

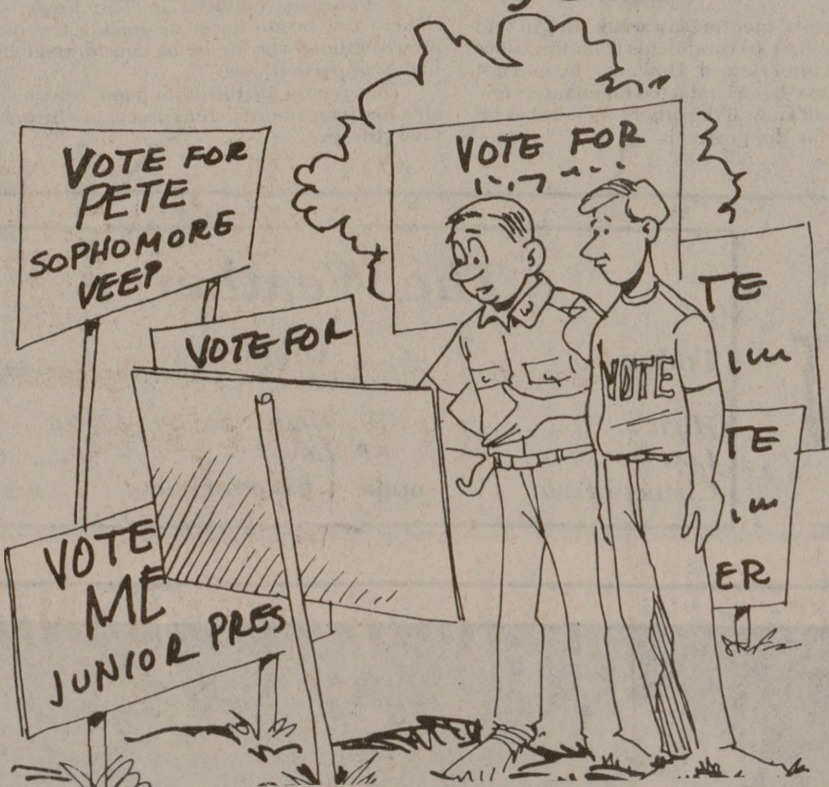
VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

MONDAY
MARCH 30, 1981

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Could this be right? Harold Stassen for Class Secretary?"

Limitations from outside, inside

Sidebars

By Dillard Stone

The personality profile of a good university president might read something like this:

"Intelligent; a good administrator; able to get along with people from all classes well; dedicated to excellence in education, research and extension; able to understand the demands of the institution and adapt plans to meet those needs; charismatic; cares for students."

One often-overlooked characteristic which deserves mention is the person's roots — that is, where he's been to school and where he has prior administrative experience.

At a school as conservative and tradition-oriented as Texas A&M, the president's roots are doubly important. Conservatism and tradition have made this school what it is; unfortunately, they might also keep it from becoming what it could be.

The opposition to change which so characterizes conservatism is also in many cases a blind resistance to progress. Progress is a word which foreshadows Texas A&M's outlook into the 1980s, just as tradition has characterized the school for 104 years. The two characteristics are on a collision course with destiny.

It's going to take a great man to guide the University through the labor pains which are striking with increased frequency as the birth of a truly great University approaches.

That man will come either from within the University and its System, or from without.

A president from the inside is an idea supported by some former students and powers-that-be. The advantages are obvious: Someone with the already-present political and educational contacts will have an enormous advantage in getting the dormant University rolling again.

Also, a "Mr. Inside" will be well acquainted with the University, the type of students it attracts, and feasible ideas and how to turn those ideas into reality.

Ironically, it's those same advantages which point up Mr. Outside's attributes. The Mr. Inside argument is vulnerable to the same arguments as a ban on incest: Too much breeding from the same gene pool is bad for the species.

A Mr. Outside would bring in a different perspective from another university. He's not going to suffer from the same preconceptions and attitudinal limitations that a

Mr. Inside would have. And Mr. Inside could have problems adjusting to working relationships with old friends, whereas Mr. Outside would be able to start off on a new footing with all concerned.

