

# Your best interests should decide vote

The commotion and commercials will end Saturday, and the 6th Congressional District will have a new representative. Since Democrat Phil Gramm resigned his congressional seat in January to run as a Republican, we've been bombarded

## Editorial

with campaign rhetoric. We've heard that Gramm is a savior, Dan Kubiak is a true Democrat and John Henry Faulk is courageous.

Their campaigns have included a liberal dose of mud-slinging. We've heard that Gramm is a traitor, and that Kubiak

and Faulk don't have the expertise necessary to serve as Congressmen.

Those three men are considered the front-runners in Saturday's election — the campaigns of the other eight candidates haven't been much different.

But on Saturday, the speeches and promises don't really matter. On that day, the spotlight of the congressional race shifts from the 11 contestants to you.

You may have been influenced by the campaigns. Or maybe you haven't been.

In either case, Saturday is your day — your vote will help decide who speaks for you in Congress. Vote for the candidate who will represent *your* best interests.

# Letters: Minorities, money and recruitment

## Editor:

Pardon my ignorance Julian Pechacek, (Letter to the Editor 2/4/83) but I cannot understand why allocating monies to correct minority conditions would be "detrimental to the fundamental principles that make Texas A&M great." True, high academic standards and rich tradition have a big impact on student recruitment and retention, but you don't kill elephants with a BB gun either.

You don't need to be a business major to realize that if you want to attract the best, you have to offer more than the competition does. Jackie Sherrill didn't come to Texas A&M just because of tradition and high standards, just as I would assume that prestigious scholarships may have tipped the scales in A&M's favor in attracting the many National Merit Scholars on campus today.

Competition for top academic students is fierce, especially for superior black and Hispanic students. The big name schools such as Stanford and Yale annually cross the state border and claim many top minority students. Add to this another university of equal academic reputation right in our own backyard that presently offers almost eight times the number of minority scholarships offered by Texas A&M and you have one big uphill battle. And I haven't even mentioned any of the social and environmental factors at A&M that keep prospective minority students from considering Aggieland.

True, all people have an equal right to attend the state (not federally) funded school of their choice. But not all of us, minority or otherwise, come from Highland Park or River Oaks. I believe in the concept of equality, not "under-equality." I might add that the undergraduate minority scholarships are strictly merit-based with no consideration given for financial need.

I am glad that you appreciate the quality of individuals here and the fact that they have the guts and stamina to stay. Then you must surely admire A&M minority students because they are tougher and more self-sustaining than

you could ever dream of being. They face even greater pressure to succeed and are pioneers in every sense of the word. Honestly, given that Texas A&M was the same (tradition, academic reputation, etc.) but the ethnic figures were reversed (96 percent black and Hispanic, 4 percent white) would you have the "guts and stamina" to come and stay at TAMU?

