

**“INSIDE”**

**INTELLIGENCE**

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**TEXAS  WEEKLY**

**The insider's poll for the week of April 4.**

*We're past the halfway point of this session. What's your take on the top leaders — Gov. Rick Perry, Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, and House Speaker Joe Straus?*

- "Too early to tell."
- "Perry is looking at a national office, so he's posturing to the right. Dewhurst is looking at the U.S. Senate, so he's doing the same thing. Straus seems to be keeping a low profile right now--he's either indecisive or waiting for a time to make his impression felt."
- "Things are moving very slow, but that is a good thing. Legislative Redistricting will be done by the LRB so that is not an issue. The budget, if it gets passed, will be the only other issue. Who cares if anything else gets done? Adjourn and come back later in the year to finish Congressional redistricting."
- "Straus - A+... Dewhurst - B +... Perry - D"
- "What? They are around?"
- "Perry is still stoking his ambitions at the expense of the state and remains the preeminent example of the craven officeholder in the state, if not the country. Straus is demonstrating a steady hand while dispelling any lingering fantasies that his 'moderation' would somehow save the day for the state. He's perfectly content to head for the iceberg while giving rich folks the limited number of lifeboats. I don't know who David Dewhurst is; oh, you mean the guy in line to buy the Senate seat, yeah. I guess he's doing ok."
- "Perry is in his own universe, Dewhurst is workmanlike at best and Straus can't get very far on anything."
- "Perry is being Perry, which seemingly requires that he alienate anybody whose weekends aren't spent cleaning muskets... Dewhurst - What, no steroids? At least that bill did something - albeit wastefully. ... Joe Straus - Who's he? I think I remember reading about him in January."
- "Pretty quiet"
- "They are what they have been."
- "Perry is thinking 2 much abt a national seat and its effing up our session. Dewhurst and Straus seem to be more grounded in reality."
- "Dewhurst and Straus are doing the best they can with Perry's mess"
- "Straus and Dewhurst have some inkling of actually trying to do their jobs well, Perry does not."
- "Lt. Gov. Dewhurst is beginning to pull his weight; the others haven't shown up much."
- "Has Perry done anything that he wasn't expected to do? Other than give up a little bit more than \$3 billion from the Rainy Day Fund, hasn't this been the Rick Perry we were promised? Straus also has to be a pleasant surprise to the Tea Party and radical right-wing forces that opposed him. Straus has played their tune to a T. The Dew...well, the Dew has been the Dew...no leadership and a bit feckless."
- "They have offered minimal leadership."
- "Perry has been very disappointing. What Texas needs now more than anything else is leadership from its governor regarding revenue increases combined with spending cuts, and Perry has failed to deliver. ... Dewhurst has done a good job behind the scenes, but more publicly like Perry is failing in terms of providing real leadership... Straus is doing an admirable job managing the House."
- "Perry = head in the sand... Dewhurst = wet noodle... Straus = running the House the way it's suppose to be"
- "Dewhurst and Straus - positive... Gov - negative."
- "Perry: 'O Hell, stop whining - we ain't got a shortfall - it doesn't take a Harvard professor to know all you boys need to do is cut the waste we created in 2003!' Dewhurst: 'Senators, we don't have the votes for

cloture...uh, I mean, we're not moving the blocker bill unless it helps my Senate campaign.' Straus: 'You guys work it out, I'll be at the track. What? No, you work it out amongst yourselves. Speaker? No, you work it out.'

- "I think Straus has really come into his own. His appointments to committees actually mirror what legislators wanted. Very few went home unhappy."
- "Perry an F... Dewhurst a C... Straus an A"
- "They are 'toeing' the Tea Party line very well, at the expense of 'Joe and Jane' Texan. They are astute politicians, not statesmen."
- "Great job."
- "Biggest winner is Straus. Fought off challenge and got his base happy with conservative Legislation. Dewhurst in the middle. Perry biggest loser. No progress on budget. No leadership. Looks more interested in national issues than Texas."
- "Woo. They have huge majorities and still haven't passed Voter ID."
- "Very little leadership shown by anyone so far this session. Each of the three seems to have their own agenda's and little interest in helping the other."
- "They are working particularly well together given the budgetary challenge"
- "Speaker - done a good job fording difficult issues of session thus far; budget and redistricting will be imposing challenges... Gov and Lt. Gov - minds seem to be far away from ensuring Texas remains a great place to live"
- "So busy kowtowing to the tea partiers that they aren't able to lead where the state needs to go."
- "Perry - another good session and a great launching pad for the national stage... Dewhurst - another good session and a great launching pad for a US Senate campaign... Straus - proved his leadership abilities and solidified his conservative credentials while

maintaining his easy going style and allowing the House to conduct its business without a heavy hand."

