

The Battalion

weather

Fair to partly cloudy and hot today. No precipitation. High in the upper 90s, low in the low 70s. Winds northeasterly at 5-8 mph. No significant change expected for tomorrow.

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Oops! She missed the target

Battalion photo by Phyllis West

Holly Jones, a junior at Texas A&M University, does not let the heat stop her from enjoying her ice cream. She may have left a sticky spot on the

stairwell of the Travis House apartments, but the chocolate chip ice cream from the Creamery was too hard to resist on a hot summer afternoon.

The killer was here . . .

Authorities believe message written by girl scout killer

United Press International

OKLA., Okla. — The taunting message was scrawled in bold letters on the walls of the remote cave: "The killer was here. He fools."
Authorities said yesterday they believed the message was written by the killer who murdered three Girl Scouts at nearby Scott June 13.
Leroy Hart, a convicted rapist who has eluded law enforcement officers since his 1973 escape from jail, has been linked to the slayings. Officers say they believe Hart has a hideout in the region where the girls were killed.
Jones County Sheriff Pete Weaver discounted the possibility the message was a hoax.
The cave is very remote, very difficult to get to. If it had been a prankster they would have found an easier way, I believe, Weaver said.
The message, dated 6-17-77, was written with what seemed to be a black felt-tip pen with bold letters one and a half to two inches high and about an eighth of an inch wide, he said.
Cigarette butts and whittling scraps were found in the cave but no imprints were left in foliage outside, he said.
But state and federal investigating teams will test samples from the discovery, but he would not reveal what officials have learned from the tests.

Officials found the cave south of Locust Grove Saturday and Weaver took a group of reporters there yesterday.
Weaver said there was nothing to indicate if the person who wrote the message was Hart.
Asked why the killer would have left such a message, Weaver said, "I don't think anyone could consider him a rational person."
It was the second recent bizarre development in the Girl Scout case.
An American Indian Movement member told the Tulsa World that 15 AIM members met with Hart at an undisclosed site recently and Hart denied the killings, the World said Sunday.
The World quoted the AIM member as saying Hart was afraid to surrender because he feared he would be shot.
Weaver has said he does not believe any AIM members met with Hart.
The sheriff said yesterday the FBI interviewed a Locust Grove area resident to see if he could provide any leads to Hart's location.
Weaver refused to identify the man, but said he was believed to have known Hart's whereabouts as recently as two weeks ago.

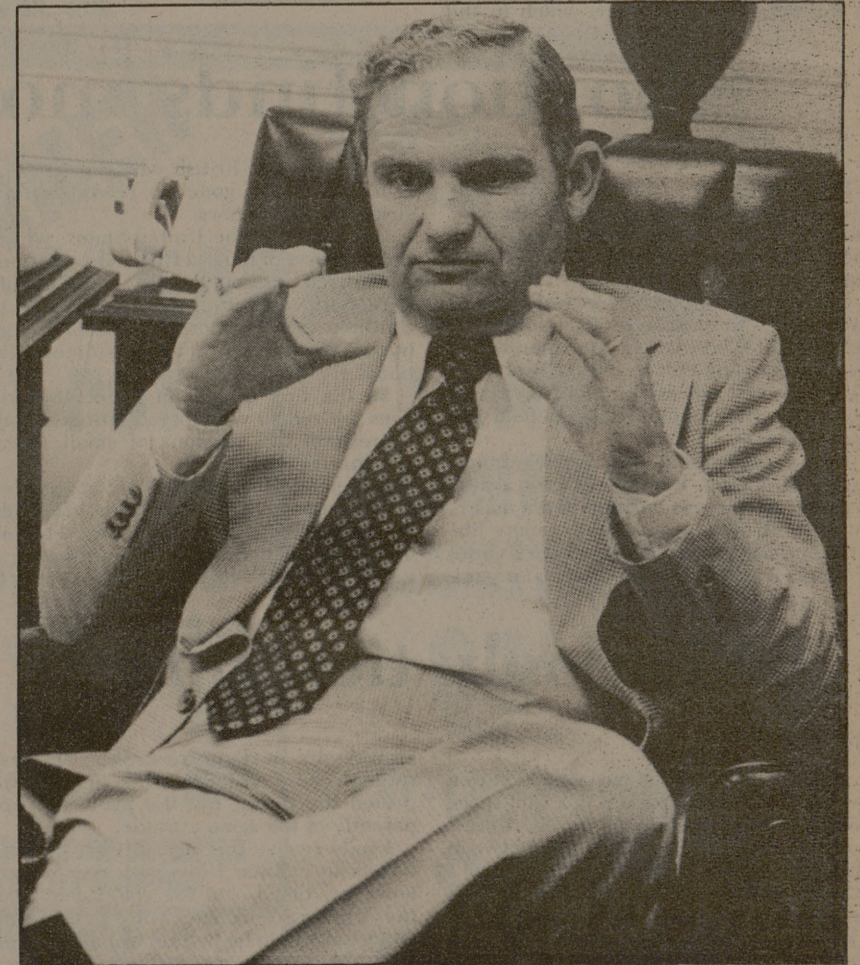
Miller wants public access for A&M know-how

