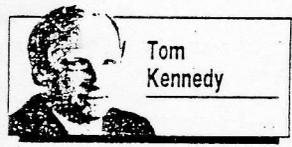


SUNDAY PUNCH



Tom Kennedy

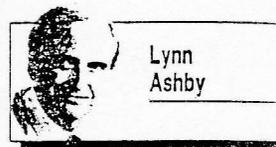
Judges' elections still a big mess

WE HAVE A problem with the way we elect judges. Some of us, including many in the Courthouse establishment, learned this almost 20 years ago when an unknown candidate named Donald B. Yarbrough ran as a Democrat for the Texas Supreme Court, and won.

He got 1.2 million votes in the general election although voters should have known he was a defendant in 20 lawsuits, some involving questions of character. Later, he was the target in a 100-count disbarment lawsuit.

Yarbrough eventually served seven months on the state's highest civil appellate court before resigning and tossing in his bar card. He was indicted, tried and convicted for perjury and forgery. Soon the consensus was that Texas voters had learned their lesson.

... Democrats ruled the judicial



Lynn Ashby

Rob Peter, Paul — and pay me

DEAR Speaker Gingrich, Thank you, thank you, for winning. You are now in charge, praise the Lord!

No more of those liberal programs. From now on Congress will run the government like a business. In this regard, I have some suggestions.

First, you must cut our taxes as you promised, lower government costs, do away with those stupid giveaway plans and get rid of entitlement programs like farm subsidies, Social Security, welfare program, and unneeded military bases.

Go for it! Cut and slice, slash and burn! The people are now in power!

While are you at it, could you please increase my pension? You see I was in the military, in charge of sorting socks at Fort Hood and I cut my finger on a chart. It really hurt and I think Agent Orange got into it. It's getting so I can hardly afford

Reforming judicial elections



HEARD & NOTED

“... the day after the Democrats were Newtered last week...”
— Randy Whitestone, columnist for Gannett Suburban Newspapers

“I'm going to continue to pursue excellence.”
— George Foreman, world heavyweight champion

“When people... see Vincent's face, or someone else in the family, they know the food's going to come out right, 'cause the owners are here.”
— Mary Mandola, co-owner of 2 restaurants

“... we definitely have no intention to close...”
— Jim Noteware, Sam Houston Race Park official

“Justice in America is like a baby being born. You've got to participate in its conception, or that baby's never going to look like you.”
— Hector de Leon, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials director, who wants more Hispanics to become citizens and vote

“The ability to give average Americans, poor Americans, the choice to send their children to private school — be they secular or parochial — is something that we favor...”
— Haley Barbour, Republican National Committee chairman, in a post-election press conference

“I don't know how she managed to stay under the darn thing, but she did.”
— A Coos County, Ore., sheriff's deputy reporting that a girl trapped on a trestle suffered only cuts and scratches when she fell between the rails and let a train pass above her

“Yankee Go Home.”
— Graffiti painted on windows of a McDonald's restaurant in Mexico City by hooded vandals protesting California's Proposition 187

“I'm a middle-aged man who's worked very hard in his life to be a mainstream American...”
— President Clinton