- "Perry is disengaged and more concerned with his political career, while Dewhurst and Straus seem to be trying to save healthcare and education."
- "Perry - even worse than expected. His lack of leadership is simply appalling... Dewhurst - the jury is out. ... Straus - between a rock (the Tea Partiers) and a hard place (a budget acceptable to the Senate)."
- "Dewhurst - Committed family man, not scared of small cows. ... Rick Perry - Really, really hates trial lawyers, very scared of coyotes... Joe Straus - Resigned to let the House pass any crazy idea that comes along, just praying they go for gambling as well."
- "Keeping things going in a difficult situation. All principled leaders."
- "The Lt. Governor and Speaker look credible."
- "Perry is playing politics... Dewhurst has yet to prove he will really confront the crisis but is making goods noises... Straus is still letting the Instant Tea Bunch run the Circus"
- "The House is running according to the will of the body: Straus - A... The Senate is budgeting more than available and the Lt. Gov is eerily quiet. - C... The Governor is doing what the Governor does. Bully Pulpitting - C"
- "Gov Perry- No help... Lt Gov Dewhurst- getting job done... Speaker Straus- getting job done"
- "Perry-3 Dewhurst-4 Straus-5 out of a 10"
- "As to Perry and Dewhurst, remarkably predictable and dense. Still hope for the Speaker, but he has an insurmountable TP problem."
- "The problems are bigger than any of them, and all of them combined."

- "Perry has continued his assault on reason and common sense. Straus and Dewhurst seem to be focused on the process and moving legislation forward. 2 work horses and 1 show pony."
- "No discernible signs of leadership yet."
- "Where's the Speaker's leadership? The sonogram bill he set up to fail, but what else?"
- "Dewhurst - thank God! Straus - ho-hum! Perry - c'mon!"
- "Straus has kept the House together reasonably well. Dewhurst has not yet shown much and faces a tough challenge because he needs two Dem votes to pass a budget. He has the most on the line. Perry has been MIA for the most part and backed down in agreeing to accept \$3B of the Rainy Day Fund. The hard work remains."
- "Too early to tell"
- "Perry and Dewhurst have behaved predictably as ideologues, genuine or otherwise, positioning themselves for future office, with little consideration for the long term impacts of their policies on Texans. Speaker Straus is tougher to assess right now from my outsider perspective; it will be interesting to see the final budget and bills passed from the House at the end of session as one major indicator of how Straus has led. Right now based on media coverage and gossip, he's either very low key and behind the scenes or do-nothing."
- "Perry-AWOL... Dewhurst-Out of Touch and willing to put his GOP members at risk... Straus-The only leader in the bunch"
- "Perry's running for Veep, Dewhurst's running for the Senate, and Straus is probably searching for reasons to keep believing 'the will of the House' is still a good thing"
- "Perry is playing hard ball for the Tea Party and right-wing and winning the rhetorical battle and the Speaker and Pitts are giving in... Dewhurst and the Senate are pushing back, but the Lt. Gov. typically folds in conference."
- "I think Dewhurst is following Perry's lead more than ever because of his Senate plans and the Tea Party stuff. Straus is more independent but the huge majority is pushing him to do things he was able to avoid before."
- "Perry and Dewhurst have governed like they're still running. Straus has been low profile. Keeping his head down."
- "Straus, doing a great job of passing conservative package. Will not get credit for his leadership because of the poison spread by his opposition in the Speaker's race. Dewhurst seems to be doing a good job, behind the scenes to help guide the Senate. Perry seems distracted from state business in his effort to develop a national presence."
- "The Governor is so busy doing the ethereal waltz with national politics and the TEA party that he is not leading Texas, only his future aspirations; the Lt. Governor has a good handle on what can be done and has the Senate moving in a pretty good line (dance); the Speaker is leading but he is having to do a two step/quick step/cha cha around the TEA party which is making the process extremely slow and unrealistic for now. I mean, have you seen the House budget?"
- "So far they have not had been forced to lead on any particularly contentious issue. Now that the budget is upon us, we will see."
- "Perry is a zero. Dewhurst and Straus are very credible leaders."
- "Perry: continues to define the far right, making trouble for r budget leadership in house and senate. Tea party is the new conservatism. Positioning for VP... Dewhurst: conservative with an exposed right flank, maneuvering to win a republican us senate primary. Currently tagged with advocating Dewbamacare. So far, session has not helped his chances... Straus: RINO. Who cares that he restored honor and dignity to the Texas house."
- "I think the speaker has done an excellent job in a very difficult environment. His appointments were masterful and he has balanced some very passionately held interests as well as it could be done... Though presented several opportunities to do so,

