

# Editorials

## Minority conditions require action now

The newly released President's Report on Minority Conditions is scathing — not shocking, but scathing.

Texas A&M has failed to provide equal opportunity for many years. But the report emphasizes the seriousness of the problem.

Texas A&M is still behind the times; we're just now doing what other universities did in the 1960s when the civil rights movement started. The attitudes here are frighteningly conservative regarding the acceptance of people who are "different."

Opinions here won't change overnight. But before we can become a "world class" and "pre-eminent" university, those opinions must change.

Texas A&M has been designated by leading educators as a flagship — or ma-

ior, leading institution — and that implies a certain responsibility to set an example.

Educators also have designated the University of Texas as a flagship institution, and many of the figures of minority enrollment compare UT with Texas A&M. The comparison is valid. We claim to be leaders and claim to be superior to UT in many areas, but when it comes to racial equality we're far behind.

University leaders have for years tried to sweep the minority problem under the rug and instead focused their attention on other areas.

Now something finally has been done. Specific problems have been identified and specific solutions have been given.

The committee has done its part — now it's up to us to finish the task.

## Regents' appointments political football game

Three men appointed to the Texas A&M Board of Regents were among the 59 lame-duck appointments returned to Gov. Mark White by the Texas Senate on Thursday.

Regents are appointed to oversee the state's higher education systems. In his inauguration speech, White promised to aid Texas education. This should include higher education. But recent actions have turned the regents appointments into a power play instead of a search for the persons best qualified for those positions.

What is really wrong with the regent candidates offered by Clements? What is really wrong with the three regents currently serving on the board? Aren't they

qualified to fill the positions?

They aren't White supporters. No more, no less. In the end, it really seems to come down to who supports Clements and who supports White.

Regardless of the outcome of the appointments, this move does confirm the Senate's desire to do away with lame-duck appointments. Senators have been quoted as saying the Senate feels such appointments represent bad state policy.

Now the Senate must follow through on this and abolish lame-duck appointments. To save time, money and turmoil, the dates of office terms must be changed so there is no way an outgoing governor can make such appointments.

## Prevention needed for campus assaults

December 6 — A woman is assaulted in the basement of Mosher Hall.

December 12 — A woman walking between Mosher and Krueger dorms is grabbed from behind and hit in the face.

Wednesday — A woman is stabbed outside of Mosher Hall while trying to get into the dorm.

Who's next?

Three assaults have occurred in the Commons area during the past month.

The parking lot is dark. Lighting around the Commons is not of the highest quality. Doors have to be locked to keep intruders from entering the dorm. But that's also a problem.

It's a Catch-22 situation. The doors

are locked to keep intruders out. But the same locked doors also prevented a female student from getting inside fast enough to escape an attack.

In the University's five-year plan, locks will be placed on dorm doors that will open upon insertion of an ID card.

But there are at least four years to wait until those plans become reality.

Meanwhile, lighting needs to be improved in the Commons area. The University police should check the location with extra runs each night. A door-monitoring system needs to be organized so female students can get in without delay.

But these steps may take a while to come about. So, be careful.

I think that I shall never see  
a picture lovely as a tree...



... unless the photo is a shot of  
someone lynching of James Watt

## Compromises ahead for Reagan

by Helen Thomas

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — President Reagan will be a man in search of many compromises in the next two years if he wants his presidency to work.

At midpoint in his White House career, Reagan has had to reassess his own hard and fast positions as he watches his supply-side economic policies founder on the shoals of failure.

Reagan would be the last to say his three-year tax cut combined with his monetary policy is not working.

Although, he was warned that it was not the way to go if he planned a trillion-dollar defense buildup, his economic advisers had convinced him that the tax slash would wipe out the recession.

Today, the nation is still in a slump and Reagan has approved a three-year \$99 billion tax increase and a four-year \$20 billion gas tax hike, wiping out any of the advantages of the tax cut. And that's not all. Social Security taxes will be accelerated under the reform plan and Treasury Secretary Donald Regan has let the cat out of the bag that the president will propose a whole new package of tax hikes in the forthcoming 1984 fiscal year budget.

Some past presidents who have now been sidelined may be smiling at all this, particularly as one remembers Reagan's campaign battle cry against those who "tax and spend and spend."

The president came into office promising a balanced budget and a job for everyone who wanted to work. In his two

years as president, the deficit looms at around \$200 billion and unemployment has spiraled from around 7.5 million to close to 12 million.

Confronted with the facts and a continuing sluggish economy, it appears that he can no longer hang tough. Under strong pressure from Republican leaders who have gone public on the subject,

*Under strong pressure from Republican leaders who have gone public on the subject, Reagan has been displaying more flexibility.*

Reagan has been displaying more flexibility. Much against his druthers he sent Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger back to the drawing board and Weinberger came up with \$11.3 billion in military spending cuts.

His top GOP lieutenants on Capitol Hill are telling him that is not enough, but he passed the word that his bottom line.

Reagan is enough of a politician to know that he has to make concessions if he expects his programs to pass. It is difficult for him to bend, particularly when it involves his political convictions. But he also sees the handwriting on the wall and what is being called the "paralysis of confrontation" if he chooses to do battle with Congress on the major issues.

When he was governor of California, Reagan had pronounced himself "in con-

crete" on a given issue. Later he had to compromise, he jokingly reported, "You see the concrete around my feet."

Direction is one thing, another, and Reagan can see some fruits of his philosophy in the engineering building the country has taken.

In the area of nuclear arms Reagan is being reluctantly pushed to change tactics and positions.

Although he is sticking with his "option" in the nuclear arms race, meaning no intermediate range on the European continent or armaments — the president and his realize they are losing ground in the of public opinion as Soviet President Andropov drops new proposals in nuclear weaponry.

Another area where Reagan bowed to outside pressure and been the administration's apparent acknowledgement that it has not many women in high-visibility or making top government jobs. As a sequence, Reagan selected two women to join his Cabinet: Elizabeth Dole as secretary of transportation and Marjorie Heckler to be secretary of health and man services.

For some, the changes and concessions Reagan is making may be too late, as in the case of women's groups who claim he is only token gestures to women.

But it is a mark of a resilient, minded president when he can with the times. In the case of Reagan a necessity born of the need to

### The Battalion

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

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter 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. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 845-2611.

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### Slouch By Jim Earle



"You might get one for yourself. I find that it cuts to the heart of the matter."