

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

THURSDAY
MARCH 12, 1981

By Jim Earle

Slouch

Move A&M into 20th Century

By SAM GILLESPIE
and STEVE HENRY

We would like to address this letter to Mr. Darrin Lewer, et. al., who would oppose State Rep. Foster Whaley's proposal to close Prairie View A&M University. Our purpose is to clarify a position that garners little support from the students of Texas A&M and Prairie View, the State Legislature, and the State of Texas. The motivating concept that initiated this letter can be simply stated: We believe it is time to move higher education in Texas into the 20th century. The closing of Prairie View A&M will be a significant and inevitable step toward this goal and we hope that our argument will be met with an open mind.

A brief history of educational segregation would be the appropriate topic to begin our case. In 1896, in the Plessy v. Ferguson decision, the Supreme Court ruled that segregation is constitutional as long as "separate but equal" facilities are provided. The "separate but equal" clause buttressed the southern, and some northern, states' insistence on segregating their public school systems, and was the rationale for not providing the black student with a quality education. However, in 1954, the Supreme Court reversed its 1896 ruling, and in the Brown v. Topeka Board of Education case held that separate educational facilities are "inherently unequal" and ordered the states to integrate their schools "with all deliberate speed." And so it stands, 27 years later, within the Texas A&M University System — we ignore the Court's 1954 decision and continue to adhere to the concept of "separate but equal" facilities.

In your letter, Mr. Lewer, you stated that the government should not determine where an individual goes to college. Let us say this before we go any further: We do not question the rights of individuals to seek self-determination. As such, we are abso-

lutely and unequivocally opposed to the idea of government control over an individual's decisions. However, Mr. Lewer, this is not the central issue of conflict and, unfortunately, you have missed the point altogether. By closing Prairie View, Rep. Whaley's proposal is not forcing the students there to enroll in any certain university or college in Texas. The legislation is not telling anyone where to go. Taken verbatim from a letter Rep. Whaley wrote to the president of Prairie View A&M, Dr. Alvin I. Thomas, these are some of the things that the House bill would do:

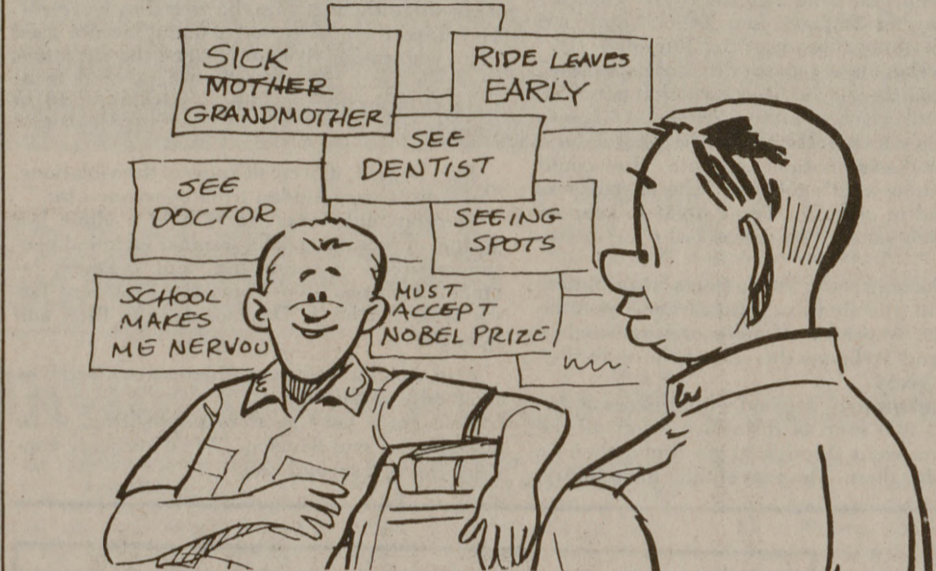
Guest Column

1. Every Student presently attending Prairie View A&M would be permitted to finish their four year course of study at Prairie View A&M if they so desired.
2. Present students at Prairie View A&M could transfer to non-segregated colleges and universities without loss of credits.
3. Students who would transfer to non-segregated universities would be exempted from tuition and fees.
4. Tenured members of Prairie View A&M faculty would be re-assigned by the Coordinating Board of Colleges and Universities at no loss of salary.
5. Incentives of \$1000.00 per student and \$5000.00 per faculty member would be given receiving colleges and universities to encourage recruitment.
6. Proceeds from the sale of the property would be used for grants for black students only.