Dewhurst has not committed a spectacular blunder and the senate seems to have been able to avoid at least for the nonce, any major meltdowns. That will likely change however as the temperature rises both inside and out. ... Perry is Perry."

- "Perry and Dew only concerned with higher office and the appearance of doing right. Straus will act in time to do right."

- "All I hear is crickets!"

- "Perry has mastered the ability to impact the legislative session without getting into the weeds on every decision. Straus is just along for the ride. Dewhurst is most interesting - walking the line between the Tea Party and social conservatives and the reality that the Senate is going to spend more money than the House, not to mention pass less stringent sonogram and voter ID bills. You have to wonder too where Dan Patrick is going to wind up. Should be an interesting two months to see how all that plays out."

- "The Governor is, as usual, AWOL. He's more concerned with selling books and his nascent national political career than doing the job he was elected to do. Dewhurst and Straus are managing OK so far, but the really difficult work is just beginning, now that those 'emergency' priorities are out of the way."

- "NO leadership"

- "Straus needs to quit trying to prove he's something he's not. He could rename the pink building the Reichstag and the far right will never like him."

- "Perry gets a big fat F... Dewhurst gets a dismal D... Straus gets a C so far. He kept some Democrats in leadership positions."

- "Jury is still out"

- "Fortunately, you identified the individuals by name in your questionnaire. Otherwise, I would not have thought to include them in my take on the 'top leaders' at the halfway point this session. See answers to this question under question #2."

- "There's only one issue this session that can measure the leadership quality of Perry, Dewhurst and Straus, and that is the state budget. The budget is, in essence, a moral obligation to the constituency of Texas, and by disregarding the option to raise revenue with a narrow-minded 'no tax' pledge because it will prevent job growth sets up our republic to fail. I'm curious to know how one can stimulate the economy with a \$27 billion deficit. Unfortunately Perry, Dewhurst, and Straus have already proven that they are so beholden to their Republican ideology that they would rather let the state fail in its moral obligation to the people. I wonder how each of them will take responsibility for the butchery their ideologies, principles, and obligation to the far right have created for us?"

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*"What members of the Legislature are stand-outs so far — one way or another? Who should Paul Burka be watching for his biennial Best & Worst list, and why?"*

- "Best will be Dan Branch and John Carona. Worst will be Stef Carter."

- "Senator Duncan remains a force to be reckoned with in the Senate. Hunter appears to be working hard to be a top leader in the House."

- "Pitts is the stand out. For all the crying and handwringing that those displaced when Straus came in concerning how moderate that the new leadership was, it appears that in the clutch, Pitts is more conservative than even

Talmadge Heflin. Who would have ever thought?"

- "Worst - Riddle, Berman. Paxton, Schwertner... Best - Solomons, Carona, Deuell, West, Shapiro, Eltife... Furniture - Birdwell, Jackson M,"

- "Way too early. Burka's effort on this has never been respectable. That whole project should be ended."

- "I won't answer any questions that might help him do even less work than he is doing now."

