

Handicapped

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must have a friend with her or get a librarian to assist her because the racks are so close together on the top two floors that a wheelchair will not fit between them.

And she doesn't like sitting on the floor of G. Rollie White Coliseum during basketball games. It's not only that you can't see as well, she says, but that she would rather sit with all her friends and be part of the crowd. She hopes the new special-events center being planned for A&M will have enough room for wheelchairs in the bleachers.

Working with computers doesn't sit well with Marshall either, because typing without full mobility of the hands is a challenge. The perfect solution for not only her, but all handicapped students on campus, Marshall says, is a voice-controlled computer.

Marshall is thinking about becoming a journalism major, and although the computer systems used are new and expensive, she says she can't understand why a large university like A&M doesn't have the capability to obtain equipment suitable for hand-

icapped students.

But Marshall says the challenge of typing won't stop her from changing majors — it just won't be easy. She can learn to finger-peck at a keyboard if she has to, she says.

"I think society is just starting to realize and accept handicapped people," Marshall says. "I think it is just going to take time like anything else."

Marshall is just one example of about 20 wheelchair-bound students on campus, and compared to many others, her handicaps are minor. She has partial mobility of her legs and arms, while some students are totally paralyzed.

Besides being in a wheelchair, all these students — along with learning-disabled students, blind students and deaf students — have one thing in common: the Handicapped and Veterans Services office in Hart Hall.

The handicapped services staff provides assistance to students with learning or physical disabilities.

Dr. Charles Powell, coordinator for handicapped services, says the staff works with the University community to resolve any

problems encountered by handicapped students so the students can better meet their educational and personal goals.

The original goal of the office was to make sure the A&M campus was accessible by law to handicapped students, Powell says. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 stated that no handicapped individual can be excluded from any federally-funded program within reason.

After the law passed, the University formed a committee to make recommendations to the president as to what handicapped facilities should be improved and designed. Basically, the committee decided where to put curb cuts, parking spots and ramps, he says.

"That was a good start, but overall it was an inadequate program for what had to come," Powell says.

Since then, Powell says, a budget has been used to add additional curb cuts and parking, and new building and renovation plans are evaluated to ensure that everything from elevator buttons to bathrooms is accessible to handicapped students.

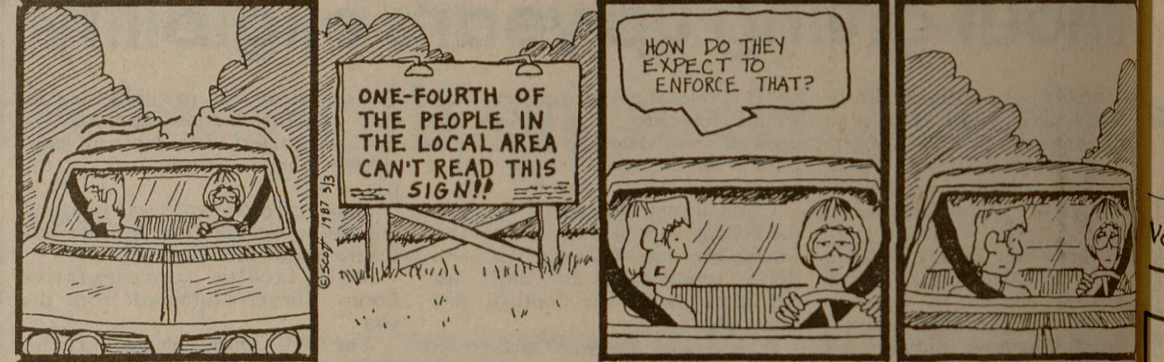
Powell, the only professional staff member in handicapped services, is assisted by one full-time secretary. The office also staffs two student workers, four student drivers for van service for handicapped students and four veterans paid by the federal government.

The office also provides special services like mobility assistance, minor wheelchair repairs, handicapped parking and an attendant locator service. It also coordinates many academic services: advising, special registration, tape recordings of lectures, selected tutoring, special arrangements for taking tests and any other need the office can handle.

"This office is a focal point that they (handicapped students) come to and let us know what we need to get done," Powell says.

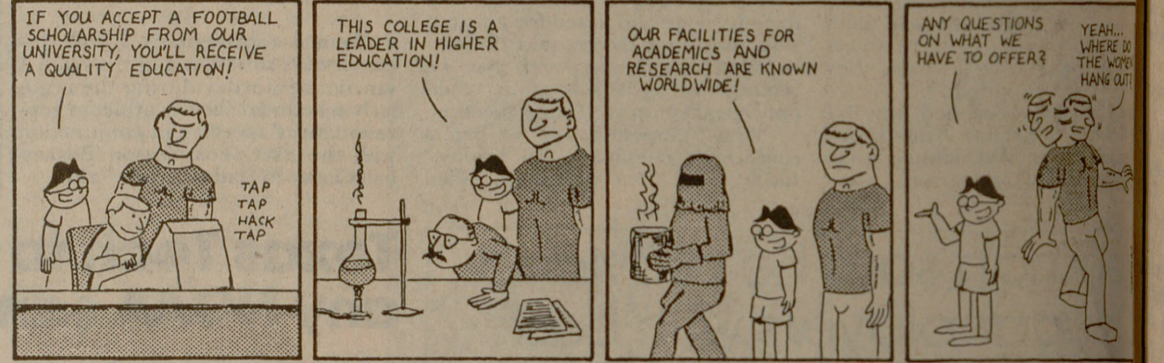
Warped

by Scott McCulloch



Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Prisons

(Continued from page 1)

industry is very common, said Dr. Gary Halter, former College Station mayor. The government doesn't have to come up with money for the building beforehand, but they own it from the beginning.

"Another strategy would have the company build and own the prison," Crouch said. "The state could lease it under a lease-purchase agreement, and down the road, the state would eventually own it."

"The state would staff it, the state would man it, the state would run it, but the fiscal — and physical — aspects would have been initiated and

controlled by a private corporation. "From what I can gather, there are advantages in terms of giving the state more flexibility; the state doesn't have to come up with this huge chunk of money to pay for the construction."

Crouch said the other extreme, a totally private prison, would be almost completely run by the private industry.

"The next step would be you (the private firm) build it and you run it," he said. "We'll (the state) provide the inmates and the money."

"You maintain security, you make decisions, you keep them locked up,

you medicate them, you provide them, you rehabilitate them. And forth. That is the extreme end. This is what is least frequently being done."

But Halter said there are some prison operations that could not realistically be contracted out.

"I don't think you'd want to take Death Row over to an 'Electronics Enterprises Inc.," he said. "There are some things you just can't hand over. (Operations dealing with minimum-security prisoners are a less security risk; they probably could be contracted out more easily to private firms."

Atlanta leaders suspect Houston seeking 'trade war'

ATLANTA (AP) — Some Atlanta officials were wondering if the first shot has been fired in a trade war following the Houston City Council's refusal to award a \$2.1 million contract to an Atlanta company a few hours after Atlanta won the 1988 Democratic National Convention.

Fulton County Commission Chairman Michael Lomax says he has no interest in getting into a trade war with Houston, but he said Atlanta would win such a war.

Indeed, several Houston firms asked the city's council to reconsider

its 14-0 vote not to award the contract to an Atlanta firm, the *Atlanta Constitution* said in today's editions.

The vote took place about four hours after the Democratic Site Selection Committee announced it preferred Atlanta.

The paper said the timing of the contract vote seems to suggest that there were indeed multiple factors.

Houston council member Jim Greenwood said, "We are giving the business to Atlanta, which apparently is going to get lots of business over the next two years anyway."

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