

# VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY  
MARCH 5, 1981

## Slouch By Jim Earle



"What will she wear when it really gets warm?"

## Growth turning into obesity

Texas A&M University in the year 1990. As in the past, this is the fastest growing university in the nation and enrollment has topped the 60,000 mark.

On-campus parking has become a joke. On-campus housing has become the subject of dream, and driving in College Station, a nightmare.

An exaggeration? Don't bet on it. The enrollment of this University has doubled in the past ten years and who's to say it won't do the same in another ten?

Granted, such growth has given this University yet another reason for its well-deserved notoriety, but do we need it? Don't we already have enough notoriety with a reputation for academic excellence and spirit unparalleled by any other college or university in the nation?

I can't help but wonder if this rapid growth may soon reach a point of diminishing returns.

The bottom line, it seems, is that something should be done to slow things down

## Staff notebook

By Bernie Fette

before the Aggie land many of us have grown to know and enjoy becomes an impersonal monolithic mass of concrete and confusion.

The predicted enrollment for Fall 1980 was 31,552 according to the 1978-1983 Master Plan (the blueprint used by those University administrators who plan for the University's growth). That 1980 figure had already been surpassed in 1978.

Recently the official enrollment for this Spring was reported by the office of the Registrar at 31,427, up 2125 from the pre-

vious record set last Spring at 29,302, a 10 percent increase. And another record.

We shouldn't be too surprised if in the not-too-distant future, it should take the ability of an olympic athlete just to make it to class on time ... and in one piece.

Admission standards should be raised to give the University a chance to catch up with itself.

The great majority of us, it seems, we agree that there's definitely something special about both this University and those us who are a part of it. So, granted it seems unfair to deny anyone something special. But for now, at least, a line should be drawn.

Healthy growth is fine. But when healthy growth begins to border on obesity problems are sure to develop.

A&M's rapid growth may look good on the surface, but the possible adverse effects beneath the surface certainly deserve consideration.

## Hand-wringing time on education front

By PATRICIA McCORMACK  
United Press International

President Ronald Reagan hasn't dispatched termites to bring down the nation's schoolrooms or colleges, but anguish along education row gives that impression.

Among prognosticators of bad times as a result of Reagan administration proposals are the two teachers' unions — the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers.

Their worry is over "multiple attacks" threatening public education.

Included is the tuition tax credit plan promised by Reagan during his campaign, under which parents of private school students would get a tax credit for a portion of money spent on school.

The unions say this would strengthen private education, kindergarten to 12th grade, and weaken public schools. With a financial incentive, the worry is, droves of parents would pull their kids out of the public schools and head them for the privates.

Albert Shanker, president of the 568,000-member AFT, reacted thus to the news that a multi-billion dollar tuition tax credit bill was being introduced in the United States Senate:

"Today's announcement ... (of) a tuition tax credit bill designed to help primarily those in upper income brackets poses a serious threat to our public education system."

"The American Federation of Teachers, along with other civil rights, labor and national education groups, strongly believes that tuition tax credits are a massive tax expenditure that our nation cannot afford."

He described the proposed credits as "a major new tax subsidy primarily benefiting higher-income taxpayers."

The NEA Reporter, newspaper of the 1.8-million member National Education Association front-paged its battle plan in red and black type:

"As attacks on public education multiply, NEA fights to stop tax credits for private school tuition, to save teacher centers and other key centers, to keep cabinet status for education."

A front-page cartoon shows a giant plow bearing down on a little red one-room schoolhouse — a solitary bell topping its roof. Planted nearby: a flagpole flying Old Glory.

Hand-wringing among officials in higher education, meanwhile, starts in the presi-

dent's office and passes down the organization chart.

The biggest worry stems from student aid cuts. Officials in private and state colleges and universities say cutting would zap a lot of kids' chances for a degree.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities, for example, says students at schools in at least 25 states would be particularly hard hit by cuts in student aid under consideration by the Reagan administration.

"AASCU's conclusion is based on preliminary budget figures (showing) major reductions in the Pell Grants (Basic Grants), National Direct Student Loan and Guaranteed Student Loan programs," the AASCU said in its "Memo" to college presidents.

The 25 states are those in which the tuition for resident undergraduate students is \$800 or more for 1980-81. Ostar said in most of the states, room, board and other costs add at least \$2,200, usually more, to the school bill.

The states cited: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Vermont and Virginia.

AASCU president Allan W. Ostar, in Washington, D. C., says the proposed student aid cuts would "greatly increase the burden on state and local taxpayers at a time when many states are in deep fiscal trouble."

"Some states already have cut appropriations and state student aid for higher education, and many others may have to do so," he said.

The ASSCU's John Mallan, a vice president, said the median family income in 1980 was \$20,000.

"Few families at that level can afford to send even one son or daughter to a college costing \$3,000 to \$4,000 without some outside help," he said.

Mallan said the seriousness of the proposed student aid reductions is made much worse by the fact that the Reagan administration also plans to phase out the Social Security student benefit program.

This helps some 700,000 students of deceased, disabled and retired parents.



## It's your turn

## Liberals belong in Soviet Union

Editor:

Concerning the article Tuesday March 3 about closing Prairie View, I think it is ridiculous when the federal government can tell a person where and where not to go to school. That's all we've been hearing from these "bleeding heart liberals" for the past 10 years and I'm tired of it. Black people share a common heritage and culture and they should be allowed to express it in their own university if they wish to do so. Nobody has forced those who are attending Prairie View to do so. But forcing them to go somewhere else for an education is infringing on their freedoms and rights to choose where they want to go to school.