- "Good- Madden, Hilderbran, Whitmire, Bad- Martinez-Fischer, Berman, Riddle, Patrick"

- "Best: ... Sarah Davis - The last bastion of guts at the Capitol. Her vote on informed consent was the most courageous thing anybody has done all session. Kudos to her. ... Mike Villarreal - The LBB employment impact analysis alone should put him on the best list... Kirk Watson - With his "Honesty Agenda" Watson has been consistent and on point even months before the session about what we are facing... Leticia Van de Putte: Bi-partisanship is alive and well - at least when human trafficking is involved... Not so Best: Rob Eissler: Where are they hiding the Rob Eissler I know and love?... Moderate R Women of the House - The rush to the right wing of the Republican Party is expected. The degree of primary voter appeasement has been most distressing among the female moderates. Need I say more than "jelly on the belly"?"

- "Too early"

- "Chairman Zerwas has been courageous and smart about both his state health care exchange bill and the Rainy Day Fund. Rep. Villarreal has had the sharpest message. Chairman Pitts has done a good job in very difficult circumstances."

- "Best- Pitts Zerwas and Deuell... Worst-caraway Schwertner and riddle"

- "Shapiro; Branch"

- "Although not a member of the legislature, I would lump Perry into the Worst list on an honorary basis."

- "Sens. Seliger, Ogden are positive standouts by taking rational stances with respect to budget reductions. Their leadership will help avert bad decisions."

- "Among the Democrats, you have to give a hand to Scott Hochberg as always. On the GOP side, clearly Ogden is trying to do the

Lord's work. Worst List? Too many to name"

- "Shapiro, Wendy Davis, Royce West"

- "Jim Pitts is a stand-out for his work chairing Appropriations and for at least partially challenging Perry on the Rainy Day Fund... Debbie Riddle continues to be a source of local amusement and national embarrassment for her legislation and statements... Craig Eland's ethics have been seriously called into question via actions such as his introduction of the "Mike Leach" bill and presence on the House Insurance Committee while simultaneously earning millions suing TWIA. If there is "Most Corrupt" list, Craig Eiland is sure to be at the top."

- "Jim Pitts, Steve Ogden, Tommy Williams"

- "Sorry, I'm woefully ignorant on 'performance' of specific legislators but I am a Kirk Watson fan."

- "Mark Shelton - new member of appropriations - quite, working hard, making cuts, but being reasonable. Jose Aliseda - for proving your don't have to be a Democrat to understand what it means to be an immigrant."

- "Naomi Gonzales... Robert Anchia... The Senate Republicans on Finance, even Patrick"

- "Jim Pitts stands out in the House... Shapiro, Eltife and Van De Putte in the Senate"

- "As they say in sports gambling, 'pick 'em.'"

- "Best: Jim Pitts. Always on top the game with a calm and well-reasoned demeanor... Byron Cook. Steady hand with an influential cmte... Todd Hunter: This man knows what he is doing... Donna Howard: Survived her election contest with dignity and grace... Florence Shapiro: She is not intimidated by the "anti-educracs" crowd... Troy Fraser: Won't be bullied by EPA... Worst: Mike Villareal: He wants to be somebody but no one is listening... Pete Gallegos: The star has fallen mightily."

- "Pitts is the stand up guy so far. Willing to fight the right fights for the budget including

raiding the rainy day fund above the objections of the right."

- "Impressed with how Wendy Davis and Joaquin Castro are trying to get the focus on the structural deficit that is a more fundamental cause of the budget problem than is the recession."

- "Best---Will Hartnett; Worst: Byron Cook, Sid Miller, Scott Hochberg"

- "Steve Ogden Best Jim Pitts best"

- "Best - Ogden, Duncan, Deuell, Huffman, Nichols, Zerwas, Pitts, Villarreal, Gallego... Worst - Carona, Patrick, Williams, Smithee, J. Jackson, F. Brown, Miles"

- "John Corona - Willing to stand for positions unpopular with the right wing and the Governor (gasoline tax, etc)... Kevin Eltife - Is his own man. Doesn't take orders from the Governor or anyone else in "authority"."

