

The Texas A&M **Battalion**

Vol. 82 No. 80 USPS 045360 16 pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, January 20, 1987

Speaker tells students to be 'keepers, doers of dream'

A&M program celebrates birthday of civil rights leader

By Carolyn Garcia
Staff Writer

Addressing a packed house in Rudder Tower Monday night, Dr. Wright Lassiter charged today's young adults to be "keepers and doers of the dream."

Wright served as the keynote speaker at the second annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration sponsored by Alpha Phi Alpha.

Wright, who said he had the privilege of knowing King and his family, told the audience that he is convinced, after seeing the young crowd of black and white students together to celebrate this occasion, that King's dream lives.

"Had he lived he would still be marching and fighting against poverty and human rights violations — not just for black people but for all people," Wright said.

Quoting President Ronald Reagan, Wright said King made the country take a look at itself.

"He awoke the county to its greatest failure and awoke it to its greatest promise," Wright said.

He said today's youth suffer subtle discrimination, even though the visual signs are seldom apparent.

Addressing the black students, Wright challenged them never to give up the fight for equality and never to become complacent.

"You are now seeing the fruits of the struggles of your parents," he said.

"You have no firsthand knowledge of the struggle against prejudice and racism," he said.

Wright said his message for today's young people is that nothing comes easily or without a struggle.

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress," Wright said.

"Unfortunately, many young people today feel the world owes them something. They need to come to grips with reality.

"We all must play our own roles in the struggle. We all — black and white — have a moral obligation to fight racism."

Wright called on the audience to rely on faith.

"Faith tells us all things are possible," he said. "Doubt tells us nothing can be done."

Real progress in fulfilling the American dream will be realized when men are measured by their character rather than their color, he said.

King, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964 for his unyielding fight against racism and poverty, is remembered with

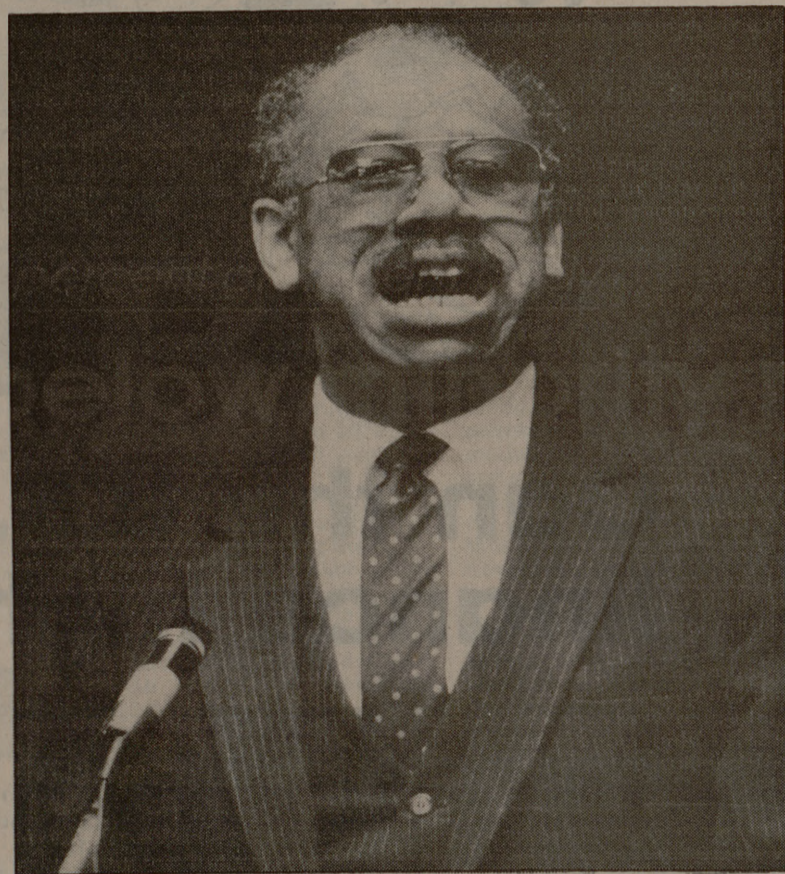


Photo by Doug La Rue

Dr. Wright Lassiter of El Centro Community College.

a national holiday — an honor he shares with two U.S. presidents.

