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Vandiver reflects on first year

by Denise Richter
Battalion Staff

Dr. Frank E. Vandiver has been Texas A&M's president one year today. And after 365 days in office, he sees a University:

Bursting at the seams with students. In dire need of an expanded computer system.

Blessed with impressive faculty and enthusiastic students.

Defining the role of athletics.

Searching for a vice president for academic affairs.

"To say that I am impressed with A&M in all its facets is an understatement," Vandiver said. "But it does have problems and one of the most serious is that we are facing an enrollment crunch. And our new attempt to manage the enrollment by raising entrance standards doesn't seem to be slowing things down very much."

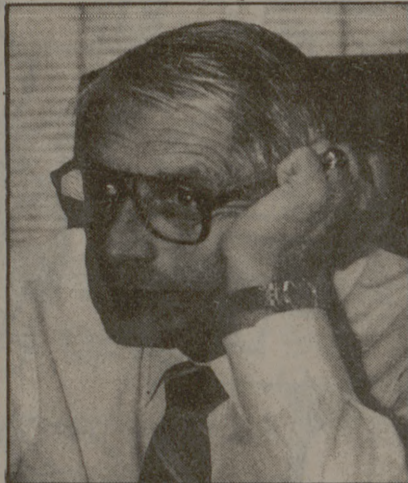
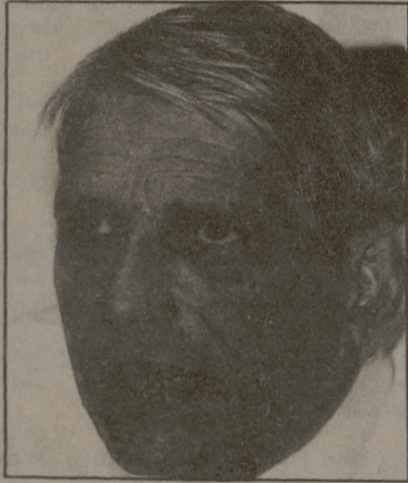
No official enrollment figures have been compiled, but University officials have predicted this semester's enrollment will reach 36,000, surpassing last fall's record enrollment of slightly more than 35,000.

But Vandiver said he knows why the enrollment hasn't slowed down.

"How do you knock a good thing?" he said. "A&M has become very well received among all Texas high schools. It's become the place to go."

Unfortunately, Texas A&M's popularity is causing problems with registration.

"Our first problem is to get some administrative computing figured out so the registration process doesn't



staff photos by Octavio Garcia

University President Frank E. Vandiver discusses his administration after a year in office.

crater on us," Vandiver said. "We've got to bring registration into the 20th century. We have an old system, an old set of software that we've patched and taped and glued and cut time after time and it's about to go down the tubes."

"I think the people who work in (registration) are heroic — they're doing the process themselves. They're making a quill pen do the work of a modern computer."

But replacing those "quill pens" won't be cheap. Software and hardware for a computer programmed for registration will cost about \$1.5 million, Vandiver said. Using the hard-

ware already in place at the Data Processing Center will bring the cost down to about \$750,000, he said.

But using the DPC presents problems, he said.

"We have a fine computer center with two great big Amdahls but we have problems with access ... because the University does not control the computer center," he said. "It is run by the Texas Engineering Experiment Station and not by us. So we are tenants there; we hire the equipment, and the rates are high."

System officials are studying ways to eliminate access and cost problems, he said.

Vandiver speaks frequently of making Texas A&M a world university. And one way this can be done is by hiring "stellar" faculty who will "move their college into international prominence," he said.

"I'd like to see us in the next five years try to hire at least 20 very distinguished faculty members in all fields and work very carefully with the deans to see where we need them the most," Vandiver said.

Once again, money enters the picture, he said.

"Each one of these are going to require a chair; and chairs are no longer cheap — anything under a million

dollars won't do it," he said. "Right there, you're talking about \$20 million. But you're also talking about all that goes with it ... lab equipment, graduate students, post-doctoral students, space and research funds. So around each chair you're talking about another million dollars to put the man in place."

