

REPRINTED FROM Waco Tribune-Herald

Wednesday, October 17, 1982

EDITORIALS

Feazell best man for DA's office

Of the two candidates for McLennan County district attorney, Vic Feazell is better qualified to get the necessary jobs done at the courthouse: managing the office, keeping down the backlog of cases, establishing and maintaining firm and fair prosecution in McLennan County.

We like Feazell's record of work with juvenile offenders in Bell County and his competence in reorganizing the local MH-MR drug rehabilitation program in the late 1970s. The program was beset by troubles after two methadone-related deaths. After one year on the job, Feazell had improved the program enough to earn it a top rating from the Texas Department of Community Affairs.

We believe the kinds of difficult work he has done — and done well — give insight into his character and point to his talents as a manager and an organizer.



Vic Feazell

The aggressive campaign for DA has turned strident as Feazell's opponent, Paul Gartner, has accused Feazell of failing to tell voters that he used marijuana and what Feazell thought was LSD as a teen-ager.

The seriousness of drug use should not be minimized, but we fail to see how Feazell's admitted experimentation with drugs when he was

14 years old can be used as a fair issue against him more than 15 years later.

Feazell's mistakes as a teen-ager obviously are not his major topic of conversation, but Feazell has not tried to hide them. He told the *Tribune-Herald* editorial board some weeks ago that he had experimented with drugs as a teen-ager. He used his unpleasant experiences later in counseling work with juveniles.

Feazell's accomplishments do not guarantee he will make a good district attorney, but we believe an assessment of his contributions to society so far indicates the potential is there.

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