In a dramatic presentation, Kevin Carreathers explained further the reason for the day of observation: "We walk today for Dr.

Martin Luther King because yesterday he walked for us.

"It is neither his birthdate or his death date that brings us here tonight — it was what he did between those dates."

Prisons in Texas reopen doors after releases

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — The Texas prison system began accepting new convicts Monday after weekend paroles pushed the inmate population number below a ceiling designed to avoid overcrowding and the wrath of a federal judge.

"We are open for business and will be receiving new admissions from all counties," Texas Department of Corrections spokesman Charles Brown said Monday.

The prison system closed its doors to new arrivals Friday after the inmate count exceeded a cap mandated by state law. The statute was passed in 1983 after a federal judge ordered officials to take steps to reduce overcrowding in the state's penitentiaries.

Inmate population in the 26-unit prison system Sunday totaled 38,207, or 168 prisoners short of the 95 percent ceiling of 38,375, Brown said.

About 21 more inmates were released Monday and about 60 new prisoners were accepted, but Brown said he would not have an official count for the day until Tuesday.

Monday traditionally is a slow day for admissions and officials were expecting only about 80 new inmates to arrive in Huntsville for processing from around the state.

If the admissions remained at that level, the system could remain below the court-ordered capacity of 38,376, which is 95 percent of capacity.

"But we could be wrong," Brown said.

Some sheriffs around Texas, faced with their own limits on county jail population, accelerated prison transfers last week once they discovered the state prison system was about to close its doors, he said.

Prison administrators were trying to devise a more organized system for transfer from about 20 of the state's most populous counties.

On Tuesday, for example, the system gets its regular delivery of prisoners from Harris County — Texas' most populous. The county that includes Houston averages about 150 inmates a week.

A similar system involving fewer counties was put into place during 1982 when the prisons faced a crowding crisis and were forced to close for a week, Brown said.

To get below the ceiling, 80 prisoners were released on parole Saturday and another 135 on Sunday.

"Normally we don't release prisoners on weekends but it has been done in the past," Brown said.

The system stopped accepting new inmates Friday when it registered 38,414 prisoners, or 95.09 percent, as of midnight Thursday, 38 over the limit.

As part of a prison reform order, U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice ordered that steps be taken to reduce crowding. The Legislature passed a law setting the 95 percent capacity limit in 1983.

No immediate end to the daily population crunch is in sight, Brown said.

"This probably will be ongoing until we open up some trusty camps," he said.

The first of 10 such camps, being constructed adjacent to existing prison units, could open some time in March, with the rest operating by June or July, Brown said.

A new maximum security prison, under construction near Palestine, is expected to begin taking inmates in August, and together with the camps will add 4,250 beds to the system, according to Brown.

Justice has issued a contempt order against the corrections department, saying the agency failed to live up to agreements made in 1980 to improve inmates' living conditions and staffing in the prisons.

The judge gave the prison system until March 31 to meet the standards or risk fines of up to \$800,500 a day. The prison board plans to appeal Justice's contempt order.

Politicians against swapping suspect for kidnap victim

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Prominent politicians cautioned officials Monday against swapping a Japanese suspect in the 1985 TWA kidnapping for a West German abducted in Beirut. They said a trade would inspire more terrorist attacks.

Government spokesmen in Bonn need down reports that the kidnapping in Beirut of businessman Adolf Cordes was aimed at forcing the release of Mohammed Ali Hamadi, accused of being one of the terrorists who seized the jetliner in 1985.

A U.S. Navy diver on the plane shot to death at the Beirut airport after the jet was commandeered during a flight from Rome to Athens.

Hans Stercken, chairman of Parliament's foreign affairs committee, said in a radio interview, "Those who are aware of the tendency toward terrorist acts in the Middle East know that the acceptance of blackmail increases the chances of new acts."

The Justice Ministry said Hamadi's extradition to the United States could be accomplished quickly. It had been delayed pending a pledge from the Americans not to apply the death penalty if Hamadi is convicted. West Germany does not have a death penalty.