And money also must be spent to keep current faculty members at Texas A&M, Vandiver said.

"The worst thing that can happen in a period of development is that you're galloping off to bring in all these new people and you just leave

the old people in the dust," he said. "So we've got to be sure we've got money to keep these people productive and happy."

One thing that may make faculty members happy is the creation of a faculty senate, he said. The move to establish a faculty senate began in May 1981. The final draft of a faculty senate constitution has been completed and the faculty is expected to vote on it this semester.

"There's some division of opinion over whether there ought to be a faculty senate," Vandiver said. "But it seems to me to be the best way to get faculty participation in University governance, which A&M badly needs."

The Academic Council is the only University-wide body dealing with academic matters. The Council primarily is made up of administrators, deans and department heads — only 34 of the 167 members are elected faculty members.

A bicameral governing body, with a faculty senate and the Academic Council, had been proposed. But the proposed faculty senate constitution calls for a unicameral body.

"What I'm hoping for is to reconstitute the Academic Council into something that might be called an administrative council," Vandiver said. "We could have all the administrators on that ... and have all the faculty representation through the faculty senate."

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Panel agrees on insanity defense changes

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — A panel agreed Tuesday there is dire need for tightening the insanity defense — which one panelist called "the stone in the shoe of the criminal justice system" — and making all criminals accountable for their acts.

Abraham Halpern, a New York psychiatrist who is president-elect of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law, called for abolition of the insanity plea, saying it does harm to the victim, the suspect and to society.

Arkansas Attorney General Steve Clark said a "guilty, but mentally ill" verdict should be available to a jury, while District Attorney Arthur "Cappy" Eads of Belton, Texas, said use of the insanity plea should be tightened.

Maxene Kleier, a Florida woman whose mentally ill daughter killed another daughter and was found innocent by reason of insanity, said the entire system for treating mentally ill people must be changed.

Much of the discussion at the Southern Legislative Conference centered around the recent acquittal of

John Hinckley, who successfully argued he was insane when he shot President Reagan and three other men in Washington in 1981.

"You're going to have more Hinckleys. You're putting them on the street," said Kleier, who claimed doctors tried to release her daughter within a few months after she stabbed her sister to death.

"I will never let my daughter out until she can look me in the eye and say, 'I killed my sister.'"

Kleier said mentally ill people who

commit crimes should be treated while institutionalized and not be released until they are able to cope in society. Treatment of the mentally ill is now worthless, she said.

Kleier and Clark agreed the verdict of "guilty, but mentally ill" should be available to a jury, so a defendant acquitted of a crime because of insanity cannot quickly be released from an institution.

The insanity defense now allows an Arkansas criminal to walk free an average of 48 days after conviction,

Clark said. "If you are committed (today), you will be out in time for Halloween, trick-or-treating," Clark said.

