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Minority report berates A&M

Lack of representation, funds called intolerable

by Gary Barker and Denise Richter
Battalion Staff

We are the Aggies — the Aggies we are. True to each other as Aggies can be.

The symbols most revered by Aggies represent unity — Muster, Sil-Taps, bonfire, yell practice. But a recent report on minority conditions at Texas A&M indicates that unity may in some cases mean divisivity.

The report, requested by University President Frank E. Vandiver, indicted charges of "white negativism" and "possible systematic racism on campus." In a letter accompanying the report, the President's Committee on Minority Conditions said: "Our investigations and public hearings also found that the political, social, academic and spiritual atmosphere at Texas A&M University is not conducive to the recruitment or the retention of minorities."

The report, which included 31 recommendations, was the result of an eight-month study of a problem that is traditional at Texas A&M as the "elth Man" — notorious underrepresentation of minority faculty and students.

The problem recently has gained nationwide attention. In his book, "Minorities in Higher Education," education researcher Alexander W. Astin designated Texas A&M as having the worst minority representation of any major university in the nation. In 1981, the Department of

Health, Education and Welfare released a report that said Texas did not comply with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which stated that discrimination in federal programs is prohibited on the basis of race, color or national origin. As a result of the HEW report, Texas A&M administrators drew up a plan calling for a large increase in the number of

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minority students. But the new study reveals that while the situation has improved slightly, the problem is still acute.

The percentage of black students at Texas colleges and universities was 9.3 percent in 1980. In the same year, only 0.8 percent of the 33,370 students enrolled at Texas A&M were black. The figures for all Texas colleges and universities showed that 13 percent of the state's undergraduate students were Hispanic versus 3 percent here.

To make the atmosphere at Texas A&M more favorable for minority students, the committee recommends that the University ban "offensive acts," which include slave auctions and flying the Confederate flag at bonfire.

"Those acts limit recruitment and retention of academically qualified minority students and have no place on a university campus under any circumstances," the report said.

To better understand the atmosphere on campus, committee members interviewed a number of black and Hispanic students and faculty. "Although no tangible examples

were offered, minority students did express their belief that some students and faculty considered them inferior intellectually," the report said. "The minority students are hurt by the feeling of 'white negativism' which they sense is continuously directed against them."

"Minority students, especially women, have experienced serious problems related to dormitory room placement and acceptance. Male students have experienced fear stemming from cries from majority students that 'There's a nigger living on the floor!'"

"Living with constant fear and/or social intimidation on a major university campus is intolerable."

Other recommendations included changes in the selection and training of resident advisers and changes in the policies associated with roommate selection to help avoid racial tension.

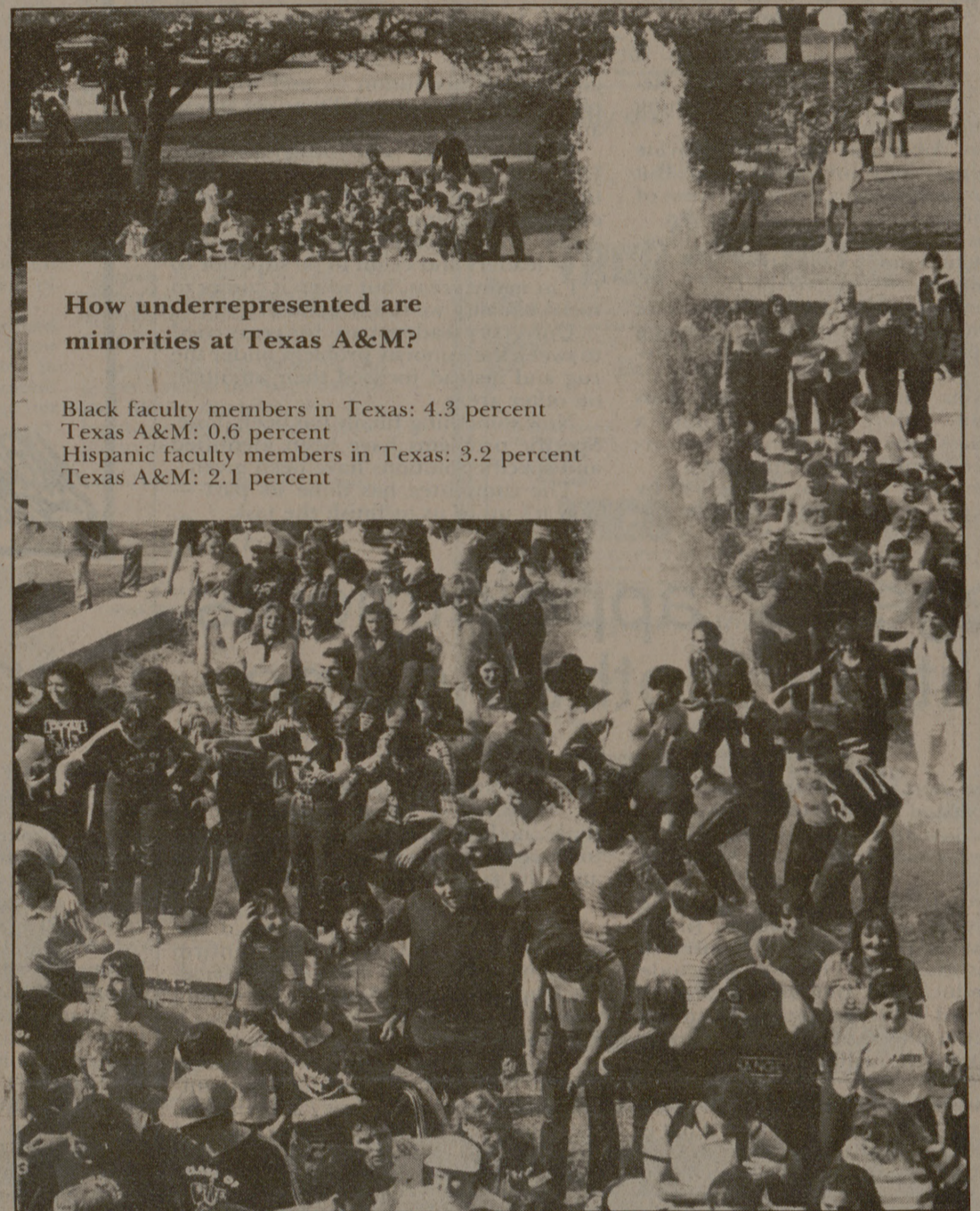
In addition to changes in the social atmosphere, the committee recommended increasing the number of scholarships offered to minority students and raising the amount of minority scholarships to \$2,000 a year. Starting this fall, minority scholarships will be funded at \$2,000 and increased proportionately thereafter.

