

Vandiver praises faculty scholar program

By **ROBIN BLACK**
Senior Staff Writer

Texas A&M University has made dramatic strides over the last two years in establishing and pursuing an active endowed faculty scholar program, University President Frank E. Vandiver said Thursday.

Vandiver's enthusiasm follows the Board of Regents' \$10 million appropriation Monday for the Endowed Faculty Scholars Program.

"The \$10 million will come out of the Available University Fund — part of the Permanent University

Fund that A&M gets a chunk of each year — and will be used to match private donations to the program. The endowment program is four-faceted.

The University oversees endowments for academic chairs, professorships and faculty and graduate fellowships. Each category must have a minimum endowment gift: named chairs must receive at least \$500,000, professorships must receive at least \$150,000, and faculty and graduate fellowships a minimum of \$75,000.

Under guidelines set up by the University in late 1983, if the minimum donation for each endowment is met, the University will supply matching funds for a second endowment under the same category.

The money for the various chairs and fellowships can be used for things ranging from research and new equipment to salary supplements attractive to prospective faculty.

Vandiver said the chairs are an asset when A&M is recruiting faculty, because not only do they attract top

professors, but they also attract people who want to work with distinguished chair-holders.

Total funding the regents gave the program last year was \$7 million. "Just by looking at how we're doing with the program right now," Vandiver said, "the \$10 million might be a conservative estimate of what we'll need."

There are 30 endowed chairs at the University now — only 11 of the chairs are filled and some of the chairs yet to be filled are still pending final funding.

There are 39 professorships — 16 of them filled — and 31 graduate fellowships, none of which have been filled.

Nine of the chairs — the majority — are in the College of Engineering, Vandiver explains: "People donate the money for the chairs to the college they like. Lots just happen to like engineering. A lot of that has to do with the college's prominence."

The business college isn't doing too badly, either — it's second with four chairs.

When somebody donates money for a chair or fellowship, they get to decide which college the matching endowment goes to.

"We give them suggestions which college they might pick the other chair to go to, but it's all up to them," Vandiver said.

Vandiver said he'd like to see a chair established in the liberal arts college, but so far the only endowment the college has is a single graduate fellowship.

A&M trails its rival — the University of Texas — substantially in endowed chairs and fellowships.

Yale students coping with strike

United Press International

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — Some 1,500 white collar workers, mostly women, continued striking against Yale University Thursday, forcing students off the Ivy League campus for a second day into makeshift classrooms and to fast-food restaurants for meals.

Their walkout — bolstered by the refusal of the 1,300-member affiliate maintenance and food service workers' union to cross campus-wide picket lines — failed to halt classes, but 12 of 13 dining halls closed and a lack of technicians stalled cancer research at the Yale School of Medicine.

The largest strike in Yale's 283-year history stemmed from the

union's rejection Tuesday of its first ever contract, on the grounds of alleged discrimination over wages and job security. Yale called it a final offer.

No new talks were scheduled and prospects of a long strike seemed likely.

Most members of the Local 34, Federation of University Employees, are women. It represents 257 job titles, including secretaries, receptionists, phone operators, nurses, museum attendants, trainers, library aides, administrative assistants and research technicians earning an average of \$13,400.

About 100 of 1,500 classes were held off campus Thursday in community halls, churches, private

homes, apartments and the York Square Cinema.

"As faculty members, we feel it's part of our duty as educators to teach people not to cross picket lines," said Richard Halpern, a Renaissance literature professor, and an organizer of the off-campus classes.

Terry Odendahl, a professor of anthropology, used a home computer to set up off-campus classes and said 600 faculty members asked to be included in the scheduling.

A woman student who didn't want to be identified said she preferred off-campus classes. "Their main point is to disrupt the university as much as they can. It's a move I'm

willing to make to show my support.

Many students said eating off-campus on \$72.80 — the weekly amount Yale reimbursed each student for 21 meals — was an inconvenience, but generally sympathized with the strikers.

Strikers interviewed said the issue was "comparable worth."

Mary Skurat, a \$12,000-a-year art library assistant with a college degree, said she and others were underpaid.

"I feel my reimbursement should be equal to the job I do," she said. She and her husband are paying tuition at various schools for three children, including a Yale junior.

Jesuit priest talks on writing's history

By **ANN CERVENKA**
Reporter

A Jesuit priest who has appeared in the Middle East, Europe, South America, Asia and Africa said at a lecture series Thursday night that writing was once an intrusion into the world just as computers are today.

Walter J. Ong, S.J., professor of humanities and English at Saint Louis University, was the first speaker for the President's Lecture Series at Rudder Tower.

Plato and Socrates found four problems with writing, he said. For example, writing is inhuman, something to be manipulated. Like the computer, writing was something foreign to many people, he said.

Also, he said, writing is unresponsive. A text cannot explain, just as a computer cannot think. Untruths in a book "contaminate the thought stream forever," Ong said. "That's why books have been burned."

Plato and Socrates found that writing destroys the memory and weakens the mind as calculators do today, he said.

"With a pocket calculator, you simply do not need to know the times tables," he said.

Finally, the two Greek philosophers thought that the written word cannot defend itself as the actual spoken word can, Ong said.