That the Mr. Inside-Mr. Outside shouldn't be the major criterion in choosing a new Texas A&M president should be evident by looking at two of Texas A&M's three — and best — presidents.

Earl Rudder, Class of 1932, was an Inside who broke with tradition. Under his administration, women were admitted, the Corps became optional, the College came a University and the grounds were expanded. The expansion of the 1970s was laid out by Rudder, who is generally acknowledged as the father of the modern University.

The Mr. Outside example came later, after Rudder. Under Dr. Jack L. Liams, the University continued to expand and grow. The tradition-oriented decisions of the Rudder years were over as Aggies determined to keep conservatism from being left behind by that progressivism had brought.

The new president's roots would be a determining factor. But it's something to think about — one way or the other — the new president overcome the limitations of his background and prove equal to the challenge set by Rudder and Liams. It's something to think about.

Texas Int'l waits for federal go-ahead

By BRUCE NICHOLS
United Press International

HOUSTON — Upstart Texas International Airlines, having bought enough stock to control Continental Airlines and attain long-sought trunk carrier status, now waits for clearance from federal regulators and the courts to exercise that control.

TIA, since its takeover bid began several months ago, has advanced from victory to victory in the stock marketplace, before the Civil Aeronautics Board and in the courts.

However, hurdles remain, and Continental, which had hoped for merger with Western Airlines, is still opposing TIA at every turn.

Civil Aeronautics Board Administrative Judge William A. Kane Jr. has scheduled what is expected to be a week-long hearing on the TIA takeover bid in Washington May 18. Kane has said he expects to make his recommendation by July 15 on whether the full CAB should approve.

The CAB then would make its own recommendation to President Reagan — who must approve because international routes are involved — by Aug. 31. He then would make his decision by Oct. 30. Assuming approval, TIA then would begin facing the problems of combining small TIA with the nation's 10th largest airline.

The odds for CAB approval appear to favor TIA, given the current deregulatory climate. Interim CAB decisions — authorizing TIA to buy 48.5 percent of Continental, place those shares in a voting trust and if necessary vote those shares against the Continental-Western merger — have favored TIA.

Additional hurdles are in the courts, where Continental contends TIA has violated various regulatory laws in its takeover bid. Continental lost bids for temporary court orders blocking TIA but still

has suits pending in Nevada and California. The California suit is scheduled for trial in Los Angeles June 16. The Nevada case is not yet scheduled.

TIA would prefer to negotiate a settlement with Continental. TIA President Frank Lorenzo on March 13 wrote Continental President Al Feldman "to express the hope that we may have fruitful discussions toward the objective of amalgamating Continental and Texas International Airlines."

