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Director of student affairs resigns post after 12 years

By MARYBETH ROHSNER
 Staff Writer

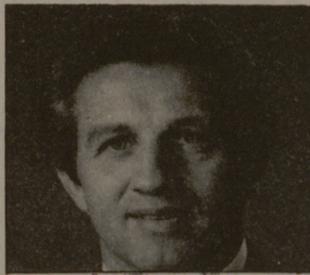
Former Bryan Mayor Ron Blatchley left his position Monday as Texas A&M director of student affairs after 12 years with the University.

He is leaving the University to own and operate a McDonald's restaurant in southwest Houston.

"I've been in higher education for 20 years now," Blatchley said. "(My wife and I) wanted to try our hand at owning our own business before we got too old and decrepit."

Blatchley said he plans to open his restaurant Nov. 1.

As director of student affairs, Blatchley was responsible for on-campus housing, the Off-Campus Center, disciplinary actions, students withdrawing from the Uni-



Ron Blatchley

versity and a number of other programs. Blatchley said that although he is ready to move on, he will miss A&M.

"I couldn't imagine being around a greater student body," he said. "Texas A&M is the great-

est thing that ever happened to us."

Blatchley said he has always been involved with young people and he hopes to continue that involvement, especially with Aggies.

"I want the students to know I'm not turning my back on them," Blatchley said. "I hope we'll still see a lot of the students."

Before coming to A&M, Blatchley was the director of student activities at North Texas State University in Denton. While he worked for A&M, Blatchley was involved politically in the area. He first served as a city councilman and then as mayor.

Ron Sasse, associate director of student affairs, will serve as acting director of student affairs.

Workshop will help liberal arts majors

By SCOTT SUTHERLAND
 Staff Writer

A career workshop to help liberal arts majors compete in the job market will begin Tuesday at Texas A&M.

The four-part program will focus on where liberal arts majors can find jobs and what skills would increase their marketability.

Judy Vuillet, associate director of the placement center, says companies that interview at the University are usually seeking students with business and technical majors.

The placement center often takes the blame when liberal arts majors are unable to find jobs, Vuillet said.

"The rap we usually get is, 'There is nothing there for us,'" Vuillet said, "but there is good information here for everybody."

Vuillet also said the quality of the graduates isn't the reason why companies don't hire A&M students.

"Companies who want to hire 300 electrical engineering majors and 20 personnel people will recruit their engineers here but not always their personnel people," Vuillet says. "We want to help liberal arts students make themselves more available to these companies."

Vuillet says job opportunities for

liberal arts graduates have been primarily in sales and service work.

But Vuillet hopes the conference will encourage more liberal arts majors to interview with different companies.

"We want to say to a liberal arts major, that if you want to go to work for a bank that is looking for something that you're interested in, or have taken some courses in, then let us know, we'll try and get you an interview," Vuillet says.

Danny Parsley, assistant for liberal arts programming, says a decreasing demand for liberal arts majors has made for intense competition in the job market.

"It takes a little more initiative by liberal arts students," Parsley says.

Parsley says he hopes the workshop will encourage liberal arts majors to come to the placement center and get help seeking a job.

Vuillet says turnout for past workshops has been low, but the placement center is counting on an advertising blitz for a record turnout. Parsley has been working with assistant deans in the College of Liberal Arts with a direct mail-out to all liberal arts majors.

"We'll have some fun things like balloons around campus advertising each workshop," Parsley says.

"We're hoping for a great turnout," he says.

The four-part series will include meetings every Tuesday night between Oct. 22 and Nov. 12.

Each meeting will focus on different topics, including:

- Advice on getting into graduate school.
- The hunt for the job.

- What the liberal arts major can do with the rest of his life.
- What the outside world is really like for liberal arts graduates.

The Nov. 5 session will feature employers who will tell students what they are looking for in liberal arts graduates.

At the Nov. 12 session, liberal arts students will offer advice on how to find jobs. Vuillet says that in these panel discussions have provided students with practical information.

The workshop will help liberal arts majors be well prepared when they start interviewing. And Parsley and Vuillet hope that it will encourage students to start interviewing early.

Just as the slogan on Parsley's balloons points out — "Liberal arts students... the end is near."

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