

Funds 'lacking' for research

Miller opposes Carter's budget proposal

WASHINGTON D.C. — Texas A&M University President Jarvis Miller has criticized President Carter's proposed fiscal year 1979 funding for agriculturally related research and education activities, finding the proposal lacking.

Representing the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, Miller opposed the president's budget request during testimony before a House agriculture subcommittee.

"Those of us in the academic community who are concerned with research and education activities conducted or sponsored by the U.S.

Department of Agriculture were shocked and disappointed by the President's budget request for fiscal 1979," said Miller.

He said the proposed budget "clearly disregards the intent of the Congress" as reflected in PL 95-113, the public law which established the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977.

"It is fundamentally contrary to the extensive planning jointly conducted by the academic community and the federal government on needs for agricultural research and education," Miller said, "and it abrogates a major federal responsibility to maintain the obviously productive

long-standing partnership with the states in agricultural research and extension."

The proposal fails to take into account the recommendations of the world food and nutrition study conducted by the National Academy of Science at the direction of the president, he said.

Miller pointed out that the budget calls for decreases of more than \$15 million in various categories such as cooperative research and rural development, while providing only a modest overall increase of \$547,000 to be split among 1,890 land-grant institutions.

"Inflationary increases in the cost of agricultural research are at least 10 percent," he told the Subcommittee on Department Investigations, Oversight and Research. "This means we are facing an effective reduction of 20 percent in the stable-based monies that are needed to carry out crucial agricultural research in land-grant institutions."

While proposing cuts in various areas, the president's budget includes an increase of \$15-\$30 million for competitive grants to address basic research problems of high national priority.

Miller said the NASULGC supports the competitive grant concept and does not disagree with the proposed level of funding.

"The president's budget proposes, however, to essentially fund this program at the expense of the formula-based support of longer-term, broader research in the land-grant institutions," he said. "With this we cannot agree."

Miller conceded that "in this interim period of potential over-production in agriculture, it is perhaps tempting to lessen the emphasis on research and extension."

"In short range, however, at least part of the solution to the present problem in American agriculture must be overcome through improved methods of operation and marketing."

"In the longer view, we must clearly delineate the difference between production and the capacity to produce. The need to enhance the latter is clearly unchallenged if we believe the projections of need for increased world food."

Miller said it is this capacity to produce that will be affected by the reductions proposed by the president's budget.

Also submitting testimony before the committee was Dr. Neville Clarke, director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.



Battalion photo by Ben Po

A pinch of this and a...

Mark Shanley, graduate assistant in biology, demonstrates how to measure an object's critical mass. Shanley is conducting experiments in genetic defects along the DNA chain in rabbits.

A&M chemistry department leads in faculty, enrollment and research

The Texas A&M University's chemistry department is today the nation's largest in terms of faculty and is considered to rank similarly regarding student enrollment and volume of research.

Distinguished Professor Arthur Martell, who has headed the department since 1966, said that less than four years ago, the size of the department ranked third behind the University of California-Berkeley and top-ranked University of Maryland.

The number of faculty now totals 73 — up from 50 in 1974 — and includes three distinguished professors, a designation reserved for fac-

ulty members who have attained eminent stature in the opinion of their colleagues nationally. Besides Martell, this trio includes two of the world's top authorities in their fields.

Welch Distinguished Professor F.A. Cotton is considered the leader in inorganic chemistry, and is one of the faculty's newest members. Distinguished Professor A.I. Scott, is a leader in synthesis of antibiotics, anti-cancer drugs and vitamins from plant tissue cultures.

Another of the faculty, Professor C.S. Giam, has set the pace in drawing a large portion of the over \$4 million in research support received by chemistry in the 1977 calendar

year — a level which exceeds the total research budgets for most universities. With additional grants, the 1977-78 fiscal year departmental operation will run close to \$8 million, Martell said.

Enrollment in chemistry at Texas A&M is also large. In the fall semester, over 12,000 students were enrolled for chemistry courses, making the department the largest service unit on campus.

Despite the large number of students taught, Martell said, most classes are kept near or below 100 students in size, compared to numbers six times that large at some state universities.

Texas A&M Jaycees chapter newsprint drive helps transients

By ANA QUINTANA

The Texas A&M Chapter of the Jaycees is sponsoring a paper drive to help Twin City Mission in Bryan by collecting newsprint.

