

# The Battalion

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## Mead Cites Need For Universal Ethic

By Pam Troboy  
Battalion News Editor

Dr. Margaret Mead, internationally known anthropologist, Thursday called for the establishment of a universal ethic during the next 25 years.

She said that this uniform code of mores would have to be established during the next generation to be effective.

Speaking to a crowd of 4,500, Dr. Mead presented the keynote address of the three-part "Man, Morality and Society" seminar sponsored by Great Issues. She discussed "Culture and the New Morality."

Chairman Tom Fitzhugh said that the audience was the largest ever for a Great Issues presentation.

Introduced as a former president of the Association of Women Students, Dr. Mead remarked that

she understood that there was no dean of women at A&M.

"Women students at most other universities are trying to get rid of their deans," she said, "it's odd to find a campus where they want one."

Often controversial in the past, Dr. Mead confined her address to conventional viewpoints of ethics and morality.

Welcomed by a standing ovation and frequently interrupted by laughter and applause, Dr. Mead defined morality as customs that a people think are ethical.

She said that people outside these groups have varying views of these customs, and that many of them are likely to look "out of place and peculiar."

Many people are concerned about the wide diversity of customs, she said, but Americans are great believers in situational ethics and are willing to examine

the circumstances in which the custom occurs.

"No particular act of any sort can be regarded as absolutely good or bad," Dr. Mead said. "Cultural relativity means that the custom depends on the situation."

"This causes many anthropologists to worry about the world without a universal ethic," she said.

The thing to do, she said, is to find something common to all these peculiar customs.

"Man is capable of ethical behavior," Dr. Mead said. "He accepts the concepts of right and wrong. Even his animals develop a conscience. Dogs and even cats have ethics. Of course," she said to scattered laughter, "cats go ahead and do what they want to anyway."

"There are three ethics that are universally accepted," she

said. "In all societies murder is distinguished from other kinds of killing; incest is taboo; and some possession, even if it is only a man's name, is held to be inviolable."

"We are increasingly living in one world and increasingly depending on the morality of people all over the world," she said.

"A universal ethic must be established for war and peace, environment and population control," she said to loud applause. "There must be one ethic for all nations—white or non-white, capitalist or communist, small or large."

"We have the same choice now of whether to adopt a universal language or to evolve into several major ones," she said.

If we adopt a universal language, then each nation can keep its own language. Otherwise a few widely-spoken languages will become prominent, she said.

"We now have a tremendous gap between people who grew up before World War II and those who grew up after the war," Dr. Mead said. "There has been a real break in experience. After the Kinsey report came out, the difficulties began."

"Before the report," she said, "parents were pretending to their children that they were far better than they were. This has broken down. Younger people no longer want to be told that people are better than they are."

"They don't conceal things," Dr. Mead said. "They want to live in sin publicly. The new morality is as ethical as the old. Any system that treats its members with dignity is ethical."

A panel of four faculty members screened written questions from the audience. Dr. Robert L. Skrabaneck, head of sociology; Dr. Arnold D. LeUnes, psychology professor; David R. Woodard, history professor; and Dr. William P. Kuvlesky, sociology professor, relayed questions to Dr. Mead.

Dr. Mead, in response to the first question, said that marriage (See Universal Ethics, page 2)



DR. MARGARET MEAD

## Luedecke Plans to Visit Dorms, Listen to Students

By Dave Mayes  
Battalion Editor

Acting A&M President A. R. Luedecke said Thursday that in the coming weeks he plans to visit students in their dormitories and attend a number of their meetings to gain a better understanding of student needs and problems.

In an interview with The Battalion, the retired Air Force general said his former responsibilities with the university did not offer him the opportunities for the close contact with students he now says is essential in his new role.

Gen. Luedecke, 59, was elevated Monday by the A&M Board of Directors from associate director of Texas Engineering Experiment Station and associate dean of engineering to acting president of the University and A&M System.

He said that his energies will be devoted to the continuation of the programs initiated by his friend and fellow classmate, the late Gen. Earl Rudder.

The soft-spoken native of Eldorado pointed out, however, that he will not balk at making major changes if he believes they are necessary.

