



## LETTERS to the Editor

### Critic's comments countered in detail

Editor,

Reference the Letter to the Editor of March 9, subject: Join the American Revolution, Phase II. On behalf of our Comal Commissioners Court, it is important that we correct some comments that were included in that letter.

The writer stated that the "Comal County judge and commissioners have now raised our taxes higher than most counties in Texas." In fact, our county property tax rate is in the lowest 5 percent of all counties in Texas. Our approved tax rate for 2005 is 35.37 cents (per hundred dollars of assessed property value) minus

our Commissioners Court-approved homestead exemption of 20 percent, which makes our taxpayers' net property tax rate of 28.3 cents. Comal County is one of a very few counties which provides the maximum homestead exemption authorized by law of 20 percent; many counties, including Bexar County, provide no homestead exemption at all.

Additionally, the writer states that, "This year's proposed budget is padded by over \$1 million." Our approved tax rate increase included \$469,000 to be returned to our "reserve account" at the recommendation of our outside auditor because we had reduced this account in recent years to pay for our massive floods in 1998 and 2002. There is no padding of our accounts in Comal County.

Finally, we reiterate our Commissioners Court's unanimous position on toll roads in Comal County — we have opposed them at every opportunity, and we will continue to do so.

Jay Millikin  
Commissioner, Precinct 2