Foreign Ministry officials received a warning against traveling to Beirut and urged the approximately 200 West Germans living in Beirut to leave.

Hamadi, 22, was arrested last Tuesday at the Frankfurt airport after arriving from Beirut. U.S. officials have asked that he be extradited to stand trial in an American court.

Authorities said he was identified by fingerprints as one of those who seized the TWA aircraft June 14, 1985, shot and killed Navy diver Bert Stethem and held 39 American passengers hostage for 17 days.

Germanmen seized Cordes, the 53-year-old Beirut manager of West Germany's Hoechst chemical company, after he arrived in the Lebanese capital Saturday from Frankfurt.

Friedhelm Ost, chief government spokesman, said the kidnapers had identified themselves or made demands. He urged the media not to speculate about a possible link between the kidnapping and Hamadi's arrest. Justice Ministry spokesman Juergen

gen Schmid said the West German government awaited U.S. documents pledging that the defendant would not face a death sentence.

Such a promise is necessary in extradition cases under terms of a 1978 U.S.-West German treaty.

U.S. officials said Sunday they would provide the promise and speed up the paper work.

Schmid said the U.S. documents would be sent to a Frankfurt court for a ruling on whether the terms of the 1978 extradition treaty had been fulfilled.

Two A&M students killed, two hurt in car wreck near Fredricksburg

By Sue Krenak
Staff Writer

Two Texas A&M students were killed and two injured when the car they were riding in left the road and struck a tree near Fredericksburg early Saturday morning, Department of Public Safety officials said Monday.

The car's driver, a former A&M student, also was killed and two other passengers were injured.

Kevin Frank Boeck, a senior agricultural economics major, and Mark Werner Eberle, a sophomore business administration major, were killed in the accident.

The driver of the car, Gregory Scott Sultemeier, who last attended A&M in Fall 1984, also was killed.

A&M students Gregory Treibs, a senior biomedical science major, and Erwin James Montgomery, a sophomore business administration major were injured.

Treibs is listed in critical but stable condition with serious internal injuries at St. Luke's Hospital in San Antonio, a hospital spokesman said.

Montgomery is in stable condition in Hill Country Memorial Hospital in Kerrville with multiple fractures and cuts.

The car's other two passengers, Gail Jung and Tina Hartman, remain in Hill Country Memorial Hospital.

Jung and Hartman are not A&M students. Jung is in guarded condition with multiple fractures and cuts,

a Hill Country Memorial spokesman said, and Hartman is in stable condition, with multiple fractures and cuts.

All seven involved in the accident are from Fredericksburg. The report filed by investigating officer Gary Rudd of the Texas Highway Patrol said the accident occurred at 2:50 a.m. Saturday.

The report said the GMC Jimmy driven by Sultemeier ran off a curve on State Highway 16 north of Fredericksburg and struck a tree on the driver's side of the car.

The report said weather conditions of heavy fog mixed with light rain contributed to the accident.

No information was available on funeral arrangements for Sultemeier, Boeck and Eberle.

Blacks make up 2 percent of student body

A&M below minority recruitment goal

Editor's note: This is the second of a four-part series on blacks at Texas A&M. This part deals with the success of University efforts to recruit minority students.

By Cathie Anderson
Special to The Battalion

While other Texas universities have substantially increased the number of blacks in their student populations, Texas A&M has lagged behind. Blacks made up only 2 percent of A&M's 36,570 students in Fall 1986.

Since 1982, the University has been pursuing a system of affirmative action under the Texas Equal Educational Opportunity Plan for Higher Education — a statewide strategy to increase the number of minority students in the state's public colleges and universities.

Although the University has fallen short of the goals set for it in the past three years, minority enrollment has increased steadily since 1982. A&M enrolled 355 blacks in 1982, 406 in 1983, 494 in 1984, 544 in 1985 and 780 in Fall 1986.

For Bobby Bisor, a senior sociology major and president of the Memorial Student Center Council, these small increases reflect quite visible changes.

"When I first came here," he says, "there were much fewer blacks at A&M. I walked by the Main Lounge in the MSC while the Voices of Praise were practicing, and I stood there in amazement to see so many black students gathered together. I

had to walk over and ask what was going on."

