

Sports

Questions arise over resignation

With the so-called resignation of Marvin Tate many questions arise that no one wants to answer: Why he was dismissed, who fired him, why will nobody take credit for it, why now, what is going to happen next?

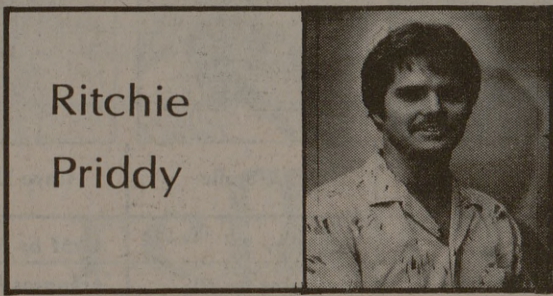
First of all, Tate was not given a reason — no one, the University president, the Athletic Council, the Texas A&M System Board of Regents, not even a janitor talked to him or warned him of the action. That doesn't make sense. "Lack of direction" was mentioned as one reason but, a reason that is so vague it can not be credible.

University procedure gives the Athletic Council control of hiring and firing all athletic personnel, from the athletic director to the trainer. Their actions are approved by the University president.

The Council did not instigate Tate's resignation and had no idea what was going on — that's a well-known fact. It is clear that Dr. Frank E. Vandiver, being new to the Texas A&M presidency and knowing little of athletic department policy, had nothing to do with Tate's dismissal.

Second, the person(s) responsible for the action will not stand up and take the credit. That doesn't make sense either. Sort of like a terrorist group that has just disposed of its most hated enemy but won't take the credit.

Third, and probably the most puzzling question, is the timing. Why would anyone, especially someone connected with the University, want to cause such a major shake-up in the athletic program before the first home football game? I am convinced that the Texas A&M athletic department finally beginning to establish itself as a major power



Ritchie Priddy

A&M Board of Regents didn't care for Tate and were looking for a way to get rid of him.

I base my assumption on the procedure taken on Tate's dismissal. Tate said that he was never approached or called by anyone who showed any negative feelings about the way he handled the athletic department. Several sources indicate that is true.

After talking to several board members, two of whom said I broke the news to them, I am inclined to believe 1) the decision to dismiss Tate was not unanimous, nor was everyone on the board aware of the move. 2) that the whole incident is only the beginning of some coming major changes in the athletic department. There's room for all kinds of speculation.

As mentioned earlier, timing is the most questionable facet of the whole thing. Why anyone would make a decision that could only hurt the University during football season is beyond me. The fact that it was made during the season leads me to believe that this is only the beginning of a bigger plan.

I personally think the people behind Tate's resignation are acting in a very irresponsible way. You simply do not run a business, and an athletic department is a big business, in such a manner that would hurt the parent company (the University).

Further, I believe that the when you hire experts to do the job of running the athletic department you should not let any arm-chair quarterbacks stick their nose where it doesn't belong.

among other intercollegiate programs. I am further convinced that any reorganization at this time would be detrimental not only to the athletic department but the University as well.

What is going to happen next? Who knows and who will go on record? No one.

The obvious questions have been identified; an attempt needs to be made to answer them.

All indications point to some board members as the ones responsible for Tate's dismissal. That shouldn't surprise anybody, after all, they have been known to do some questionable things in the past. The weird thing about it is that nobody seems to be in the position to comment or give his opinion on the matter.

It is my opinion that a few, not all, members of the Texas

Aggie cross country squad hopes to place high at Rice

By RICK STOLLE
Battalion Staff

Despite a third place showing in the Texas A&M Invitational, Texas A&M women's cross country coach Bill Nix said he was disappointed with the results.

"We were passed in the final hundred yards of the meet and could have finished higher," he said.

Nix said the Aggies have an excellent chance to win Saturday's Invitational meet.

"The field will have a number of teams we have already beaten," he said. "Also, it is only a two-mile course and we are used to running at least three, so we have two

pluses on our side."

The field will consist of Rice, Lamar University, North Texas State University, the University of Texas at San Antonio, Louisiana State University, Sam Houston State and the University of Houston.

Of those teams, the Aggies have not beaten Lamar, which has won every meeting between the two teams and Rice, which Texas A&M has not run against.

Nix said the team's problem is mental, not physical.

"We need to be more mentally prepared for the meet," the coach said. "After the first meet, you can easily evaluate the team and work

on the problem areas. Our problem area is our mental preparation."

He said the women aren't thinking about winning, but only about improving their times.

"We have gotten out of trying to get them to improve," he said. "We are now trying to develop the attitude in the women that they are winners."

Running for the women are Adelaide Bratten, Kim Cloud, Barbara Collinsworth, Jana Graves, Marilee Matheny, Lisa McCorstin, Suzanne Sheffield and Dena Spier.

Aggies anxious to play at home

The Texas Aggies, coming off a tough loss to Boston College last weekend, couldn't be happier about playing in Kyle Field Saturday. After traveling to California and Boston, the Aggies are ready to play five of their remaining nine games in the confines of Kyle Field.

The expected crowd is near 5,000 for Saturday's 7:30 p.m. kickoff between the Aggies and the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs. The Bulldogs bring a 2-1 record to the game, while the Aggies are 1-1.

Key figures in the matchup are Aggie running backs Earst Jackson and Johnny Hecox, along with Bulldog quarterback Matt Dunigan and running back Carlton Jacobs. Defensively, the Aggies are led by defensive ends Paul Pender and Keith Baldwin, and Louisiana Tech relies on linebacker Tony Jones and safety Lyn Bankston. Head Coach Tom Wilson of

the Aggies hopes to gain a win in the team's final non-conference game of the season. Texas A&M begins Southwest Conference

play next week at Texas Tech, and Louisiana Tech opens its Southland Conference season by hosting Northeast Louisiana.

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The Corps of Cadets gets its news from the Batt.

Standard Oil Company of California and The Chevron Companies will be recruiting on campus from September 28 through October 2. Engineering students are invited to attend a slide show and discussion of employment opportunities to be held in Room 502, Rudder Tower, from 8 to 10 p.m. on Monday, September 28. Refreshments will be served.

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