

THE BATTALION

Serving the Texas A&M University community

Vol. 75 No. 72
2 Pages

Monday, December 14, 1981
College Station, Texas

USPS 045 360
Phone 845-2611

The Weather

Today		Tomorrow	
High	50	High	60
Low	30	Low	30
Chance of rain	50%	Chance of rain	20%



Can you pass this?

The San Diego Chicken, official mascot of the Independence Bowl, performs one of his many humorous antics at the game Saturday night in Shreveport.

Staff photo by Greg Watermann

Polish army threatens death to union strikers

United Press International
WARSAW, Poland — Die-hard Solidarity leaders who escaped arrest issued a call for a general strike from hiding today, but Polish army troops in full battle gear guarded factories and the nation's new military regime threatened to execute strikers.

The head of Poland's powerful Catholic Church, Archbishop Josef Glemp, pleaded with workers to obey the ban on strikes to keep the nation from plunging into civil war, and Polish-born Pope John Paul II prayed for peace.

There was no immediate reported reaction to the strike call, and the new Committee for National Defense, now ruling Poland, flew Solidarity leader Lech Walesa from the Gdansk headquarters of the union to Warsaw for day-long talks Sunday to avert a bloodbath.

Poland's army troops arrayed in full battle gear with fixed bayonets appeared to have pulled back in force from the center of the capital to concentrate on guarding factories in outlying areas — an indication it feared no uprising in the capital after the emergency decrees that struck a death blow to Poland's "Gdansk summer" reform movement.

The crackdown, which included a 10 p.m.-to-6 a.m. curfew plus a ban on all meetings and the sealing of the nation's borders, followed Solidarity's demands

Saturday for a referendum on a non-Communist government and for a general strike if the government passed an anti-strike law.

When martial law was declared, union diehards and supporters called immediately for a general strike, but troops using water cannons dispersed taunting Solidarity supporters and in a stern communique, monitored by the BBC in London, warned the death penalty would be applied to workers refusing to report to work.

"The death sentence will apply for workers refusing to serve under the regulations which are similar to wartime conditions," Polish radio said in the London-monitored broadcast.

The crackdown came after weeks of building tension in which the government accused the union of trying to seize power and Walesa vowed the labor group would defend "like lions" its right to strike, won when Solidarity was born in September 1980.

Police report campus mugging

Battalion Staff
A mugging was reported to the University Police Department at about 1:30 a.m. Saturday.

A girl was walking, probably up Coke St., when the assault occurred, said University Police Chief Russ McDonald.

"A gold and white pick-up truck with a white camper pulled up beside her,

and a man got out wearing a ski mask and carrying a towel," McDonald said.

"He tried to put the towel over her head," the police chief said. "She screamed, bit him on the finger, ran home and called us."

McDonald refused to identify the girl who reported the mugging.

No suspects have been arrested in connection with the case, McDonald said.

Slaughter speaks of technology

Graduates look at future

By LAURA WILLIAMS

Battalion Staff
Science and technology will affect the future of any Texas A&M University graduate, regardless of the graduate's chosen career, Dr. John B. Slaughter told degree candidates at Friday's commencement ceremony in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Slaughter, director of the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C., said graduates should continue their education by becoming involved in the nation's technological growth.

"The most precious resource of a free society is the full participation of informed and concerned citizens," he said.

"Unfortunately, the majority of our fellow citizens frankly regard themselves as too poorly informed about science to help make these decisions, even though many of the choices will have a major impact on their future."

Slaughter spoke of concern for the little more than half of the country's eligible voters who vote in political elections. He said the best hope lies with the graduates who will leave their universities to become a knowledgeable public.

"I am troubled by a public reluctant to participate in the decision-making processes of technology," he said. "We are becoming scientifically illiterate."

