

Aggie bishop visits A&M

A&M researchers study political action groups

by Elaine Engstrom
Battalion Staff
They lined up on New Main Drive to hitch rides into Houston, watched "Curly Fox and Texas Ruby" on the television in the YMCA building and read Buck Rogers space comics. And some of them prayed.

They were the students of Texas A&M University in the years near the end of World War II. They were waiting for their time to serve their country, most of them as soldiers. One, in particular, found a different way to serve.

Bernard Ganter was a freshman chemical engineering student at Texas A&M during the 1944-45 school year, but left the University to become a Catholic priest. Today, Ganter is a bishop in the Beaumont-Port Arthur Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church.

Ganter, 54, was in town Saturday to visit the campus and St. Mary's Catholic Church. He watched the Texas A&M-Texas Christian University football game, attended a barbeque at St. Mary's and said mass at the church on Sunday morning.

Ganter, one of 12 bishops in Texas, said he knows of no other Aggie bishop, although the state has many Aggie priests. His diocese, or area of authority, includes more than 95,000 Catholics.

Before becoming a bishop, Ganter was a priest at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Houston. He was transferred to Tulsa, Okla., where he was one of the state's two bishops. Five years ago, he was transferred to Beaumont.

In the days when he attended Texas A&M, Ganter said, life on campus was very different from today.

"School went all year round," he said.

There wasn't a Memorial Student Center like there is now.

and dictated

policy of re-

old-reserve

ween 2 to 4 p.

l be used so-

ivate bank-

ture invest-

nuclear en-

our dying

J.S. capital

huge Latin

d your last

e between a

national la-

ression in

ble civil wa-

in America

ports the

bal indus-

Americans

force and

orous jim-

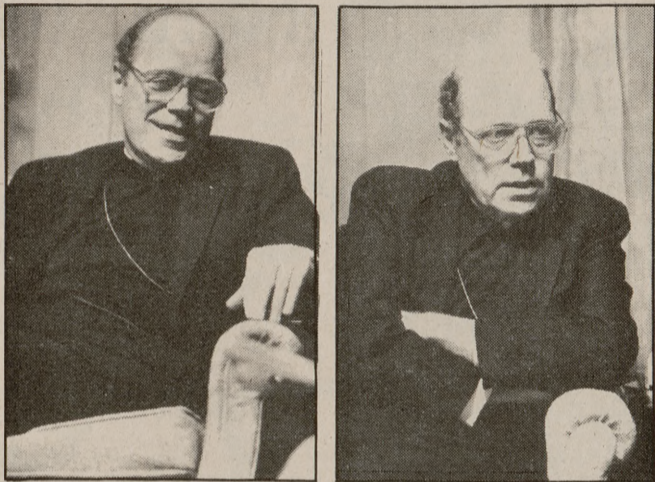
inned mes-

bove optio-

at you resp-

is regard-

Brian Wil-



Bishop Bernard Ganter

There wasn't much development in Bryan either. There was nothing south or east of the University. University Drive just had a few stores and the Campus Theater.

"On Wellborn, there was a train depot and a passenger train made daily stops coming to and from Houston. But most students hitched rides on the highway by New Main Drive. It was easy to get rides then, especially if you were wearing your military uniform. Not too many students had cars back in those days."

Ganter chose to go to Texas A&M because he was too young to get into the service and because it was cheaper than other schools.

"Even though I only went one year, I'm an Aggie," he said.

In high school in Galveston, Ganter considered joining the priesthood. But, he didn't pur-

There are very few individuals who are brought into people's lives as intimately as a priest. We share their joys as well as their sorrows and suffering.

"It's similar to an old family doctor. Now that's been lost because the doctors have become so professional."

Ganter, who has been a priest for 30 years, recently attended a national conference of bishops in Washington. At the conference, Catholic bishops from all over the United States approved a rough draft of a 110-page paper on nuclear arms.

In May, the bishops will vote on the final draft of the document. The paper is being presented by the bishops to stimulate discussion and decisions on nuclear arms and warfare.

"The bishops think that nuclear war is wrong," Ganter said. "We advocate a bilateral freeze between the U.S. and the Soviet Union to try and disarm."

Ganter's expressed concern for the future of the United States and the young people who will live in it.

"It's not my world anymore," he said. "It's yours (the young people). When I was a young man in college, it was a very different world. It's a great world, but it has some scary things in it."

sue the idea until he came to Texas A&M. While on campus, he met the Rev. Tim Vallenta of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Bryan. Vallenta said weekly mass for students at a little chapel on Nagle Street near St. Mary's current location.

