

Opinion/Commentary/Letters

New dormitory policy unjustified

Editor:
This letter is in reference to your article of January 25 on the new housing policy.
The Administration at A&M has finally reached the ultimate in poor planning. The A&M On-Campus Housing system itself is a model of mis-management, with its preferential treatment to some students, policies of letting students violate dorm commitments far too late, and late notification of female students on dorm status. These, however, are trivial compared to the latest outrage. We refer to the new policy of letting 70 per cent of all dorm vacancies go to freshmen, while upperclassmen, regardless of how long

they have waited, receive only 30 per cent.
This new policy is grossly unfair for several reasons. First, the new method of accepting housing requests 15 months prior to admission is a distinct advantage over the method most upperclassmen were forced to use. The reason for this new policy is that there are "so many variables involved in admission procedures." These variables are precisely the reason we were denied dorm space. These factors are being used to punish upperclassmen and to aid incoming freshmen. Second, this policy discriminates openly against upperclassmen. The policy more or

less says that our contributions, both monetary and academic, mean nothing! The fact that we are already Aggies and have waited patiently one year or more, counts for nothing in the face of these freshmen claims, who have never attended A&M.
Extremely galling to us was the following, "...to the point where no freshman would be allowed to live on campus." This absolutely takes precedence as the weakest excuse ever on record. Where was this concern last year when we tried to get on campus? "Upperclassmen have precedence, you'll get on campus next year," people in offices told us in soothing tones. We were shunted out to make our own arrangements.
It is evident that A&M has a significant housing problem. Limited dorm space and an atrocious lack of reasonably priced apartments are only a few sides of the dilemma. We agree with the policy's aim, not, however, with the drastic implementation. Perhaps 30 per cent next year, 50 per cent the next, and so on. Nowhere, however, can we see justification for the 70 per cent mentioned. As much as we understand the problem, we cannot agree to the complete sell-out of some 6,000 students already on the waiting lists.

—Karla Lacey, '80
—Pam Laxson, '80
—Lynnette Spurrier, '80

What happened to seniority?

Editor:
School officials in the past have voiced overwhelming support for the good old Aggie traditions. Why don't those same hypocritical student affairs officials take a good, hard look at their latest contradictory act, and try to work for the majority of students?
Instead of the respect and privileges which are due, in good Aggie tradition, to upperclassmen, the school is now beginning to revoke the rights of upperclassmen. I am referring to the new policy which will give incoming freshmen priority over upperclassmen for dormitory rooms.
As an out-of-state student, my quest for a dorm has not been easy. Now with this latest barrier to overcome, it might be easier to pitch a tent on Mt. Everest and commute!
After my application was accepted, I was sent a dorm card. But I also received a letter explaining there was no dorm space. Now what do I do? Oregon is not exactly Houston, so I can't just run up and check out apartments! Well, I ended up coming down anyway, since I needed a place to stay. Now I'm on

a waiting list and I'll now have to wait for the incoming freshmen to get rooms. In essence, I will have to wait at least 2 1/2 years for a dorm!
So here I am now, way out in the middle of nowhere, having to brave the wilds to make it to school daily from my apartment. It's not handy to use any of the school facilities: the library, the fieldhouse, or the dining halls. Life is complicated by living off campus, to say the least.
Yet this, my freshman year, will be no comparison to next year and its hassles. I'll have more hours and harder classes. I won't have time to be waiting for a shuttle bus, to run back and forth between home and school in between classes, or to mount a safari if I want to go to the library.
The point is: sure it's rough being a freshman. But it's a lot rougher being an upperclassman. So let the freshmen start where all good Ags do — at the bottom, and work their way up. It seems unjust to revoke the rights and privileges of all of the upperclass majority for just a few in the freshmen minority!

