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Eaton cites reasons A&M not top school

by Scott Griffin

Battalion Staff

While it ranks sixth in the nation in number of National Merit Scholars enrolled, Texas A&M University has some major problems to correct before it can be considered a "world class university" says an academic official here.

Dr. Gordon Eaton, provost and vice-president of academic affairs, Tuesday said Texas A&M cannot be considered a "world university" and cited five major problems that keep the school from attaining that

rank. The first of the problems, Eaton said, is money.

"Today's education involves more than just the students and professors," Eaton said. "Studios, laboratories and equipment are now a necessity,

and equipment is becoming exceedingly expensive.

Eaton pointed out that the money shortage can't be blamed on the school. "The state has done a very poor job of funding this school in terms of equipment," he said, "and there's not a department or college at this university which couldn't use some more equipment."

Engineering alone asked for about \$27 million," he said, "and they're going to wind up with only about \$1 million."

Eaton said another major problem is the University's lack of computers.

"This University is just emerging from the dark ages as far as computing facilities and computer literacy is concerned on the part of both the students and faculty," he said.

A third problem area, which Eaton

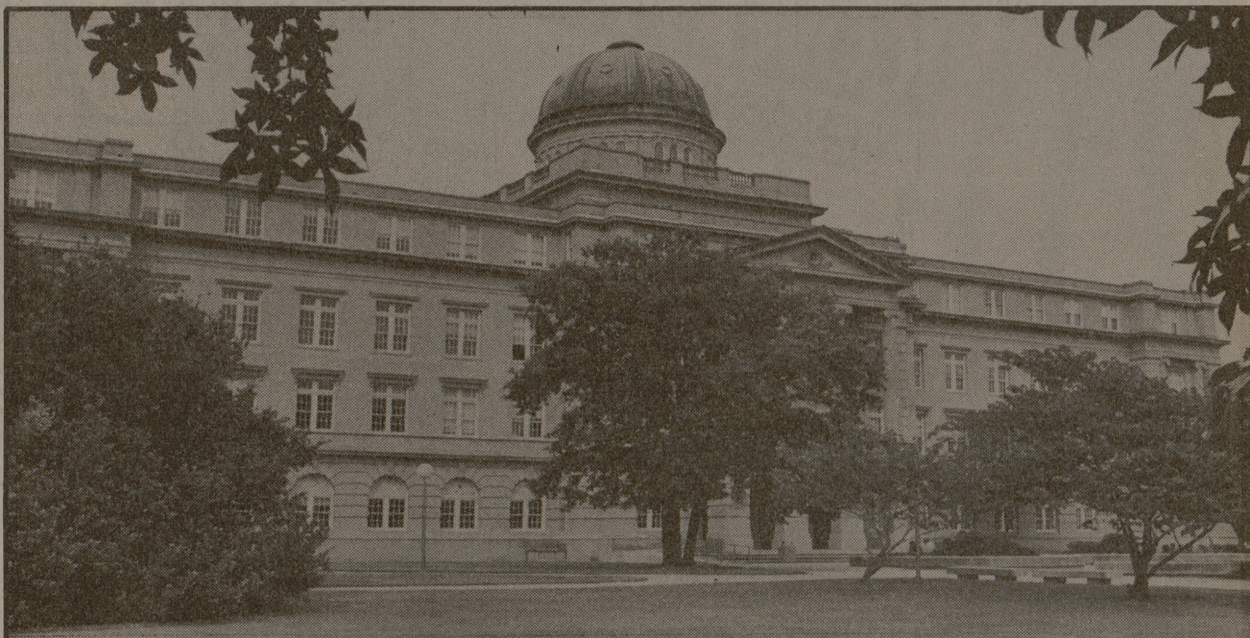
said is undergoing change, concerns entrance standards.

"We will continue to raise combined SAT scores for admission," Eaton said. "You can raise the academic performance level to one of greater excellence by making it harder to get in, thereby drawing better students."

Another problem, and one which may be considerably more difficult to correct, is rampant growth.

"One thing this school must do in order to provide a quality education is to reduce class size," he said. "When you're sitting in a classroom with 300 other people, you're not getting a quality education."

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staff photo by Peter Rocha

The Academic Building was the first major building to be erected here with a structural frame of reinforced concrete,

and one of less than thirty buildings on campus at the time. Restoration of the landmark will begin in August.

Academic Building to receive facelift

by Robert McGlohan

Battalion Staff

The Academic Building, beautiful but old landmark that it is, will get a face-lift beginning in August, but it won't spoil its regal look.

It would be easier to simply rejuvenate the building. Tim Donathen, the Texas A&M System architect in charge of the restoration, said, but that wouldn't be in keeping with its character.

"I have more of an appreciation in preserving the original form," Donathen said. "It's going to take a year to achieve it, but it is a very worthwhile project."

Unfortunately, the original form of the Academic Building, without repairs and alterations, dates back to 1912, to the time when Old Main, Texas A&M's first building, burned down and the Academic Building was built in its place.