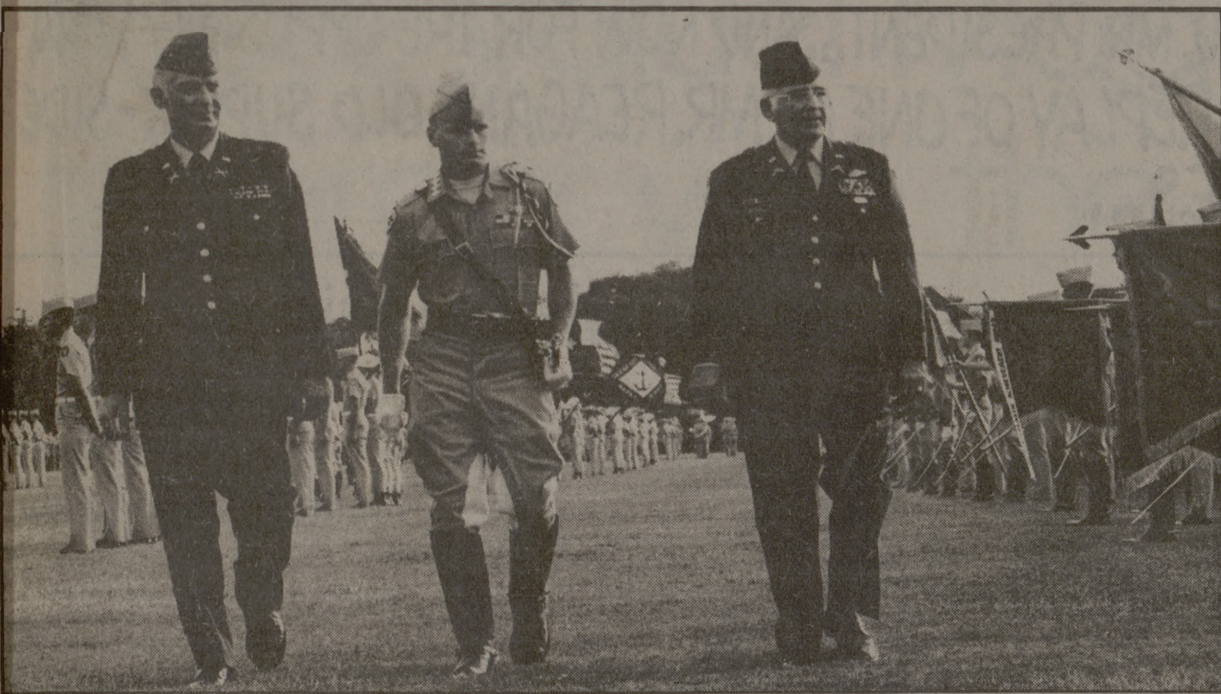
Eads, district attorney for Bell and Lampasas counties in Texas, said psychiatrists should not be allowed to make the moral decisions intended for judges, jurors and legislators. The burden of proof in an insanity case should be on the defendant, he said.

"When someone escapes accountability for their actions, it strikes at the very basis of our legal system and our

society," Eads said. "The insanity defense has become the stone in the shoe of the criminal justice system."

Halpern said the insanity defense should be abolished because it provides a chance for serious abuse of psychiatry and creates a stigma for all mentally ill people, who are regarded as criminals.

"Abolition of the insanity defense would also benefit the public," Halpern said, "because it assures the government maintains control of a man who has broken the law."



staff photo by Octavio Garcia

A farewell to arms

The retirement of Corps Commandant James Woodall was honored with a cannon salute and ceremony on the main drill field Tuesday. From left, new Corps Commandant Donald Burton, Corps Commander Mike Holmes and Woodall inspect the cadets. Woodall served as commandant of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets for five years.

Recovery 'under way,' government, others say

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The government's leading economic indicators rose for the fourth straight month in July, and the Administration said Tuesday that means recovery from the recession is "indeed under way."

The composite index of leading indicators was up 1.3 percent in July and promises to show sharp improvement in August because of the stock market surge, the Commerce Department reported.

"The July increase provides an encouraging sign that an economic recovery of at least moderate strength is indeed under way," Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes told reporters in Santa Barbara, Calif., where President Reagan is vacationing.

It was the strongest White House assertion yet that the recession has ended.

President Reagan first declared the nation to be in recession Oct. 11 and independent analysts later said it actually had begun in July 1981.

For the first time the administration's prediction of better times ahead is supported from several independent directions.

Stock market performance, interest rate declines and the views of most private forecasters in addition to the composite index of future trends all point to an improvement of some dimension near the end of the year.

The Dow Jones average of selected industrial stocks soared to a 12-month high Monday and kept improving

on Tuesday. Jerry Jasinowski, chief economist of the National Association of Manufacturers, said, "These latest figures provide further evidence that we are on the road to economic activity."

More optimistic was Jack Albertine, president of the American Business Conference, a lobbying group representing high growth companies listed on the American stock exchange. "The substantial increase shows that the recovery is gaining strength," he said.

Private forecaster Michael Evans, now chief economist of a New York securities dealer, McMahon, Brafman, Morgan and Company, agreed the recovery is on the way, but predicted it will be brief: "The indicators are pretty strong now. We are going to have a recovery and it's going to last all of two quarters."