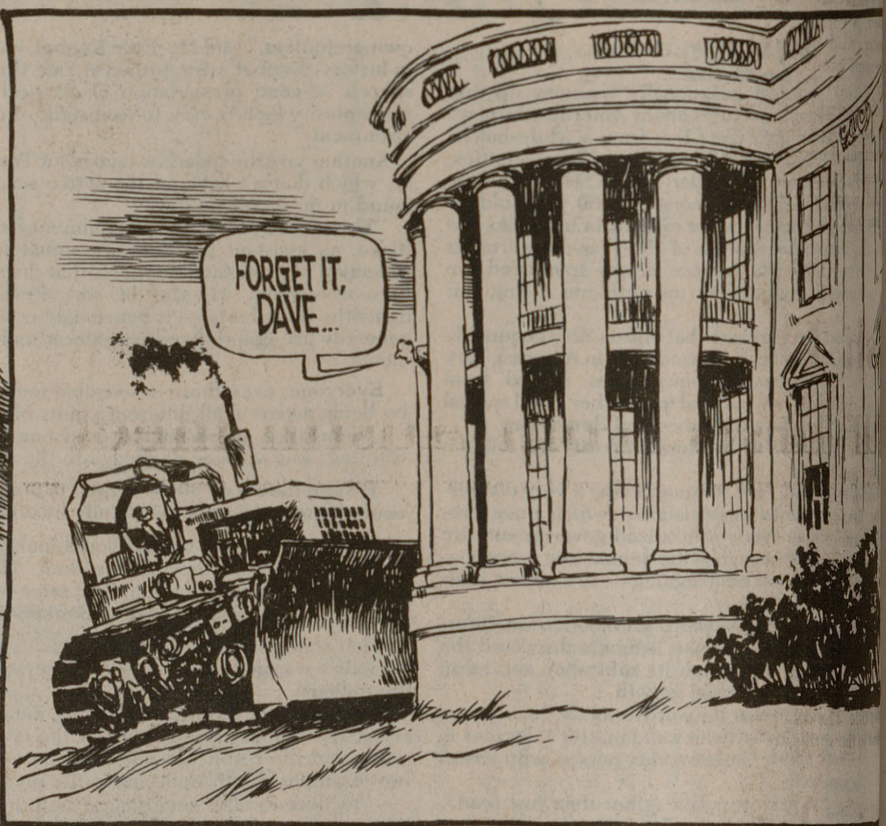
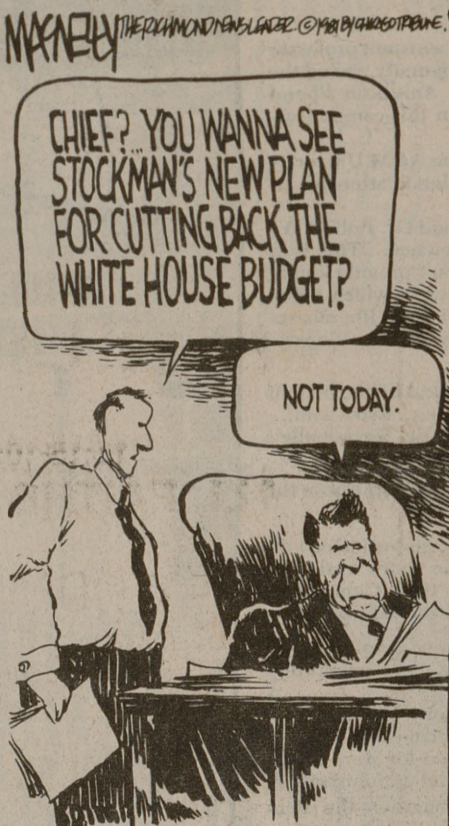
Unions of both airlines, concerned that TIA hopes not to include ironclad employee protection provisions in its TIA-Continental merger plan, joined the CAB case against TIA. In the Feldman letter, Lorenzo tried to allay fears, promising to "protect the most valuable resources of our two companies — our employees."

Feldman so far has not responded, and Continental spokesman Julian Levine said "there essentially is no change in the position" favoring the Western merger, opposing TIA takeover and resisting voluntary negotiations for TIA merger. The struggle has settled into a lull.

In TIA's 1979 National Airlines takeover bid, which TIA lost to Pan American Airlines, TIA lost the war but turned a stunning \$35 million profit in selling its National stock to Pan Am at a premium. TIA, which expects to win its merger bid, appears to be in a loss position on the stock this time around.

Before mid-February, TIA bought 9.5 percent of Continental's 15.3 million shares for \$8 or \$9 a share. However, under its Feb. 13 tender offer, TIA paid a premium \$13 a share for the other 39 percent it owns.

Continental closed Friday at 10 1/4 — \$2.25 a share less than TIA paid. If TIA had sold its 7.5 million shares of Continental stock at the market price Friday, it would have lost about \$10 million.



It's your turn

Mourn passing of Hotard Tradition

Editor: I think the article on Hotard renovations covered our feelings about the rent increases very well. We are happy here with things just the way they are now. But I have something to say about a statement made by Area Coordinator Tom Murray. He said that he felt the renovations are best for everybody concerned and, "We're trying to think about the future and new people coming in to the dorms who want air conditioning." If the area coordinator and others were really interested in what is "best for everybody concerned," then they might consider asking those who are affected.

