

THE BATTALION

Serving the Texas A&M University community

Vol. 75 No. 71
12 Pages

Friday, December 11, 1981
College Station, Texas

USPS 045 360
Phone 845-2611

The Weather

Today		Tomorrow	
High	72	High	72
Low	48	Low	54
Chance of rain	10%	Chance of rain	20%

Prescott reminisces before stepping down from position

By NANCY FLOECK

Battalion Staff
Vice President for Academic Affairs J.M. "Mac" Prescott is exchanging his administrative office for a laboratory in less than a month, but his concern for Texas A&M University's academic future is not leaving with him.

Prescott will spend six months to a year doing research at Harvard Medical School before beginning his job as director of Texas A&M's Institute of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Recently, he took a few moments to reflect on the changes he has seen in his 30 years at the University and to predict the challenges he believes his successor will face.

The growth of the University in the past few years has been unimaginable, he said, more than quadrupling since 1952, when he came here as assistant professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Nutrition.

This growth is taxing the resources of the University, Prescott said.

Yearly state subsidies are based on enrollment figures from previous school years, he said, and with such rapid enrollment increases, this means the University is responsible for educating about 35,000 students this year with resources allocated for about 30,000.

Coping with this while maintaining educational quality should be the highest priority of the new vice president for academic affairs, Prescott said, and it



J.M. "Mac" Prescott

may be the most difficult task.
"I think it will be a continued challenge to keep moving up in quality as A&M has done over the years," he said. "Overall, we are a much better university than we ever were and will continue to move up in quality."

"This should be, in my opinion, the number one goal of the new vice president for academic affairs. It's the thing to which I devoted virtually all my attention... I've (also) been trying to get better faculty, better students, better facilities — and I hope the new vice president will address himself to these issues."

Another issue that Prescott hopes his successor will pursue is the expansion of Texas A&M's academic programs.

Prescott said he hopes the Coordinating Board, Texas State Colleges and University System will recommend expanding the University's programs,

especially in the humanities. A master's program in journalism, a bachelor of fine arts and a doctorate in psychology are the programs he said he hopes will be reconsidered and approved by the board.

"I wouldn't want to see us shift our emphasis a great deal at Texas A&M University," Prescott said. But, "There are some things we should be doing that we're not."

"I think that we need to keep the whole (academic) program under constant review so that we stay up to date with the needs of the University, so that we meet the needs of the students and the people of Texas."

In return, Prescott said, Texas A&M is attracting top students and gaining a nation-wide reputation for excellence.

The quality of these students has steadily improved, he said, with more than 70 percent of Texas A&M students having graduated in the top quarter of their high school class, as opposed to less than one-third in the early 1960s.

But the University is also striving for better qualified instructors to lead these students, he added.

"It's much easier to recruit faculty members than it was 20 years ago because we're now nationally known as a university."

"Our reputation is based on three things," he continued. "In the first place we're perceived as an institution with high standards — it's not easy to get through A&M and people appreci-

ate that.
"Second, it's a place where the faculty takes, by and large, its teaching responsibilities seriously."

Third, our research is (in) large measure responsible for our reputation, because beyond the bounds of this region and of this state, we are not known for our teaching, but we are known for what we do in scholarly production and in discoveries.

"I'm dismayed at debate about teaching versus research because it can't be that way — it's got to be teaching and research."

Those involved in academia understand the importance of research and want to produce scholarly works, as well as teach — it's students who don't understand the academic process, Prescott said.

"The students don't, by large, know what a university is," he said. "A university is different from a college... a university is where discovery takes place as well as the transmission of knowledge, so a university is charged with the responsibility of creating knowledge, as well as transmitting knowledge."

While at Harvard, Prescott, a biochemist who has maintained a research laboratory while serving as vice president for academic affairs, will be practicing what he preaches — researching at the medical school there, then transmitting that knowledge to the Institute of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Displaced cadets rejoin flock

By GRETCHEN RATLIFF

Battalion Reporter
After one semester in Hart Hall, Squadron 12 cadets are packing up and heading back to the Corps dorms for the spring semester.

Because of overcrowding on the Corps Quadrangle earlier this semester, the 74-member outfit was assigned to live in Hart Hall, a civilian dormitory located in the central housing area.

An agreement was made with the Housing Office that Squadron 12 would be permitted to occupy ramps A and C

of Hart if an effort was made to move them back to the Corps Area in the spring, explained Corps Commandant James R. Woodall.

While the outfit is moving to Dorm 8, disturbing students is a big concern because other students besides those belonging to Squadron 12 will have to be reassigned, Woodall said.

"We want to get a move that will involve the fewest number of people having to move," said Nolen Mears, Corps Area coordinator. Company C-1 will be the only other

outfit that will have to move completely. Those cadets will move into Dorm 5.

Over the course of the semester, enough members have dropped out of the Corps to make the move possible, but with 2,275 cadets, it will still be a tight fit, Mears said.