By LEE ROY LESCHPER JR. Battalion Editor

Talking to Jarvis Miller for the first time can be an unnerving experience.
Texas A&M University's brand-new president never takes his unblinking, gray-blue eyes from visitors to his office.
He doesn't bat an eye answering questions, either.
"I make no pretensions at knowing very much about the academic programs, other than in agriculture," he said yesterday in the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station office he's leaving today. Most of his 22 years at Texas A&M have been devoted to agricultural research.
But he doesn't hesitate to show he understands the University's needs and problems in areas such as enrollment.
"I think number-wise we're big enough, that we don't have to continue to grow. But I think we do have to grow in quality," he said.
"And I'm not in favor of limiting enrollment," he emphasized. "If people want to come here, I think as a public institution we have an obligation to accept them, and do the best we can with the facilities we have available."
He speaks often of the University's obligation to serve the people of Texas.
"In agriculture, this institution has been very successful in taking the programs to the people. But I think there's a tremendous opportunity for other parts of the university to capitalize on this system, doing for other parts of the university what we've done for agriculture," he said, leaning back behind his heavy walnut desk.
Veterinary medicine, engineering and business administration could all be applied to cooperative education and research programs between the University and Texas businessmen, he said.
Research could and should even be applied to education itself, the long-time researcher said.
"Too much of our wisdom in the area of education has come from trial and error rather than from research," he said. "I think we have a tremendous opportunity to apply the kinds of things we know in other areas of research to the field of education."
"Every professor on this campus has learned by himself to teach. We haven't had a program to find out what makes effective teaching in the classroom."

"And the thing that concerns me is that we're growing so big in these big sections that I'm afraid we may lose some of the things that have set A&M apart."
Here, as in many areas, the researcher in 48-year-old Miller is very apparent. He confided with clear pride that Texas A&M has just risen in rank to 18th in the nation in expenditures for research.
He smiles often and laughs easily. He admits to being a family man. Two of his four daughters and his wife stood by, watching proudly when the University board of regents appointed him president last Friday.
He emphasizes accountability, both for himself and for everyone connected with the University. Texas A&M's employees are responsible public servants who have an obligation to Texans to justify the money and resources they use, he said.
"I think this can set us apart from other institutions, that we can do a good job of justifying it," he said.
Universities have had problems receiving enough money from the state legislature recently because those funds haven't been justified well enough, he said.
"One of the problems we've had in the legislature in recent years is a feeling that college and university professors are fat cats. If we have any of that kind of problem — and I don't think we have much, if any — we are going to be looking at teaching loads, and the whole thing, being sure we're able to justify what we do."
Miller is inheriting an organization of administrators set up by his successor, Dr. Jack K. Williams, which includes three vice-presidents reporting directly to Miller.
Because the former vice-presidents for business and academic affairs have become vice-chancellors, Miller is shopping for two new vice-presidents to fill those posts.
A new academic vice-president to succeed Dr. John C. Calhoun should be appointed by Sept. 1, Miller said. The qualifications the new president has required for that vice-president reflect the kind of University he plans to run.
"I want a strong leader. I want a man who stresses excellence in his programs and a man — or woman for that matter — who puts a great deal of stress on responsibility and accountability. After all, as administrators and professors we have to remember that we're public servants."

The inevitable comparisons that will be made between his administration and that of Dr. Williams don't bother him, he said.
"I think each of us is an individual and we have to develop our own style and our own way of operating. Each of us has our strengths and each of us has our weaknesses."
What kind of relationship does he expect to develop between his office and the newly-formed chancellor's office?
"I have tremendous respect for Dr. Williams," Miller said. "He has four academic institutions to be concerned with. And so we, the college and university presidents, and he will be working out some sort of working relationship. I don't foresee problems with it. There's so much to be done that there's more than enough for every one of us to have a very substantial role in the responsibility."
He said he intends to follow the board of regents directive to be the president in full command of the University.
He emphasized that he wants to establish good rapport and communications with the University's students.
"I intend to be accessible to students and to show concern and to try to understand the problems they have. I think I do have an ability to listen to people, and I think this is a key factor in trying to establish rapport and understanding. I want to listen and I'm serious about student concerns."
"I don't intend to be an apologist for the status quo. One thing that you learn in a graduate program is that your best resource is keen young minds and there's bound to be a lot of innovative ideas floating around the student body of this institution if we can find a way of channeling it into improvements."
He said he wasn't sure that more students on university committees was the best way to improve that student input.
"I want an open administration," he said.
Did he ever expect to be the president of the university from which he received his bachelor's degree in agricultural economics 27 years ago?
"No, not really. Of course, you always, I guess, fantasize a little bit, but not seriously. In fact, I'd say not even five years ago I'd have thought the situation seemed pretty remote," he said with a laugh.



Battalion photo by Jo Ann Toland
Jarvis Miller, the new president of Texas A&M University discusses some of his achievements before coming to his new position.