—Eric Long

Battling the bureaucracy

Editor:
It is indeed unfortunate that Carter's plan to reorganize the bureaucracy of government does not extend into the university bureaucracy as certainly A&M's bureaucracy would do well with a similar revamping.
Although my only exposure with them has been my own recent hassles with the Housing Office it would seem these university bureaucrats are well-seasoned at "passing-the-buck." Probably other Aggies have left these offices feeling just as frustrated as myself.
Recently I made a request to leave the dorm for both academic and health reasons, with a refund of my payments. The chairman of my section has notified the Housing Office it would be desirable for me to move from the dorm because of fraternization with undergraduates for whom I am the teaching assistant. Certainly I do not intentionally give anyone any advantages but others may think it, so such situations should be avoided.
Presently I am under medication

for a nervous condition with the result being that I need more rest because of the debilitating effect of the medicine. In the dorm situation this was not possible and I ended up hospitalized last semester. I have letters from my physicians supporting my move from the dorms on these grounds as well. Certainly this is a legitimate request yet the Housing Office and Review Board were unwilling to back down on their ruling either because they have no power to or just didn't want to. I should be the first to point out that all of the people I met in my bureaucratic battles seemed pleasant and sympathetic so it may well be their hands are bound by regulation.
Certainly, however, a committee should be established to deal with legitimate requests so university policy may be overturned due to extenuating circumstances.

—Kevin C. Vaughn

Bert Lance in position of power

WASHINGTON—Six days before the change in administrations, a distinguished scholar of the presidency got a phone call from a relative stranger and found himself in what he called "a rather lengthy but not very sophisticated" discussion about the duties and problems of a particular White House staff job.
The only thing that made the call memorable was that it came from the young man who that very day had been announced as the holder of the job, one of seven senior assistants to President Carter.



David S. Broder

That incident is cited as a necessary caution to the reader about any judgment on the figures in the Carter high command. The most important thing about them is also the most obvious — they are new at their jobs.
Nonetheless, it is interesting to set down some of the initial impressions the new people have created, if only as a reference point for the inevitable future upheavals.

Among the Cabinet members, those who draw special praise from their associates in the administration are two of the new faces, Secretary of Commerce Juanita M. Kreps and Secretary of Labor F. Ray Marshall.

Neither occupies what can be called a "power position." But Kreps has quietly assembled an exceptionally able team of associates, including Jerry Jasinoski, Carter's chief campaign adviser of economics, and two of the most astute political figures in the Democratic party, Anne Wexler and John Stewart.

Marshall has shown himself so effective in the early economic discussions that some are predicting that he may emerge as the George Shultz of the Carter administration. Shultz started with Richard Nixon as an unknown academic stuck away in the Labor Department, and then went on to achieve great power there and in Treasury and the Office of Management and Budget.
At the White House, Hamilton Jordan begins as the first among equals, if only because he and press secretary Jody Powell have been with Carter from the start and

shared every step of the journey that made him President.

Jordan has already displayed considerable skill at bureaucratic infighting. From the staff he assembled as campaign manager, he has placed one man as the gatekeeper for presidential appointments, another as the traffic cop for papers headed for the President. He also has, at least at the outset, a bigger chunk of the White House administrative tasks than anyone else, and is the liaison to the Democratic National Committee, where yet another campaign aide of his has been installed as executive director of the party.

What remains to be seen is whether Jordan — who is, by his own admission, indifferent to government policy — can avoid being elbowed out of the way as Carter turns more and more to the substance of issues. Jordan has strengthened his hand by adding the able Mark Siegel, a political science Ph.D. who served four years as executive director of the Democratic National Committee, to his own staff as a policy planning deputy.

In policy areas, Jordan and his deputies will inevitably come up against the competing claims of Stuart Eizenstat, the domestic policy assistant; Jack Watson, the secretary of the Cabinet; Robert Lipshutz, the presidential counsel; and the specialized advisers on energy, the economy and national security.
But in many respects, the man who may overshadow anyone in the Cabinet and on the White House staff — at least in this first stage of the administration — is Thomas B. (Bert) Lance, the director of the Office of Management and Budget.

