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Speakers urge A&M grads to be reliable

Tarleton president tells students to pay dues

By Frank Smith
Senior Staff Writer

To a detached observer, the scene at Friday night's commencement service at G. Rollie White Coliseum was the stuff of countless other graduation ceremonies.

Organ music. Cameras. Congratulatory words streaming from the mouths of academic dignitaries. Cameras. Robes. Cameras. Mortarboards. Cameras. Proud parents. Cameras. A brief commencement speech. Cameras. A lengthy span during which degrees were conferred. And an even lengthier period of time following the ceremony when graduates — along with their friends and relatives — mugged for the cameras.

But for the graduates and their camera-wielding parents, it probably meant a bit more.

Though the service *did* meet standard quotas of academic dignity, President Frank Vandiver's opening "Howdy" set the tone for the evening.

In Friday night's service, degrees were conferred on graduates of the colleges of agriculture, architecture and environmental design, business administration and geosciences.

Degrees also were conferred on those who completed graduate work here and on graduates of Texas A&M University at Galveston.

About half of the 2,828 degrees to be distributed over the weekend were handed out Friday.

Dr. Barry Thompson, president of Tarleton State University, delivered a brief but fiery commencement address in which he repeatedly called on graduates to "pay your dues."

Thompson also took time to assail opponents of classical education.

"The word 'education' began to lose some of its magic when it became roughly translated into 'earning power' and 'the way to get a job,'" he told the graduates. "Is it a coincidence that this decline took place as we began to de-emphasize the classical education in favor of the practical? The simple answer is: Probably not."

"Nor did he have kind words for those who resist change."

"I believe these people to be not unlike the Mayans of 700 to 800 years ago," Thompson said. "The Mayans who were — and aren't."

He also emphasized society's need for idealistic leaders.

"Like the corrupt Vidor priesthood of 800 or 900 years ago, too many of our leaders in the past two decades have sold out their initial high idealism for personal gain," Thompson said. "Where is the truth? Where is the duty? Where is the obligation? Where are the idealists?"

"Where are the intellectuals who will continue to practice unfettered thoughts? Seated before me, I certainly hope."

Besides Vandiver, three other speakers preceded Thompson.

Royce Wisenbaker extended congratulations to the graduates on behalf of the A&M Board of Regents and reminded them of the valuable resource they have in each other.

"All you have to do is take your book along — the directory the former students will give you — and if you get in trouble all you have to do is call those Aggies, wherever you are," he said.

Wisenbaker also told graduates that though they had earned their degrees, they still have a responsibility to uphold the school's integrity.

"Whatever honor is afforded your diploma was earned by the thousands of Aggies who have preceded you throughout our 110 years," he said. "This honor is now in your hands."

W. Mike Baggett, Class of '68 and president-elect of the Association of Former Students, welcomed the new graduates into that organization.

He also praised A&M's pride, spirit and tradition.

"A&M is really not just another university," he said. "A&M is family. I'm very proud to be an Aggie and I always will be. I'm sure you will be, too."

And just prior to the commencement address, Michel T. Halbouty, Class of '30, presented Dr. Robert O. Reid with the Distinguished Achievement Medal of the Geosciences and Earth Resources Advisory Council. Reid is head of A&M's Department of Oceanography.

Perhaps that presentation marked the night's only bit of suspense.

But plenty of suspense should be in store early this week — as parents wait to see how the pictures turned out.



Photo by Doug La Rue

Joy To The World

A cloud of confetti bursts over architecture students Friday night as they stand ready to walk across the stage and graduate.

The graduation ceremonies were held Friday night and Saturday morning in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Saturday speaker: Texas' future is multiracial

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

Texas A&M seniors Saturday morning at their graduation ceremony were told that the status of minority education in Texas is weak, and that it is their responsibility to work toward strengthening it.

Dr. Percy A. Pierre, president of Prairie View A&M University, delivered the commencement address to graduates in the colleges of education, engineering, liberal arts, science and veterinary medicine.

Pierre told the standing-room-only audience that the future of

Texas universities must be multiracial.

"Who will come after you?" Pierre asked. "The college class of the year 2000 is already born and in third and fourth grade."

It's been predicted the college population in America will decline from about 30 million to 24 million within 15 years, he said.

But, he said, the number of minority students could increase from six million to eight million.

"Someday, when you are the employers, you will rely on minorities to work with you, so it's important that minorities get a good education

now," he said. "This is not happening."

Whites now receive more than 80 percent of the bachelor's degrees in Texas colleges, he said.

Closing or merging predominantly black colleges would do nothing to help the situation, he said.

In fact, rather than attempting to close these universities, he said, lawmakers should increase their funding.

"These institutions are not part of the problem, they are part of the solution," Pierre said.

He said a plan already exists to address the low quality of minority ed-

ucation, but it's not working as it was expected to.

The plan was to increase the minority population of predominantly white schools by 90 percent within nine years, he said.

"After three years there is only a 3 percent increase in most minorities, with an actual decline in the number of hispanics," he said.

While many graduates appeared uninterested in the speech — many talking and reading newspapers, others making paper airplanes out of their commencement programs — some later admitted they felt the topic was inappropriate.

University officials downplay impact of proposed mandatory curriculum

By Olivier Uyttebroeck
Senior Staff Writer

The Texas A&M College of Agriculture could lose a big share of its student credit hours if the proposed core curriculum is implemented, an impact study notes. But A&M officials are downplaying the overall impact the changes would have on the University.