It was the first major building to be erected here with a structural

frame of reinforced concrete, and one of less than thirty buildings on campus at the time.

Former head of the architecture department Dr. Ernest Langford, in his book on Texas A&M buildings "Here We'll Build The College," writes of an amusing problem that arose with the relatively new technique used in the construction of the Academic Building.

"In the mid-thirties drinking fountains were being (installed) in the building and in order to run pipes and drains to the various floors, it was necessary to cut holes in the concrete slabs," Langford writes. "In cutting these holes workmen exposed a veritable mesh of steel reinforcing bars — so many in fact that the only way they could be removed was to burn them out with a torch."

"Professor F.E. Giesecke had done the structural design, and when this mesh of bars was called to

his attention he said in a joking sort of way: 'I knew a whole lot less about reinforced concrete than I do now. So I just figured out the amount of steel which I thought was necessary and doubled it!'"

Barring natural disaster, Donathen, Class of '74, said, "that building will be around for an awfully long time."

The restoration of the Academic Building will not involve structural repairs, Donathen said. Nor, at present, will it involve interior work, he added, because the classrooms are too important to the registrar's office.

The project consists entirely of exterior work. Some of the jobs to be done include: replacement and repair of small portions of the exterior brick and cast stone; installation of a new urethane foam roof; repair of

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Plan for desegregation of Texas colleges OK'd

United Press International

AUSTIN — A plan to desegregate Texas colleges and universities, deemed "wholly inadequate" by minority groups but praised as "a landmark for the state" by Gov. Mark White, has been accepted by federal officials.

The U.S. Department of Education announced its acceptance of the plan Wednesday, saying it "adequately conforms" with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, or national origin in federally-subsidized education programs.

"This is the first (time) any state plan has ever been approved without litigation," White said at a news conference Wednesday. "I think it's a landmark for the state of Texas."

However, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund earlier said the 170-page document was "wholly inadequate to eliminate the vestiges of the state's racially dual system."

The Education Department's acceptance of the plan hinged on adequate funding of provisions calling for the state to spend more than \$200 million to improve programs and teaching staffs at mostly black Prairie View A&M and Texas Southern universities.

The plan also required the state to appropriate \$101 million for schools with a high percentage of Hispanics, including the University of Texas-El Paso, UT-San Antonio, Pan American University, Texas A&I University and Corpus Christi State University.

sity.

Texas Secretary of State John Fainter, who represented the state in final negotiations, said many of the plan's requirements already had been implemented.

White filed the document in response to a federal court order in March that gave Texas 45 days to develop a plan that met the U.S. Education Department's approval.

The order from a Washington, D.C. federal judge was obtained by civil rights activists unhappy with the pace of desegregation in the college system of Texas and 12 other states.

The Texas system includes 105 colleges and universities and more than 667,000 students. Federal aid to higher education in Texas is estimated at \$300 million a year.

Supreme Court quashes restrictions on abortion

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court, in its most sweeping ruling since the 1973 legalization of abortion, pulled the rug out from under states that had placed restrictions on a woman's right to end her pregnancy.

Wednesday's ruling provoked outraged cries from opponents of abortion who denounced the court for permitting "abortion on demand" and vowed to redouble their efforts to

rewrite the Constitution to ban the procedure.

Holding that states may not freely regulate access to abortions, the nation's highest court struck down some state restrictions that required mandatory hospitalization, mandatory waiting periods and "informed consent" from women who sought abortions after their first three months of pregnancy.

The court's first woman justice,

Sandra Day O'Connor, sided with the dissenters in the 6-3 decision on the state rules and agreed with the majority on the few restrictions allowed for minors.

Her vote was carefully watched by both advocates and foes of abortion.

When she was nominated to replace Justice Potter Stewart, abortion foes criticized her stand on the issue during her service in the Arizona legislature.

Pope heads for Polish homeland

United Press International

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul II prayed his sensitive pilgrimage to Poland today would bring freedom and justice, but admitted it was coming at a difficult time for his native land.

The special Alitalia 727 jet carrying the pope, his entourage and 60 reporters was scheduled to leave Rome's Leonardo da Vinci Airport at 4:40 a.m. today for the two-hour, 20-minute flight to Warsaw. The eight-day trip is his second to Poland since coming pope in October 1978.

On the eve of the trip, the pope commented on the journey's sensitive nature, saying Wednesday it was tak-

ing place "in this both sublime and difficult moment for my homeland."

"I pray to you so that this pilgrimage may serve truth and love, freedom and justice. That it may serve reconciliation and peace," the pope told some 35,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square to hear his weekly general address. "May the good shepherd of our souls permit all of us to join together in prayer and hope."

The journey — his first to Poland since 1979 — is a gamble for the Vatican, the Polish authorities and church and the opposition. But all sides seemed to agree it could not be put off any longer.

The trip was delayed for 10 months

because of the December 1981 martial law crackdown that eventually crushed the Solidarity trade union.

