

Softball team starts regional playoffs today in Oklahoma

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SWC coaches looking for balanced tourney

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Texas A&M The Battalion

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To catch a thief

staff photo by Peter Rocha

John Houseman, a Physical Plant employee, installs a detection system in the Memorial Student Center Bookstore.

The security device will alert store personnel if someone walks out of the bookstore with unpurchased merchandise.

Argentina, Britain accept mediation

United Press International
Argentina and Britain turned to the United Nations today for mediation in their dispute over the Falkland Islands but neither side appeared ready to make the major concessions necessary for peace.

Britain said Thursday it lost two Sea Harrier jets on a patrol of the 200-mile exclusion zone around the islands in bad weather. Argentina claimed it shot them down earlier this week but Britain said they may have collided.

Britain joined Argentina Thursday in accepting U.N. mediation in

the dispute but repeated demands Argentine troops withdraw from the Falklands. Argentina said it would not budge on its claim to sovereignty over the islands.

No new outbreaks of fighting were reported in the Falklands since the battles Tuesday that knocked out the British destroyer HMS Sheffield.

A U.S.-Peruvian peace plan, pushed by Secretary of State Alexander Haig, collapsed Thursday when Argentine Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez said the plan "was not in line with Argentine interests."

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, speaking in Parliament Thursday,

cautiously accepted the U.N. peace proposals as a "framework" for further talks but, at the same time, British officials criticized the plan as "too vague."

A diplomatic source said it calls for a cease-fire, withdrawal of Argentine forces and the British fleet, negotiations for a settlement, an end to sanctions against Argentina and temporary U.N. administration of the islands.

Argentina insisted it will not negotiate its claim to sovereignty of the Falklands — the issue that sparked its seizure of the islands April 2 after 149 years of British rule.

Now largest student group

Greek system flourishes

by Bill Robinson

Battalion Staff

Although fraternities and sororities are not recognized as student organizations by Texas A&M University, their total membership now forms the school's largest organized group of students.

After spring rush — the process of inducing new members into the Greek system — fraternities and sororities in the area had more than 2,000 members, a small increase from the fall.

At the same time, membership in the Corps of Cadets, which has been the largest student group for more than 100 years, had declined to 1,953. The spring enrollment figure is more than 400 below the Corps' original fall total.

And the trend among students to go Greek — a title derived from the fact that the groups use letters of the Greek alphabet to identify themselves — is getting stronger, Intra-Fraternity Council Vice President Don Marable said.

Some of the individual Greek organizations are planning to in-

crease their membership by as much as 25 percent next year, Marable said.

A high level of scholarship is one of the major reasons for the increasing number of Greeks at Texas A&M, he said.

"To remain in a fraternity or sorority here you must maintain a 2.0 grade point ratio," he said.

Another boost for the organizations has been a more tolerant attitude by students.

Members of fraternities have made great strides in attaining campus leadership positions.

Two MSC Council directors, one Council vice-president, the 1982 MSC Texas A&M and first runner-up, the 1982 Fish Camp Chairman, some MSC committee officers and a few Student Senate members are Greeks.

"We're everywhere," Marable said.

"The mood has really relaxed on the campus (toward fraternities)," he said.

"Opinion has shifted. Students may not welcome us with open arms, but they're not going to run us off either."

Life at Texas A&M has not always

been so easy for the Greeks, though. Being run off was something Greek leaders and members had to worry about not too long ago.

During the 1981 fall semester, the groups were the subject of vocal and sometimes violent protests on campus.

At that time, the Intra-Fraternity Council and the Panhellenic League — the governing bodies of the Greek system — were seeking University recognition.

Texas A&M students opposed to recognition resorted to vandalism and threatening phone calls — threats serious enough to force former IFC President Tom Graf to go into virtual seclusion.

"His car was ripped up," Marable said. "He has had horse manure dumped inside of it and had the electrical wiring ripped out."

"It is really sad to see Aggies do something like that."