This school year, Texas A&M is spending \$236,000 for scholarships for 200 of its minority students. The University of Texas is spending \$2.1 million for scholarships for 1,425 of its minority students.

The committee's report primarily compared Texas A&M with UT because of its similarity in academic goals and programs.

The group also recommended that the Office of School Relations, which serves as the major contact service for

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How underrepresented are minorities at Texas A&M?

Black faculty members in Texas: 4.3 percent
Texas A&M: 0.6 percent
Hispanic faculty members in Texas: 3.2 percent
Texas A&M: 2.1 percent

Faculty senate approval postponed until March

The proposed faculty senate must wait until March to receive final approval from the Texas A&M Board of Regents.

Formation of the senate constitutes a change in System rules and regulations. Therefore, to be approved, the matter either must be on the Board agenda at least 30 days before the meeting, or approved at the meeting by all nine regents. However, Regent Norman Oser won't be able to attend this meeting because he is recovering from surgery.

The faculty senate, which was proposed in October 1981, is designed to increase the faculty's role in university governance. Members of the regents' Planning and Building Committee will discuss

the possibility of building additional "prestige boxes" in Kyle Field during their meeting, which begins at 1:30 p.m. Sunday.

The committee will hear a feasibility study commissioned by the Aggie Club concerning the construction of 48 boxes in the north or south end zone of Kyle Field.

The additional boxes have been proposed because demand for the original suites, which were completed in 1981, has continued and increased, said Harry Green Jr., executive director of the Aggie Club.

Kyle Field suites are leased for eight years. The cost of the lease depends on the location of the box. Each suite is furnished with swivel armchairs, small commercial refrigerators and television hook-ups.

In other business, regents will consider appropriating \$400,000 to establish a President's Reserve fund, which would be used to compete with faculty salary offers from other universities. The fund also could be used to match federal equipment grants that have become difficult to receive if matching university funds are not available.

The Committee for Academic Campuses will meet at 3:30 p.m. Sunday. The Committee for Service Units will meet at 4:30 p.m. and the Committee on Mineral Leases will meet at 5 p.m.

The committee of the whole will meet at 8:30 a.m. Monday, and the full board will meet at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday. All meetings will be held in the regents' annex of the Memorial Student Center.

Senate gives Clements' appointments to White

from staff and wire reports

Senate Democrats succeeded Thursday in returning 59 of the 102 lame-duck appointments made by former Gov. William Clements.

Gov. Mark White asked the Senate to return the appointments made by Clements after his November defeat. White agreed not to ask the Senate to return the appointment of Texas Supreme Court Justice Jack Pope.

The Senate accepted 43 of the lame-duck appointments.

Among those returned were three men appointed to the Texas A&M Board of Regents: geologist Michel Halbouty, former Texas House Speaker Bill Clayton and John Blocker, who was reappointed to the board.

The newly appointed regents will attend Sunday's meeting, even though the Senate has returned their appointments. Legally the appointees are still regents until White appoints and swears in new regents.

Sam Barshop, who was appointed to the University of Texas board, was the only major appointment

accepted, said Alan Schoenbaum, legislative assistant to Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan. The others were minor appointments, which passed because of ties the appointees had with the Senate, he said.