Seven of the 10 available indicators that influence the composite index showed improvement in July and three were negative, including stock prices which turned around in a record rally in August.

The indicators showing improvement were led upward by an increase in building permits. Also improved was the length of the average workweek.

New unemployment insurance claims decreased. Orders for consumer goods adjusted for inflation went up, as did orders for factory equipment.

Polish riots mark Solidarity's anniversary

United Press International
WARSAW, Poland — Riot police using concussion grenades, tear gas and water cannons clashed Tuesday with thousands of Poles who defied martial law and marched in nine cities to mark Solidarity's second anniversary. Several hundred arrests were reported.

Officials said injuries had been reported but gave no details.

Some of the protesters chanted "Gestapo, Gestapo" and "Free Lech Walesa" in the rallies that defied repeated government warnings it would use full force to break up protests called by the suspended union's underground leaders.

The official news agency PAP reported hundreds were arrested, including Zbigniew Romaszewski, director of the clandestine Solidarity Radio who had been in hiding since martial law was imposed last Dec. 13. Security forces also cut intercity

phone links, slapped a curfew on the key southwestern city of Wroclaw and planned similar measures in other regions.

In Warsaw, angry young demonstrators among 20,000 protesters hurled rocks and occasionally gasoline bombs from behind improvised barricades before riot police battled back with tear gas.

Street clashes raged until 11 p.m. in Gdansk, Solidarity's birthplace. Police broke up the last barricade there by firing tear gas at youths holding Molotov cocktails at a barricade 300 yards from the suspended trade union's headquarters, where someone placed a lighted candle and a bouquet of flowers on the doorstep.

An Interior Ministry spokesman claimed the rallies were a blow to Solidarity because fewer than 100,000 people participated nationwide — a small fraction of Solidarity's 10 million members.

"Despite good preparation and propaganda, the organizers of the demonstrations did not manage to achieve their aim," he said. "The fact that workers did not take part, that there were no strikes, is important."

The underground leaders of the suspended trade union did not immediately offer an assessment of the protests. They had staked the future of the movement on a massive turnout.

The U.S. State Department said the second anniversary demonstrations showed "once again that repression will not solve Poland's problems" and wished Solidarity "a long, fruitful and successful life."

The Soviet Union condemned them, however, and hinted the result would be an extension and tightening of the martial law imposed in Poland last Dec. 13.

"Today's developments in Poland showed the anti-socialist under-

ground forces who were dealt a serious blow as a result of the introduction of martial law are not fully broken as yet," the official news agency Tass said in Moscow.

As military helicopters circled overhead and columns of armored vehicles rumbled through city streets, peaceful rallies erupted into near-riots.

In Wroclaw, Warsaw and Nowa Huta, the Krakow suburb that is home of the giant Lenin Steel Works, thousands of demonstrators fought back as authorities tried to disperse them, hurling rocks at police from behind improvised barricades.

Fighting also was reported in Gdansk, site of the Lenin shipyard strike that ended when the government sanctioned Solidarity on Aug. 31, 1980, making it the East bloc's first independent trade union.

The boom of concussion grenades echoed through city streets in Warsaw

and Gdansk, but government spokesman Jerzy Urban told an evening news conference, "I can assure you that before today is over there will be calm all over the country."

Peaceful pro-Solidarity demonstrations were held in New York City and in at least two cities in West Germany.

The Gdansk clashes still were going on three hours after riot police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse more than 5,000 shipyard workers gathered at a monument commemorating workers killed in December 1970 riots.

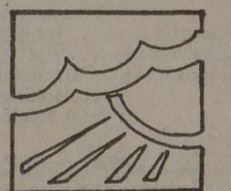
Barricades were set up and one building was briefly set afire. A witness said it was the residence of the Rev. Henryk Jankowski, priest of interned Solidarity chief Lech Walesa.

One soldier apologized to a demonstrator. "If you were in my position, you would obey orders too."

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forecast



Today's Forecast: Same as usual. Very slight chance of afternoon showers. High in the high 90s, low in the mid-70s.