In addition, several more peaceful protests against fraternity recognition were launched by small, but vocal, groups of students, primarily by

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Cadets to be commissioned

Nearly 100 senior members of the Corps of Cadets will be commissioned as second lieutenants in the United States Armed Forces at 1:30 p.m. Saturday in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. E.C. Meyer is the scheduled speaker for the ceremony.

Forty cadets will receive commissions in the Army, 35 in the Air Force, 16 in the Navy and 11 in the

Marine Corps.

These men and other senior cadets will march in their Aggie uniforms for the last time during Final Review at 3:30 p.m. Saturday. Final Review will be held on the Main Drill Field.

During the annual event, the Corps first passes in review as it has at other times during the 1981-82 year.

The seniors then drop out of the formation and the juniors, sophomores and freshmen assume their positions

for the 1982-83 year. This group then passes in review.

Col. Donald E. Ellis, a former Texas A&M quarterback, will lead a flyover of four T-38 supersonic jets a few minutes before the start of the review.

During the flyover, one of the four jets will fly away from the other three, symbolizing the departure of the seniors.

Vandiver urges profs to strive for excellence

By Hope E. Paasch

Battalion Staff

Faculty and staff members were challenged by President Frank E. Vandiver to help protect the Permanent University Fund and to help establish Texas A&M as a world university during the only University-wide faculty meeting of the year.

The combination faculty meeting and awards ceremony was held Thursday afternoon in Rudder Auditorium.

Distinguished Achievement Awards were presented to 18 faculty and staff members in recognition of their accomplishments in teaching, research, student relations, continuing education/extension, or their contribution to the University staff or administration.

Vandiver said in the year he has served as president, he has been impressed with the research conducted at Texas A&M.

"The research at Texas A&M has had a world-wide impact," Vandiver said, adding that research was helping to establish Texas A&M as a world university.

"Our national position goes up every year," he said, "and the idea of

Texas A&M as a world university is catching on."

Vandiver also urged faculty and staff members to share a good word with friends across the state concerning the PUF.

"The Permanent University Fund is always of concern, but especially now since a special session of the Legislature has been called concerning construction at universities," he said.

Jack Fritz, president of the Former Students Association, said the PUF won't be tampered with during the special session.

"I have been assured by the powers that be — the powers that are — that no attack on the Permanent University Fund will be made in this session," he said.

Dr. Charles E. McCandless, interim vice president for academic affairs, gave what Vandiver referred to as a "state-of-the-University" speech.

McCandless announced the tentative dates of completion for much of the construction on campus: the Physics Building, Winter 1982; the Meat Sciences Building, Winter 1982; the Pavilion conversion, Spring 1983; the Cyclotron Institute, Summer 1983;



Faculty and staff members received Distinguished Achievement Awards for their contribution to the University.

and the University Press Building, Summer 1983.

Concerning the admission of new students, McCandless said that as of Saturday, 849 fewer students had been accepted for the next fall than at the same time last year. The breakdown, he said, is 231 fewer freshmen and 618 fewer transfer students.

Texas A&M already has recruited

180 National Merit Scholars, exceeding the number recruited last year. Princeton and Texas A&M each had 149 National Merit Scholars last year, tying them for second in the nation.

The average SAT score for next year's recipients of President's Endowed Scholarships is 1,404 — a very impressive figure, McCandless said.

The amount of money set aside for research has increased, he said, from

\$64.6 million last year to \$72.7 million this year.

A new Agricultural Education doctoral program has been approved by the Coordinating Board in Austin, McCandless said, along with a bachelor's degree in scientific nutrition and a new bachelor's degree in business.

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forecast

Sunny, mild and dry through Sunday. Highs of 80 today, 83 Saturday and 85 on Sunday.

Correction

A headline in Thursday's Battalion incorrectly said a Bryan man was shot and killed behind Duddley's Draw Wednesday. However, the shooting did not occur there. The Battalion regrets the error.