

THE BATTALION

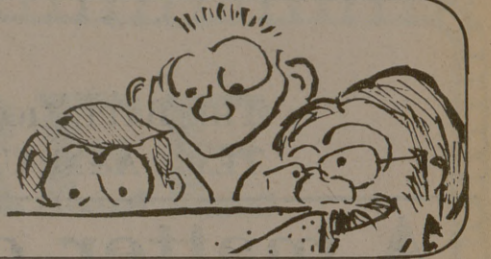
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Record number receive degrees at commencement

By MICHELLE SCUDDER
Battalion Staff

Texas A&M University took 49 years to award as many degrees as it did this weekend at commencement ceremonies in C. Rollie White Coliseum.

In three ceremonies 2,751 degrees were conferred, 2,418 bachelors, and 333 graduate degrees.

Dr. Jack Williams, Texas A&M University System Chancellor, used three humorous fables from James Thurber to illustrate "philosophic truths" he said would be useful to the record number of graduates.

In the first of the fables, James Thurber's "Two Turkeys," Williams urged the graduates to accept nothing blindly without confirming its validity.

"Education should be used with calculation and care to determine when change is progress and when it is selfish destruction," he said.

"The Bear Who Could Take It or Leave It Alone" was Williams' second tale. The moral, he said, was, "You might as well flat on your face to lean too far backward." Williams explained, "Extremism, regardless of the source, has never produced a solution to anything."

Williams urged the seniors to "use the wings God gave you" in his third fable,

"The Hen Who Was Afraid to Fly."

"Use your education the way it was intended — for constructive leadership and selfless service to mankind," he said.

Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to four men to recognize "exceptional contributions to society" and support of the University. Searcy Bracewell, '38, and James L. Sewell, '27, received the award. Nominations were made from among Texas A&M's 75,000 former students. An anonymous committee composed of faculty members and former students made the final selections.

John Riddles of Pearland won the \$5,000 Brown Foundation Earl Rudder Memorial Award. The annual award is given to the all around outstanding graduate. Riddles, who graduated in December, is on active duty in the U.S. Army in Washington, D.C. Riddles graduated with a 3.9 grade point ratio in industrial engineering. He was the recipient of the Doherty Award last December. The Doherty Award is given to a fourth-year Texas A&M Cadet who is taking a commission. Riddles is the first student to receive both awards.

Michael Gentry of Huntsville received the \$3,000 Doherty award at commissioning ceremonies Saturday.

At the graduate commencement ceremony Friday, 333 graduate degrees were

awarded — 75 doctorates and 258 masters.

The main speaker at the graduate ceremony was Dr. Frand Vandiver, vice-president and provost of Rice University. Vandiver addressed "Truth vs. Research." He said "a channel of misunderstanding" existed between the real world and the academic world until the 1960s.

After Sputnik, academics became heroes, especially scientists.

"Scientists became the priesthood of success," Vandiver said. Government affection toward research scientists became great, and funding for applied research increased greatly, he said. With this increased government funding, Vandiver added, research replaced education and scientific methodology replaced learning in universities. Many professors busy with research handed their classes over to teaching assistants.

Vandiver said a "patronship" evolved

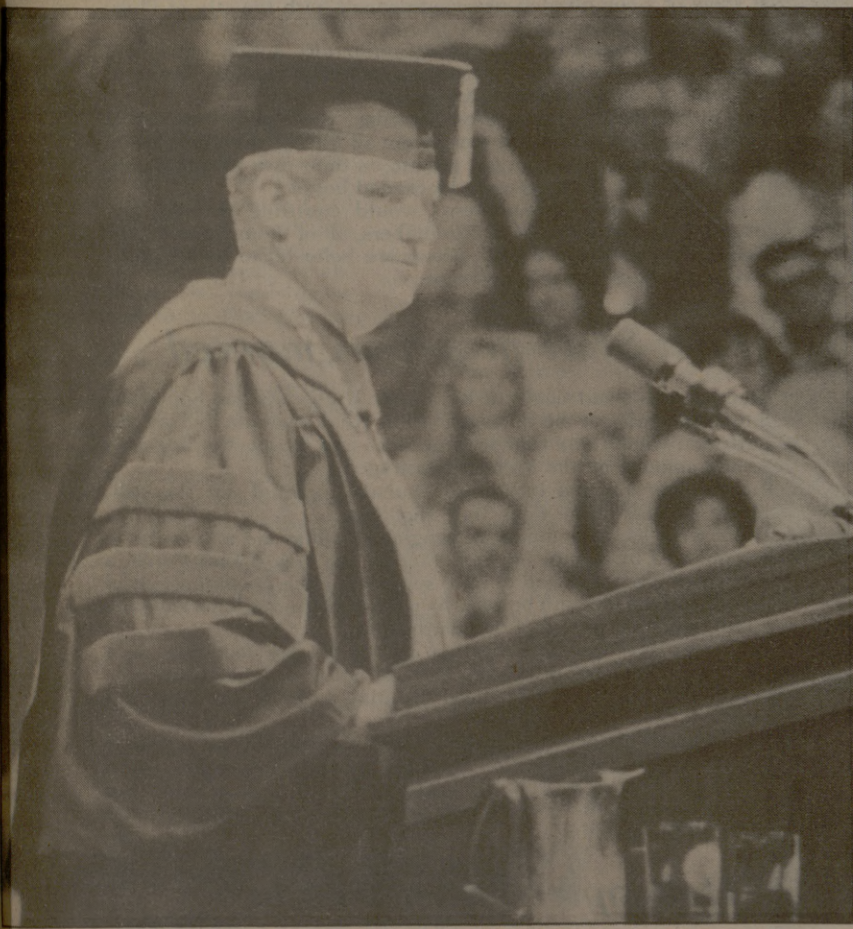
between the federal government and universities.