- "Todd Hunter - I don't recall a more affable and gregarious Chairman of the House Calendars Committee in recent times. He is a joy to work with... Jose Aliseda - "Rookie of the Year". Most had low or no expectations. He has knocked the ball out of the park... Aaron Pena - navigated the party switch with aplomb. He has created a real force with the Hispanic Republican Caucus."

- "Best: Ogden, Pitts, Dewhurst, Duncan... Worst: Perry"

- "Senator Watson"

- "Van Taylor may rate the highest in a long time for unintentional comedy and the ability to annoy every single faction of the House... Pitts could be jeopardizing his perennial hero status by bringing a bogus appropriations bill to the House floor... Patricia Harless did not do a particularly goo job defending Voter ID, but everybody still loves her."

- "Florence Shapiro - Outstanding!"

- "Did Evan write this question? Best: Mike Villarreal for defending his party's principles. Worst: Patricia Harless for misunderstanding the English language."

- "Sen. Van de Putte... Sen. Ogden... Rep. Pitts"

- "Pitts, then Pitts. Followed by House leadership... No Senator makes top 10. See point above."

- "Too early to call"

- "There has not been any one that fits the ten best and there should be no ten worst list because the voters are to blame for who they sent and they should be on the worst list"

- "Duncan, Shapiro and Whitmire; Coleman and ?"

- "Drew Darby"

- "Pitts is the biggest stand out on the best side. Villarreal continues to impress."

- "Mike Villarreal has been doing what all the Ds should be doing - a consistent stream of messaging on the budget."

- "Worst: Shapiro because of her short fuse concerning redistricting. Sour grapes? Best: Geanie Morrison because of her grace under fire from the Speaker."

- "Shapiro - best - leadership on funding and education... branch - best - leadership on higher ed"

- "Sen. Ogden has demonstrated adult leadership, seriousness and calm authority, while others make unrealistic promises. He's a steady hand on the tiller at a critical time. This is a much more difficult session than 2003."

- "Jim Pitts deserves to be on the Best list. No one's happy with HB 1, but he knows he has to get it to conference committee, and he is herding the cats toward the destination."

- "Rep. Anchia has been tremendous on crafting the common sense response to Republican extremism and giving intellectual credibility and legitimacy to the opponents of Republican overreaching. Rep. Alvarado had one of the most memorable moments during the sonogram bill debate. Reps. Riddle and Chisum have outdone even themselves in

previous sessions in terms of their wild-eyed demagoguery on immigration and penchant for filing blatantly unconstitutional or otherwise illegal legislation. Other than sending a message (and that message is, 'I am a nut job.'), we can thank them for millions in legal bills for the next several years if they achieve any measure of success this session. Rep. Villareal is also making a name for himself and providing much needed new energy and ideas to the Democratic Caucus, but more fundamental leadership changes will be necessary to empower folks who believe in a dramatic new direction for Democrats."

- "Sid Miller... Jim Pitts... Glenn Hegar... Kevin Eltife... Sylvester Turner... John Zerwas"

- "Best: Ogden. Nice to have a thinking adult in the center seat at Finance in a time like this. Scared to death he's going to hang 'em up... Worst: too hard to narrow down, but "courage calls" are coming up that will help winnow the field significantly."

- "Pitts tried and failed to show the public and his colleagues the high stakes of big cuts, but his members did not care. He failed to make the case and lead his committee... Sen. Eltife stands out in a great way for calling bullsh\*t on the cuts-only method of balancing the budget. He is right, it is "insane."... Sen. Shapiro stands out for trying to fill in the hole that is public education funding."

- "Senator Eltife continues to be a voice of reason and hope for some sanity amongst the R's. Ogden has also been good, although more low profile this session. Linda Harper-Brown continues her reign of terror -- it must take a lot of energy to be so angry all the time."

- "Rep. Oliveira on HB 12... Rep. Mike Villareal for budget issues, advocating use of rainy day fund"

- "Pitts - Best (For offering the House a no new revenue budget. It's not pretty, but it's what they asked for, and some don't think it goes far enough."

