

# THE BATTALION

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## The Weather

Tomorrow	Today
High . . . . . 80	High . . . . . 79
Low . . . . . 67	Low . . . . . 65
Chance of rain . . . . . 30%	Chance of rain . . . . . 30%

## Aggies join in solemn remembrance

By DENISE RICHTER

**Battalion Staff**  
Aggie Muster "distills all Aggie traditions into one single ceremony which emphasizes the very best of Aggie spirit," said Fred McClure, Class of '75, at the 78th annual Muster ceremony.

More than 8,000 people gathered in G. Rollie White Coliseum Tuesday night to honor Texas A&M University students and former students who died during the past year.

Muster Chairman Tad Jarrett made the welcoming remarks. Dr. Charles Samson, acting president of Texas A&M University, James S. Moore, president of the Association of Former Students and Brad Smith, 1980-81 student body president, welcomed guests to the University.

After McClure's speech, the lights in the coliseum were dimmed for the roll call of the absent. As the names of the deceased were called out and answered with "here" by a fellow Aggie, a candle was lit.

Fifty candles were lit, representing the 27 Texas A&M students and 23 former students from Brazos County who died during the year.

A 21-gun salute by the Ross Volunteers and the playing of Silver Taps followed the candlelight ceremony.

The 1981 Muster "means more to me than any Aggie Muster I've ever had the opportunity to attend," McClure said. He asked that another name, that of his father, be added to the list of those honored by the ceremony.

His father died just a few weeks after McClure agreed to speak at the 1981 Muster.

When McClure first told his father that he was going to speak at Muster, his father asked if he was going to speak on "Signs of the Times," a topic he used in the first 15 speeches he made, McClure said.

But, when he spoke with his father two weeks later, his father said he wasn't joking, that the topic was appropriate because it focused on the future and on our roles, collectively and individually, in that future, McClure said.

That conversation with his father was one of the last times he ever spoke with him, McClure said. His father died

three days later.

"For the first time I can understand and I can sympathize with the grief and suffering that accompanies the loss of a loved one or a friend," McClure said.

Quoting a passage from Charles Dickens' "A Tale of Two Cities," McClure said it aptly describes the present:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity . . . we had everything but we had nothing."

Our brilliance as a nation and as a people seems to prove that these are the best of times, McClure said, citing the successful flight of the space shuttle Columbia.

But, man's very existence creates problems, McClure said.

"We've learned how to control so much knowledge and solved so many mysteries but we've not yet learned how to control ourselves," he said. "We see Americans plagued by grief, racial tensions, crime, inflation, and individuals who are not willing to accept the responsibilities of being Americans."

McClure then asked the audience to picture America in 10 or 20 years.

