



by Denise Richter
Battalion Staff

Almost a quarter century of service to the Texas A&M University System will end today when chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert steps down from the position he has held since October 1, 1979. During a recent interview, Hubert reflected on his tenure at Texas A&M, a time that has included years of great growth and dramatic change for the University and the system.

Hubert came to Texas A&M — then the A&M College of Texas — on July 1, 1959. A&M College consisted of four colleges: Agriculture, Arts and Sciences, Engineering and Veterinary Medicine.

Hubert was hired as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, which included departments now in the colleges of Business, Liberal Arts, Science and Geosciences.

"My first entry on campus was very interesting," Hubert said. "I sat in my office (in Nagle Hall) over a period of two weeks ... with little to do."

But a call from President Earl Rudder changed all of this.

The legislature then was in session but had adjourned for the summer without passing an appropriation bill for the funding of higher education for the next year. To remedy this, Gov. Price Daniel called the legislature back into special session.

"It became clear toward the closing hours of the legislative session that the A&M College of Texas was not going to get funding at the level that it had requested," Hubert said. "So, one day about mid-July, I got a call from President Rudder and he said: 'Frank, I'd like very much if you could go back and visit with your department heads in the College of Arts and Sciences. You've got to reduce your budget request by \$180,000.'"

"Well, at that time, \$180,000 was a lot of money. I think the entire budget for the College of Arts and Sciences was just over \$1 million ... so he was requesting more than a 10 percent decrease in our new budget.

"I soon discovered that a very quick way to get to know your department heads on a very intimate basis is to go to them and say: 'Look, dear friend, we've got a request from the President's office to reduce our budget request by \$180,000.'"

"After much agonizing, rioting and confusion, we got the \$180,000 but it was a horrible experience. We put the budget together and the legislature did appropriate a lesser amount than we had requested. But we were off and running in the fall of 1959."

Hubert said program changes and organizational matters within the University were highlights of his 23 year tenure. He cited creation of the Department of Psychology and formation of the Political Forum as two of the most memorable changes.

In 1963, Dr. S.O. Brown, a professor in the College of Arts and Sciences, received a research contract with the U.S. Air Force to study the physiological effects of low-level radiation exposure on goats. In addition, the Air Force wanted a study on the psychological behavior and reaction of goats after exposure to low-level radiation.

Since Texas A&M did not have a practicing clinical psychologist on campus, Brown suggested that one be hired on a part-time basis from the University of Texas. But, by combining the salary of a part-time professor and a part-time researcher, Hubert was able to hire a practicing clinical psychologist on a full-time basis.

"We decided that he could do the research and also be available to students who had an interest in (psychology)," Hubert said. "It was out of that series of events that we brought on a full-time psychologist in animal studies, which grew ... from that modest background into the Department of Psychology."

The refusal of University administration to allow a Young Democrat group on campus led to the formation of the Political Forum.

Administrators refused the formation of the Young Democrats because, as Hubert said one administrator exclaimed: "My God, if they have a Democrat organization, someone's going to want a Republican association of all things and then the Socialist Party, and then who knows what else."

The administration urged students interested in politics to join the Brazos County chapter of Young Democrats but Hubert said students continued to want an organization of their own.

Finally, Hubert approved the formation of a Political Forum, which was given an initial appropriation and was administered out of the Office of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

However, Rudder placed this qualifier on the forum: every time the group brought a proponent of one side of an issue to campus, it would have to bring to the same program a proponent having the opposite view.

"This made it tremendously difficult to schedule top speakers to come to A&M," Hubert said. "But we finally were able to get two Houston congressmen — Bob Eckhart and George Bush — to come and share the podium ... for the first political forum program."

"The program was just literally

Dr. Frank W.

