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"A well-researched journal which more orthodox Texas statesmen feel should not have the protection of the First Amendment."

John Kenneth Galbraith.

"It took me awhile after my time in government to realize that what's important to the journalist is not how close we are to power but how close we are to reality. I learned that in no small way because of the *Observer's* habit of challenging the official view of reality and getting as close as possible to the verifiable truth."

Bill Moyers

"Every state in the Union should have a newspaper that not only sheds light on its history, key local issues and distinctive culture, but also provides a progressive voice and dares to expose the scoundrels in its midst. For 50 years now, deep in the heart of a traditionally conservative bastion, *The Texas Observer* has bravely and honorably done just that."

Larry Flynt, Publisher, Hustler Magazine

"For centuries politics, journalism and poetry have been enduring, if at times uneasy, bedfellows. So it feels good to pick up the *Texas Observer*, flip to the poetry page, and find this endangered tradition alive and well. In today's fast paced world, the little oasis is most deeply appreciated."

Cristina Mauro

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THE Texas Observer



Rate of Exchange

by Jake Bernstein and Dave Mann



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"For DeLay, the purpose of Texans for a Republican majority could be summed up in two words: congressional redistricting. Despite the damage it is doing to the institution, and the disenfranchisement redistricting will wreak on rural Texas, those who took DeLay's money continue to try to do his bidding. As DeLay put it to reporters during the session: 'I'm the majority leader and I want more seats.'"

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"This is where you can tell the truth without the bark on it, laugh at anyone who is ridiculous, and go after the bad guys with all the energy you have, so long as you get the facts right."

Molly Ivins

Journalism That Motivates, Captivates, Illuminates.

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- We told you how the Republican Tax Plan robs from the poor to pay the rich.
- We told you which Fat Cats and Plutocrats get in bed together to decide how the rest of us are going to live our lives.
- We told you what Bush cronies are making millions off No Child Left Behind while guaranteeing second-class citizenship for this nation's poor kids.
- We'll tell you who's buying all the water in West Texas and paving all the farmland between Harlingen and Lubbock.

In a June 2004 press conference, former Representative Chris Bell told reporters that he began working on his ethics complaint "after reading 'Rise of the Machine' in **The Texas Observer**." Our coverage of the manipulation of the 2002 state House elections by House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and the Texas Association of Business was incorporated into the first complaint filed before the U.S. House Ethics Committee in seven years!

You don't have to hold office or lead a movement to make use of what you read in the **Observer**. Ordinary citizens tell us that the **Observer** gives them a running start in their own efforts "to address social conditions by providing sound and in-depth information about a multitude of problems." Some say they've even changed what they buy and eat because of things they learned from articles in the **Observer**.

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