

# Opinion/Commentary/Letters

## Books are only a part of A&M

**Editor:**  
As college students we are subjected to a constant barrage of advice about how to make the most of our college experience. When we are not out at the Lakeview Club or out getting it on at Midnight Yell practice, sometimes we think about why we are really here.

Our parents, teachers and friends all try to help us. They remember all the Saturday afternoon picnics, last-minute touchdowns, and glory of football weekends—where the hunger for the spectacular was satisfied—and they tell us how to make sure our lives are that good. They want us to come away from here with more than a degree.

We are here to learn, which means we are here in order to change. At Texas A&M, we are surrounded by inspirations and summons for us to get up out of that dorm room and check out what this place has to offer. There is no excuse for boredom.

Still, it is sometimes hard to get

fired up about making every second count in the college experience when it is raining outside, even for your 8 o'clock, and you don't have a date for the big game yet.

We are free to create whatever we desire at Texas A&M. We must do it by taking a direct interest in the lives of each other. To get the most out of these four years, we should not only study, but also be ready to share each other's joys, contentments and sorrows—even if it means having to come back to those homework problems at midnight after you've listened to a friend.

Michelle Smith, '79

### Lousy romance

**Editor:**

Your columnist Bill Kostura really picked a lousy book to typify Harlequin Romances. I have read over 1000 Harlequin Romances and I know there are many, many books published by Harlequin which were

better than *Clouded Waters*. He also was in error when he said the authors write under pseudonyms—many use their real names when they write, and some use pseudonyms because they want to write more than one kind of romance. (Generally each author sticks to one style to keep their fans happy.)

I do concede that some of the writers stick to a formula (for instance: Betty Neels always writes about English nurses falling in love with Dutch surgeons) but I would not say this produces a bland sameness. It can be fascinating to see how one plot can be used in so many different ways.

Maybe Bill Kostura should read a couple of hundred more Harlequin Romances before he starts making assumptions about them.

Meta Sienkiewicz, '79

**Editor's Note:** To each his own.

### Crime is real

**Editor:**

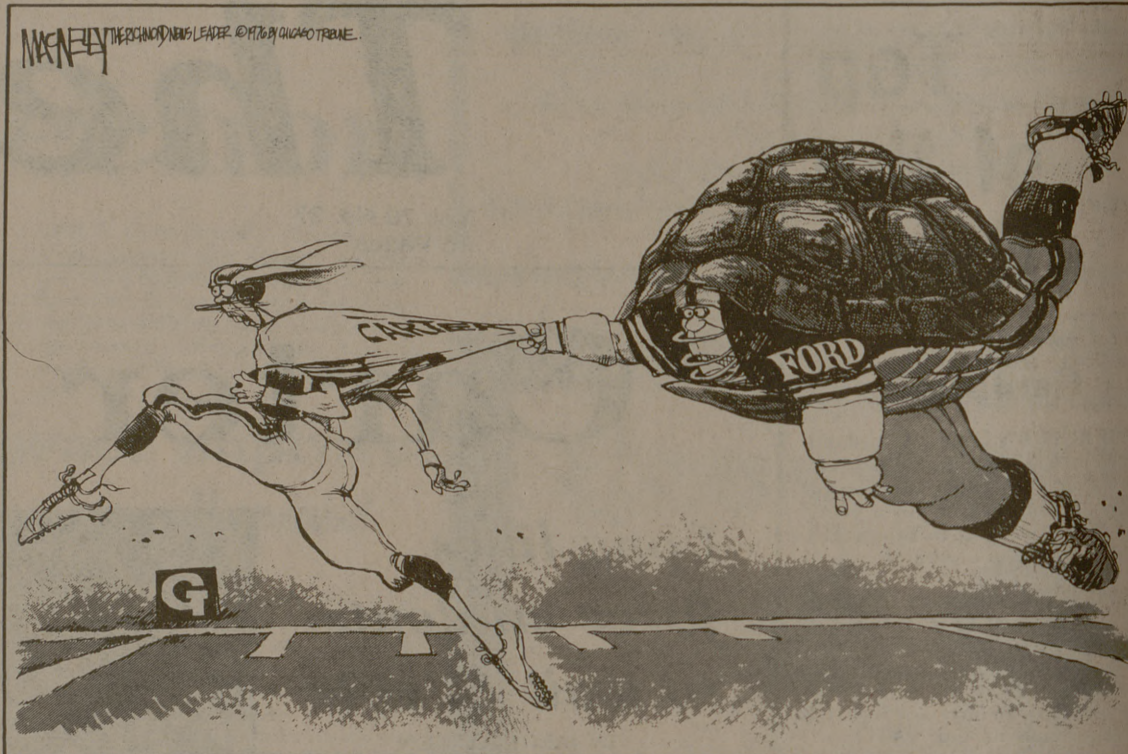
When we started our first year at A&M this fall, we had the impression that serious crime here was almost non-existent. One of the reasons we chose this school was because of the feeling of brotherhood

we witnessed between the Aggies. Last week our illusions were shattered. A dear friend and fellow Aggie was violently beaten by two unknown assailants, probably Aggies. Our friend had returned home from the Sports Club and did absolutely nothing to provoke the attack. Two young "men" followed him to his apartment and approached him as he got out of his car. They took turns beating him mercilessly. Our friend is now awaiting surgery for the broken bones in his face. Doctors are yet unsure as to whether he will require optical surgery to correct possible blindness in one eye.