The effect of the proposed legislation be three-fold. First, it will help the A&M System comply with the spirit of the 1954 Brown v. Topeka Board of Education ruling. Second, it would eliminate the ludicrous aspect of the A&M System's absolute insanity to offer a duplicity of services under the umbrella of a single educational system where both Texas A&M and Prairie View A&M share common goals, objectives and are only 60 miles apart in a horrendous and disgraceful waste of money. Finally, a 15-minute stroll to the heart of the Texas A&M campus evidence needed to prove that there are very, very few black students here at Prairie View. In addition, only 164 of the 4,547 students are black. If Prairie View is closed, it is our sincere hope that those students who would have attended Prairie View will stay within the A&M System and enroll at Texas A&M, merely one hour's drive from the Prairie View campus. This will please federal investigators who question our public minority recruitment, but more importantly, this chain of events will integrate A&M and allow black and white students to study in a cooperative atmosphere to learn more about the attitudes and prejudices of one another.

One last word. We abhor racial hatred, those who accuse us of such are discredited, and charges of that nature will meet with vigorous protests. The fact of the matter, Mr. Lewer (and all others who oppose Rep. Whaley's proposal), is that you, and not us, who is advocating separate educational institutions for black and white students.

Sam Gillespie is a senior accounting major. Steve Henry is a senior agricultural economics major.



"When you get right down to it, there are no original excuses for leaving for spring break early."

Woman earning for getting there

By DAVID S. BRODER

WASHINGTON — It has not been exactly a banner year for Republican women. The only Cabinet-level job President Reagan handed to a woman went to a Democrat, Jeane Kirkpatrick, the ambassador to the United Nations. Sub-cabinet and senior White House staff jobs for women have been scarce as — you should excuse the phrase — hens' teeth.

But last week a Republican woman achieved something unprecedented. Nancy Sinnott, 30, was named executive director of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee. So far as memory and records show, she is the first woman to fill the top professional staff job in any of the "Big Three" political committees of either party. Sinnott will be running a staff of 40 people and managing a budget of more than \$35 million in the two-year effort Republicans will make to end the Democratic majority in the House of Representatives in 1982.

Each party has had a woman national chairman once in its past. Jean Westwood was put in the Democratic chairmanship by George McGovern and Mary Louise Smith was named Republican National Chairman by Jerry Ford. While protecting their patrons' interests, they both hired their own pros to manage their shops. Neither the national committee, nor the senatorial campaign committee, nor the congressional committee of either party had previously found a woman it thought fit to fill the top job reserved for a full-time political pro.

In that sense, Sinnott's appointment is another landmark in the slow but certain emergence of women as full partners in the working of the American democracy.

What the committee chairman, Rep. Guy Vander Jagt (R-Mich.), who recommended Sinnott to succeed Steve Stockmeyer, says about her reflects the standards by which all women in politics would like to be judged.

"Nancy earned the right to the job," Vander Jagt said. "She's done her other jobs here so well, she was the only choice." Sinnott has been on the committee payroll for four years, the first two as a field representative in New England and Illinois, the last two as campaign director — the deputy to the retired Stockmeyer.

"Being campaign director is the toughest job in the whole committee," Vander Jagt said. "Every Republican representative and senator is putting pressure on you to back their own favorites, even when the objective evidence indicates the money and resources should go to other races. It takes tremendous strength to say no to all those people, and she is as tough as steel."

"But even when they'd been turned

down by her," Vander Jagt added, "they'd say, 'She's quite a lady.'"

Sinnott, whom an old chauvinist like myself would describe, if I dared, as a slim brunette with the looks of the young Joan Bennett, is another kind of rarity in today's Republican capital: an avowed feminist. The child of a Chicago businessman, she went to Wheaton College, in Massachusetts, also taking courses at Williams College.

It was in the liberal tradition of the underdog Massachusetts GOP that she received her political training. While still in college, she worked on the campaign staffs of Gov. Francis Sargent and Lt. Gov. Donald Dwight and then in their offices, assisting in reorganization of the state's sprawling executive agencies into a cabinet-style government and in the implementation of the school racial-balance decisions.

At the urging of then-Sen. Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.), she ran for vice chairman of the state GOP in 1975 and defeated three opponents for the job. In 1976, she managed Arthur Mason's House campaign against then-Rep. Robert F. Drinan (D-Mass.). Although Mason lost, his campaign drew more Republican votes than any other race any Republican has ever run in that district.

It was the Mason campaign that brought her to the attention of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, a powerhouse political operation that every two years sets new records for its fund-raising and campaign services.

As campaign director and now as executive director, Sinnott has helped recruit and elect Republicans of all varieties, working as hard on the campaign of Clay Shaw, a Florida conservative, as on that of Claudine Schneider, a Rhode Island feminist — both of whom were elected last fall.

