

# THE BATTALION

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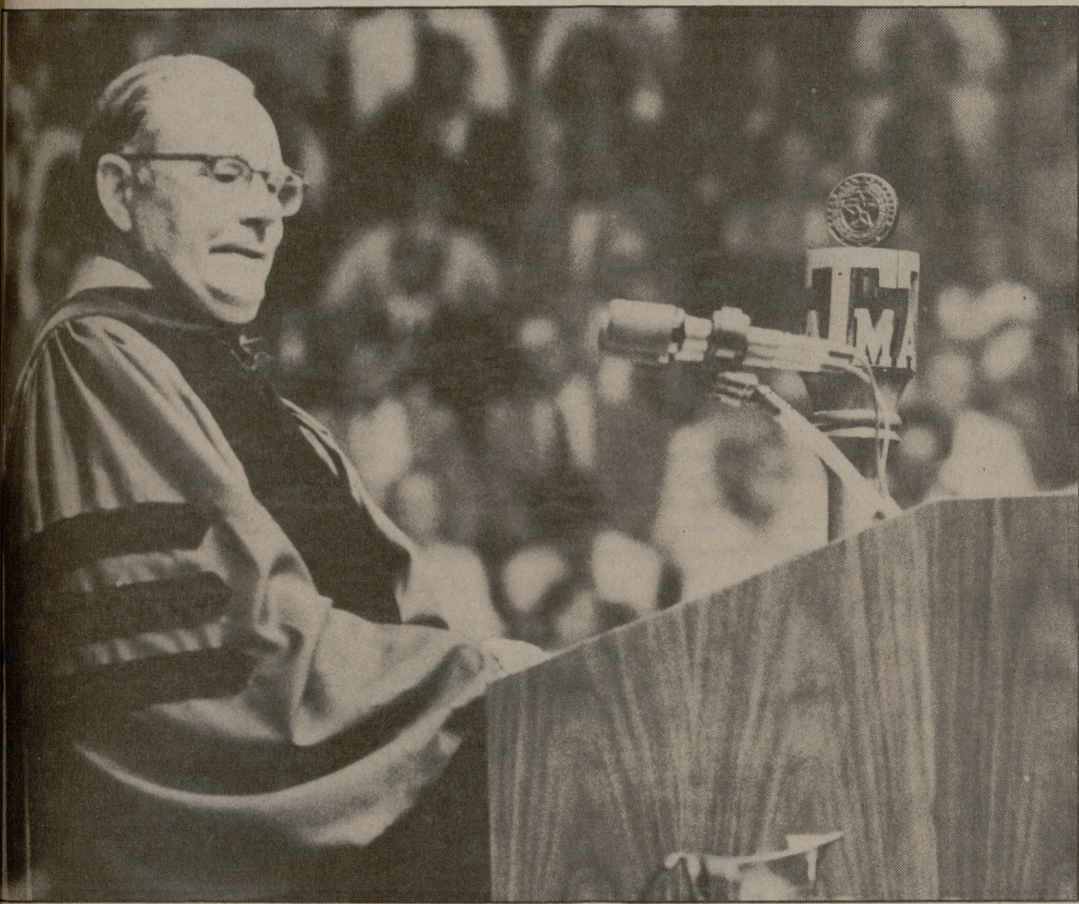
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## The Weather

Today		Tomorrow	
High .....	95	High .....	98
Low .....	75	Low .....	75
Chance of rain .....	65%	Chance of rain .....	40%

## Students warned against becoming 'obsolete'

# 1,300 graduate in summer commencement



William O. Trogdon, president of Tarleton State University, gave the commencement address Saturday.

A long-time educator, speaking to more than 1,300 summer graduates of Texas A&M University, warned the students to avoid becoming obsolete.

"I am concerned that too many of us have confused the pursuit of happiness with the pursuit of enjoyment or pleasure," said Dr. William O. Trogdon, president of Tarleton State University.

