# UNRITE BRIDL Staff photo by Greg Gamm

m Hightower, Democratic candidate for Texas agricultural Inflationary prices will be the key issue of his campaign, he issioner, holds up a loaf of bread to illustrate his claim hat high food prices are gouging farmers and consumers.

# **Hightower declares** candidacy for office

#### **By NANCY FLOECK Battalion Staff**

Farmers and consumers are being gouged by high food prices and something must be done, Jim Hightower said Monday as he announced his candidacy for Texas agriculture commissioner.

This gouging of food prices is the number one issue that the next agriculture commissioner has got to address," he said.

Hightower, a former editor of the Texas Obser-ver, is seeking the Demoncratic nomination for the office. He announced his candidacy here at the Ramada Inn before flying to Austin to announce it at the capitol. The candidate said he wanted to make the first announcement in the Brazos Valley, since it

is the "heart of agriculture" in Texas. Using a bag of groceries to illustrate his "gouging" point, Hightower told a group of about 20 community residents that farmers get 25 cents from an 83cent box of rice. 4 cents from a \$1.57-box of cereal, 8 cents from a \$1.09-bag of Fritos and 6 cents from a 61-cent can of tomato sauce.

"Supermarket prices are up; farm prices are wn," he said. "That's a curious kind of arithmetic. down, Somebody's making a killing.

Hightower said 80,000 small farmers have gone broke in the past few years, and that Reagan Brown, incumbent candidate for the office and Hightower's opponent in the May primary, hasn't used the resources and power of his office to prevent it.

Reagan is a "do-nothing" official who has ducked responsibility and not promoted legislation of his own to aid consumers and farmers, he said. And the agriculture commissioner's office has provided him plenty of opportunities, he added

"It's been the most embarrassing performance of a state official in the past four years," Hightower said. "And you've got to go a long way to achieve that in Austin.

However, Hightower said, he would put "com-mon sense" back in Texas' food economy if elected agriculture commissioner. Texas residents are suf-fering because of food, land and water issues issues that the Texas agriculture commission office has the resources to deal with, he said.

This isn't Hightower's first bid for public office. He ran for railroad commissioner in 1980, and captured 49 percent of the primary vote. He ran on a populist platform, fighting for environmental con-trols and against big business and industry.

**Target 2000 group to meet** 

said.

#### By DENISE RICHTER

local

Battalion Staff organizational meeting cf Target 2000 Project, a longte study to determine where Texas A&M University Sysm's academic and service mch priorities will lie by the ar 2000, is scheduled for Thurs-val 1 p.m. in 701 Rudder.

The project, scheduled for letion and presentation to Board of Regents in Decem-1982, will determine "what wish to be in the year 2000," id George P. Mitchell, general airman of the Target 2000 Pro-

The Target 2000 Project Com-ittee, a 230-member advisory p, will carry out the work of

his committee will be divided three task forces: one dealing th the four academic institu-, one dealing with the four cultural agencies and services one dealing with the three ineering agencies and

Each task force will be divided four work groups. Each work up will deal with one of the wing areas — programs, ele, resources or organizaand management — of the utions or agencies that fall r the scope of the task force. Robert E. Shutes, project director, said committee pers were chosen by the d of Regents from nominaabmitted by the system's

serve as resource team facilitators - they will provide information and serve as a pipeline to bring faculty and staff recommendations to the committee," Shutes said.

"The students of each institution will be represented on the academic task force by the vice president for student services (of each institution)," he said. "We expect those people to bring students to some of the meetings."

dents to some of the meetings. Dr. John J. Koldus, vice presi-dent for student services, will represent the Texas A&M stu-dent body on this committee. Shutes said the academic task force will survey students on cer-tain issues facing the group. "The interest of the academic task force members in student opinion is high," he said.

Speaking at the Target 2000 executive committee meeting Sept. 25, System Chancellor Dr. Frank W. R. Hubert said issues facing

"Some faculty members will the committee include to pre-rve as resource team facilitators serve the Permanent University Fund.

The PUF is an endowment fund shared by the University of Texas System and the Texas A&M System

The PUF plays a vital role in the support of "this mega-buck conglomerate of higher education in the state of Texas," Hubert said. "We hope that growing out of this study will be a network of support and assistance that could be used in the protection of the PUF

The Target 2000 Project will Action And Action Actio versity at Galveston.

The seven service branches in-Station (TAES), the Texas Ag- ing membership in the Corps of ricultural Extension Service Cadets voluntary.

(TAEX), the Texas Forest Service (TFS), the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL), the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX) and the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI).

The Target 2000 Project is the first long-range planning study since 1962. The Century Council was established in 1960 to develop plans for the University to be applied through 1976.

"The Century Council assisted the University in making changes in policy and organization and set the groundwork for A&M to be-come the University it is today," Hubert said.

Issues addressed by the Century Council included changing the name of the A&M College of Texas to Texas A&M University, cluded under the study are: The the admission of women to the Texas Agricultural Experiment then all-male institution and mak-

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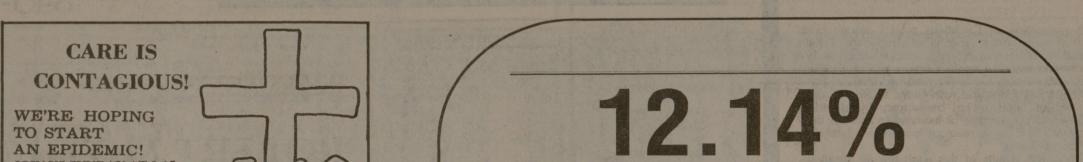
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officers, by former dents and by the regents mselves. More than 1,000 nations were received, he

Members were chosen so each cy and institution is repre-ed," Shutes said. "We tried strike a balance between forstudents and non-former stus. We have about 55 percent percent Aggies on our com-

No faculty member or students we on the Target 2000 Project mmittee, but "careful efforts be made to obtain input from h groups," he said.

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