crime Stoppers at 888-TIPS



10:00 NEWSWATCH TEN

For a complete wrap-up of the day's world and local news join...

JOE DONLON-News Anchor
ART MACK-"The Sports Attack"
CARL ARREDONDO-Meteorologist

Stay tuned for "T.J. Hooker" following the Late News.