Vandiver warned against such a close relationship.

"Scholars must always be the most independent of men," he said, adding that those who remain loyal to truth are "Guaranteed no rose garden."

This year marks the first time that three separate ceremonies were necessary to accommodate families and friends of Texas A&M students receiving diplomas. President Jarvis Miller said this may be due to the fact that 90 percent of all Texas A&M graduates receiving diplomas actually attend the commencement exercises.

Also appearing at the commencement ceremonies were Clyde Wells, chairman of the Board of Regents of the Texas A&M University System; and Harvey Cash, president of the Association of Former Students. Both speakers brought greetings and congratulations to the graduates.



Battalion photo by Ben Po

President Jarvis E. Miller congratulated some of the 2,751 graduates at commencement exercise Friday night. For the first time in Texas A&M's history, it took three separate ceremonies to hand out the record number of degrees.

County and state primaries

Many changes in Brazos County

In Saturday's primary elections, Brazos County voters chose to make many changes in area government positions.

Travis Bryan III won the Democratic primary for district attorney by collecting 6,949 votes to incumbent Roland Searcy's 6,721. Since there was no Republican candidate, Bryan will be the new district attorney.

In the Democratic primary for district judge of the 85th Judicial District, Tom McDonald Jr. beat William Vance by well over 1,000 votes. The final vote was 7,388 for McDonald and 5,920 for Vance. There was no Republican candidate for district judge.

Former Bryan mayor Lloyd Joyce and Dick Holmgren will have a runoff to determine the Democratic candidate for county judge. Holmgren received almost 8,000 votes more than Joyce, but Tommy Janik and two other candidates drew enough votes to counteract Holmgren's lead and force a runoff. Candidates must garner a majority of the votes to win the primary.

In the Republican county judge primary, John Raney beat Bill Owens, 234 votes to 153. Raney will face the Democratic runoff winner in the November elections.

Democrat John Barron Jr. retained his position as county attorney by defeating

Ed Elmore, 7,135 votes to 5,762. There was no Republican candidate for the position.

In the Democratic primary for county commissioners, Walter Wilcox and George Dunn will have a runoff for the Precinct 2 position, while Bill Stasny won the Precinct 4 position unopposed.

W. D. Burley kept his post as district clerk by winning the Democratic election unopposed.

Three of five justice of the peace primaries were won unopposed by Democratic candidates. There were no Republican candidates for justice of the peace.

Jerry Hutchinson won the Precinct 3 position unopposed, Joe Novosad won Precinct 5 and A. P. Boyett Jr. won in Precinct 7, Place 2.

Clyde Day defeated John Dockery for the Precinct 1 Justice of the Peace position. Carolyn Hensarling took the Precinct 4, Place 2 election by beating Joe Marin and Frank Kahan.

In the race for county tax assessor-collector, incumbent Democrat Gerald Winn beat challenger Gregory Rodriguez, 9,805 votes to 2,962. In the Republican primary Ed Valenta won unopposed, and will face Winn in the November election.

Democrat Bill Elkins ran unopposed and won the county treasurer position, since there was no Republican candidate for the position.

John Hill defeats Briscoe

Texas Attorney General John Hill defeated incumbent Texas Gov. Dolph Briscoe in the Democratic primary Saturday. The victory virtually assures Hill of the governor's position, if state political traditions run true.

Although results are still not final, Hill has about 52 percent of the total vote to Briscoe's 42 percent. Preston Smith, who was seen as the potential spoiler, came in a distant third with slightly more than 5 percent of the vote.

