

Aggieland has come a long way

by Sandra Kay Gary
Battalion Staff

In the beginning, Texas A&M University had six students, six instructors, one unfurnished main building and no bathing facilities.

Today Texas A&M has 32,463 students, about 2,000 instructors, at least 158 buildings on the main campus and more than 4,757 bathing facilities.

Texas A&M was founded in 1871, and opened for classes Oct. 4, 1876, as the state's first public institution of higher learning. Now it is designated as both a land grant and sea grant university.

Things clearly have changed in the almost 106 years Texas A&M has been an educational institution.

Once upon a time a proposal was made to turn the University into a state hospital for the insane because warring negotiations over funding problems with the University of Texas couldn't be resolved.

Once upon a time a student was attacked by a pack of hungry wolves in front of the main building as he was going to register for classes.

Once upon a time the social organizations at the University included a Fat Man's Club and a Bowlegged Man's Club.

And now in the 1980s, nego-

tiations about funding between Texas A&M and UT still are wavering, students still have to fight their way to register for classes and unique organizations — such as Alpha Phi Omega and the International Student Association — are play a large role in student life at the University.

Meanwhile, Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver says the University's top priority for 1982 is to acquire better computer facilities.

In his state of the University address in February, Vandiver said computer training should be available to all students, but because money isn't available the University is able to accommodate only 25 percent of the student body.

Another top priority, Vandiver said, is to solve the problem of massive enrollment in the College of Engineering "without throwing the baby out with the bathwater." Enrollments in engineering (11,418), agriculture (4,877), architecture and environmental design (1,665) and veterinary medicine (431) are the largest in the nation.

University officials including Vandiver maintain that such priorities are directed toward the goal of making Texas A&M an outstanding international institution.

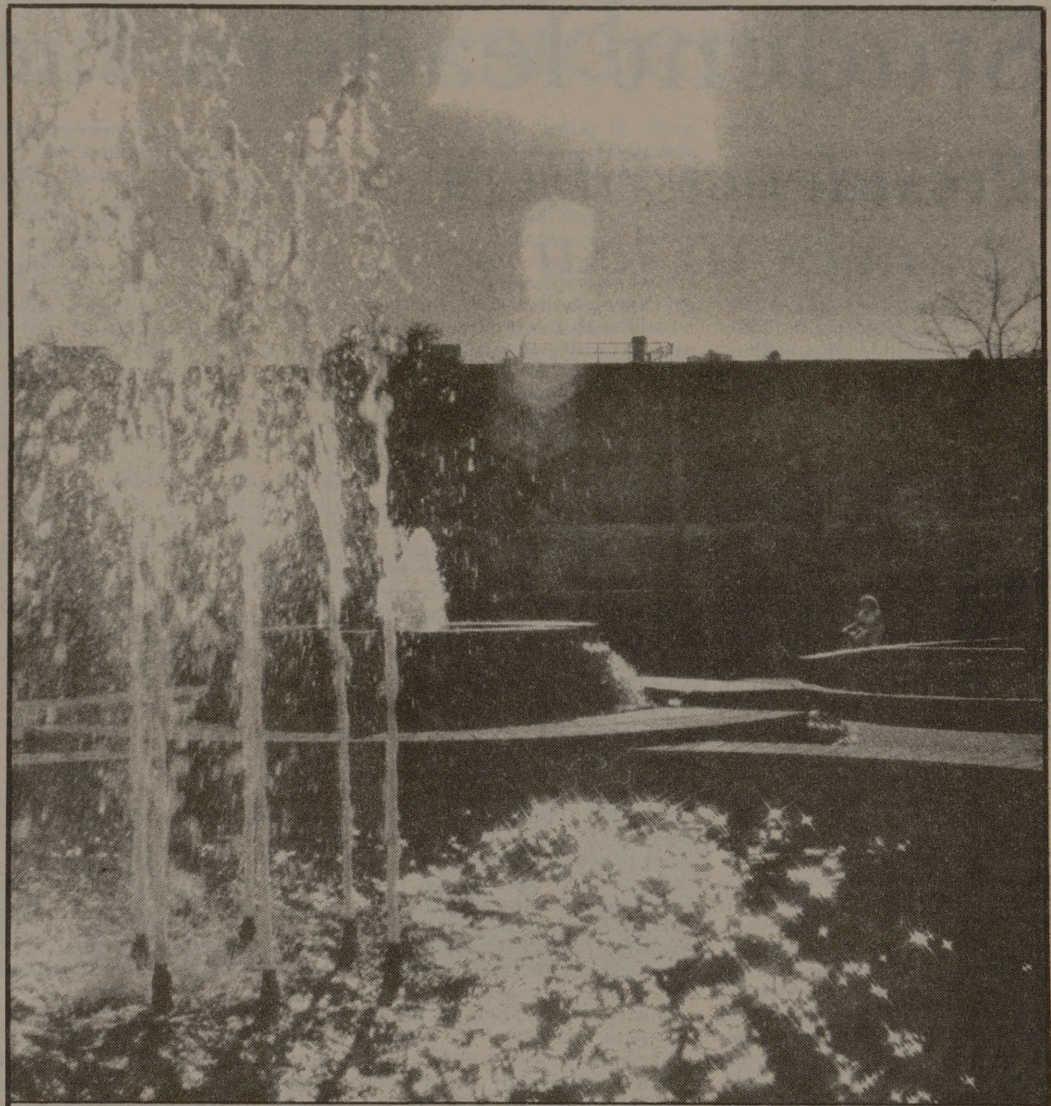


Photo by Rose Marie Delano

Sparkling Waters

The water shooting from the fountain in front of the Chemistry Building captures glints of the mid-afternoon sunlight. A star filter over the camera lens enhances the effect of the sunlight.

Changes in student government reflect University's development

by Robert Curlin

Battalion Reporter

The present form of student government consists of more than 100 elected positions and recommends an almost \$3 million budget for student services — but it wasn't always that complex.

The earliest form of a student senate at Texas A&M University began in the late 1940s, when the civilian student council was formed. The council was to serve the needs of returning veterans who were not required to join the Corps of Cadets.

Around 1959, the civilian student council, which coordinated civilians' dormitory councils, merged with the Corps senate. The newly-formed senate's first major decision dealt with the use of revenue from the new Coca-Cola machines on campus. The profits, it was decided, would be used to fund student activities.

The early 1960s brought drastic changes to the Texas A&M student body and to its student government.

The first female students and the first black student were admitted to the University in

1963. In 1965, ROTC training for students became non-compulsory.

Shortly thereafter, the student government was reorganized into its three present branches:

executive, legislative and judicial. Along with the expansion caused by the three-branch organization, student government expanded rapidly with funding from the MSC Bookstore.

Increasing enrollment — up to the fall 1981 semester record of more than 35,000 students — not only brought new revenue to the bookstore, but also a need for expanded student services which were to be funded by bookstore profits.

Student Government now makes budget recommendations for student services such as the A.P. Beutel Health Center, the Personal Counseling Service and the MSC Council. Those recommendations are made through channels to the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents, which takes final budgetary action.

Student senators also have discussed and made recommendations on legislation such as the location of the new University Press Building and catalog listings of courses which require evening examinations.

STUDENT
GOVERNMENT
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY