

Affirmative action officer sets goals

By CAROL WOLTMAN
Reporter

Texas A&M's new affirmative action officer, Dr. Annette M. Lopez, says one of her main goals is to help people see prejudice in a different way.

Affirmative action is a federal program created to eliminate the present effects of past discrimination, Lopez says.

"I think discrimination can affect students and the entire gamut of employment," she says. Increasing the number of minorities and women at Texas A&M will not benefit just them, she says, since the University will benefit from their skills and talents as well.

"Getting people to acknowledge that they even have prejudices is the hardest thing," Lopez says. Many people do not realize they are prejudiced, she says, but it often shows in their



Dr. Annette Lopez

language. Correcting sexist and racist language is a starting point, Lopez says.

"I think if we change behaviors, we can change attitudes," she says. And one of the best

ways to change behaviors is by setting examples, she says.

"I think it will take the effort of a lot of people in a lot of different places," Lopez says, but President Frank E. Vandiver already has set the pace. He is fully committed to affirmative action, she says, and she hopes others will adopt this attitude.

Lopez says another way to decrease prejudice is to change things, like pictures in textbooks that reinforce stereotypes and discrimination. She says, for instance, that doctors and other professionals are usually represented as white males. Textbooks need to show women and people of different races and ethnic background in these positions, she says.

Lopez says her job involves constant listening. She works with faculty, staff and students

who feel they are being discriminated against, she says.

"People come here if they feel any form of discrimination is affecting them," she says. This includes lack of promotion or salary increase, sexual harassment or anything that singles them out from others, she says.

Lopez says she investigates these claims and if there is a problem, she tries to solve it.

Lopez is also responsible for recruiting more women and minorities. If a department has few women or minorities, Lopez says, she finds out why and how they can recruit more.

Texas A&M must open the doors for women and minorities, she says. "Modify the brochures, modify the campaign, modify our actions or any other

thing," she says. Anything that insults or frightens people needs to be changed, she says.

Margaret A. Smith, the former affirmative action officer, says Lopez has "very good people skills." Smith, who was promoted to assistant for management analysis to the vice president for fiscal affairs, believes Lopez will do a good job.

"She's able to talk to any level of employee or student," Smith says. "And one of the largest parts of being an affirmative action officer," she says, "is counseling employees who have problems and seeing what their alternatives are." Lopez, who came from Presque Isle, Maine, also has a new perspective and new ideas, Smith says.

Lucas' attorneys seek change in proposed murder trial setting

United Press International

AUSTIN — Attorneys for confessed mass killer Henry Lee Lucas will try to have the one-eyed drifter's capital murder trial moved from Georgetown during a pretrial hearing set for Tuesday.

Lucas, a former mental patient convicted in 1960 of murdering his mother, has been charged with capital murder in the death of an unidentified female hitchhiker who was found Halloween 1979 near Interstate 35.

The victim had been sexually abused and was clad only in orange socks. Lucas, 47, faces the death penalty or life imprisonment on the charge.

Already Lucas has been sentenced to life in prison for the murder of his 15-year-old common law wife and to 75 years in prison for the slaying of an elderly Ringgold woman who had befriended him.

In all, he and Otis Elwood Toole, the Florida inmate who was Lucas's homosexual lover and frequent traveling compan-

ion, have claimed responsibility for more than 200 killings.

Lucas' defense attorneys, Georgetown lawyers Don Higginbotham and Parker McCullough, say their client cannot get a fair trial in Georgetown because extensive media publicity has prejudiced potential jurors.

Higginbotham said he thought Harlingen or another Rio Grande Valley city would be the only locale where publicity about Lucas' exploits had not ruined his chances of getting a

fair trial.

They also argued in a Jan. 13 hearing that a confession Lucas gave in the Williamson County slaying was inadmissible because he gave it after being improperly arrested on a firearms charge in Montague County.

During the January hearing, Lucas said he gave the confessions to Williamson County Sheriff Jim Boutwell voluntarily, even though his attorney had advised against it.

Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Monday.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

- A backpack containing textbooks and a pair of dark blue sweat pants was stolen from the first floor men's room in the Memorial Student Center.

- A student's wallet containing her driver's license, student ID and several credit cards was stolen from 302 Nagle Hall.

- A gold wedding band and a Bullova wrist watch were stolen from an unlocked locker in the women's dressing room of G. Rollie White Coliseum.

- The hubcaps on a 1980 Chevrolet Monza in Parking Annex 24 were stolen.

- Two wire spoke wheel covers were stolen from a 1981 Pontiac in Parking Annex 40.

- A wallet containing 50 cents, driver's license, staff ID and other personal property was stolen from 629 Blocker.

- A student's wallet containing credit cards, \$8.60 in postage stamps and other personal property was stolen from 404 Plant Sciences.

BURGLARY:

- A Pentax 35mm camera and a Western Electric Walkman radio were stolen from a student's dorm room in Law Hall.

- Someone entered the snack bar in Zachry Engineering Center and ate a quart of tuna fish salad.

OTHER:

- A student reported that while he was in the MSC Browning Library, a man sat down next to him and began fondling himself. The man left the area before University Police officers arrived.

New book traces politics of Texas

University News Service
Texans always think big, even if it's bigger than they really are — especially in politics.

A new book published by the Texas A&M University press traces the political battleground that in the 1921-1928 period brought Texas "an importance ... out of proportion to the size of its votes or the state's geographical and industrial significance," to quote the New York Times.

"Hood, Bonnet, and Little Brown Jug: Texas Politics 1921-1928," is due to be released March 12 from the Texas A&M University Press.

It was researched and written by Dr. Norman Brown, a history professor at the University of Texas.

The title of the book is drawn from three symbols of the tempestuous times — the Ku Klux Klan's hood; the sun bonnet of twice-elected, anti-Klan and

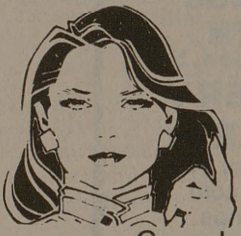
pro-liquor governor Miram "Ma" Ferguson (the state's only woman governor); and the brown jug of "wets" versus Prohibitionists seeking control of the Democratic Party.

Brown has clearly recreated the days of Fergusonism, the Petticoat Lobby and the role Texas played in the transitional struggle between the Democrats' native-born rural Southern "drys" and the Eastern, immigrant, urban, "wets."

Brown's work is expected to become a definitive work on pre-Depression Texas politics as well as a vignette on the shifting fortunes of the Democrats and Republicans.

At the time Ma Ferguson was elected twice to lead the government (after her husband James had been impeached from the same office), the KKK had a membership probably exceeding 100,000, making the secret organization a chief force in the backroom politics, Brown notes.

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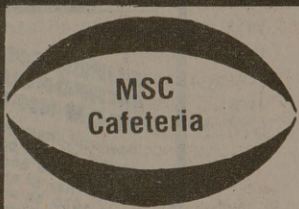
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