"It was a real victory for Mark White," Schoenbaum said. "And it

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confirms the Senate's desire to do away with lame-duck appointments. Now the first major battle of the Senate is over and they (the senators) can get down to work."

But it was a close victory, he said. The 31-member Senate decided many of the appointments by one vote.

Democratic senators initially were confident that they had enough votes Thursday to turn back nearly all of former Clements' 102 post-election appointments.

But as the five-hour session wore on, the shaky coalition withered and

Democrats failed to muster the necessary 16 votes to allow White to review all of Clements' nominees.

The vote ended a two-week battle among White, the Democratic-controlled Senate and Clements, which began when a group of Democrats announced its opposition to the lame-duck appointments.

Lt. Gov. William Hobby and other Senate members said White had scored a victory because he was given the right to review the most controversial appointments, including former Gov. John Connally to the UT board and Clayton to the Texas A&M board.

Clayton's appointment was returned to White on a 16-15 vote. Connally suffered the largest rebuff with 19 of the 31 Senators voting to return his appointment to White.

Those appointees not returned for White's review still face confirmation hearings in the Senate before they can assume their positions. Several were not expected to receive the 21 votes necessary for Senate approval.

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forecast



Continued cold today, but not quite as cloudy. The high will be 40 along with a 40 percent chance of light precipitation. The wind will be north at 8 mph. Colder and partly cloudy tonight with a low of 29. Partly clear and warmer on Saturday with a high of 51.

Preparations made for satellite's fall

United Press International
Serious preparations are being made for the falling Soviet spy satellite expected to plunge to Earth Sunday or Monday and a New York City official jokes he's sending a "man in a rowboat in the East River" to watch for the nuclear-powered satellite.

In Washington, the government alerted emergency teams against the slender possibility radioactive satellite debris might hit the United States.

Canada, which was hit by a Soviet spaceship in 1978, took similar action, as did Australia, which was struck by pieces of the doomed Skylab sent into orbit by the United States.

With Cosmos 1402 drifting ever closer on its inexorable but unpredictable path toward Earth, the Federal Emergency Management Agency in Washington ordered special teams on the ready "for possible deployment to the scene of any U.S. impacted area."

U.S. space trackers believe, however, there is only a 2 percent chance debris from the 2-ton craft would drop on the United States and a 3 percent chance Canada would suffer a repeat of the hit it took. There was about a 30 percent chance the satellite would hit land, the same percentage

as Earth's land masses. Officials in some areas of the United States prepared against the tiny chance the debris might hit there. Others were having a little fun with the subject.

"We have a man in a rowboat in the East River," said Peter Barrett, a spokesman for New York City's Department of Environmental Protection. "No, seriously, we haven't made any preparations, nor have we been given any indication it's going to land in New York City."

Gordon Nichols, a spokesman for the Kentucky Division of Disaster and Emergency Services, put the odds on personal injury from the satellite at 10,000 to one.

Nonetheless, he said Kentucky officials pulled out "Annex Q," the guidelines for handling hazardous materials, and began alerting state agencies.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said the "principal potential hazard" would be the satellite's nuclear power reactor that would disintegrate along with the rest of the craft as it passes through the atmosphere during re-entry.

Social Security commission delivers report to Reagan

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Social Security commission signed, sealed and delivered its report to President Reagan and Congress, laying the groundwork for higher payroll taxes next year and future benefit reductions.

The formal report was delivered Thursday, shifting the burden to Congress to approve, reject, or modify the \$168 billion package of recommended tax and benefit changes to shore up the ailing retirement system.

An incorrect calculation of the cost of improved widow's benefits reduced savings from the originally announced \$169 billion.

In its report, the bipartisan panel proposed wiping out the system's immediate cash shortage over seven years with increased

payroll taxes, a six-month benefits freeze, a tax on checks of upper-income pensioners and requiring new federal workers to join.

Without such a plan, the system would run out of money by summer, prohibiting the government from sending out July checks.

Congress now must now decide in five months or less what it is to do with Social Security. It took the Commission on Social Security Reform more than a year to deal with problem, finally adopting a package Saturday on a 12-3 vote.

The House Ways and Means Committee begins hearings on Social Security Feb. 1, with the aim of getting a bill to Reagan by Easter an ensuring a steady flow of pension checks.

Under the commission's proposal,

a \$20,000-a-year worker would pay \$63 more in payroll taxes in 1984. Social Security's 36 million beneficiaries would wait until next January for cost-of-living hikes, with single pensioners losing an estimated \$132 and couples \$222.

The report, with 28 pages of formal recommendations, also contains 11 chapters of dissenting and supplemental views — reflecting the unsavory choices forced on the bipartisan panel in its drive to forge a compromise.

The package only erases two-thirds of the system's 75-year debt, leaving it up to Congress how to make up the remaining shortfall.

Eight of the panel's 15 members signed a supplemental statement recommending Congress gradually raise the retirement age from 65 to 68 by 2015.