Writing is the "most momentous of all human inventions," Ong said. Throughout the history of man, illiteracy has been widespread. In fact, almost all of our ancestors have been illiterate. The oldest known language, cuneiform, is only about 6,000 years old and the alphabet is only about 4,000 years old.

Therefore, oral cultures have been very important throughout history. Of the 4,000 languages in the world today, "only about 78 have a literature," Ong said. "Only the tiniest fraction of language has ever been written at all or will ever be written."

Although writing is an essential technological advancement in our society, "once reduced to space, words are frozen or in effect dead," Ong said. A book is not even a text unless someone reads it, he said.

Oral words are personally interactive and warm while written words are abstract and immobile, he said. Oral words are more complete than written words because they must use intonation, or emphasis, of voice.

Different readers interpreting aloud can use the same words in various ways, depending on the meaning desired, he said.

Because writing does not have the immediacy of speech, the meaning can change with time.

State senator speaks at Aggie Democrats meeting

Caperton blasts Gramm's stance

By **MICHELE FURLONG**
Reporter

State Sen. Kent Caperton told a group of students "it is hard to be the conscience of a close-knit community when you are in the minority."

Caperton's speech, sponsored by the Aggie Democrats, was held Thursday night in 601 Rudder.

Caperton said that a major problem with the student body is that they will not vote for any Democrat, no matter how qualified, because

they do not have the "cloak of Republican approval."

"I have always considered myself the champion of the students," the former student body president said. He expressed disappointment in the trend of the student body toward voting Republican without regard to issues, simply because it was the thing to do.

Caperton spoke out against Republican Sen. Phil Gramm for his stance on student loans. "It is the ultimate in hypocrisy for someone like

Phil Gramm to go to college on a federal program... and then turn around and cut them out," he said.

"If you have a cause to foster or goal to pursue, it should be the defeat of Phil Gramm, as he represents a threat to the rational approach to politics or solving problems," Caperton said.

Caperton urged the students to support Lloyd Doggett in his campaign against Gramm. Caperton admitted that he did not support Doggett in the past, but believes that he

is the man we need to defeat Gramm. He is now in the process of forming a steering committee for Doggett's campaign.

He also stressed Doggett's support of the Pell Grant and grants to students who want to go to college.

Caperton questioned the Republican policies of both Gramm and President Reagan, and told students to ask themselves "are we any better off today than we were four years ago?" His answer is yes, only if you are one of the rich.

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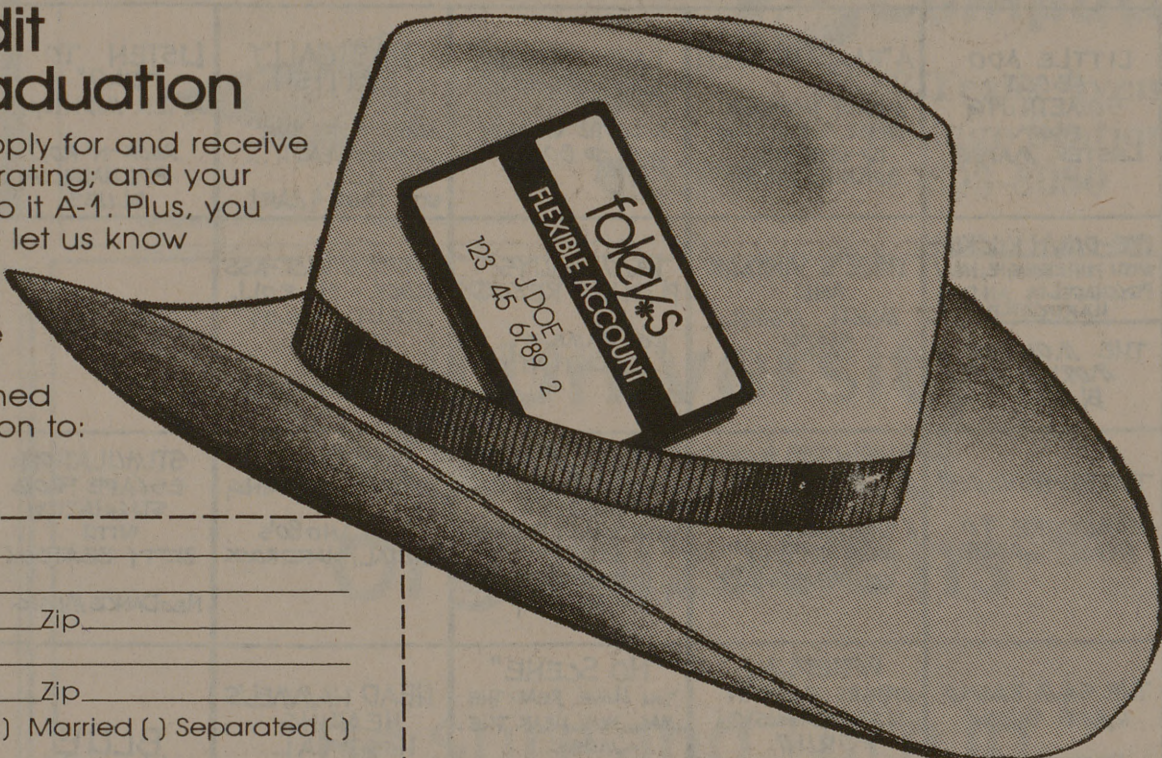
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