I come from a German family and they live in a German community because they enjoy the culture that they share. Now, for the sake of integration, does the government have a right to force them to live in downtown Houston? No! But that is what these liberals would like you to believe with all of their harping on integration. Are we going to let these politicians run our lives like the government does in the Soviet Union? There they tell you where to work, where to live, and where to go to school. In America we supposedly have the right to share a common culture if we so desire and I think that the liberals should keep their noses out of our business and go to the Soviet Union if they want to tell people how to live.

Darrin B. Lewer

## Yell leaders lousy

Editor:

After reading Richard Oliver's article on the behavior of Aggie fans at the TCU basketball game I felt compelled to express my opinion as well. In no way do I condone the behavior of the crowd at this game or in several of the past games nor do I feel any one person is responsible, but I do feel much of the responsibility must be accepted by the yell leaders for the job they have done. Continuously throughout the

season little if any effort was made to control the crowd when the opposing team was shooting free throws or when an official's call was questionable. Leadership on the part of the yell leaders was lacking all season and fan behavior was becoming less controlled until it simply came to a head due to frustration during the TCU game. I have seen yell leaders take control in some heated situations so I know it can be done. It is my opinion the yell leaders simply failed to perform their duties adequately both in basketball and football.

When elections for yell leaders are held the end of this month let's keep in mind the job that was done this year and elect men who will represent A&M with the dignity it deserves rather than the prima donnas we've had in the recent past. If there are good men at A&M who are more concerned with doing a job than about the ego trip they get from being in front of a crowd, file for one of the yell leader positions this spring. A&M can use you, and please learn the correct signal for "Farmers Fight."

I don't intend to put all the blame on the yell leaders. They were not the ones throwing things on the court or booing. Let's get with it Ags, our behavior as fans was not what it should be nor exemplary of things we believe in. So let's show the class that has set us apart as fans.

Kenny Ray

## Through with Nightline

Editor:

I am through watching ABC-TV's late night news. Ted Koppel, Sam Donaldson

and the gang do one of the most skillful of manipulating the public I have ever seen. They are in as glowing a limelight as a journalist, and they are making a disgraceful display.

I have always thought their presentation was a little slanted, but their coverage of the Reagan administration is just much.

Besides the fact that most of their reporting is either sob-stories or sordid search for greed or schizms among the Republican party, they seem to take it for granted that welfare state is the only form of fair government.

It doesn't take much to look and see food stamps and welfare checks have created the worst kind of poverty — that has no pride, no end, and who victims have no desire to make their lives any better.

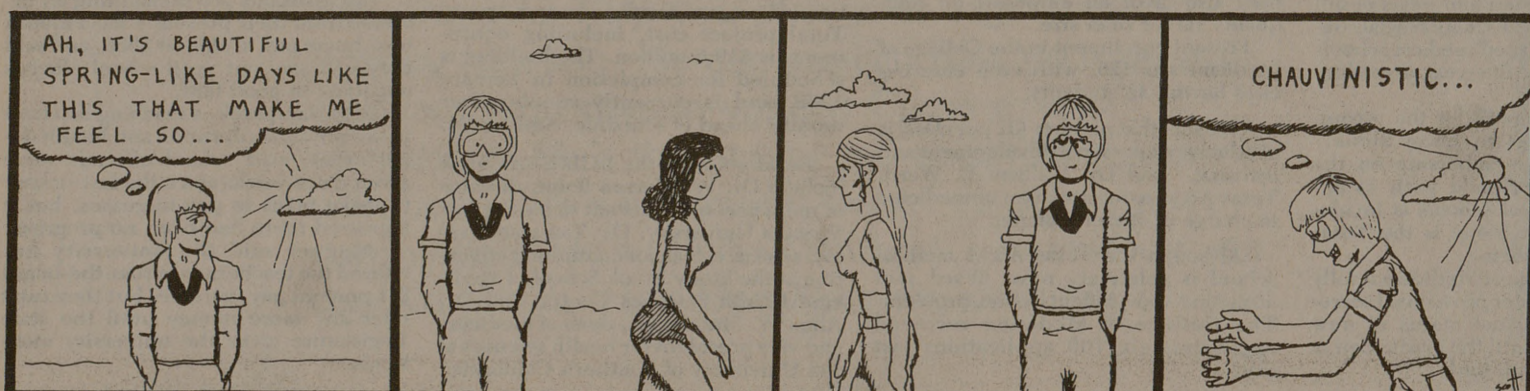
And where does Ted find those "average Americans," anyway? I wish he would come into my home and ask me some questions.

I know that as a conservative journalist I'm mostly alone. The election of Ronald Reagan put my political philosophy on line. All I ask is that those broadcast fat cats give capitalism a chance. It is what creates the well-paying jobs they've got.

They haven't been alone in their fall from clean journalism. Most of the newspapers have been running wire stories that are as bad. The job of the news media is to get the public the most accurate information they can, analyze it to a point, but not interpret the public thought. Why they insist on making such a mockery of that, I never understand.

Marilyn Faulkenberry

## Warped



By Scott McCullar

## THE BATTALION

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

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Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

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