

# Wanted: One System chancellor

The search has just begun, but the saga continues.

The chancellor's position in the Texas A&M University System should be a much sought-after job. However, given the track record of System officials, candidates may not beat a path to the chancellor's door.

System Chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert Tuesday announced his retirement date, Aug. 31. Regents Chairman H.R. "Bum" Bright already has appointed an ad hoc committee to search for a chancellor.

Just less than one year ago, the search began for a University president to replace Jarvis Miller. The same foursome who recommended University President Frank E. Vandiver, appointed by the Board Aug. 26, will screen candidates and recommend a chancellor for the full Board's approval.

That is, if our next chancellor is not already waiting in the wings somewhere, waiting to make a grand entrance Aug. 31.

Assuming Hubert's successor has not been selected already, applications and nominations will begin arriving at the chancellor's office next month.

That's assuming someone will want to come here and take on the responsibility of leading the Texas A&M University



jane g. brust

System. The saga of System officials' actions over the last few years is not necessarily inviting. Or so one would think.

Two years ago the System implemented a controversial reorganization plan that stripped the University president of his authority over the extension services and experiment stations and transferred that authority to the chancellor. Thus, greater control of the System was channeled into the chancellor's office.

Former students and others close to Texas A&M have criticized that organizational structure which ultimately resulted in the dismissal of former President Jarvis Miller. Many persons would like to see the power and prestige go back to the president's office.

Suddenly in March, Bright set down the groundwork for a review of the organizational structure of the Texas A&M

University System. He appointed a committee to determine how a study of the System's structure would be conducted; he emphasized the committee would not study a reorganization but merely how an organizational study would be conducted, should the regents feel there is a need for such a study.

The public has yet to hear a tangible report from that committee.

There were people who felt the need for a System review had arisen. Many thought the regents would have difficulty attracting a top-notch candidate to replace Miller, given the organizational structure.

Frank Vandiver took the job effective Sept. 1, and Bright emphasized that Vandiver was hired to work in the present organizational structure.

Given the current structure, a new chancellor shouldn't be hard to find. But given the often volatile behavior of System officials, today's organizational structure could be changed tomorrow. And what kind of an administrator wants to be assured of insecurity in his job?

Hubert will leave with deserved praise. He's a gracious, personable man who came out on top more often than not.

His successor may not have the same kind of luck.

# Slouch By Jim Earle



"He never seems to be able to write a paper for me, yet he writes letters to the editor every other day!"

# Cranston is surprise top as presidential hopeful

by STEVE GERSTEL  
United Press International

WASHINGTON — To the surprise of almost everyone, among the first to break from the gate in the presidential sweepstakes is Alan Cranston, the liberal Democrat from California.

Cranston, the 67-year old cadaverous Senate minority whip, was never figured in the speculation about the candidate to lead the Democrats' back to the White House.

The lists are always predictably the same, beginning with the two generally considered the winter book front runners, former Vice President Walter Mondale and Sen. Edward Kennedy.

Then follows a lengthy pause, after which the names of Sen. John Glenn of Ohio, Sen. Gary Hart of Colorado, and sometimes Gov. Hugh Carey of New York and former Florida Gov. Reubin Askew surface. But never Cranston.

In the aftermath of the announcement that he was setting up an "exploratory" committee to determine the wisdom of seeking the nomination, it seems strange that no one ever thought of Cranston as a presidential candidate.

Certainly Cranston, now in his third Senate term, seems to have many of the attributes that should make him desirable to the party and the voters.

The Californian is a highly regarded legislator, popular enough with his colleagues so that he gets elected without opposition to the No. 2 leadership post by the Democrats.

And at home, Cranston is a proven vote-getter in the state with the most electoral votes, running some 200,000 votes ahead of Reagan in the 1980 elections. He also has a much-sought ability to convince contributors they should part with their money.

Increasingly, Cranston has taken leadership in major Senate fights recently in his attempt to block the high-technology AWACS planes to Arabia — a battle he lost narrowly. Reagan and the White House.

Yet for some reason, the feeling by some Democrats is that Cranston would make an able president but how he is not pictured as the candidate. The reasons are unclear.

True, Cranston is strongly tied to the liberal wing of the Democratic Party which no longer may be dominant. For one reason or another, he does not share the image of a strident "thrower" with some of his competitors.

Cranston does have an image problem of sorts. Although he enjoys excellent health and is blessed with unending energy, he does not look it. Gaunt and pale, he appears in great need of some California sunshine.

Some Democrats in the Senate are puzzled that Cranston made no effort to displace Senate Minority Leader Byrd — certainly not an overwhelming popular figure — a year ago. The answer probably is that Cranston, rated by the best vote-counters, found the not ripe.

By default due to Byrd's unpopularity with television and the press, Cranston has become an unofficial spokesman for Senate Democrats. Certainly, he is a media favorite on Capitol Hill.