But, Bisor says, "now there are quite a few black students here. You can just walk around and you'll see them. I think we're a long way from where we need to be, but I think we'll get there."

Still, the University has found it difficult to meet its annual goals for new undergraduate black enrollment. From 1982-86, the goals were 105, 210, 315, 420 and 525 respectively.

In 1982 the University not only met but surpassed its goal by recruiting 119 students. But in 1983, a gulf between goals and actual recruitment developed, and the University has not since met its goals. In 1983, A&M picked up 136 students, 65 percent of its goal; in 1984, 174 students or 55 percent of its goal and in 1985, 161 or 38 percent of its goals. Figures for 1986 have not as yet been released.

Barry Davis, an associate director of School Relations, says the University has not met the goals in the Texas Plan because they are unrealistic. School Relations was established in 1979, and, as one of its duties, the office coordinates recruitment of black and Hispanic students.

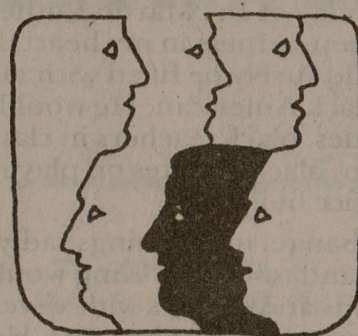
The number of black high school graduates in Texas is low, Davis says, and competition among state universities of A&M's caliber for those students who can meet admission requirements is stiff.

He says a big part of the recruit-

ment problem is the inadequate preparation given minority students by high schools.

"When we get to a point in Texas where we have more of our black kids in Texas going to college period," Davis says, "we're going to be in pretty good shape."

Davis, in his research on minority high school graduates, found that in 1984, 23,895 blacks were graduated, but of that number only 11,421, or 47 percent, entered college. In the



same year, 57 percent of all other graduates entered college. In 1985, 22,470 blacks were graduated, and, of that number, only 9,345, or 41 percent, of the students entered college while the percentage remained the same for all other graduates.

Thus while a number of blacks are graduating, fewer and fewer are being prepared for further education, Davis says, and the number of those capable of meeting the admission requirements of such universities as

A&M is even lower.

Davis' research shows that in some school districts, the percentage of black high school graduates entering college is traditionally lower than the percentage of other groups combined. For instance, in Bryan, 20 percent of the black graduates went on to college in 1984 and in 1985, 39 percent. But 54 percent of all other graduates went on to college in 1984, and 49 percent of all other 1985 graduates continued their education.

Davis believes these low figures and poor academic advising in high schools will continue to hurt the University in its attempts to recruit black students.

Still, other Texas colleges, contending with the same problem, do a better job of reflecting the percentage of blacks in the state in their student population. Blacks make up 12 percent of Texas' population.

In Fall 1986, blacks made up 8 percent of the student population at the University of Houston and 7 percent of the population at the University of Texas at Arlington.

But, Davis says, these universities have other factors going for them.

"When you look at the universities in the state of Texas with the highest black enrollment," he says, "they all have something in common — they're located in the city."

Davis says students are able to commute rather than moving from their homes, which cuts down on expenses.

"Everybody can't afford the room

and board," he says, "but most people can afford the tuition, the fees and the books."

"If we can increase the stipend amount to where we're paying for room and board and the only thing the student has to pay for is tuition and fees... We're in a more competitive situation with all those schools in the city. That may be the biggest factor — economics — for the majority."

In its Third Annual Report of Progress, the Office of the President (A&M) reported minority recruitment also may have been affected by:

- An increase in tuition rates for Texas public colleges and universities effective Fall 1985.
- Decreased availability of financial aid from the federal government.
- Declining numbers of black and Hispanic transfer students.

Two of these three reasons also have to do with economics.

"If you could just get past economics and admission requirements," Davis says, "then the reason (for such lower numbers) is probably cultural."

"It's a heck of a thing when you live all your life within one particular ethnic background," Davis says, "and then when you go to college, you're placed among different groups. Even if that happened in high school, you were able to go home and be in a different environment."

See Blacks, page 12