Veteran administrator excha

October 1, 1979 e 30

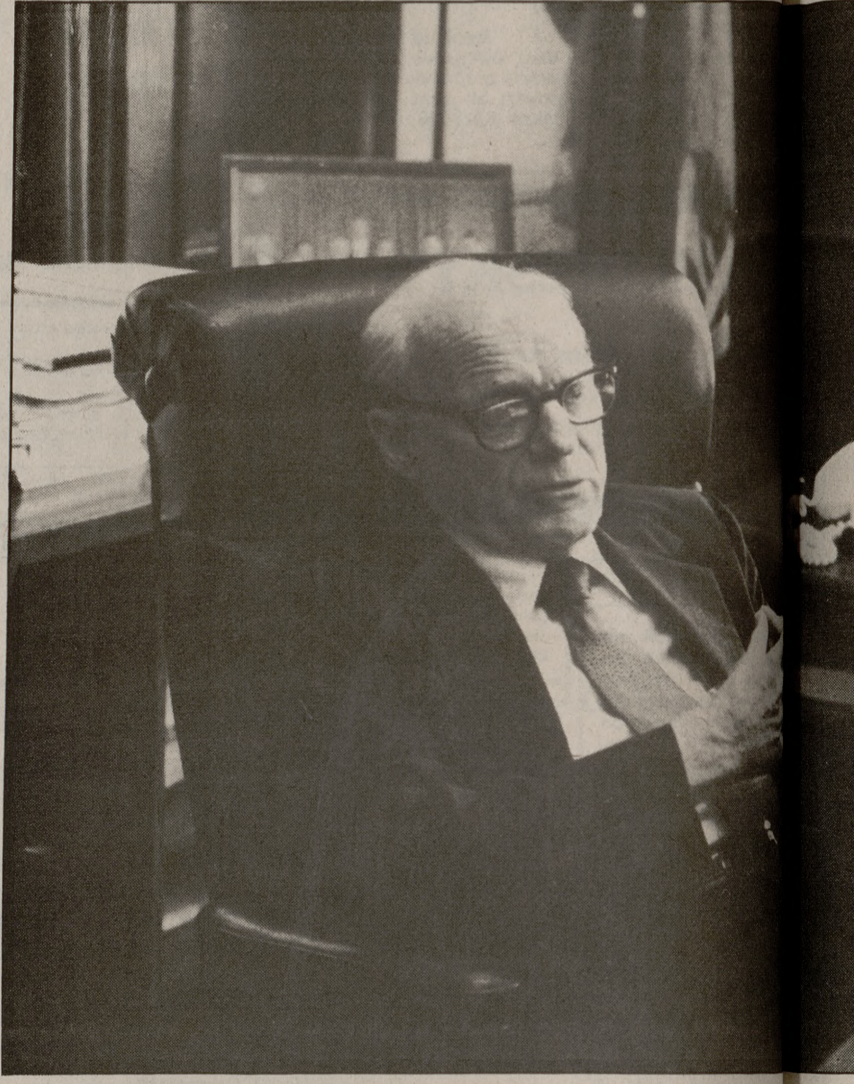
packed. It was held in 201 MSC and it was a standing room only crowd. After the evening's performance, the students gave them a standing ovation that I would guess lasted a full 45 minutes. It was amazing, both of them were overwhelmed."

Hubert said the two most dramatic changes — making membership in the Corps of Cadets non-mandatory and the admission of women — came about

as a result of declining enrollment.

"A discussion and debate on that very emotional issue had been in progress for several years before I arrived on the scene," Hubert said. "Both the voluntary military program and the admission of women had a sort of concurrent evolution over a period of years."

"There were former students who were just absolutely adamant that a



Biographical inform

Birthdate: June 2, 1915, Milam County, Texas

Education:

B.A., Government and History, University of Texas, 1938

M.A., Educational Administration and Government, University of Texas, 1946

Ph.D., Educational Administration and American Local Government, University of Texas, 1950

LL.D. Baylor University, 1979

Educational Experience:

Director of music, Luther Stark Boys, Inc., Orange, Texas, 1938-1944

Principal and director of secondary education, Orange, Texas, 1946-1948

Research fellow, Univer

Texas, 1948-19

Administrative direct

minimum found program

division, state univ., Austin

1949-1950

Director, divisional stan

Texas Education, 1950-1955

Superintendent, Orange,

1955-1959

Dean, Arts and Texas A&M

1959-1965

Dean, Liberal Arts, A&M, 1965-1969

Acting Dean of Texas

1969-1970

Dean, College of Texas

1969-1979

Chancellor, Texas University

1979-1982



Chancellor Hubert and Regents Chairman H. R. "Bum" Bright at a regent