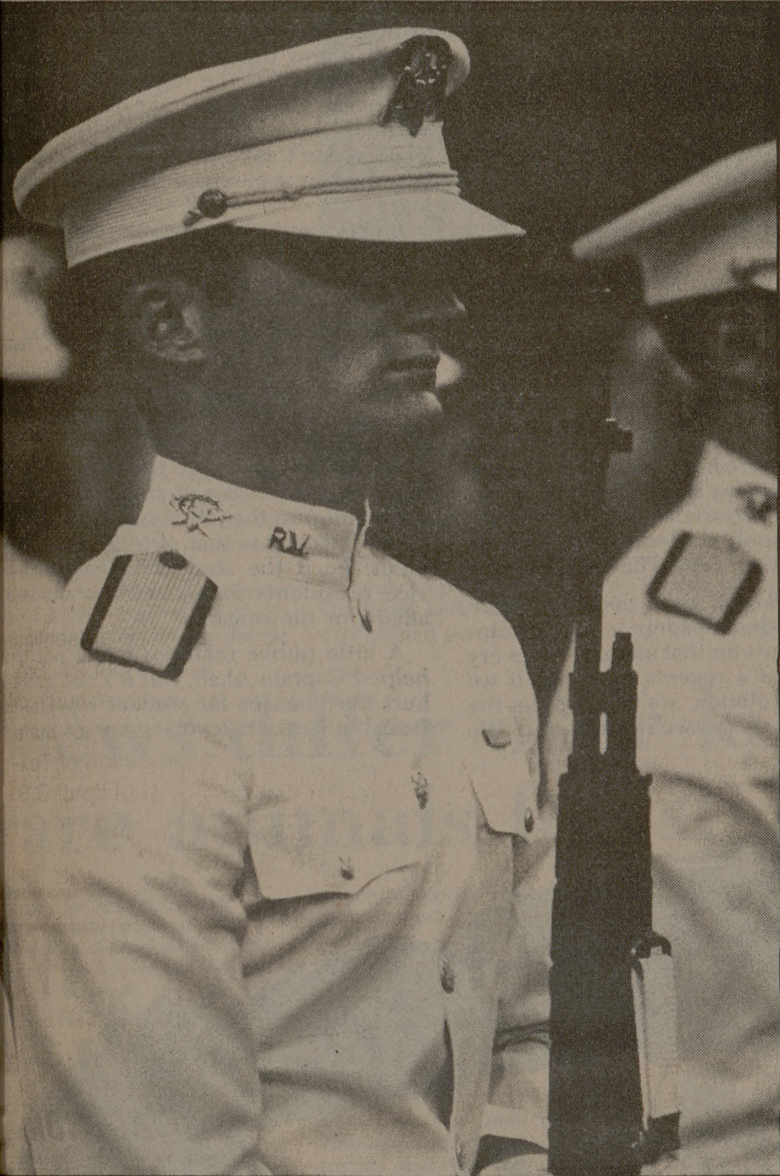
"While there are those who say America has no hope, I say that there is hope for those of us who want it badly enough," McClure said. "While there are those who say that the American dream will never become a reality, I say we have not failed to reach that dream until we have stopped trying."

The only sacrifice that is required today is for each person to give the best that he can, McClure said.

"We are able to do whatever we want to do yet we must make sure that we are the best at it that we can be," he said.

McClure, Class of '75, is a senior at Baylor University's School of Law. He graduated summa cum laude from Texas A&M with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics. While at Texas A&M, he served as student body president.

Muster was first held on June 26, 1883. In the early 1900s, it was agreed that April 21 would be a time to honor all students and former students who had died during the year.



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

A 21-gun salute by the Ross Volunteers honored the 27 Texas A&M students and 23 former students from Brazos County who died during the past year.



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Fred McClure, Class of '75, spoke for the 1981 Aggie Muster. Over 8,000 people attended Tuesday's ceremony held in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

## Computing at A&M 'severely underdeveloped'

# Committee reviews computer system changes

By BERNIE FETTE

**Battalion Staff**

Changes proposed in the Texas A&M computing system are presently being scrutinized by a four-member committee.

Creation of the System's Information Management and Computing Policy Committee followed a report from the Ad Hoc Computer Steering Committee that computing at Texas A&M is "severely underdeveloped" compared with several other major universities in the United States.

Early last fall the ad hoc committee, composed of University faculty and officials, made 13 recommendations for updating the system. Studying the possibility of implementing those recommendations is the mission of the current system's committee.

Ad Hoc Committee Chairman Dr. Robert Berg said he did not know how many of his

committee's suggestions would actually be implemented. Berg is also the director of research management at Texas A&M.

The committee's final 184-page report which was drafted just before the fall semester said instructional and research computing suffer considerably more than administrative computing but that both are plagued by two major problems: a lack of necessary funding from the University and inefficient organization.

The committee's purpose was to examine the University's current state of computing and make recommendations for the purpose of long-range improvement planning.

The ad hoc committee sent questionnaires to 55 universities and colleges to determine the scale and organization of computing at those schools. It also sent questionnaires to the different colleges within the Texas A&M University

System to determine present perceptions and future needs in data processing.