Twin City Mission aids transients who don't have jobs by providing them with a place to stay. It has dorm space for 30 men, said Les Albert, president of the Texas A&M Jaycees.

Three drop boxes made by the Jaycees with materials donated by the Benchmark Construction Co. have been placed in the A-1 lounge by Fowler and Hughes, and in the lounges between Schumacher and Walton, and Crocker and McInnis.

Albert, said that they have had a good response to the drive and hope to expand by putting in more boxes. "The box in Schumacher is overflowing," he said.

He is not sure how long the drive will last, but he hopes to keep it going as long as possible.

The collected newsprint is packed by the men at Twin City Mission and trucked to Abilene. There, it is made chemically non-flammable and used for insulation.

Twin City Mission receives between \$60 and \$85 for every ton of newsprint, or about \$3 to \$4 for every 100 pounds. The Texas A&M Jaycees will receive \$1 for every 100 pounds and will put the money into a fund for use in later projects, said Albert.

The idea was conceived by Albert as a way to bring the Jaycees together. The club has just started this semester and has a membership of 20 males.

Even though the national and state chapters of the Jaycees are tra-

ditionally all male groups, the Texas A&M chapter allows females to join. So far, none have applied for membership, said Albert, but added that he would encourage women to join.

"They would add a spark to the community service," Albert said.

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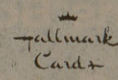
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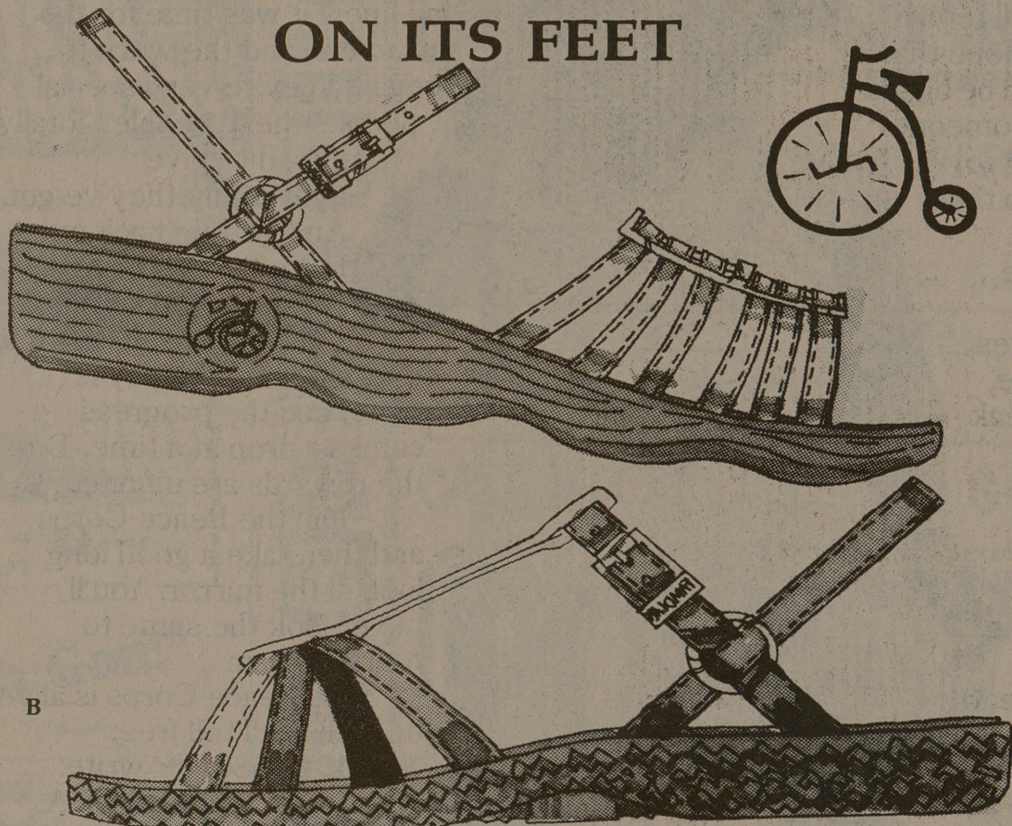
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