- "Ritter seems to be on point on every issue in every committee. Ok, I know he isn't everywhere all the time, but you can tell he

has done his homework on a broad spectrum of issues and making everyone cut to the chase. Strama, even after losing his chair, is still one of the most informed members out there. What he doesn't know he will learn and he has great political skills. Wrong party? Who cares. He brings the other side to the table without all the rhetoric and game playing. Shapiro has done an amazing job holding her Finance Subcommittee together and getting everyone to consider alternatives. Tough job with teachers and administrators pulling them all in different directions. ... Not touching worst with a stick. I see so many lumps on logs. Was letting members have laptops on the dais a good idea. Some seem so unengaged in the hearings and on the floor."

- "Pitts, Eissler, Shapiro, Madden,"

- "Garnet Coleman. Pitts, as always. Harless did a good job on voter i.d."

- "Straus, continuing to hold house together even with freshman tea partiers and gov pressuring... Pitts for standing up to guv on rainy day fund."

- "I will yield to no one in my contempt for and indifference to anything Paul Burka might think about anything. In fact, is he still around? If so, why the heck?"

- "Hunter is quietly doing great work. Those who spend too much time on the mike aren't really getting the work done. Kolkhorst would rather hear herself talk than quietly develop any character."

- "Burt Solomons, John Carona, Jim Pitts, Royce West, Shapiro."

- "Tommy Williams is working hard to hold the fiscal conservative line in a smart way. Pitts seems to be looking out for his members while also prodding the Governor to help resolve the budget. I see a potential disconnect coming between Dewhurst and Ogden, at least rhetorically, over where the budget is/should be."

- "Pitts & Ogden have taken a grown-up approach to the budget. John Zerwas has been a standout voice of reason. Sylvester Turner has been most effective at delivering the



Democratic message that this budget will be devastating for many Texans."

- "Only one for the worst, Fraser on Voter ID.... no standouts"
- "Pete Gallego - is perhaps the best chairman, runs a tight committee and has done the best job of navigating the new world of 49 house Dems."
- "Carol Alvarado for her step-by-step sonogram explanation is a stand-out... Senator Gallegos and his performance that earned him a Chronicle editorial last week has booked an early slot on the 10 Worst List."

• "Best: Pitts, Otto, Solomons, Anchia, Castro... Worst: Zedler, Naomi Gonzalez, Simpson"

• "Standouts--or the top leaders at the halfway point--should include Sen. Ogden for at least trying to make the budget better, and Rep. Scott Hochberg for investing the time (every session) to actually understand the education budget and help other members understand. Both of these individuals are 'listened to' when they speak about their areas of expertise. Put Bill Zedler back on the worst list already. Marva Beck for furniture."

• "Worst: Perry, Dewhurst, Straus... Best: Ask Burka."

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*The freshman class is huge this year. Who's most promising, and who's not?*

- "Too early to tell though Stef Carter is off to a bad start. Rodney Anderson has been a strong leader for a frosh."
- "Too early to tell--let's wait until there is some actual action on the floor."
- "There are a number of freshman that are showing themselves to be leaders, Connie Scott, George Lavender and Lanham Lyne are all in that category."
- "Good - Lyne, Larson, Kuempel, Gonzalez... Worst - Schwertner, Huberty, S Carter"
- "Way too early."
- "Aliseda is showing some nerve as a legislator, though he's a disaster substantively. The rest are too busy voting 'no' in committees to distinguish themselves in any positive way."
- "No one stands out"
- "See Sarah Davis above... Representative White - Ouch."
- "Larry Gonzales and Naomi Gonzales"
- "No standouts."
- "Promising- Huberty ... Not- white"

- "NA"
- "Workman has done a good job of demonstrating his drive to benefit himself by the pro-contractor bills he is sponsoring."
- "Reps. James White, Lance Gooden are among the most promising."
- "Lance Gooden on the house side deserves some scrutiny for freshman of the Year. Eric Johnson is also getting some good reviews."
- "Too early to tell"
- "Sarah Davis has demonstrated both dynamism and courage. Very promising, but also very likely to have troubles with reelection... Other promising freshmen include Charles Perry and Larry Gonzales."
- "John Kuempel - he's not a nut"
- "Again, woefully ignorant."
- "Landtroop - NOT - seriously, does this guy even want to be here?"
- "Naomi Gonzales, most promising."
- "Workman is very promising... Isaacs is not promising"