David Oviedo  
Old College Main

## Support for report

## Editor:

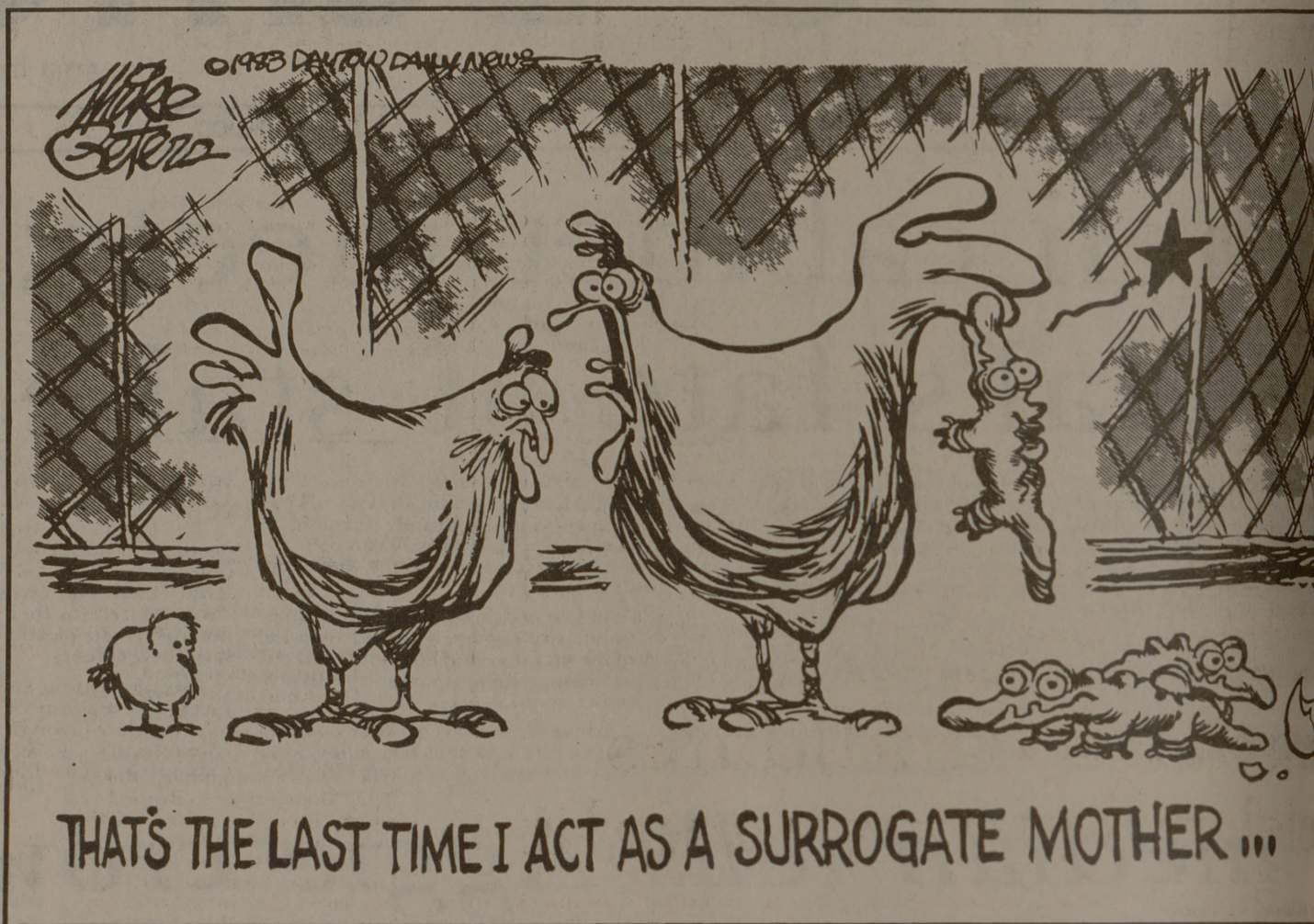
We the members of Inroads/TAM — a recognized minority corporate management development group — feel it necessary to express our support for the recent report on minority conditions. We consider the information presented in the report factual and accurate; and we appreciate the President's committee's painstaking study of the situation. We equally approve of the proposals by the committee to solve problems currently faced by minority students at Texas A&M.

As a group composed of minority students, we are very much aware of factors present at the University which sometimes create an unpleasant atmosphere for minority students. The problem of underrepresentation of minorities and the occurrence of offensive acts such as those mentioned in the report need to be eliminated. Changes need to be made at Texas A&M in order to nurture the ideology of "Aggie Spirit" and to attain "World-Class" status.

Students and faculty of this institution should realize that Texas A&M's reputation is at stake. Unless we open our eyes and start addressing our problems ... this University is in trouble.

Stephanie G. Evans '85

Editor's Note: This letter was accompanied by seven signatures.



# Reagan's lost women's agenda

by Maxwell Glen  
and Cody Shearer

With potential Democratic rivals ready to turn the gender gap into a 1984 windfall, now would seem the perfect moment for Ronald Reagan to back proposals extending justice to women.

Instead, administration officials seem content to sit on their hands.

Two weeks ago President Reagan piped a pretty tune before Congress, pledging to remove "unjust discrimination" in the U.S. (legal) Code and fight for equitable wages and pension benefits. With the president's call for more strict attention to delinquent child-support payments, one could almost sense the emergence of a Reagan feminist agenda.

