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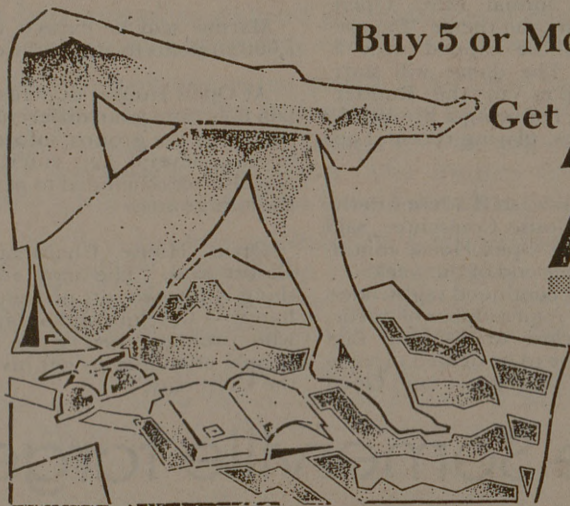
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Chemistry head hopes fiscal woes don't halt growth

By Dawn Butz
Staff Writer

Dr. Michael B. Hall, new head of Texas A&M's chemistry department, said he hopes to continue moving the department forward despite the difficult budget times.

"In spite of some difficult times in the next year or so with the budget, we're hopeful we'll be hiring some new faculty members that are particularly interested in areas such as surface science, catalysis and biotechnology — those of critical national importance," Hall said.

Taking over one of the nation's consistently high-ranked chemistry departments, Hall said he plans to take a broad overview this year of the graduate and undergraduate programs, which he plans to review in comparison to what other top universities are doing.

Hall said plans already are underway to renovate the older part of the Chemistry Building.

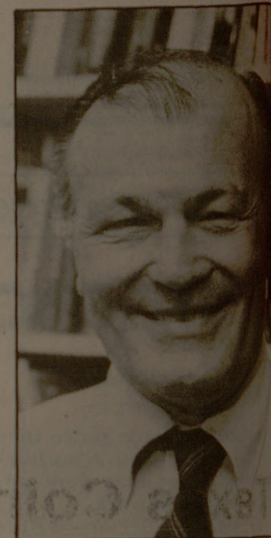
The primary function of the new building is undergraduate teaching, Hall said.

"This semester most of the undergraduate labs, other than the freshmen, are held in this older part of the building," he said. "The new building will house them and will



considerably improve the situation for the undergraduate teaching program."

Hall came to A&M in 1975 and previously was a chemistry department undergraduate adviser and head of the department's inorganic chemistry division.



English head seeks faculty exchanges

By Dawn Butz
Staff Writer

Some of Texas A&M's English professors may be heading out in the future — if new department head Dr. Hamlin Hill's dream comes out.

Previously head of English at the University of New Mexico, Hill wants to bring in foreign professors to teach in the department's A&M English classes.

"I want to set up some English department faculty exchanges with other world and get some foreign scholars teaching on the campus with my colleagues in the department here teaching in those universities," Hill said.

"Foreign faculty members in specialties are English or American literature want very much to be here, both for teaching and research," he added.

Hill said he implemented the program successfully at New Mexico.

Hill, a Mark Twain scholar, has authority on American humor. He traveled extensively around the world as a Fulbright Lecturer and a Resident Scholar in the Agency.

"Since I was there the year of the centennial of the publication of Huck Finn and the 150th anniversary of Mark Twain, I wrote one of his three books about Mark Twain and American humor," Hill said.

Hill was a Guggenheim Fellow in 1971-72, during which he wrote one of his three books about Mark Twain. He also has written numerous scholarly articles on American humor.

Hill also has been director of a group of seminars sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities, a program in which university members at universities in the country teach a special course during the summer for other professors and high school teachers.

"The teachers come and about the subject, which in Texas has always been American literature and then go back and design courses using what they learned at the seminar," Hill said.

Hill received the Charlie Award from the American Studies Association.

Hill said other plans for the future of A&M's English department basically depend on how the department's constitution turns out and the ratification process that begins today.

Journalism head wants changes, a grad program

By Dawn Butz
Staff Writer

Former Associated Press Newsman Dr. Douglas Starr has already started on the list of changes he wants to make as the new head of the Texas A&M journalism department.

Although his own office is still a mass of boxes and empty shelves, he has taken steps toward a more efficient department by remodeling the department's administrative offices.

Starr, who came to A&M from North Texas State University's journalism faculty, says that although he has many ideas to improve the department, he does not want to damage *The Battalion* with changes.

"That's an excellent operation and, if anything, I want it to improve, but I don't want to do anything to harm *The Battalion*," he said.

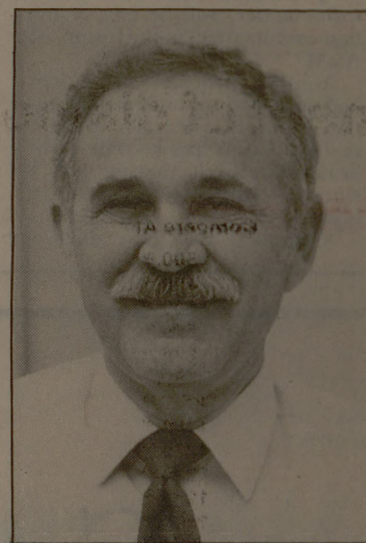
Starr, an AP newsman for 14 years, said he believes the institution of a journalism graduate program will benefit the department in two ways.

First, graduate students could assist faculty members in research — something he says he believes is the "lifeblood" of any department.

Second, he said graduate students could assist in teaching courses.

"That is of great benefit to an undergraduate," he said, "because a lot of times graduate students are not just people who got a bachelor's degree yesterday and today they become a master's candidate and are teaching a class."

"A lot of times the graduate student is a professional comeback, so he's bringing with him live information from the field — and that helps the undergraduate tremendously."



Another of Starr's goals is to divide the department into separate segments of study.

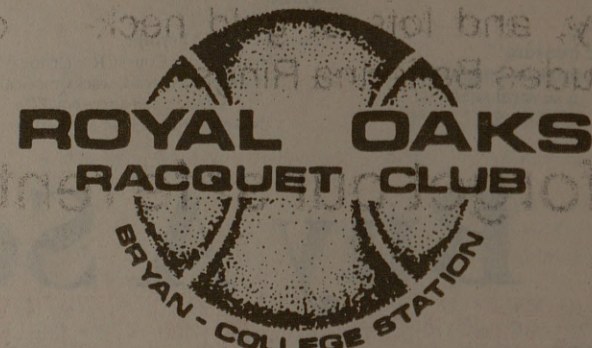
He said he wants people to recognize that journalism has different areas of concentration in the field, that it's not just newspapers, but also magazines, public relations and advertising.

In addition, Starr hopes to change the degree plan by increasing the hour requirements for a minor from 12 to 18. This would give students a broader base of specialized knowledge, he added.

He succeeds Dr. Edward Smith, department head since 1982, who has returned to teaching and research.

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