Gen. Luedecke said he believes that the past relationship between the administration and the students has been a fairly close one, and that he wishes to maintain that relationship.

His principal link with A&M

students this year has been as a member of the Memorial Student Center Council, the faculty-student panel that governs MSC student programs. The general agreed that the council is a good example of how students and administrators can work together.

Gen. Luedecke said he has some plans for the university in mind, but has not set about determining any priorities for them.

"Less than 16 working hours as acting president does not put me in a position to be any expert on A&M's future," he said. He added that he anticipates he will spend a good part of the immediate future "just keeping the wheels rolling."

Would he accept the full presidency of the university if the board of directors offered it to him?

"I have been charged by the board to carry out the responsibilities of acting president," Gen. Luedecke replied, adding that he is concentrating his efforts only on "doing the job at hand," with no other objective mind.

If, in the event he is offered the position, he said he would "make a decision only at that time."

General Luedecke completed a 26-year military career when he retired from the Air Force in 1958 to become general manager of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission. After serving in that post nearly six years, he was named deputy director of the Jet

Propulsion Laboratory at California Institute of Technology, where he played a major role in space research.

He was among 100 distinguished Texans who helped determine goals for attainment by the university prior to its centennial in 1976. He was a member of the Century Council established by the board of directors in 1961 to conduct a detailed study of the institution and make long-range recommendations.

Luedecke has been employed by a university for only two years, returning to A&M in 1968. Nevertheless, he said he has been in close contact with universities since 1946, when he became involved in the Atomic Energy Commission.

He noted that he has worked at one time or another with nearly every college and university in the nation, aiding them in some way with some phase of nuclear research, especially in relation to construction of cyclotrons and reactors.

A 1932 A&M graduate in chemical engineering, Gen. Luedecke has a son, Alvin R. Luedecke Jr., who is a senior civil engineering student here.

## Apollo 12 Crew To Be Made Honorary Ags

The three Apollo 12 astronauts — including UT graduate Alan Bean — will be made honorary Aggies today at a Houston dinner honoring Gerald Griffin, A&M graduate, who directed the latest moon shot.

Joining Bean in the Aggie circle will be Charles (Pete) Conrad and Richard Gordon.

The dinner honoring Griffin, who earned his aeronautical engineering degree at A&M in 1956, is being sponsored by the Southeast Harris County A&M Club. The 8 p.m. program will be held at Holiday Inn-NASA.

A spokesman for A&M's Association of Former Students and the Apollo 12 astronauts will be among the first to receive the honorary Aggie awards.

## Civilian Weekend Tickets Available

Civilian students may exchange their dorm activity cards for Civilian Weekend barbeque and dance tickets according to Raleigh Lane, Civilian Student Council public relations chairman.

The fall dorm activity card is good for a dance ticket and the spring activity card is good for a barbeque ticket, Lane said.

The dance ticket is good for the student and his date. The barbeque ticket is good for only student. Students must purchase tickets for their dates.

Students may pick up these tickets from their dorm counselor through Monday, April 20th. Students that don't have dorm activity cards may purchase the dance tickets for \$3 per couple and the barbeque tickets for \$1 during the same period.

## Batt Given Top Honor In Evaluation by ACP

The Battalion has received an All American rating from the Associated Collegiate Press at the University of Minnesota.

Approximately 600 member newspapers from throughout the United States were evaluated in ACP's 82nd All American Critical Service.

Editor Dave Mayes said that according to a letter received Thursday from the ACP officials, student newspapers published during the fall semester were judged on coverage and content, writing and editing, editorial leadership, physical appearance and photography.

Marks of Distinction for superior achievement may be awarded in each of the five categories and a paper must receive four such credits to be rated All American, judges said.

They noted that The Battalion, judged in the same category as other university daily newspapers, received Marks of Distinction in coverage and content, writing and editing, physical appearance and photography. The paper accumulated 3,430 of a possible 3,950 contest points.

The ACP defined the All American award as one given to newspapers who have "... that extra spark of liveliness, imagination and appeal that distinguishes really top publications. We cannot ignore that the best newspapers have made these intangible qualities an important part of truly excellent achievement."