Despite the ripeness of the moment, however, the president's strategy on women's issues portends a leisurely pace, Lilliputian scope and little benefit to women. White House schemers have simply left their man with an unimaginative bag of tricks.

Consider first the vow to remove "vestiges" of discrimination from the U.S. Code. (Reagan's favorite alternative to the Equal Rights Amendment replaces such words as "he" and "she" in law with gender-neutral substitutes.) Most courts already ignore gender distinctions. Even Sen. Robert Dole (R-Kan.), who introduced the Reagan-backed package of word changes last October, admitted that it was a "modest" proposal.

"I want it to be understood that elimination of facial gender bias is just one small step ... and cannot be equated with the true achievement of full equality under the law," Dole said then.

Meanwhile, Reagan's newfound determination to eliminate wage discrimination is inconsistent with straitjacketing of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and other federal offices

empowered to enforce the rights of working women. Reagan has not matched his rhetoric with specific proposals as yet.

In pensions, Reagan has eyed another suitable quarry. Many insurance companies charge both sexes similar premiums but pay women smaller benefits. The practice has tended to assure retired women an unjustly lower standard of living.

But though the Justice Department condemned pension discrimination be-

fore the Supreme Court last month, it stopped short of recommending a remedy. Rather than endorse retroactive relief preferred by a lower court, Solicitor General Rex Lee simply argued for more equitable pension plans in the future — an irrelevant gesture to women paying into pension plans today.

Reagan has some reason to be proud of his new commitment to child support enforcement, insofar as it was hammered out by the White House with the counsel of women's groups. In his 1984 budget, the president asks Congress to require states to withhold delinquent support payments from paychecks and state income tax refunds. Yet, all but five states withhold some part of child support money.

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Moreover, Reagan proposes to eliminate general matching funds for state collection budgets and instead pay

"bonuses" to states with exceptional record. He argues that such action would save Uncle Sam as much as \$100 million a year. But even without al help, some states don't do enough. One Senate aide: "Without federal support, state legislatures will be scrambling to subsidize the effort themselves. (Last year, Louisiana's Rep. Bill Claitor, killed a similar Reagan proposal.)"

New proposals are a must for the Democrats have already seized the gender gap as a cheap one-way ticket to the White House. Speaker Tip O'Neill joined the congressional caucus on women's issues and pledged to give weight behind the latest ERA effort. Many state legislatures are actively seeking out organizations for endorsement and support.

Perhaps one positive sign was the conspicuous State of the Union mention of day care for children, a subject traditionally considered taboo in conservative circles. White House officials, who have federal support for day care, favor new proposals are in the works.

Another obvious opportunity Reagan would be endorsement of the Economic Equity Act, a two-year-old bill written by Republicans and favored by Democrats. The proposal would correct real biases in insurance, pay, pension and inheritance laws. Reagan endorsed several portions of the bill, but has withheld complete support. Not the ERA, the bill remains the alternative.

Indeed, the GOP's retreat on women's issues in 1980 still plagued president, threatens his party, and require more substantive steps toward good a reparation. So what is Reagan waiting for?

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 classes within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter 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 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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# Hit and run complaints

## Editor:

I would insincerely like to thank the "Honest Ag" who hit my car, a beige Datsun B210, while it was parked on the street next to McFadden and failed to leave a notice to where they could be reached. This shows the amazing ability of some people to show an extreme lack of conscience. We've heard it all before, it defies the Aggie Code of Honor, but does it not also go against the basic rules of common courtesy.

I'd like to let you know how this has inconvenienced me, in case you failed to think that far ahead. This is a financial burden and time consuming, as well as being an emotional strain. The last thing I needed to worry about, with all my tests this week, is how I'm going to pay for this. (Insurance companies aren't always willing to fork out the money.) If by chance the person who hit my car is reading this, please put yourself in my place and find your heart to give me a call.

Thank you.

Beth Mullins  
Haas Hall  
260-8345

# Slouch By Jim Earle



"The College of Medicine says that I'll have to bring up my grade point ratio to be eligible to will my brain to them."