In Warsaw, there was intense speculation on whether a meeting between John Paul and former Solidarity leader Lech Walesa — who have met twice before in private audience — will be able to take place.

Walesa said two plainclothes security policemen entered his Gdansk apartment Wednesday night and made it clear the military authorities did not want the former Solidarity leader to leave his Gdansk home.

He said the officers told him to remain at home "for my own safety."

Chilean labor boss snatched

United Press International

SANTIAGO, Chile — Armed men Wednesday kidnapped a Chilean labor leader who organized anti-government protests that erupted into the worst street violence in the 10-year military regime of Gen. Augusto Pinochet.

Two were reported killed and at least 350 arrested in Tuesday's demonstrations broken up by police armed with submachine guns. Police used tear gas, water cannons and attack dogs to disperse thousands of protesters demanding a return to civilian rule.

Labor leader Hernan Mery said armed men arrived at his Santiago home at 2 a.m. and kidnapped Roberto Seguel, head of Chile's copper workers union and organizer of the protests.

The demonstrations included a nationwide job and school boycott and street protests that included the banging of pots and pans and the honking of car horns in Santiago neighborhoods — scenes reminiscent of the days preceding the overthrow of President Salvador Allende.

Radio reports today said two youths were killed in the street battles

and more than 350 people were arrested across the nation — at least 175 in Santiago.

It was the second day of mass protests in just over a month against the government of Gen. Augusto Pinochet, who is facing mounting opposition sparked by Chile's deepest economic crisis in 50 years.

Parents kept their children from school and workers stayed home as part of the boycott called to demand an end to the state of emergency, early elections, the return of political exile and an end to censorship.

Organizing the protest was the National Workers Command, set up after a May 11 demonstration in which two people died in clashes with police and more than 300 were arrested.

Copper mine leader Rodolfo Seguel called the protest a success and said "discontent is mounting in the country."

Pinochet, 67, blamed the riots on the outlawed Communist Party and warned he will prevent further disturbances "at any cost."

Pinochet, who left Santiago early Tuesday accompanied by eight cabinet ministers, warned of harsher

measures to prevent further outbreaks.

In a speech in the northern mining town of Copiapo, Pinochet said he will not give in to demands to reform the 1980 Constitution, which extends his rule until 1989.

"To the politicians, I say from here little by little we are going to send them to their caves to put an end to this problem," Pinochet said.

In working class neighborhoods of Santiago, protesters erected flaming barricades with car tires and in the neighborhood of La Granja, some 150 unemployed youths rampaged when police arrived to disperse them with tear gas. In middle class neighborhoods, families went to their balconies and banged empty pots and pans while others honked car horns along the main avenues of the city.

In downtown Santiago, riot police used water cannons and attack dogs to break up crowds of people milling around after work.

Earlier in the day, outside the University of Chile library, 1,000 students burned effigies of Pinochet.

Police said 296 people were arrested around the country, 175 in Santiago.



staff photo by Barry Papke

Dr. Jose Porteiro, working in the wind tunnel, checks the placement of a probe during a practice run of a model of the space shuttle.

A&M researchers trying to find answer to shuttle ice formation

by Joe Tindel Jr.

Battalion Staff

The infamous tiles that protect the space shuttle from the extreme heat encountered during re-entry into the earth's atmosphere have been a source of worry since the maiden voyage of Columbia.

And for about a year, Texas A&M has been involved in the search for a solution to one of the several problems concerning those tiles — the formation of ice on the shuttle's central fuel tank.

Texas A&M's Wind Tunnel Facility is the site of the testing. The goal of the testing is to discover a way to prevent ice from forming on the tank. During lift off, the ice

breaks loose from the tank striking the tile area and damaging some of the tiles, said Dr. Jose Porteiro, assistant professor of aerospace engineering.

Porteiro, along with Dr. Thomas Pollock, associate professor of engineering design graphics, coordinates the testing using a mock-up of the Cape Kennedy launch complex and a 1/50 scale mock-up of the attached center tank, solid rocket boosters and orbiter, Porteiro said.

Results of the testing are reported to the Johnson Space Center, he said.

The professors currently are working on a possible solution that would prevent the ice from forming before launch. Porteiro said the idea

involves placing a number of vertical jets on the launch pad between the tank and the orbiter. These jets would blow heated air up the side of the tank and hopefully prevent the ice formation on part of the tank.

To prevent ice at the upper levels of the tank, including the topmost part, or ogee, fans would be attached to the launch tower at different heights along the upper part of the tank. The fans also would blow air onto the tank.

Success of the project depends on the improvement of a mathematical value called the heat transfer coefficient, Porteiro said. If the heat transfer coefficient is raised to a high enough value, the ice will not form.

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forecast

Partly cloudy today with a 20 percent chance of isolated thunder-showers and a high of 89. The low tonight near 70. For Friday, partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of afternoon thundershowers and a high of 91.