

Wells tells weekend graduates

Aggs 'must keep' permanent fund

Clyde H. Wells, chairman of the Texas A&M University System's board of regents, said in commencement exercises Friday and Saturday it is the duty of Aggies to keep Texas A&M from losing the Permanent University Fund. Calling the fund what made the university great instead of mediocre, Wells said, "As Aggie graduates, you have an obligation to protect the Permanent University Fund."

The Permanent University Fund is divided between the University of Texas System, which gets two-thirds, and the Texas A&M University System, which takes the remainder. It was established by the Texas Constitution. The University Available Fund, the part of the Permanent University Fund which is distributed, amounts to more than \$50 million a year. Well's remarks followed State

Rep. Senfronia Thompson's (D-Houston) profiling of three measures in the Texas House of Representatives which are designed to make Prairie View A&M University independent of the Texas A&M System. One of the measures, a proposed constitutional amendment, would give half of Texas A&M's portion of the Available Fund to Prairie View. Prairie View now receives a share of the fund through Texas A&M.

Texas A&M awarded a record 1,744 diplomas at the ceremonies. Dr. Herbert Reynolds, executive vice president of Baylor University, also addressed the graduates.

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Trend indicates population to double by 21st century

United Press International STANFORD, Calif. — Population trends are moving toward a doubling of the world's population in the early part of the next century unless a dramatic effort is made to reduce birth rates, says Stanford University biologist, Dr. Paul R. Ehrlich. Ehrlich, author of the "The Population Bomb," said there is grave doubt being expressed about whether the ecological systems of Earth — including its agricultural system — can support such a population increase. "Much will depend on how lucky we are with the weather and on whether biological research can be carried out and economic and social adjustments can be made that will permit a doubling of agricultural productivity," Ehrlich said in a statement Thursday for the 10th anniversary of Zero Population Growth.

Ehrlich said even if food productivity doubled, a dramatic change in the patterns of distribution would be needed or there would simply be twice as many people — nearly 2 billion — living on the verge of starvation in the 21st century. Ehrlich said agricultural activities, however, often constitute a massive assault on the integrity of the life-support systems of the planet. "If we are not careful, attempts to feed today's burgeoning population may so undermine the ecological foundations of human existence that a hundred years from now, the planet will not even be able to support 1 billion people." Declining birth rates in some countries are "cheering signs," Ehrlich said, and indicate a reversal of population growth could occur if "a genuine worldwide effort were made to do so by every human means available."

"To fail to do so in all likelihood will condemn humanity to a series of catastrophes of unimaginable proportions. If birth rates do not come down rapidly enough, then death rates will inevitably rise; perhaps to levels that will spell the end of civilization." "The need for dramatic efforts to lower birth rates everywhere is now more urgent than ever."

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