We are told that we will be graduating before long and others will be living here, but we have to live with the improvements and sky-high rent until then. As for the future and those new people coming into the dorm who want air conditioning, there are more dorms than you could ask for with air conditioning now. What about those who wish to have lower rent for less luxuries? Ninety percent of us here do. We are told we can move to a ramp-style dorm? Well, we like it here just fine. Hotard is our home. Ours is the only unair-conditioned Corps-style dorm on campus. I think the University will always be able to find 120 people out of 33,000-plus who would prefer no air conditioning and a Corps-style dorm.

Those few of us who can afford to go to school next semester will look back and say: "How I loved Hotard, with all her rooms open to catch a breeze. The musical hum of the fans in the windows sucking in cool air. The great open atmosphere it offered. We learned to share here. With our phone in the hall, we knew there was always someone around to take a message for you if you were gone. Everyone got to know each other's friends and families. And we were thankful, and often told each other, that we had this opportunity to live this way here. There was a time when we depended on each other like a big family. People cared for and took interest in the others."

It looks like the final death blow will

come to Hotard soon. Yes, when a breed of students of the future who have money and need air conditioning will be living in our home. Where will we go if we don't know.

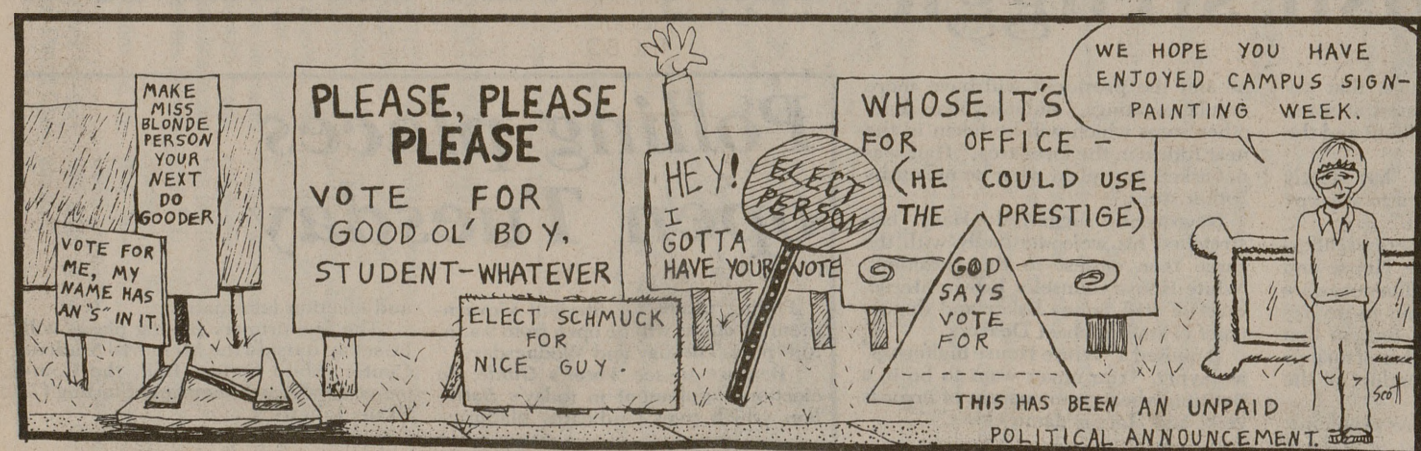
But one thing I do know — with the conditioning and 120 percent rent, things will change. The open doors close to keep the cool in. The phone once shared will no longer be shared. There will be isolation as the need to depend on an open door to keep the cool going and to take messages for each other will be gone. There will be a strange isolation such as is found in the Commons hall or on the ramp — a strange kind of loneliness. No one will even know his neighbor. And she will be but a gutted skeleton memorial to the way things used to be. Alas, another A&M tradition, The Hotard Tradition, will be no more.

Mark A. B...

the small society by Brickman



Warped



By Scott McCullar

THE BATTALION

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper students in reporting, editing and photographing within the Department of Communications.
Questions or comments concerning any editorial should be directed to the editor.

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Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer than 300 words. Each letter must also be signed, show the author's name and phone number of the writer.
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