In the Republican primary Bill Clements defeated Ray Hutchison, receiving about three-fourths of the votes cast.

Briscoe had still not conceded the Democratic election by Sunday, but Hill has expressed confidence in his victory. Hill's confidence is supported by his lead of almost 150,000 votes, with 246 of Texas' 254 counties reporting.

In Brazos County, Hill received 8,298 votes to Briscoe's 4,897. In the Republican vote, Clements took 236 votes in Brazos County to Hutchison's 153.

However, the Sixth Congressional District Democratic race is not so clearly decided. Three candidates are so close that officials are waiting until all results are in to announce which two will be in the runoff.

As of Sunday night, Chet Edwards led with 21,029 votes. He was followed closely by Phil Gramm with 20,813 and Ron Godbey with 19,730. Edwards and Gramm both received over 5,000 votes in Brazos County, while Godbey got slightly more than 1,000 votes.

In the Republican primary for the 6th district, Wes Mowery defeated Carl Krohn. Mowery will face the winner of the Democratic primary for the position next November.

Mark White surprised many by defeating Price Daniel Jr. in the Democratic primary for attorney general. White will face unopposed Republican winner Jim Baker for the position next fall.

U.S. Rep. Bob Krueger won the Demo-

cratic primary for one of Texas' U.S. Senate seats by defeating Joe Christie. Krueger will face incumbent Republican Sen. John Tower, who won the Republican nomination unopposed.

Incumbent Democrat Bill Hobby won the primary for lieutenant governor, and he will face Republican winner Gaylord Marshall, who ran unopposed.

Although Brazos County voters preferred Harry Ledbetter over Warren G. Harding in the Democratic state treasurer primary, Harding won the state election by almost 300,000 votes. No Republicans ran for the position so Harding will be the new treasurer.

Reagan Brown had no trouble beating Joe Hubenak in the Democratic primary for agriculture commissioner. Brown took over 70 percent of the vote in Brazos County, and about 53 percent of the statewide vote. There was no Republican candidate for the position.

Mack Wallace defeated John Henderson in the Democratic primary for railroad commissioner, and will assume the position because there was no Republican candidate for it.

In an election to fill an unexpired railroad commissioner term, Democrat Jerry Sadler won a plurality but not a majority, and will face John Poerner in a runoff. James Lacy won the Republican race unopposed for the unexpired term.

Bob Armstrong won the Democratic race for land office commissioner. He was unopposed and will assume the position because there was no Republican candidate.

Texas voters once again defeated the issue of pari-mutuel horse race betting. If approved, pari-mutuel betting would have been presented to voters on a local option basis.

Sen. Moore praises A&M

Texas' emergence as a maritime state was emphasized Friday morning by state Sen. William T. (Bill) Moore of Bryan at Moody College convocation ceremonies.

Sen. Moore said it was sad to note the United States, once dominant in the maritime field, is now a minor maritime power.

"Steps can be taken to reverse the decline of our merchant marine if the principal parties commit themselves to a successful solution," he stressed.

"As a state, we can take a bow for taking a step in the right direction in correcting this sad situation," Moore said. "I am proud that Texas A&M University took on the added responsibility and moved to meet the challenge."

Starting new programs successfully has been the hallmark of Texas A&M, said the senator. And nowhere has this been more the case than in maritime and marine science fields.

More than 200 students, parents and university officials were on hand for the morning ceremony at the Mary Moody Northern Student Activities Center on the Mitchell Campus. The convocation included presentation of academic awards, as well as U. S. Coast Guard licensing and commissioning ceremonies.

Texas Maritime Academy cadets who completed United States Coast Guard re-

quirements also received their third mate or third engineer license.

Dr. William Clayton, president of Moody College, congratulated the 54 graduating seniors for their many years of work. Graduating seniors included 18 in marine biology, 11 in marine engineering, 11 in marine science, 10 in marine transportation and three in maritime system's engineering.

The students will receive academic diplomas at the Texas A&M commencement Saturday morning in College Station.

Currently there are five maritime academies in the nation, and Moody College is the only one on the Gulf Coast. It also is the only one that is part of a major university.

"There can be no doubt that beginning a part of Texas A&M gave the College a major boost and placed it in a strong academic posture," Moore said.

"Moody College has come a long way in a short time," Moore said. "Moody College has the opportunity to provide the leadership to get people thinking positively about the sea once again and furnish the impetus for moving ahead."

"As Texas truly becomes a maritime state, it only seems logical that Moody College and its maritime academy will play a prominent role as the vanguard of marine and maritime education," he said.