"Obviously, it is better for us to be living with the Corps," said Jonathan Weinbaum, commanding officer of Squadron 12.

Weinbaum said he and the resident advisers of Hart Hall worked well together to ease tension between the civilians and the cadets.

"We had to go into it with a positive attitude, or else there would have been problems," he said.

Steve Werner, head resident of Hart, said the civilian students and the cadets have had a good relationship.

"It was a good experience for everybody... we learned a lot about each other," he said.

Many of the students displaced from Hart are freshmen who were offered other spaces on campus. In the spring, the hall will accommodate some freshmen, but mostly upperclassmen, Mears said.

Cadets to take over Spence Hall after membership growth

By GAYE DENLEY

Battalion Staff
Starting next fall, Spence Hall, a civilian women's dormitory on the north corner of the Corps Quadrangle, will once again house male cadets.

The growing membership of the Corps of Cadets has made it necessary to convert Spence back to a male dormitory after it has housed women for five years, Corps Area Coordinator Nolen Mears said.

A September membership of 2,400 cadets crowded the Corps dormitories, leaving about 100 cadets without rooms, Mears said. As a temporary solution, the 74 members of Squadron 12 were moved to Hart Hall, a civilian dormitory on the central campus, and the rest were tripled up in Corps halls.

An estimated membership of 2,500 for next fall prompted Mears and Director of Student Affairs Ron Blatchley to recommend converting Spence to a men's hall, Mears said. Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver approved the change late in October.

Mears attributes the continuing increase in Corps enrollment to the overall growth of the Texas A&M student body and the fading out of post-Vietnam anti-military sentiment. This year a record enrollment of more than 35,000 students was recorded.

"People are returning to looking for careers in the military," he said. College ROTC programs all over the nation are growing and will gather even more strength if the draft is reinstated, Mears said.

The conversion of Spence came as no surprise to its residents, said Tracy Moy, RHA director of facilities and operations.

"They (the residents) knew that one of the two dorms (Spence or Briggs, another women's hall) would be phased out," Moy said. "They figured that's what would happen because of Squadron 12."

Spence Hall President Jane Black said the initial anger of most residents has subsided since they will have first priority for the next two semesters in choosing halls if they remain on campus.

"At the first of the semester, people were saying, 'Over my dead body are we going to move out of this hall,'" Black said. Tempers cooled, however, as the residents began making plans to move to other dorms, she said.

Mears said the first priority policy doesn't guarantee that Spence residents will receive a room in the hall they want but they will have first shot at any openings in that hall.

Although the women will be moving out, Spence could still be partially civilian, he said. Any of the 112 rooms not filled by cadets will be turned over to the Housing Office for civilian students.

"We're not sure how much room in Spence we'll need," he said. "If the Corps can't fill it, we'll operate it like we do Briggs (with both female cadets and female civilians). If we're going to have them, it's better to have civilians on the corner of the Quad."



Staff photo by Greg Watermann

Look, Ma, no feet!

Jerry Beaver, a sophomore mechanical engineering major from Miami, takes a break by riding his skateboard outside Dunn Hall.

Postmaster says to send address cards in soon

By SHERYLON JENKINS

Battalion Reporter
Even though most students complain they never receive any mail, those little post office boxes can become full in a month's time. To avoid this problem, students should forward their mail by filling out a change of address card.

And, C.L. Mateck, postmaster of the College Station Post Office, says it is important to do so immediately.

He said many students fill the form out but wait until the last day of finals to do it, putting an added burden on the post office personnel.

"When you have 30,000 students and they all leave at the same time and turn in their address change cards at the same time, it's hard on everyone," he said.

Mateck said after they receive the form, it has to be processed at the Bryan Post Office and then sent back to College Station.

The form should be filled out and taken to the post office in enough time so that when the student leaves, there won't be any delay in receiving mail, he said.

Mateck said although they will forward mail if requested, not all mail will be forwarded automatically.

"We will not forward second class mail," Mateck said. Second class mail includes magazines and newspapers.

He said this is because the forwarding charge is often more expensive than the item being forwarded. The post office will also not forward hometown newspapers unless it is requested by the student, he said.

The temporary address change forms may be obtained in the lobby of the post office and at the post office in the Memorial Student Center.

No postage is required if the form is put into one of the campus mail boxes, Mateck said.

Threats increase; Americans leave Libya

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Americans began withdrawing from Libya today while the White House contemplated its next move against Moammar Khadafy. Along U.S. borders, guards watched for members of alleged Libyan death squads.

The Reagan administration, trying to avert another Iranian-type hostage crisis, Thursday urged the 1,500 Americans in Libya to leave as soon as possi-

ble. It also invalidated U.S. passports for travel there.

In announcing the action, Acting Secretary of State William Clark cited what he termed dangers to Americans in Libya and efforts by Khadafy to undermine U.S. interests and Khadafy's support for international terrorism.