- "Who cares?"
- "Promising: Larry Gonzales... Not Promising: Plead the 5th."
- "Nobody. They are doing what all freshmen do when big issues like a budget shortfall hits -- lay low and let the adults run the show."
- "The Hispanic Republicans seem to be acquitting themselves well."
- "Van Taylor seems to have some promise"
- "Workman is promising"
- "Most - J. Rodriguez, Aliseda, Davis, Four Price, Gooden, Lozano... Not - Landtroop, Burkett, Perry, Simpson"
- "Don't see much promise. They all seem to be playing to the extreme right."
- "Dan Huberty - a great command of the issues. Hard work and integrity. This will pay huge dividends... Larry Gonzales - sooo much to offer... Jason Isaac - "white light". What was he thinking? ... Freshmen against Straus."
- "Farias (SA)"
- "The not list is too long to type in."
- "Naomi Gonzales is outstanding... Van Taylor is about as bad as it gets."
- "Stefani Carter - lots of enthusiasm."
- "Promising: Connie Scott, Dee Margo. Not promising: Jim Landtroop, Erwin Cain"
- "Too early to tell"
- "Promising - Four Price, John Garza, Sara Davis... Not - well how about those who have swing districts and came in blasting against Straus. How are they doing?"
- "Larson is promising... No call on the rest"
- "No one yet"
- "I honestly see no real leaders emerging among frosh in either house."
- "Four Price is most promising. Doc Anderson is the least - wait, he is not a freshman."
- "I haven't seen anyone particularly impressive, but there is a lot of session left."
- "Lance Gooden appears to be more intelligent than most."
- "Most: Erwin Cain... Not: Four Price"
- "Huberty - not"
- "Sen. Birdwell is a serious person, a conservative and has a compelling personal story. He's kept his head down and could be capable of big things in the future."
- "Raul Torres managed to offend most of the Appropriations members by lecturing them on the desire of the voters for more funding cuts, and then a moment later telling them they need to restore funding for one of his Corpus Christi institutions."
- "No one has really stood out to me."
- "Lance Gooden-Promising... Jason Isaacs-Not"
- "Promising: Four Price, Dee Margo, George Lavender... Not promising: not a fair question, considering so many of them had no real thought they could have won and didn't have a plan for service."
- "Workman deserves the 'personal interest' award for filing his first two bills to benefit himself. Can't imagine that a construction company owner would want to shield himself for screwing up a build. Workman = Working for Himself"
- "Not many freshmen have made an impression and some are furniture candidates, especially the two from East Texas who look like one-termers."
- "Borris Mile, not a true freshman, but returning after hiatus has some good anti-death penalty bills. This issue may be one

whose time has come, if for no other reason, than counties can't afford the cost of death penalty trials any longer."

- "Jim Murphy (online hotel tax bill) - Freshman plus one session."

- "Huberty brings a lot of knowledge to the Education Committee; Kenneth Sheets is really learning the issues and working with Republican leaders of/on the issues... Where are the two freshmen who had the good fortune to be on Appropriations? They look asleep half the time."

- "Huberty, Anderson. The rest fall into the latter category until each one steps up."

- "Margo most promising."

- "James White shows little promise. Just go by his office and take a look. Is it open for business yet?"

- "I think young Eric Johnson shows the most promise. Young Kuempel's genes seem to be coming to the fore as well. Workman is also showing signs of incipient statesmanship."

- "Lyle Larsen still thinks he's important."

- "Larson, Huberty... Not list Torres, Burkett, Isaac."

- "Jose Aliseda is a rock star. One of the smartest members on criminal justice issues. His speech on voter ID was well delivered."

- "Not a stellar bunch, to say the least."

- "You kidding.... all sheep"

- "Carter can't keep a staff... Huberty is pretty good... Has anyone seen Rodney Anderson or Kenneth Sheets?"

- "Can't say."

- "Larry Gonzales is the most promising of the bunch. In fact, he will be the only Hispanic republican standing next session."

- "Maybe Sarah Davis for showing independence and Rep. Lozano for working so hard? Not so promising Jose Aliseda and Larry Gonzales."

- "How 'bout who's the best looking female, male category?"

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