Vallenta and Ganter became friends and, with Vallenta's encouragement, Ganter left school to enroll in a seminary in LaPorte. From seminary, he went to graduate school for three years at the Catholic University of America in Washington, where he studied canon law. Canon, or church, law is used in church administration.

The situation of the country during those years also influenced Ganter.

"A lot of families were hurting," he said.

"There was a lot of suffering as a result of the war. I wanted to give my life to help these people.

by Brian Boyer
Battalion Reporter

Corporations can use public policy committees to ensure business interests are represented more effectively in government, Texas A&M researchers say.

A study conducted by the Business and Public Policy Group, part of the University's management department, concluded that individual shareholders seem to want to become involved in corporate political efforts.

But Dr. Gerald Keim, leader of the group, said that corporations have been reluctant to get shareholders involved in political activity.

"If a small percentage of those people were politically informed on the issues that affect the corporations," he said, "so that they didn't make their voting decision on the basis of rhetoric, campaign slogans, bumper stickers or party affiliation... I think the corporate sector would be much more effectively represented in the political process."

Most large corporations rely on lobbying and political action committees (PACs) to represent their interests in government.

PACs make contributions to candidates for public office, especially for legislative races. PAC contributions are limited by federal campaign laws to \$5,000 per candidate per election.

Keim disagrees with accusations that PACs "buy" elections by supplying campaign funds.

"It strikes me that, far from buying votes and buying political influence, the PAC phenomenon that we're seeing is much more like protection money in the days of the mob — you can't afford not to make a contribution," he said.

Candidates solicit contributions from the PACs, Keim said. No PAC can hope to buy a candidate because that candidate may have received several contributions from PACs with competing interests.

"I don't think the PACs are subverting democracy, but on the other hand, I'm not convinced that PACs are very effective either, in terms of representing anyone's interest," he said.

Corporations could have bet-

ter representation, Keim said, through constituency building programs — designed to provide stockholders with information on key issues and encourage them to let their representatives know their stand on issues.

A survey by the Business and Public Policy Group indicated that individual shareholders represent a potentially effective political force for corporate interests.

The survey, which included shareholders from six major corporations, indicated that 65 percent of the shareholders responding to the survey agreed with corporate positions on public policy issues. Ninety percent of the respondents were interested in receiving information on key issues from the corporation.

Corporations will begin to abandon PACs in favor of shareholder constituency programs which Texas A&M has pioneered, Keim said.

"We're going to be right up front working with these companies as more and more of them get involved," he said.

NOW OPEN!

BRAZOS valley Christian
BOOK AND GIFT STORE

- Books
- Music
- Jewelry
- Bibles
- Gifts

Open till 8 p.m. on Thursday
3803 Texas Ave. 846-3433 Bryan
(Across from Randy Sims Bar-B-Que)

Mr. Gatti's

The Best Pizza In Town! Honest.

WE DELIVER

Mr. Gatti's Pizzamat
846-3412
Shiloh Place — 693-0035

AFTER 5 P.M. — MIN. \$5.00 ORDER

BUY, SELL, TRADE OR RENT THROUGH THE
CLASSIFIED ADS

T.S.O.

Prescriptions Filled
Glasses Repaired

BRYAN
216 N. Main 799-2786
Mon.-Fri. 8-5 Sat. 8-1
COLLEGE STATION
8008 Post Oak Mall .. 764-0010
Mon.-Sat. 10-9 p.m.

TEXAS STATE OPTICAL

Since 1935.

Have a
Safe Holiday
Don't drink &
drive
Happy
Thanksgiving

Alcohol Awareness
Project
845-5826/
845-0596

LESLIE NIELSEN

IN
IRA LEVIN'S

DEATHTRAP

"AN ABSOLUTE KNOCKOUT" Walter Kerr, N.Y. Times
A Paramount Theatre Production
John M. Bernardoni, Executive Producer

Presented by
MSC Town Hall/Broadway

Sun., November 21, 1982 at 8 p.m.
in Rudder Auditorium

Tickets:
Zone II \$9⁵⁰ Zone III \$8⁵⁰

For more information call the MSC Box Office
845-1234

Once is never enough.

So good, you'll come back for more. Because Coors is made for the times when just one beer won't do. Enjoy the taste that's first beer fresh. Coors after Coors.

Made for the way you really like it.

