

Protocol chief returns to A&M

By SYLVIA FELLOWS
Battalion Reporter

The Texas A&M - Texas football weekend traditionally brings many distinguished alumni to College Station, and this year was no exception.

The United States chief of protocol, Ambassador Abelardo L. Valdez, class of '64, was on campus Friday to stress the importance of the role Texas A&M University has in the economic development in the Western Hemisphere.

Latin America is the United States No. 1 recipient of exports. Our agricultural products and energy expertise is very much needed in the international sphere," he said.

Valdez, a native Texan, was nominated by President Carter to be Chief of Protocol on September 27. He advises the president, the vice president and the secretary of state on matters of national and international protocol.

One of his first duties in office will be to ensure Pope John Paul's visit to the United States this fall runs smoothly in every detail — housing, security, transportation, etc.

Valdez said while he is in office, he hopes to increase communication with foreign diplomats and American colleges.

"Maybe early next year we will have the first of the tours to show off American colleges," he said.

Valdez, who came at the invitation

from his long time friend Dr. Terrence Greathouse, vice president for international affairs, brought his wife to Texas A&M for the first time to show her the campus and to participate in the weekend festivities. They stayed at President Jarvis E. Miller's house and attended Bonfire and game with the Millers.

Valdez said the University has changed a great deal since he graduated 15 years ago, but that the change was impressive. There were about one-fifth as many students and '64 was the last class before women were admitted, he said.

"The new building construction and the progress the school has undergone is very impressive."

Valdez said the interest the Texas A&M faculty has in international affairs is very encouraging. He hopes its interests continue to grow in that direction.

Valdez has many responsibilities as chief of protocol.

He works directly with the 129 foreign embassies located in Washington and is responsible for their safety. He coordinates protocol matters for presidential and vice presidential trips and advises them on diplomatic procedure governed by law or international custom and practice. He also manages Blair House — the president's guest house.



U.S. Chief of Protocol Abelardo Valdez was one of several former students who returned to Texas A&M for the University of Texas football weekend.
Battalion photo by Liz Newlin

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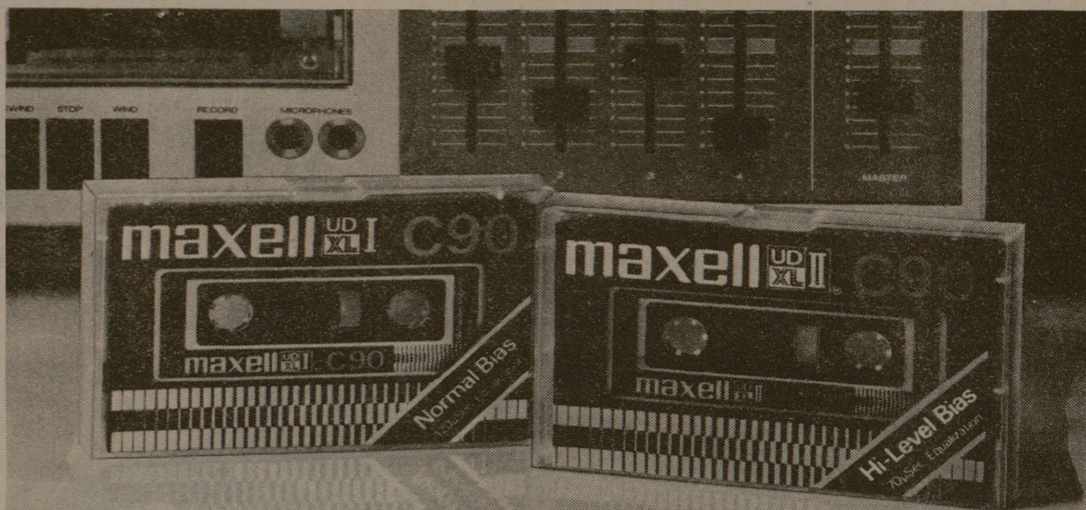
Oil magnate to speak at A&M graduation

The chairman of the board for Standard Oil of California and a world-renowned petroleum engineer, will address Texas A&M University graduates at commencement ceremonies Dec. 14 and 15 respectively.

Approximately 1,950 students are expected to receive graduate and undergraduate degrees in two ceremonies, to be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday Dec. 14 and 9 a.m. Saturday Dec. 15, both in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Harold J. Haynes, a 1946 graduate of Texas A&M with a degree in civil engineering, is speaker for the Friday ceremonies. Haynes is a 30-year veteran of Standard Oil and currently holds the position of chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Standard Oil of California. He will address candidates for graduate degrees from all colleges and candidates for undergraduate degrees from the Colleges of Architecture and Environmental Design, Engineering, Science and Veterinary Medicine.

Michel T. Halbouty, a 1930 Texas A&M graduate, received the university's Distinguished Alumni award in 1968 and the University's Geosciences Building was named in his honor two years ago. A Houston native, he is widely acclaimed for his geology and petroleum-related expertise.



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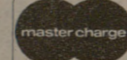
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