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Tom Joseph  
Guest Speaker

Class of '85  
meeting

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## Vandiver

(cont. from page 1)

"This administrative council would work entirely with me as an advisory body. We wouldn't use this as a way to delay things, but as a way to discuss things from an administrative standpoint, which the faculty, fortunately from their standpoint, doesn't have to worry about."

One thing Vandiver said he doesn't have to worry about is the quality of students attracted to Texas A&M.

"The students here are, I think, a cut above what you find in most state universities," Vandiver said. "And I'm not knocking students in any state university. I just think (Texas A&M students) are different in that they're serious — they're devoted students."

Vandiver doesn't limit his praise to current students — he said he thinks the former students are a special group, too.

"The former students all are fans of A&M," he said. "So many times, you talk to a current student and you talk to someone who's been out for 50 years and they're equally interested in A&M and in each other."

Both current and former students usually share an interest in athletics. And it was an athletic matter — the hiring of Universi-

ty of Pittsburgh Head Coach Jackie Sherrill and the firing of Texas A&M Coach Tom Wilson — that caused one of the few low points he experienced during his first year, Vandiver said.

However, the nationwide attention the controversy attracted has been remarkably good for Texas A&M in the long run, he said.

"I suppose there are moments when every university administrator grinds his teeth over the publicity athletics attracts," he said. "But the attention drawn to the university can be turned to the general academic advantage of the school."

"For instance, there was a television crew from Los Angeles here the other day ... and they came by to talk to me about Sherrill and the hiring of the coach. But while they were at it, I got to tell them about National Merit scholars and about the general University situation and they got really interested in that."

"So I think if you look around as a result of Sherrill coming here, the publicity we've gotten nationally has been remarkably good for A&M in the long run. You can bite your nails about some of the things they've been

saying but look at the general trend of stories and we have had national visibility that we simply never would have been able to pay for."

Administrators have to learn athletics are a growing part of every university, Vandiver said.

"I think any balanced view of a university in the American scene at this particular time has to take the view that academic progress and athletic progress go hand-in-hand," he said. "I think if you are careful to see that the University still controls athletics — and I haven't seen it get out of hand in very many places — then there's a positive good that comes of it."

One of Vandiver's long-range plans involves the reorganization of University administration, which will be presented to the Texas A&M System Board of Regents for approval this month.

Some changes already have been made — in August, Vandiver requested and received the resignations of two Texas A&M vice presidents. The positions of vice president for planning, held by Dr. Charles Samson, and vice president of international affairs, held by Dr. T.R. Greathouse, were abolished.

However, the bulk reorganization hinges on selection of a new vice president for academic affairs, said Dr. Charles McFatter, serving as interim vice president for academic affairs.

"If you don't have a person as the academic president, none of the reorganization will work," he said. "I regard the academic officer as the king of the

University. In fact, I think to change the title to president and vice president for academic affairs to indicate that the person ... has a stature that's around, that person will be a shop."

Yes, Vandiver has been locking A&M's president one day. And the most interesting thing he has learned at University is that it's a bench press relief.

"It's not just papers. Off with bricks and mortar," Vandiver said. "There's an improvement about it that shows a good deal of good work on here — there's a process in action. It's a special place."

## Teacher strikes keep kids home

United Press International  
Teacher strikes Tuesday delayed classes or caused scheduling problems for nearly 70,000 students nationwide, with tough-talking union negotiators vowing to have a Florida superintendent fired and blasting a suburban Chicago official for playing the horses rather than bargaining.

Pennsylvania, hardest hit by teacher walkouts, had six teacher unions on the picket line, canceling the first day of school or shutting down some classes for nearly 50,000 youngsters.

Nearly 700 teachers in three

Michigan school districts were on strike, keeping more than 11,500 students on an extended summer vacation, and 6,800 students were affected by strikes in Butte, Mont.

Teachers, counselors, librarians, psychologists and nurses in the Allegheny Intermediate Unit, based in Pittsburgh, were on strike Monday, as were teachers in five other districts.

In Philadelphia, members of the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers were scheduled to meet Tuesday night for a contract ratification vote on a three-year pact the union's executive board approved Sunday. If

approved, Philadelphia schools will open on time this year for the first time in three years.

Talks aimed at ending the Pittsburgh-based AIU strike that began last Tuesday broke off early Monday with salaries the main stumbling block.

School was canceled Monday for 1,500 handicapped students who attend eight special schools.

The 230 teachers in the Highlands district of Allegheny County set up their picket lines Monday after rejecting a contract offer Sunday night.

Teachers went on strike Monday in Highland Park, Novi

and Bullock Creek, Mich. Washington County was hit by two strikes in northwest of Chicago.

Teachers threatened boycott talks because the school negotiator Zweiback went to the Race Track Sunday rather than negotiating with the union.

In Fort Lauderdale, Fla., school board will be as teachers at a meeting Tuesday to fire Superintendent McFatter, said Art Keiser, president of the Florida Teachers Association.

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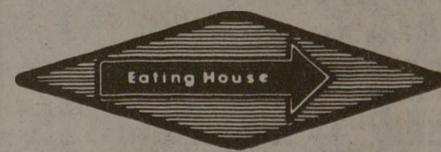
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