Our reason for writing this letter is to prevent such unnecessary pain and heartache. We want to alert our fellow Aggies to the reality of violent crime at A&M. Our advice to you, particularly apartment dwellers, is to keep doors and windows locked, and avoid being out alone after dark. If you are being followed, *Do Not* go home to an empty apartment. For your neighbor's sake as well as your own, be aware of what is going on around you. Investigate any suspicious circumstances.

Don't be naive like our friend who learned too late.

Jan Hultman  
Suzy Baab  
Katie Christensen



## Carter must keep promise

By LOUISE COOK

Associated Press

Candidate Jimmy Carter said he stood for change. He left a long list of promises for President Jimmy Carter to make good on.

- A streamlined bureaucracy.
- A new tax system.
- A pared-down defense budget.
- Comprehensive national health insurance and welfare reform.

### News Analysis

Carter himself says that the key to the future is his past. He said that people who want to know what sort of president he will be should look at the sort of governor he was.

That look indicates that President Carter will pay close attention to administration—the functioning of government and the responsiveness of the bureaucracy. His aim, he has said, will be greater efficiency, not necessarily fewer government employees.

He is more likely than President Ford to push for active government intervention in the economy—including the direct creation of jobs. He wants standby authority for wage and price controls.

He is committed to cuts of \$5 billion to \$7 billion in the defense budget. He has promised tax reform that is fair to all, although he says he cannot yet provide details of how his plans would affect the individual taxpayer.

Several of his proposals are likely to meet stiff opposition in Congress—even a Congress dominated by his own party. Battling a legislature would be no novelty for Carter, however. He pushed his Georgia reorganization in a bitter struggle with the state legislature and it would be uncharacteristic of him to turn the other cheek to congressional opponents.

Carter concedes that complete reorganization will not come quickly or easily. "It's going to take about four years," he says.

Some of his plans, however, including zero-based budgeting for the executive branch, would be put into practice immediately.

"You don't have to have legislation," he has said. "You change the budgeting system . . . We did it immediately in Georgia."

Carter has said another top priority of his administration would be the creation of jobs, but he has not spelled out specific proposals. He supports and presumably will push for approval of the Humphrey-Hawkins bill designed to cut adult employment to 3 per cent by 1980, with the government as employer of last resort. At the same time, he has repeatedly said he would rather avoid massive public works programs. He also has had some reservations about earlier versions of the Humphrey-Hawkins bill that involved more government planning of the economy.

He has said also he would want to be ready with immediate proposals for welfare reform and "for the first stage of implementing an adequate health-care program for the country."

Carter brings a different background to the White House compared to Gerald Ford. Not only was Ford familiar with Washington in a way that Carter is not, he also had a legislator's outlook.

Although Carter was a state senator for two terms, his main experience is administrative—as an officer in the U.S. Navy, as a successful businessman, as governor.

While Ford talked about being

part of a team, Carter talked about leading the team. He has admitted that he is stubborn and unwilling to compromise.

"Think about four years, that's about eight years," said Carter to a group of economic advisers at his home in Plains during the summer.

In the campaign, Carter did not spell out specifics on most of his major programs, talking instead about general goals.

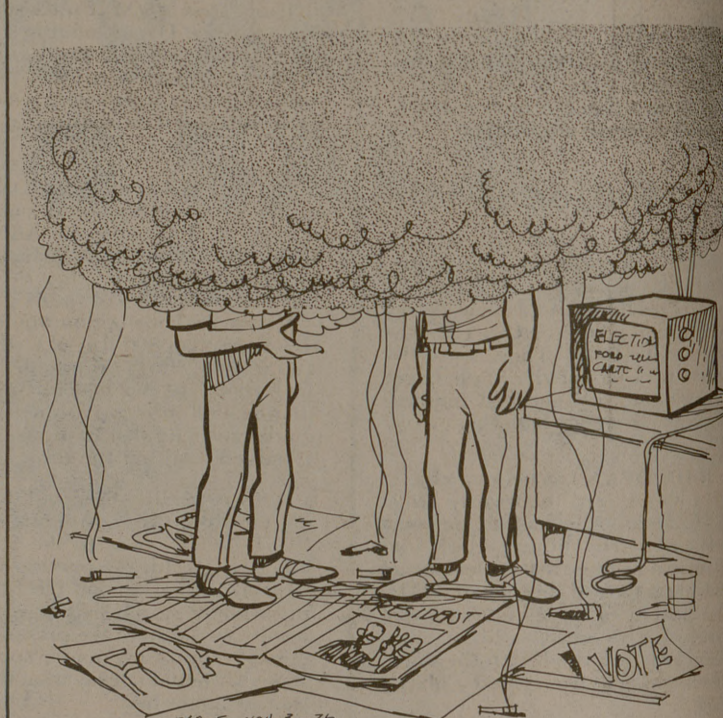
He has, however, set time limits for some of his goals: a tax reform package to Congress by the first part of 1978, a balanced budget for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1, 1979.

Carter also has made some specific promises about the openness of government: more frequent live news conferences, fireside chats like Franklin D. Roosevelt's and public meetings of government agencies.

Carter says he wants to get the broadest range of advice on tax reform and other issues. Some observers predict a host of citizen task forces. He has promised to be "the top consumer advocate in the nation" and organized consumer groups such as Ralph Nader's organizations will find a more friendly ear at the Carter White House than they have in past years.

Carter's advisers from Georgia will probably follow to Washington. But the new president also will seek advice from familiar figures.

### Slouch by Jim Earle



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