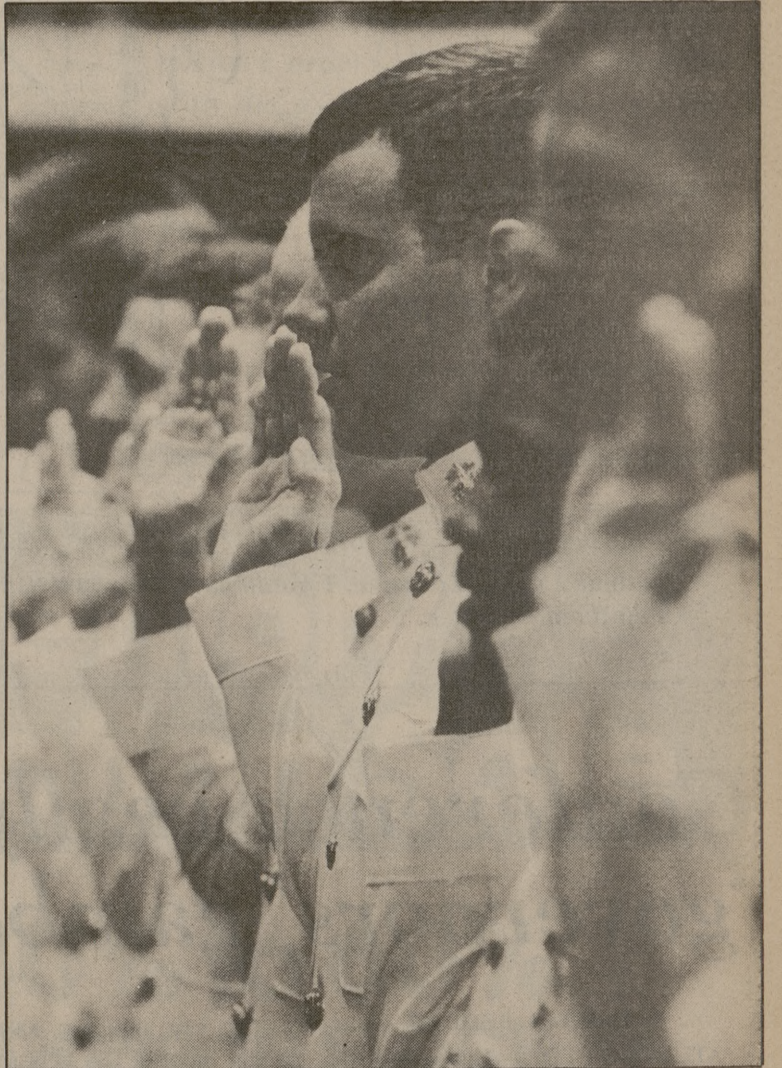
"History has shown that lasting happiness is founded on accomplishments, discoveries and solving problems," Trogdon said. "Decisions must be made, not once, but continuously."

"Your education has provided you with the discipline to persist," he said.

Eighty-two students received doctorate degrees, 294 received master's degrees and 970 received bachelor's degrees during the ceremony at G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday. Some 35 of the graduates also were commissioned during the ceremony as United States' military officers.

Texas A&M Regent Royce E. Wisenbaker, in authorizing the degree presentations, told the graduates and audience of parents and friends that the diploma they would receive is a "symbol not only of the superior academic excellence of the institution, but also visible evidence that you possess those personal characteristics for which Aggies are known and esteemed."

A degree in mechanical engineering was awarded posthumously to William Wayne Overman of Andrews, who was killed early this summer in an oilfield accident. His wife walked across the stage to accept the diploma.



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

These cadets were commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Marine Corps during commencement exercises in G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday.

## Air strike should be no surprise to government, economist says

A Texas A&M University economist says government officials who supported public employee unions in the 1960s shouldn't have been surprised by the illegal air traffic controllers' strike.

"It's common for government officials to praise unions in order to win support from their members and gain more votes during election," Dr. Morgan Reynolds said, "but when unions like the air controllers go out on strike and cause the kinds of hardships we've seen lately, you don't see too many officials praising them."

The rewards of organizing and maintaining a labor union are obvious, he added, but unions are difficult to sustain without government assistance. Reynolds argues that without government help, there would be very few unions.