But with his announcement, Cranston will be watched more closely in the coming year and perhaps beyond.

Some feel that the added exposure given potential presidential candidates what Cranston really wants — a shot for positions and causes he believes strongly.



# Nothing less than Cotton will cut it

Editor:

I have never had the privilege to play for Coach Wilson, nor the opportunity of meeting the men. I feel through watching his show on Sunday nights and watching his performance on the sidelines he's a fine man and a good coach. He is poised when his team is down, keeps his cool in tense moments, and takes all the blame when his team loses. If a person is thinking that's what every good coach does, that's exactly my point.

Tom Wilson and his staff took a team that finished close to the cellar last year, then took virtually the same team and made a contender and Independence Bowl winner out of that team. He has motivated his team and led them to reach their goal. Four Southwest Conference teams were in bowl games and only two won. Hail to the Aggies and Tom Wilson for doing their share.

I feel Tom Wilson and his staff have done a superior job in 2½ seasons. We lost some we should have won and won some we should have lost. We lost three games by three points or less. So if we want to get rid of Tom Wilson and his staff for losing the ones he should have won, I think we should all keep in mind that even "\$2 million Bo" has lost some he

should have won. But in all fairness, he has won many he should have lost.

It is a shame that this University will not give Tom Wilson the opportunity to prove his program can win the Southwest Conference. The Independence Bowl evidently wasn't enough — we've got to be in the Cotton Bowl. Ag's, if we don't give our full support to a coach or give a coach the opportunity to stay here and build a football program, it's going to be a long time before we're pickin' cotton in Dallas.

Roger Lane '83

unethical treatment.

We challenge you and the Board of Regents to publicly apologize not only to Tom Wilson, but to all Aggies for this embarrassment and poor example of business judgement.

Mike '76 and Fleta '76 Finoglio

## Coaches for sale or rent

Editor:

I foresee the following newsbrief in The Battalion and the Chronicle if this week's coach doesn't turn out a Cotton Bowl team:

College Station (AP) — Athletic Director/Board of Regent's Chairman Bum Bright today hired eight new head football coaches, each at a salary of \$800,000 annually with 25 year contracts. The unprecedented move is in line with Bright's "first in football-football first" policy. Bright noted it was unfortunate that all other intercollegiate sports programs had to be cancelled to pay the salaries. Under Bright's plan, each coach will be given one week to organize a national championship team. Each coach will be fired sequentially, if unsuccessful, and eight new head coaches will be hired. Rumor has it the next octet will be hired on 30 year \$1 million a year contracts. Asked how long this could go on, Bright replied, "Well, until we get a good team or until the money's gone. We might have to eliminate an unnecessary academic program or two, like engineering and science, but we'll get our team!" It is speculated that Bum's next move will be to purchase the University of Alabama in order to obtain their players while staying within NCAA rules ...

Goodbye, Coach Wilson. Congrats on a job well done. You're in good company.

Steve W. Borron '79

## Apology demanded

Editor:

Dr. Vandiver:

We applaud the choice of Jackie Sherrill as Texas A&M's next football coach.

However, the manner in which the situation was handled is deplorable. There appears to be a tremendous lack of humanity somewhere in your organization. Tom Wilson did not deserve such

## the small society

by Brickman



©1980 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

12-26 BRICKMAN

## The Battalion

USPS 045 360

Member of  
Texas Press Association  
Southwest Journalism Conference

- Editor ..... Angelique Copeland
- Managing Editor ..... Jane G. Brust
- City Editor ..... Denise Richter
- Assistant City Editor ..... Diana Sultenfuss
- Sports Editor ..... Frank L. Christlieb
- Focus Editor ..... Cathy Saathoff
- Assistant Focus Editor ..... Nancy Floeck
- News Editors ..... Gary Barker, Phyllis Henderson, Mary Jo Rummel, Nancy Weatherley
- Staff Writers ..... John Bramblett, Gaye Denley, Tim Foadre, Sandra Gary, Colette Hutchings, Johna Jo Maurer, Daniel Puckett, Bill Robinson, Denise S. Sechelski, Laura Williams, John Wagner
- Cartoonist ..... Scott McCullar
- Graphic Artist ..... Richard DeLeon Jr.
- Photographers ..... Sumanesh Agrawal, David Fisher, Peter Rocha, Colin Valentine

### Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service to Texas A&M University and Bryan College Station. Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M University administrators or faculty members, or of the Board of Regents.

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 editor should be directed to the editor.

### Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are too long. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to meet the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed, the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, but are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 261-1111.

The Battalion is published daily during Texas A&M fall and spring semesters, except for holiday and vacation periods. Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester, \$33.25 per school year and \$35 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches appearing in it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter are reserved.

Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.