The committee members also visited nine peer institutions where they interviewed system managers as well as users. It was determined from these visits that the two biggest advantages other universities have over Texas A&M are better funding and better organization, Berg said.

At Texas A&M, the Data Processing Center operates as a service center and provides its services on a pay-as-you-go basis to anyone who can pay for them.

Yet sometimes certain University academic departments cannot pay for those services.

"The state-supported money the departments receive is just not enough to pay for sufficient computing," Berg said.

The committee has recommended that to solve the problem and for the University to

achieve excellence in computing, Texas A&M should allocate funds directly for academic computing. Berg said he is not sure where the money would come from but expects it would either be received through legislative appropriation or from available funds.

The committee attributed the other major problem, a lack of appropriate organizational structures, to the DPC being too centralized and its inability to provide a diversity of needed services.

"The DPC organization was a logical solution to the computing requirements of 15 years ago, but it is inadequate for the present and future," the report said.

Berg said that there is now a much greater demand for computing and that the diversity of needed computing has grown as well.

"Other universities have solved this problem

by having two computing centers," Berg said. One center is intended for the sole purpose of administrative computing while the other is reserved for academic and research computing.

For further diversification, the committee also proposed that the University implement a network of mini-computers, micro computers and other additions which would be compatible with the present system.

For procurement of all these needed additions about \$7.7 million would be needed annually over the next five years, the committee reported.

Agreeing with several other University officials who have also been researching the computing issue, Berg said the University will soon find itself at a considerable disadvantage if it does not commit itself to making the improvements that are necessary to keep up with advancing technology.

## Secretaries' Week to honor office workers worldwide

By LAURA YOUNG

**Battalion Reporter**

For some it's a week of lunch every day or a special lunch at a carefully chosen restaurant. For others it's an extra smile or an extra "thank you for a job well done."

Secretaries all over the world, along with many of the 858 secretaries on campus, will be honored this week with special recognition, lunches, flowers, candy, parties and maybe even a raise as part of Professional Secretaries' Week.

Professional Secretaries International, formerly known as the National Secretaries' Association (International), originated and sponsors Professional Secretaries' Week held the last full week in April. Today is Secretary Day.

"This week is to make the secretary more aware of her position in the community and stress the responsibility of that position," said Claudia Pollard, CPS (Certified Professional Secretary). Pollard is administrative assistant in the Fire Protection Training Division of the Texas Engineering Extension Service and past president of the local chapter of PSI.

The chapter sponsors events for the week such as a luncheon and style show, a seminar, a dinner for the members and their bosses and speeches to area civic groups.

Two secretaries at Texas A&M will observe Secretary Day after more than 30 years with the University.

Chris Operstny, secretary to the president, has worked on campus since 1949.

"The last four years have been the most rewarding because I have been so involved and get to be around the students so much," Operstny said.

"You know the old cliché, you can't ask for a better boss? Well, it works with most all of them if you enjoy your job or what you're doing. You can work with most anybody," she said.

Operstny moved into the position she now holds in August of 1977. Before that she was personal secretary to former president Dr. Jarvis Miller and moved with him to the president's office.

"I guess if you work for a university, that's every secretary's dream — to go as high as she can," Operstny said.

Mary Ruth Patranella, executive secretary to the dean of agriculture since March of 1963, began working as a secretary at Texas A&M in December of 1939.

"I've always found it interesting, especially in the area that I've been in," said Patranella, who has worked in different areas of agriculture.

Professional Secretaries' Week began in 1952 when it was proclaimed by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer to recognize "the American secretary upon whose skills, loyalty and efficiency the business and government offices depend."



Staff photo by Brian Tate

Chris Operstny, secretary to the University president, has worked on this campus since 1949.



Photo by Brian Tate

Mary Ruth Patranella, executive secretary to the dean of agriculture, began working as a secretary at Texas A&M in December of 1939.