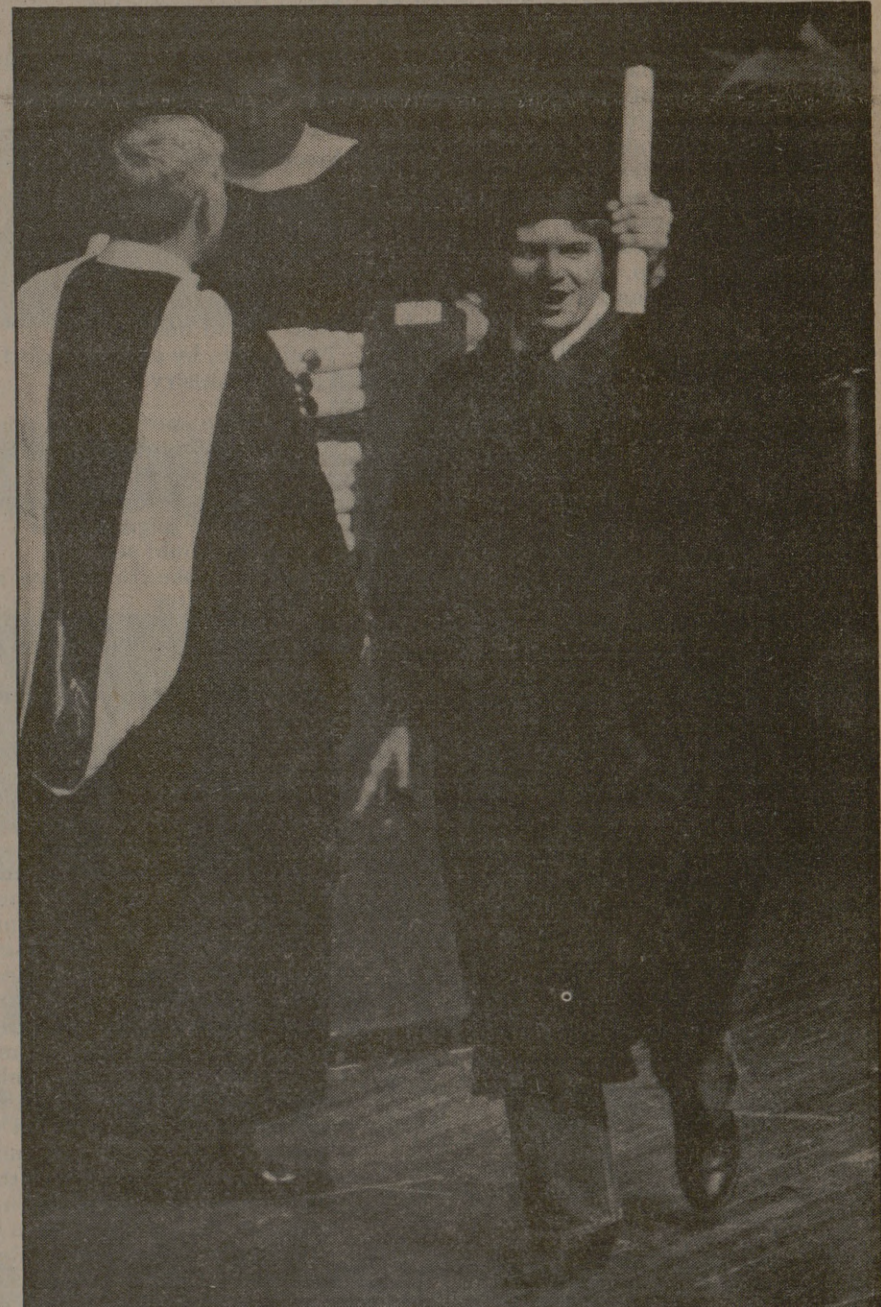
"Yet here we are talking about an area of human activity (technological advancement) which will have a far more pervasive and longer-term impact on our lives than any presidential election."

Slaughter, who has been director of the NSF since September 1980, said that because Texas A&M University has large research and development programs, graduates will have an advantage in dealing with the sophisticated future.

He also told candidates that their continuing growth would determine the growth of the nation.

"The search for excellence which you began when you started your education will continue after you leave here. Although you will find it never ends, it does get easier."

Baccalaureate degrees were awarded to 1,666 students in the colleges of agriculture, business administration, geosciences and liberal arts. Graduate degrees were awarded to 405 students.



Vic Svatek raises his diploma after being awarded a bachelor of science degree in industrial engineering at the Saturday commencement.

Grads owe taxpayers, Prescott says

By JOHNA JO MAURER

Battalion Staff
Graduates must strive to be life-long students, Dr. J.M. Prescott, vice president for academic affairs, told degree candidates at Saturday's commencement ceremony in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

They must not stop learning just because they are no longer in an academic atmosphere, he said.

"Be curious, tough and adventurous throughout life," he said.

Baccalaureate degrees were presented to 908 graduates in the colleges of architecture and environmental design, education, engineering, science and veterinary medicine. Sixty-four graduates of Texas A&M University at

Galveston also received baccalaureate degrees.

The administrator told graduates they have an obligation to their parents, friends and relatives. It's important to thank them for the support they have provided, he said.

Graduates also have an obligation to the Texans who have, through their work and taxes, funded a major portion of their education at Texas A&M University.