"Most union sympathizers would admit labor organizations are the beneficiaries of regulatory favors by government," he said, "but there is some question as to whether their net economic effect is beneficial."

Reynolds called labor unions "the major anti-competitive force on labor markets and one in which monopoly rewards are the real goals." The economist pointed to union slogans such as, "Take Competition Out of Wages" and "Take Labor Out of Competition" as examples of their position.

Reynolds emphasized that a union's economic clout comes from its ability to strike. He said most corporations would rather work out union demands for higher wages or better working conditions than suffer economic

pains, threats and violence often associated with strikes.

"Reagan has a lot of backbone to challenge the air controllers," the Texas A&M economist said. "Most private firms would not have the guts to fire union members and bring workers in from outside."

In a report for the University's Center for Education and Research in Free Enterprise, Reynolds said the defense of unions depends on a series of faulty economic notions.

These include the mistaken beliefs that unions provide protection from employees' superior bargaining power, that high living standards in the United States are due to a strong union movement, and that unions protect employees from the abuse of managerial authority.

"Employers do not have so-called bargaining power," Reynolds said. "Individual employers are not free to fix wages wherever they wish, because if they choose very high wages, employment must be rationed among the excess supply of eager, qualified applicants."

Referring to the fallacy that unions create higher living standards, Reynolds said, "The sad fact is that unions, tough bargaining and politicking do not create real wealth. A highly productive economy and its attendant high real wages depend upon accumulating capital, skilled labor and adopting government policies which provide incentives for individuals to be productive."

"The United Kingdom is much more unionized than the United States, but real wages there are about 40 percent lower, and British unions are as militant as any," Reynolds said.

He explained that unions don't compete with companies, but against those who sell substitutes for their members' services, which means other labor — members of rival unions foreign workers, strike breakers and nonunion workers.

"Violence, or the threat of violence, is the device that keeps competitors out of the unionized sector," Reynolds said. "This is an unavoidable consequence of any system of unionized labor markets."

On the myth that unions protect workers against the abuse of managerial authority, Reynolds says workers are not captives. In a competitive labor market, employers are forced by competition for productive labor to offer rates and working conditions that cater to the preferences of workers, he said.

"It pays companies to develop reputations for dealing fairly with employees because it keeps labor costs lower than they would otherwise be," the economist continued. "A competitive labor market is the ultimate protection for employees, not union procedures."

Reynolds said in cases where a union succeeds in controlling much of the grievance process, it is unclear which workers will be helped or harmed by the change.

## A&M student leaders to attend conference

By KATHY O'CONNELL  
Battalion Staff

Student leaders from Texas A&M University will have the opportunity to meet with their peers and University administrators to discuss current campus issues this weekend.

The Fall Leadership Conference will be held Aug. 21 - Aug. 23 at the Texas Power and Light Youth Camp in Trinidad.

Delegates to the conference will be members of Student Government, the Memorial Student Center Council, the Residence Hall Association, the Off-Campus Aggies, honor societies and several other student organizations.

Assistant MSC Director Richard Reynolds said approximately 175 Texas A&M students will hear a keynote address from Donald Wass, a consultant with a Dallas firm.

Reynolds said the consultant has previously spoken on the campus for the executive development seminars, which are sponsored by the Continuing

Education Department. The seminars are held for executives throughout the nation, Reynolds said.

He said he is honored that Wass has agreed to address the student leaders, because this is the first time he will speak to a group of volunteer student leaders.

Reynolds said the conference will acquaint student leaders with one another, so that they will call upon each other for help during the year.

The students will also meet with University Administrators, including President Dr. Charles H. Samson; Vice President for Student Services Dr. John J. Koldus III and Personal Counseling Service Director Dr. Wade Birch.

Reynolds said the administrators will hold panel discussions on familiarization and motivation of students as leaders. Four former Texas A&M student leaders will hold a panel discussion on how their experiences at Texas A&M have helped them in later life.

## Controllers claim system is unsafe

# Control system to be investigated

WASHINGTON — Three inquiries are under way into the nation's air traffic control system which striking controllers contend is unsafe and has drawn private expressions of concern from pilots.