A report prepared by a core curriculum impact study committee for Provost Donald McDonald estimates that 26 new teaching positions will have to be added to the University to accommodate the plan.

The report is in agreement with the Faculty Senate's recommendation that the core curriculum be implemented in Fall 1988. But it suggests that the computer science and two-year foreign language requirements for entering freshmen be implemented in Fall 1989, to give high school students time to take the required courses.

The plan will require that all students take a core of 51 credit hours in eight separate disciplines: speech and writing, mathematical/logical reasoning, science, cultural heritage, social science, technology/renewable resources/society, physical education and citizenship.

The report recommends dropping the four-hour physical education and citizenship requirements all students now must take. Citizenship includes six hours of political science and six hours of American history.

Assistant Provost Lawrence Cress, chairman of the impact committee, said the final conclusion reached through the study is that the core curriculum would be neither costly nor difficult for the University to implement.

"The bottom line of the report ... is that the implementation of the core will not have a major impact on the University," Cress said. "When

Dean: Article misrepresents stance on core curriculum

By Olivier Uyttebroeck
Senior Staff Writer

Texas A&M Dean of Agriculture H.O. Kunkel said a Dec. 10 article in the *Bryan-College Station Eagle*, which reported that he said the proposed core curriculum was prepared too quickly and with too little discussion and debate, badly misrepresented him.

"I have no argument with the core curriculum, in spite of what the headlines say," Kunkel said in a telephone interview with *The Battalion* Thursday.

Kunkel said his only objection was to an estimate cited in a report by the core curriculum impact study committee.

The estimate said the College of Agriculture would lose 30 full-time-equivalent teaching positions if the proposed curriculum changes were put into effect.

"What I was worried about was ... if the article hit the paper saying we were losing 30 teaching positions, a lot of non-tenured faculty might get awfully nervous," Kunkel said.

"I didn't want them to read that and think their jobs would be lost," he said.

The core curriculum impact study

you think about the number of faculty on this campus, 26 positions is hardly anything."

The report notes, however, that the College of Agriculture could lose as many as 12,000 student credit hours, or 10 percent of the total hours taught in the college, if the

committee issued a report Nov. 17 estimating the College of Agriculture would lose 12,000 student credit hours, largely to the College of Liberal Arts, if the proposed curriculum changes were put into effect.

The report also estimated that the loss of credit hours would translate into a loss of 30 full-time-equivalent teaching positions in the College of Agriculture.

Kunkel acknowledges that the 12,000 student credit hour figure originated from his office, but also said the figure probably is an overestimate.

"It was the worst possible scenario I could think of," Kunkel said.

But Kunkel denies he intentionally doubled the figure to call attention to the underestimates of others, as the *Eagle* reported him to have said.

The *Eagle* quoted Kunkel as saying: "I think another look has to be taken as to what the impact has to be. I think other people have not looked at the impact and just said it would go away."

Kunkel told *The Battalion* he made these comments in regard to other colleges and not out of concern for his own college.

plan is implemented.

College of Agriculture Dean H.O. Kunkel said his college will not lose anything approaching the 30 full-time-equivalent teaching positions noted in the report, in part because of the expanding graduate program in the college.

Paper: Businessman got \$250,000 return on Iranian arms loan

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Saudi Arabian businessman Adnan Khashoggi made \$250,000 on a seven-day loan to finance the first shipment of U.S. arms to Iran, the Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* reported Sunday.

Khashoggi admitted in a television interview last week that in 1985 he advanced \$1 million to Iranian arms merchant Manucher Ghorbanifar "to get things going."

If the *Haaretz* report is correct, Khashoggi received 25 percent per week interest on his loan, or an annual rate, not compounded, of 1,300 percent.

Haaretz reporter Zeev Schiff said Iran paid Israel \$5 million for the shipment of 500 TOW anti-tank missiles in return for the release of an American hostage held in Lebanon, the Rev. Benjamin Weir, in September 1985.

Schiff said the money was transferred via Switzerland to an Israeli Defense Ministry account at Bank Otzar Hachayal.

Some of the money went to cover the expenses of Israeli arms dealer Yaakov Nimrodi, a business associate and friend of Khashoggi's who was instrumental in organizing the first deal, Schiff wrote. He did not say how much Nimrodi took.

Previous news reports have said the weapons alone were valued at \$3.5 million.

Schiff said it was still not clear if the rest of the money went to the United States to pay for the weapons or if it went "to other channels overseas."

He did not elaborate, but U.S.

officials have said some profits from the sale of arms to Iran went to Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

The daily *Davar* reported that the money paid by the Iranian government did not cover Israel's costs.

Davar quoted an unidentified source as saying it was for that reason that "we went on to another system in January 1986."

Under the new system, Israel eliminated middlemen such as Nimrodi and only acted as a transfer point for Iran-bound weapons shipped from the United States. Until then, it had supplied the weapons from its own stocks, which were replenished by the United States.

Another report published Sunday said Khashoggi maintained direct links with Israel for years and once arranged a meeting between Israeli leader Shimon Peres and Saudi Arabia's foreign minister.

The *Jerusalem Post*, citing unidentified U.S. and Israeli sources, said Khashoggi set up the meeting with Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Al-Aziz in France when Peres, head of the Labor Party, was still opposition leader in Parliament.

The *Post* report did not say when the meeting took place. Peres was opposition leader from 1977 until October 1984, when he became prime minister. He became foreign minister two months ago.

Peres' conversations with Khashoggi contributed to his concept of a "Marshall Plan" for the Middle East, the *Post* reported.

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