At the moment, Lance is at the center of two of Carter's top-priority projects, the revision of President Ford's budget proposals for next year and the drive for Congressional authority that would let Carter begin his promised reorganization of the executive branch.
He occupies that position in part

because OMB is the President's right arm on budget and management matters — and in part because Lance personally is the closest thing to "another Jimmy Carter" in the Carter administration.

It is that combination of institutional and personal power that makes some Washington veterans put their money on Lance as a potential "strong man" in this administration.

OMB is an agency of 650 employees — 200 more than are on the

entire White House staff — and has the right qualifications for the job. The 45-year-old, 240-pound millionaire combination of banker and politician, a man who can count money and votes.

(c) 1977, The Washington Post



"IS THIS THE VOLUME CONTROL?"

DID YOU SIGN UP?
PEACE CORPS/ VISTA
INTERVIEWING SENIORS & GRADS IN THE PLACEMENT OFFICE:
10th Floor
Rudder Tower
ON CAMPUS:
Feb. 7 & 8

APARTMENT PLACEMENT SERVICE
204 Texas Avenue
(Western Motel Lobby)
11823-750611
A FREE SERVICE
Rooms and bath close to campus. Apartments, One, Two, or Three Bedrooms. Duplexes, Mobile Homes.
LET US SHOW YOU A SELECTION IN THE B-CS AREA
In evening, call Karen 846-3420 or Cynthia 779-2047

Get into some great pants!
TOP DRAWER
Culpepper Plaza

SQUARE DANCING IS FUN
Learn to square dance with the Aggie Allemanders. Classes begin Monday Jan. 31 in 226 MSC 7:30-9:30. For information call: Robert 693-9869, Bob 845-5970, or Vicki 846-7597.

Readers' forum
Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:
• Typed triple space
• Limited to 60 characters per line
• Limited to 100 lines
Submit articles to Reed McDonald 217, College Station, Texas, 77843. Author's name and phone number must accompany all submissions.

Battalion
Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of Regents. *The Battalion* is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.
LETTERS POLICY
Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification. Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, *The Battalion*, Room 216, Reed McDonald Building, College Station, Texas 77843.
Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.
Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year, \$35.00 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Sun Theatres
333 University 846-9808
Super-Grody Movies
Double-Feature Every Week
Special Midnight Shows Friday & Saturday \$2 per person
No one under 18
Escorted Ladies Free
\$2 With This Ad
BOOK STORE & 25c PEEP SHOWS

LAWRENCE'S HAIR STYLING SALON
presents
Lawrence & Marci
A Duo Hair-Styling Team
822-1183

Embrey's Jewelry
We Specialize In Aggie Rings. Diamonds Set — Sizing — Reoxidizing — All types watch/jewelry Repair
Aggie Charge Accounts
9-5:30 846-5816

Tupinamba
Eddie Dominguez '66
Joe Arciniega '74
Greg Price
For those who demand the Real Thing!
If you want the real thing, not frozen or canned... We call it "Mexican Food Supreme."
Dallas location:
3071 Northwest Hwy
382-8570

Kmart
... your satisfaction always

Mademoiselle says... we're one of three places in Texas to have your hair cut.*
HAIR UPDATE
TO QUOTE:
The update you see here's the pooling of resources — a long list of hairdresser friends from past research and names our College Board recommended. We sent them questionnaires on cuts/care/color, the treatment you'd get as a customer. The replies: some so good they deserve special mention (NEWS NOW, next door), some so much alike they make for majority rule. Three directions hair's taking: longer, sleeker, or tousled. We've dropped a few names so you'll know where to go near you.
* NOVEMBER 1976 ISSUE
McLaughlin's • 1225 Airline • Corpus Christi
McLaughlin's
of corpus christi
1403 University Dr.
846-5764

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE!

The Corps of Cadets offers a unique blend of daily management and leadership training, a world renowned esprit-de-corps, extra-curricular enrichment and varied social activities.
All this and more can be yours by joining the Corps today. For more information, contact the Office of the Commandant at 845-2811.