"Never imagine that your education makes you superior to them — it's just an advantage you had," Prescott said.

Only about 4 percent of the cost of a college education in a Texas public college or university is paid from student tuition and fees, he said.

"There's a large population out there to which you will always be indebted," Prescott said.

"You are the recipients of a quality education at less personal cost than you could have obtained anywhere else that I know of in the United States."

Development of a fierce loyalty to the University where they received that education is another obligation the graduates should assume, he said.

After 30 years at Texas A&M University, Prescott is stepping down from his vice presidential position effective Jan. 1. He will spend six months doing research at Harvard Medical School before becoming director of the University's new Institute of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Probation makes students aware of degree requirements

By GARY BARKER and
TIM FOARDE

Battalion Staff
Letters will be sent out over Christmas break informing some Texas A&M University students that they have been put on scholastic probation.

Students on scholastic probation have become scholastically deficient; however, they are granted conditional permission to continue at the University.

Deans of each academic college determine who goes on scholastic probation.

Grade points are given on a scale of 4 per semester hour (A = 4, B = 3, etc.). If a student receives an A in a three-hour course, he has earned 12 grade points. A student's total number of grade points divided by his total hours must equal at least 2.0. Otherwise, he has a deficiency that must be made up.

Probation terms will be set so the student can make up his grade point deficiency in one or two semesters. For example, if a student has a 12 point deficiency below a 2.0, he may be required to earn six grade points above a 2.0 for the next two semesters until his deficiency is made up.

If the deficiency is large enough to endanger a student's chances for graduation he is put on scholastic probation, Dean of Admissions and Records Ed Cooper said.

A student who does not meet the terms of his probation may be blocked from enrollment at Texas A&M the next semester, Cooper said.

"The dean of his college will notify this student immediately in order to

give the student time to apply to other schools, receive transcripts or make other plans for the next semester."

Students expelled from school because of an academic deficiency may be readmitted if they improve their academic record at another school or acquire work experience related to their field of study.

Once a student has dropped from enrollment in Texas A&M for any reason, readmission is decided by the dean of

"The purpose underlying scholastic probation is to prevent a student from becoming academically bankrupt and making it mathematically impossible for that student to graduate." — Dean of Admissions and Records Ed Cooper.

the college he wishes to enter, rather than the Office of Admissions.

Cooper said the purpose of scholastic probation is not to expel or to weed out students who have academic problems.

"The purpose underlying scholastic probation is to prevent a student from becoming academically bankrupt and making it mathematically impossible for that student to graduate," he said.

"One student was allowed to stay in school with 45 grade points below a C average. It would take three years with

a maximum course load and nothing but As for this student to graduate from Texas A&M University.

"When graduation day comes, it has to be 2.0 overall and 2.0 in their major course of study or they don't make it. That's what we're trying to do: keep them on that line."

Standards should be high enough that students aren't given false hopes about graduating from Texas A&M, Cooper said.

Scholastic probation also draws attention to the student's problem, he said. The advisers can try to identify the problem and discuss measures to help a student improve his academic performance.

"Many times just putting a student on scholastic probation is enough to make him try harder."

In the past, he said, there have been differences between the various colleges regarding scholastic probation policy.

"We found that some of the deans would drop a student if he fell 12 grade points below a C average while a student in another college could drop 25 points behind and still be allowed to continue," Cooper said.

Because of this disparity, he said, the Academic Operations Committee has made the scholastic probation standards among the different colleges more uniform. Guidelines for scholastic probation policy were produced this fall in a report by the AOC, a committee of the University's associate deans, which Cooper chairs.

But, Cooper said, the guidelines for standardizing scholastic probation policy are to be interpreted and adjusted to specific cases by the deans of each college.

In order to avoid strict adherence to the suggestions in the guidelines, the AOC has limited distribution of the report to college deans. This is to emphasize to students, advisers and department heads that individual considerations and exceptions should be made.

The function of these guidelines is to provide some degree of uniformity throughout the colleges in the University, Cooper said.

"Students at A&M — as far as continuation in school is concerned — should be treated basically the same regardless of the college they are in."

Library open round-the-clock for all-night finals studying

If finals week has you pulling all-nighters and your roommate wants to sleep, the Sterling C. Evans Library is the place for you.

The University library is open 24-hours a day through Thursday so that students will have a place to study for their final examinations.

Administrative and circulation ser-

vices are not available around the clock, however.

Administrative offices are open between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Books can be checked out between 7:30 a.m. and 11:50 p.m.

The library will close at 1 a.m. Friday and will be open again between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.