Jim Lindsey, chairman of the Student Publications Board and director of University Informa-

tion, said that to his knowledge this is the first time The Battalion has earned the distinction.

Other ratings given by the ACP on the basis of total numerical scores are First Class (excellent); Second Class (very good); and Third Class (good).

"The All American with four or five marks is symbolic of the newspapers," wrote Otto W. Quale, ACP executive director.

"Covering the college campus and relating to national events offers an increasing challenge to the newspaper staff working with limited time and funds," he added. "An over all study indicates they are doing an outstanding job fully aware of both the opportunities and obligations of a free and responsible press."

### Issues in CS Council Race

## Money, Improvement Policies

By Bob Robinson  
Battalion Staff Writer

Candidates for the only contested seat in the Tuesday College Station City Council election disagree on the handling of finances, as well as the present "pay as you go" policy for city improvements.

In separate interviews with The Battalion Thursday Mrs. Mary Bryan called the "pay as you go" policy ineffective, while Dr. Cecil B. Ryan supported it. Both are seeking the seat vacated

by councilman O. M. Holt, who is not running for re-election.

Councilmen James H. Dozier and Dr. C. H. Ransdell, as well as Mayor D. A. Anderson, will also be on the ballot Tuesday for re-election, but the positions are uncontested.

Ryan, associate professor in Texas A&M's Poultry Science Department and 14-year resident of College Station, said he's always been interested in civic affairs and "feel its my duty to participate."

Ryan said he wants sound zoning for the community and understands the council studying a proposal for both zoning and subdivision ordinances, which he supports.

He also said he's in favor of the "pay as you go" policy presently used by the city in financing its developments and street improvements.

Under this policy, a petition must be signed by 60 per cent of the property owners on a street requesting the city to pave it.

It is done at the cost of about \$4 a foot to each property owner, with the city paying the rest.

The same type of policy is used to put in sidewalks along a thoroughfare, only the petition has to be signed by 100 per cent of the property owners.

Ryan said College Station's development must be in line with its income.

"You can't have instantaneous development," he said. "If the money is spent in an orderly fashion and developments completed as the funds are available, the city's financial structure stays in line."

When a city gets into financial trouble, he said, taxes go up and people start moving out.

"Right now," he added, "taxes are in line with the services received."

(See CS Council, page 3)

### BULLETIN

The Physics Building and Exchange Store were evacuated briefly this morning after university police received an anonymous bomb threat.

Police took a telephone call at 9:50 a.m. from a man who said bombs were scheduled to be ignited in the two buildings at 10:30 a.m.

University police searched the facilities shortly after 10:30 but found no explosives.

"We considered the call a prank but couldn't afford to ignore it," noted University Police Chief Ed Powell.

The call was received by Mrs. Sherry Gytowski, office secretary. She attempted to transfer the call to one of the officers, but the caller declined to talk to anyone else and hung up.

## ROTC Cadets Must Combat 'Dislike of Things Military'

ROTC cadets today have additional obstacles to overcome in preparing themselves to serve the United States as citizen-soldiers, Army Col. Jim H. McCoy said Wednesday night.

"He is fighting the groundswell of dislike of all things military," the A&M commandant of cadets told participants of an American Legion observance of the 150th anniversary of the Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Members of the Allen Military Academy and A&M Military Science Department faculties were guests at the American Legion dinner.

"The college man who elects to take ROTC is fighting people who think military should be done away with altogether," he added, "that flower power will win out over military power. Some day hopefully, these people may be right."

The realistic ROTC student, however, sees the nation's needs as they exist today and is willing to do something about them, the

professor of military science said.

McCoy said the idea of a civilian oriented and educated citizenry as part of U.S. defense forces has grown since Capt. Alden Partridge, former superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, presented the idea of military instruction on civilian college campuses in 1819.

"His idea was based on a tradition—established in the earliest days of our country—that military service is an obligation of citizenship in a free society," the colonel noted.

Growth of the ROTC program resulting from the 1916 National Defense Act can be traced to the nation's "need for educated leaders for national defense and the many advantages this system offers," McCoy said.

"It has been well established that the experience an individual gets as a result of active service as an officer is beneficial in most any line of work he may choose at a later date," McCoy said.