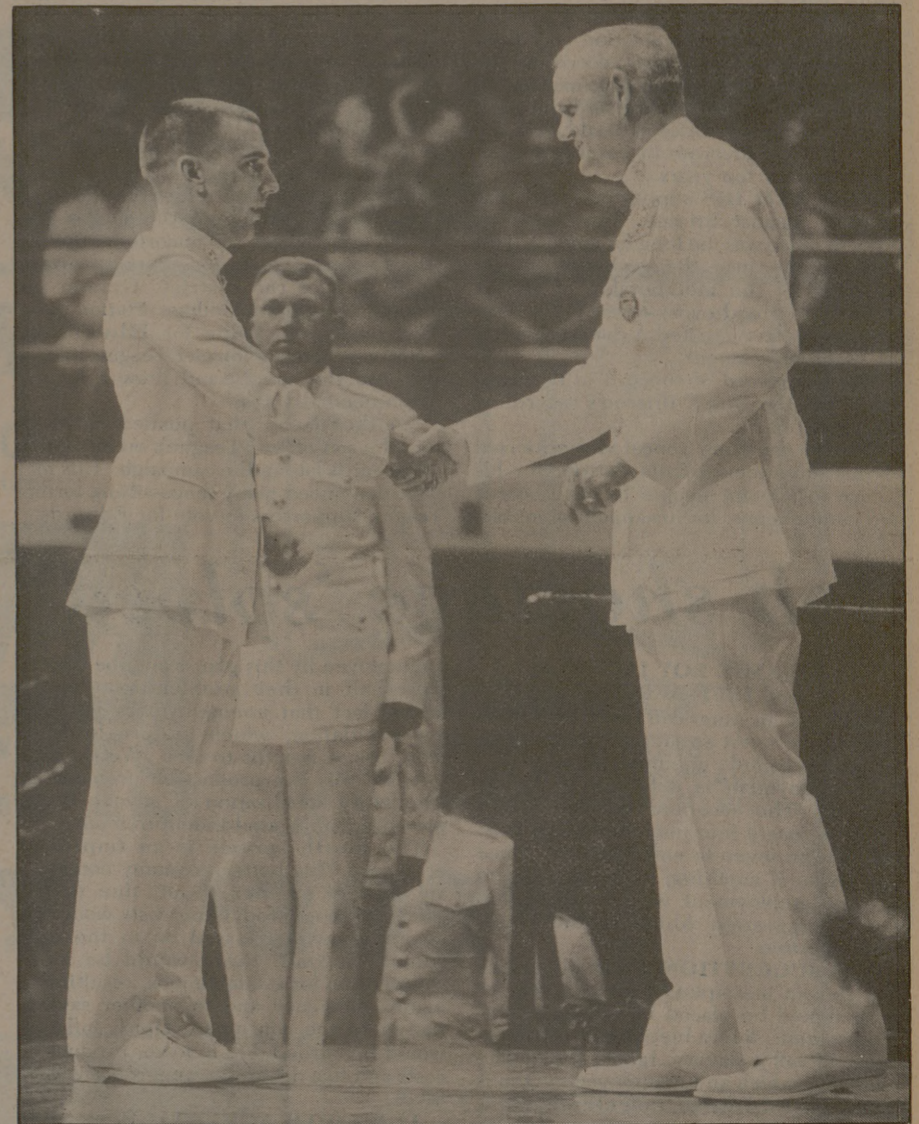
W. Germany, Russia sign economic pact

United Press International

BONN, West Germany — Ailing Soviet President Lenoid Brezhnev and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt signed an economic pact Saturday but failed to make progress on political and disarmament questions at the end of three days of talks.

The talks, which concluded with Brezhnev flying off to Hamburg after making a disarmament appeal on West German television, produced a 25-year economic cooperation pact to infuse Soviet industry with West German technology.

Although they apparently got nowhere on the thorny issue of Berlin, disagreed over Cuban intervention in Africa and expressed their desire for disarmament in general terms only, both leaders called their talks "necessary, useful and rich in substance."



The Beginning and the End

Finishing the term in fine style, 94 cadets were commissioned in the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marine Corps (above) and later passed in final review with the Corps of Cadets. Marine Corps Commandant, four-star Gen. Louis H. Wilson (right), congratulates one of the new Marine Corps 2nd lieutenants, Steve Harron, a graduate in computing science. Instead of delivering the traditional speech to the new officers about their career, Wilson addressed U.S. military strength in relation to the Soviet Union. He said Americans are in danger of losing their freedoms unless greater effort is made to regain military might at least equal to that of other superpowers. Saturday afternoon Company B-1 seniors gave their last salute during Final Review on the Drill Field. John Weber (far right) left the University because of financial reasons. His company buddies asked him to come back for the sentimental ceremony that marks the end of corps participation for senior cadets.

Battalion photos by Pat O'Malley and Paige Beasley