When told that one right-wing political-action committee director regards her as a libertarian while another describes her as a liberal, Sinnott does what any smart pol would do. She laughs and says, "Well, actually, I'm neither. I'm a Midwesterner like Dave Stockman, and it's easy for people like us to be progressive on foreign policy and civil rights, pragmatic in politics and conservative in the economic area. Fiscal sanity and personal freedom look to me like they go hand-in-hand, and I don't want the government so out of check that it threatens either one of them."

In a season when they have few victories to cheer, a great many women, including Democrats who have no desire to see Sinnott succeed too well in her job, are offering congratulations to her for getting there.

It's your turn

Why supply arms instead of food?

Editor:

As the United States begins to supply weapons to El Salvador, Saudi Arabia, and possibly Afghanistan (in addition to our long-standing arms recipients, such as Israel), I would ask Mr. Reagan, Mr. Haig, and their associates this: Why is it this nation's mission and obligation to become the "munitions factory," not the "breadbasket," of the globe?

The new administration has resolved that we can no longer afford to supply food and medicine to others in the world who are in need. But, in effect, we are not reducing our "alms giving" overseas. We are simply substituting guns for food.

Andy Parker

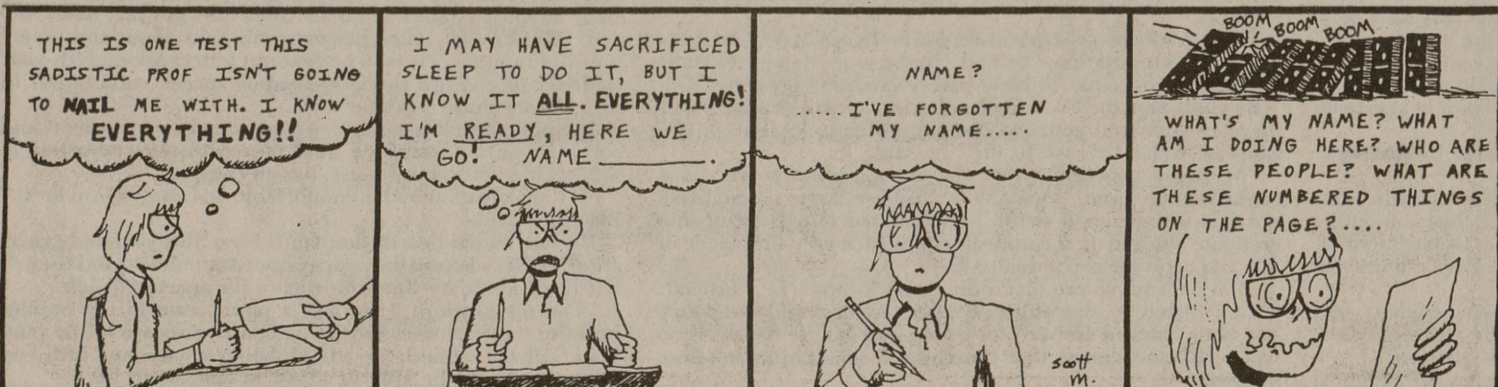
Solidarity for Salvador

Editor:

The situation in El Salvador is getting more and more serious. As you hear the news from this country every day, you hear so far many innocent people were being martyred. The question is why these people are rising up. Do they have a popular government from the people? Do they have justice? Is there an equality among all classes of society? If there are such problems inside the country, can the people of El Salvador have the ability to change the government from dictatorship into a popular government? The people of El Salvador are as human as the other people of the world. They can decide on what kind of government they want. As you hear the news from here, the U.S. government is sending military advisers and war equipment to El Salvador. The U.S. government is making decisions for the people of El Salvador and interfering in the internal affairs of the country and supporting the dictator of El Salvador to stay for a few days and to kill more innocent people. The situation is exactly like in Chile and Iran and other countries.

By Scott McCullar

Warped



played their best game with the behavior of the crowd Monday night. Typically, they were embarrassed and probably could not give their 100 percent. Please don't interpret this letter as showing no enthusiasm at games — I'm in favor of noise as long as it's done with purpose of encouragement for our team. You'd be surprised what genuine support can do for team morale and hopefully a winning cause.

Carol Sullivan

No buying power

Editor:

An open letter to W.R. Pasewark concerning assistantships: You can't pay for your groceries at State with "opportunity."

Donald Q. Anderson

Correction

An article on Wednesday's front page correctly identified Dr. C.S. Giam as dean of science. Giam is head of the chemistry department; Dr. Thomas Sughrue is dean of the College of Science. The Battalion regrets the error.

THE BATTALION

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

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

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