Vance, Sadat propose Arab-Israeli meeting

United Press International
ALEXANDRIA, Egypt — Egypt and the United States are proposing that a working group of Middle East foreign ministers meet in the United States next month in what could be the first direct Arab-Israeli negotiations in 30 years.
Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat announced the plan yesterday after failing to reach agreement on American proposals for a full-scale resumption of the Geneva peace conference.
U.S. officials said Vance, who leaves today for Beirut on the second leg of his 13-day Middle East tour, would have to win approval of other Middle East leaders for the working group arrangement.
After Beirut, Vance will go to Damascus to meet Syrian President Hafez Assad, whose acceptance of the preliminary meeting will be crucial.
Sadat said the working group would deal with matters of procedure and substance and would thus be a prelude to a Geneva conference — if not a partial substitute for it.
As Vance and Sadat described it, the working group would include the foreign ministers of all the "confrontation states" — Israel and the Arab neighbors it has fought in four wars. Vance, who would chair the group, said it would meet "as long as it is useful."
Sadat said he would have no objection to

direct talks between Israel and the Arabs collectively but not bilaterally. Participation by the Palestine Liberation Organization or the Soviet Union was left open at the news conference.
Despite the fact that Vance must win approval from Israel and other Arab leaders, the joint announcement made it appear certain there will be some sort of Middle East negotiations in the United States in mid-September to overcome the difficulties that could not be resolved during Vance's visit.
Sadat showed a flash of anger at the news conference when he was asked about the linkage of a timetable for a Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories with the establishment of "a full peace" between Israel and the Arab states.

Sadat said, his voice sometimes rising to a shout, "I'm willing to sign a peace agreement with Israel tomorrow. If I sign (a peace treaty) it means that I automatically recognize Israel. These other things— diplomatic relations and open borders—shouldn't be mixed in if we are going to achieve peace."
According to Egyptian and American officials, one of the ideas that Vance brought with him on his Middle East tour involved the phased withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories, including the West Bank of the Jordan river.
The rejection of that idea — at what Sadat called "a crucial moment" — meant that Vance's mission alone could not achieve the necessary framework for a Geneva conference.

Insurance agents mad about profit-cut bill

United Press International

AUSTIN, — Insurance agents angry about a proposal to cut their profits on auto insurance policies are demanding the State Insurance Board take no action on the proposal until they can find an alternative.

Insurance companies would need only a 1.8 per cent statewide increase in auto rates instead of the 17.4 per cent requested by industry representatives and the 10.1-per cent raise recommended by the State Insurance Board staff.
"The results of that, in our judgment, would be catastrophic," said Wade Spillman, lobbyist for the Independent Insurance Agents of Texas.

More than 200 insurance agents attended hearings yesterday at which the board considered modifying its rate setting formula in a way that would cut expense allowances.
The proposed change could reduce the insurance industry's requested \$192 million rate increase to a \$19.9 million increase.
The board postponed consideration of the statistics until Aug. 18 at the companies' request, but listened to vehement complaints from insurance agents.

Remains of dead infants displayed; exhibitor arrested

United Press International

WAUKEGAN, Ill. — Lake County Coroner Robert Babcox said it was "absolutely ghoulish" of a local sideshow "Wondercase Exhibits" to display the preserved remains of 20 deformed infants.
But Babcox did more than register his disgust. He confiscated the infants' remains and arrested the operator of the sideshow at the Lake County Fair in Grayslake on a charge of illegal disposition of bodies.
"When we first saw the exhibits we thought they were plastic or rubber," Babcox said. "But our pathologist, Dr. Vernon Zech, examined them and found them to be human monstrosities . . . malformed babies, ranging from gestation beyond live birth."
He said, "The sideshow operator was billing them as the Elephant Nose Baby, the Cyclops and the Frog Girl. It was absolutely ghoulish."
Chris Michael Christ, 29, of Gibston, Fla., the exhibitor was ordered Monday to appear in Lake County Circuit Court for a preliminary hearing on Aug. 15. He was freed on \$2,000 bond.
"They (the bodies) are all in our county morgue and will be given a decent burial," Babcox said.

Small boy causes three-car collision

United Press International

SILVER CITY, N.M. — State policeman Gilbert Bernal arrived at the scene of a three-vehicle traffic accident to find an 8-year-old boy in the driver's seat of the car apparently at fault.

"He had the door open and was just sitting there behind the wheel," Bernal said yesterday. "I figured the kid had just climbed behind the wheel while his father (also in the car) was waiting to talk."
"I didn't believe he was actually the driver until the other people said he ran them off the road," he said. "He couldn't even see over the windshield he was so small."
The auto, a late model car with an automatic transmission, forced two pickup trucks off New Mexico 90 about one and one-half miles south of Silver City last week, Bernal said. No one was injured in the accident.
"He apparently had driven for a couple of miles before he ran the vehicle off the road," Bernal said. "Apparently he was doing all right, but the old man might have been talking and distracted him."
He said the youngster's father, whom he described as "sort of passed out" from apparently having had too much to drink, was cited for allowing an unauthorized minor to drive.