

# Local

## United Way reaches 25 percent of collection goal

Texas A&M employees have contributed \$14,035 to the United Way since the drive kicked off September 4.

The campus goal is \$56,000, said Tim Phillips, co-chairman of the campus drive. University em-

ployees have given 25 percent of the goal, he said.

The student drive will run September 28 to October 2. Collection tables will be set up in the Commons, Sbis Dining Hall and the Memorial Student Center.

## Vandiver...

(continued from page 1)

between the outside world and the university.

The university is an extremely fragile thing. It exists as a place of teaching and research on the suffering of the public and at the generosity of the public. And the public sometimes feels that it ought to have more say in the university than the university would like it to have. It's at those moments that the administration has to stand between the university and the rest of the world.

**Q:** Texas A&M's Former Students are known for taking a particularly active role in running the University. Do you see this as a possible problem?

**A:** Well, I hope not. I suppose it depends on what you mean by active. If they want to come in and run the place, that's doing too much. If they want to come and give money, that's fine.

**Q:** Because of recent attempts by some schools to get a share of the Permanent University Fund, currently shared only by Texas A&M and the University of Texas, there is much concern about protecting Texas A&M's share of the PUF. Do you think the University should try to find funding for other Universities not provided for by the PUF?

**A:** I think we have to (make) a concerted effort, not just to protect the PUF, which I certainly think we need to do, but also to find a way to get these other universities a dedicated fund. They have to have something. I always thought that the ad valorem tax seemed to be a good way to get it. Even when I was at North

Texas State University I never favored breaking up the PUF, even though North Texas needed the money desperately. It always seemed to me that the PUF ought to be used for what it was there for, to make these two institutions (Texas A&M and UT) really super.

But I also thought (the other schools) ought to have something; (they) shouldn't just be there with an empty handbag, running around shaking a tin cup. I think it behooves both UT and us to be as helpful as we possibly can for these other institutions. I think we ought to try to find what is a logical plan and get behind it and support it.

**Q:** You have been quoted as saying that the University needs to find new sources of funding. What ideas do you have about new sources and what will that money be used for?

**A:** The problem with the money we get from the PUF is that so much of it has to go to building and supporting other ongoing programs that we don't have enough left over for what I call academic enhancement, that is to bring in very distinguished faculty and chairs. I know around here we say a chair costs about a half million dollars. That won't hack it. A good chair costs about \$1 million these days.

**Q:** What do you see as possible alternate funding sources?

**A:** We have to make a more concerted pitch to the (Texas) Legislature for particular kinds of funding. We need more research money than the state is ever willing to put up. We need to get more private donations, because

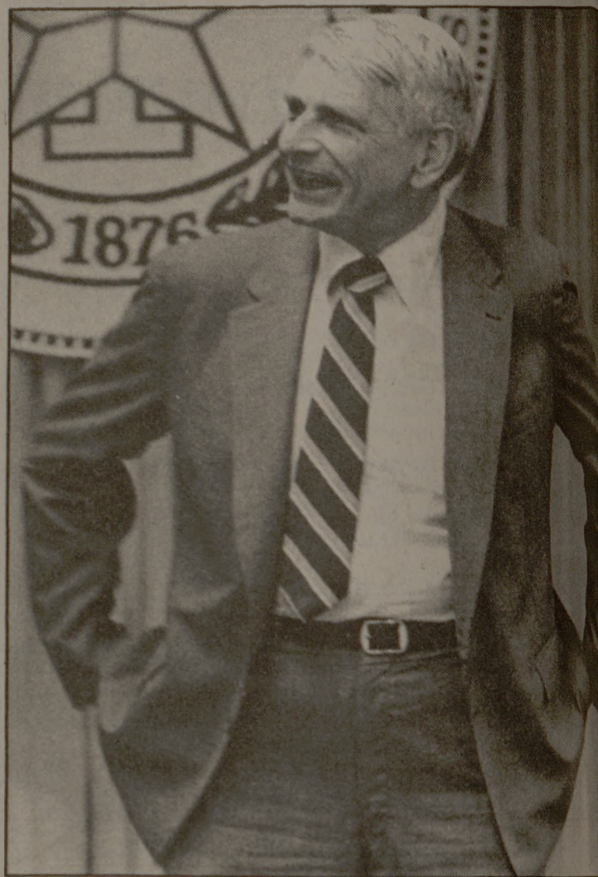
public money is going to get harder and harder to come by. We have to find sources in addition to public ones and the money will have to go to faculty and for equipment. We are several generations behind, for instance, in our computer equipment. We have a computer crisis on this campus.

**Q:** While there are studies being done to determine what needs to be done to update the University's computer system, there has been no money set aside to do so because of the tremendous cost. Is updating the computer system going to be one of your priorities?

**A:** I think it's going to have to be a priority. If we don't have better hardware and better availability, our students are going to suffer. Any major university has got to have hands-on experience on a computer for everybody. Whether you like them or not, you've got to know how to use them. It's going to have to be a major investment and we're going to have to plug it in over a five-year period. If it's not a priority now, it's going to have to be one.

**Q:** Do you have any reorganization plans for any of the major departments on campus such as Student Services?

**A:** Student Services is one of the areas in which I intend to pursue something called an Operational Audit. It's an audit done by not only financial people but managing experts also. You send in a team of people who are not just fiscal experts but management experts in that area. They study who is doing what, what kind of service is being produced and whether or not it is humanly effective, cost effective and service effective. I'm going to do that for the main operational areas of the University: the library, some of the major schools within the University, the bookstore and other major components of that kind.



Dr. Frank E. Vandiver

**Q:** Do you have any basic concerns about the direction of the University?

**A:** I do worry about the University's capacity to be free, to be a place of free inquiry. Of course, no university is ever totally free, we are all subject to budgets and politics, even private universities. But the administration must guard very carefully the basic concept of academic freedom.

**Q:** How do you enhance, promote or actively support this freedom?

**A:** You keep reminding everybody, when you get a chance, how vital it is. You have to remind the faculty once in a while and the

students. They all take granted after a while. But if any other kind of freedom can't take it for granted, it just leak away from you.

You have to stand up before the Legislature occasionally. You have to remind one of the greatest rights of a member is the right to be wrong, sometimes at the lungs. But the freedom of the whole business of the place of ideas, is what a is. I think that's the great of a university, the creation the debate and the ideas. That's what we're

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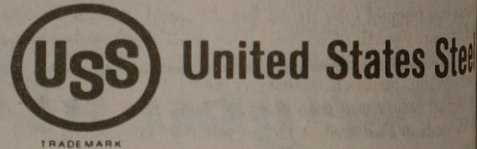
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