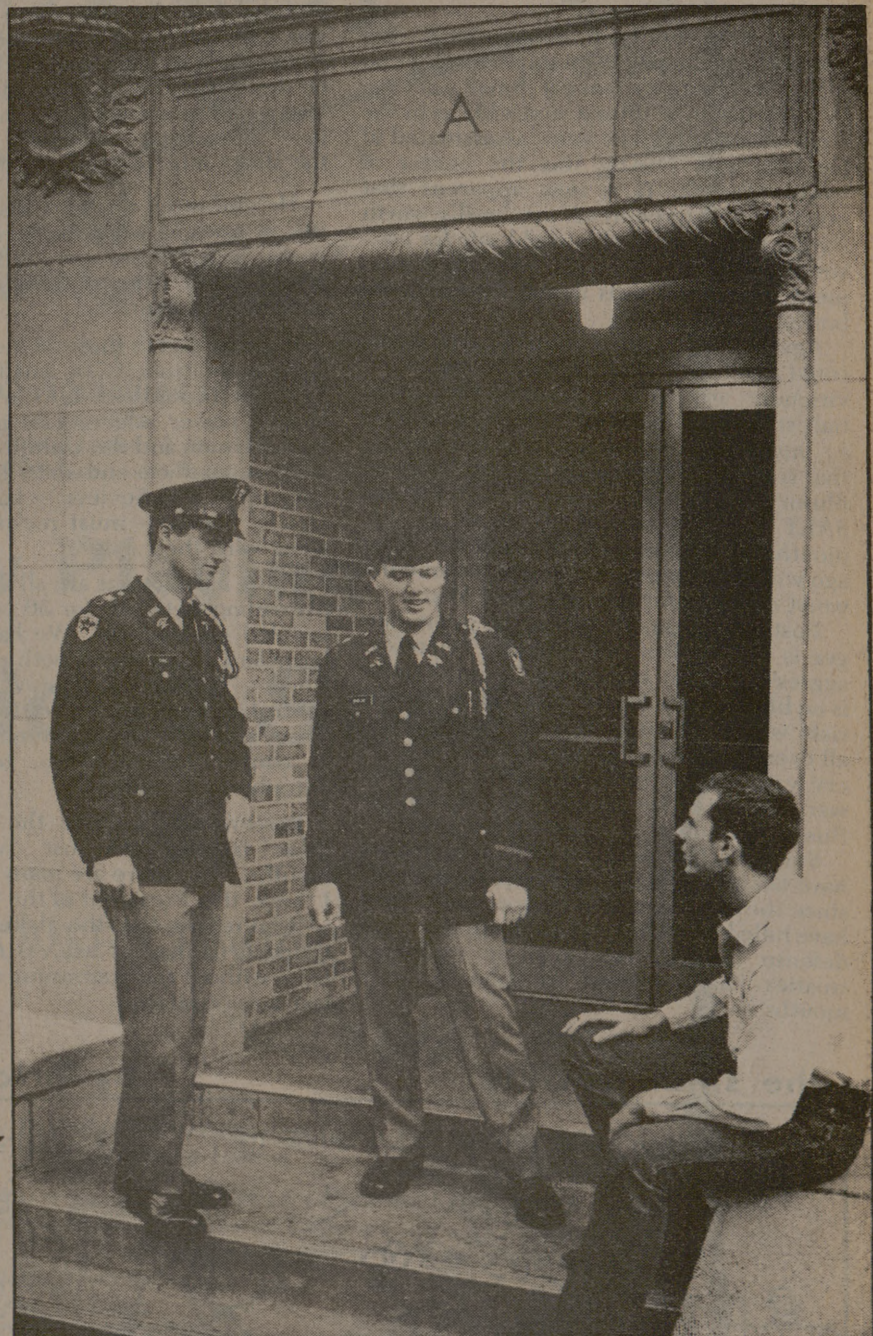
No mention was made of the hit teams officials believe have been dispatched by Khadafy to assassinate Presi-

dent Reagan and other U.S. officials. But there was plenty of concern along U.S. borders about the suspected squads.

An Immigration and Naturalization Service notice posted in California warned that a six-man team headed by international terrorist "Carlos the Jackal" may be attempting to penetrate the United States from Mexico, and a second may be trying to enter from Canada.

The notice, tacked to a bulletin board in an INS lunchroom at the San Ysidro, Calif., Mexican border crossing, said "Carlos" is traveling on a Lebanese passport with an assumed name and is extremely dangerous.

Khadafy, who denies formulating any death plots, Thursday scoffed at Reagan and vowed to attack the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean if the United States conducts maneuvers near his shore.



Staff photo by Dave Einsel

Junior Leslie Diaz talks to sophomores Steve Bigalow and Cliff Brown outside Ramp A of Hart Hall prior to the Corps formation Thursday.