Although the government maintains the skies are as safe now as they were before thousands of controllers walked out 17 days ago, the National Transportation Safety Board said Tuesday it plans a comparative study of pre-strike and post-strike conditions.

At the same time, Transportation Secretary Drew Lewis announced creation of a three-member task force to evaluate working conditions which many controllers have long complained create on-the-job stress.

Lewis also said the Federal Aviation Administration has asked the Flight Safety Foundation, a non-profit international organization supported by the airlines, to do an independent safety study. Lewis said he has confidence in the system, but "we just figure it would make the public more comfortable" to have an outside review.

Safety has been a recurring issue since the Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization began its illegal strike Aug. 3.

The NTSB, responsible for investigating civil aviation accidents, said it will study the air traffic control system to gather data for use in future probes.

Although it will not specifically judge whether the system is safe, the board can make safety recommendations, a spokesman said.

"It's going to be an information-gathering project which will provide us with data on pre-strike and post-strike air traffic control operations," he said.

In another development Tuesday, internal documents from the Air Line Pilots Association said fatigue and improper qualifications among controllers have undermined air safety.

The memos were prepared last week by an ALPA committee. Copies of the memos, the contents of which were first reported by the Washington Post, were obtained by United Press International.

An ALPA spokesman contacted late Tuesday said many concerns in the memos have since been addressed to the group's satisfaction.

"As of now, we're still in the position of saying the system is indeed safe," said the spokesman, who asked not to be identified.

In an Aug. 10 memo to ALPA President J.J. O'Donnell, committee chairman Tom Sheppard said three trends had emerged "which indicate a decreasing level of safety in the present modified air traffic control system."

The factors listed were: "fatigue and improper qualifications" of controllers now on duty, increased milit-

ary and general aviation flying under visual flight rules (requiring no guidance by controllers) at altitudes below 18,000 feet and the closing of some airport towers "with levels of activity which normally require towers."

Since PATCO began its strike, the FAA has operated the air traffic control system at reduced capacity with supervisory and military personnel and non-striking controllers.

Domestic commercial flights have been reduced to about 75 percent of normal levels, costing the airlines about \$30 million a day and forcing them to order wide-scale layoffs.

Trans-Atlantic flights today returned to normal following a two-day boycott of U.S. flights by Portuguese controllers.

The job action, in sympathy of striking U.S. controllers, forced about 100 U.S.-European flights to take a more northerly route to avoid Portuguese air space, resulting in some delays of up to four hours.

PATCO Tuesday released a batch of reports listing 15 alleged near-collisions and 24 examples of alleged fatigue, lack of qualifications or inexperience among controllers now on duty.

The FAA said there had been 11 "near-misses" since the walkout began, compared to 31 for the same period last year.

## Office hours are different during break before classes

During the current period before students return to campus for the fall semester, most campus facilities are operating under different hours. Schedules are as follows:

**Sterling C. Evans Library**  
Monday — Friday . . . 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
and Saturday and Sunday  
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Creamery**  
Continues regular hours Monday — Friday 8:15 a.m. — 5 p.m.

**MCS Main Desk**  
Open 24 hours a day  
Check cashing: August 19-24  
8:30 a.m. - 10 p.m.  
Beginning August 24  
8:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

**MSC Bowling and Games**  
Closed August 19 — 23  
Open Monday (August 24) — Thursday . . . . . 8 a.m. - 11 p.m.  
Friday and Saturday . . . 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Sunday . . . . . 1 p.m. - 11 p.m.

**Intramural Department**  
East Kyle Field and G. Rollie White

**Coliseum:**  
Monday — Friday  
8 a.m. - midnight  
Saturday and Sunday  
8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

**Deware Fieldhouse:**  
Closed August 19-28

**Wofford Cain Pool:**  
Monday — Friday . . . 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday  
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

**Tennis Courts:**  
Courts are open all the time on a first come-first served basis, except for reservations.

Reservations can be made Monday through Friday from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

I.D.s are required to make reservations.

**The Battalion:**  
This issue of The Battalion is the first of two issues to be published in the two-week period before the beginning of fall semester classes. The second issue will be published Aug. 26.