

Texas A&M The Battalion

College Station, Texas

This issue of *The Battalion* features five back-to-school sections covering such diverse topics as academics, the arts, the community, traditions, college survival and sports to start A&M's students off to another year.

Black miner's strike in South Africa ends

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The black miner's union ended South Africa's largest and costliest mine strike Sunday after management fired tens of thousands of strikers and refused to yield in negotiations.

The National Union of Mine-workers settled for management's pre-strike wage offer, but it would not admit defeat and described the three-week walkout as "a dress rehearsal for further action." Several companies reported former strikers reported for work for the Sunday night shift.

Union General Secretary Cyril

Ramaphosa said "1988 is the year we start marching forward."

Nine miners were killed during the strike, and the union said on Sunday that more than 500 were injured and 400 arrested. Tens of millions of dollars in wages and corporate profits were lost.

Most of the estimated 44,000 fired strikers are expected to be rehired, but at least 7,000 lost their jobs when one company shut down two gold mine shafts.

The end of the strike came during a three-hour meeting between the Chamber of Mines, which represents the six targeted mining companies,

and a 30-member union delegation.

The offer accepted by the union contained only slight improvements in benefits and was virtually identical to one that union members overwhelmingly rejected on Wednesday.

The chamber said the strike involved 230,000 miners at 31 gold and coal mines at its peak, with about 20,000 strikers returning to work in recent days. The union said 340,000 men struck at 44 mines.

The biggest previous mine strike was in 1946, when about 100,000 miners walked off for a few days before troops broke up the strike.

"Both the union and the employ-

ers have demonstrated their ability to administer and withstand pain," said Bobby Godsell, industrial relations chief for Anglo American Corp. "None of my colleagues are going to be celebrating victory."

About 40,000 of the fired strikers worked for Anglo, the largest and worst hit of the affected companies. Godsell said the company had been prepared to continue the dismissals to "defend our economic interests."

He said Anglo would try to rehire as many of the fired men as possible, but made no guarantees. He said the company would not dismiss replacements hired during the strike and

would not reopen two unprofitable gold shafts it closed 10 days ago.

Godsell commended the union's leaders. "To take very large numbers of people out on strike and keep them out for three weeks is an achievement," he said.

The settlement called for strikers to return to work starting with Sunday's night shift.

Chamber president Naas Steenkamp said the cost of the strike in violence, lost income and mass dismissals was high. But he said each side may have gained a clearer perception of the other.

"The union has learned that the industry is capable of setting limits, sticking to them and showing a lot of determination in the process," he said. "The employer has learned that the union has muscle, organizational capacity, determination and skill."

The settlement offer raises miners' vacation pay by 10 percent and provides death benefits for three years, rather than two. Negotiators said wages — the focus of the dispute — were not discussed Sunday.

Ramaphosa said there was no resentment among rank-and-file to their leaders' decision.

Law to allow schools troubled by NCAA to sue boosters

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas universities that wind up in trouble with the NCAA because of recruiting scandals can sue boosters or others who were responsible under a new law that takes effect this week.

The measure came in response to a football recruiting scandal at Southern Methodist University. The National Collegiate Athletic Association canceled the university's 1987 football season as a penalty for pay-

ments made to football recruits by alumni and trustees. The NCAA also canceled part of the 1988 season, which was later called off by SMU.

The law is one of about 750 new measures that go into effect Monday or Tuesday in Texas.

Under another, drinking alcoholic beverages while driving, a practice that one official called a deadly Texas tradition, be-

comes illegal Monday. Violators can be fined up to \$200.

"It's a weak bill," said Ross Newby, executive director of the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. "By allowing the passenger to drink in the car, it makes it easy for the driver to hand it over."

In fact, a driver can legally carry an alcoholic beverage. The law only makes it illegal

to drink it and be "observed doing so by a police officer."

Newby said there is something traditionally Texan about downing a beer behind the wheel, adding that the practice has "killed a lot of us."

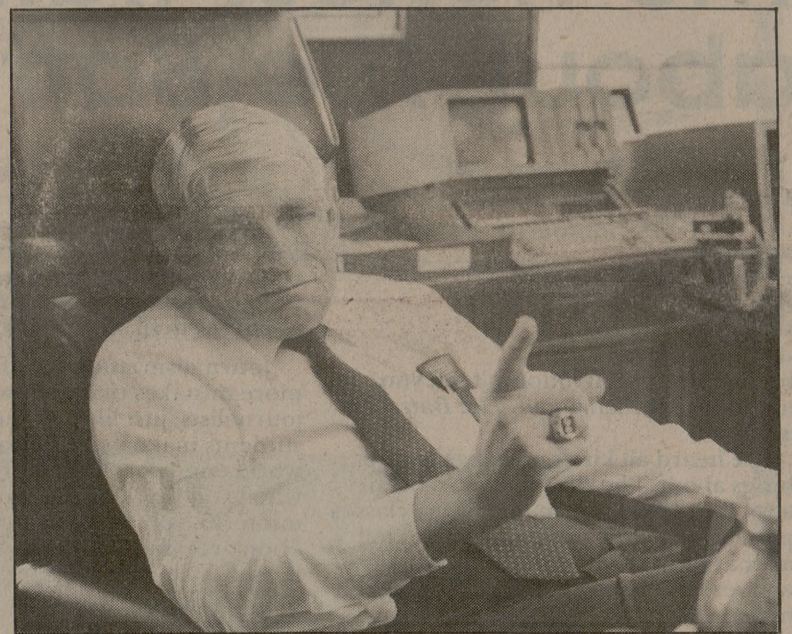
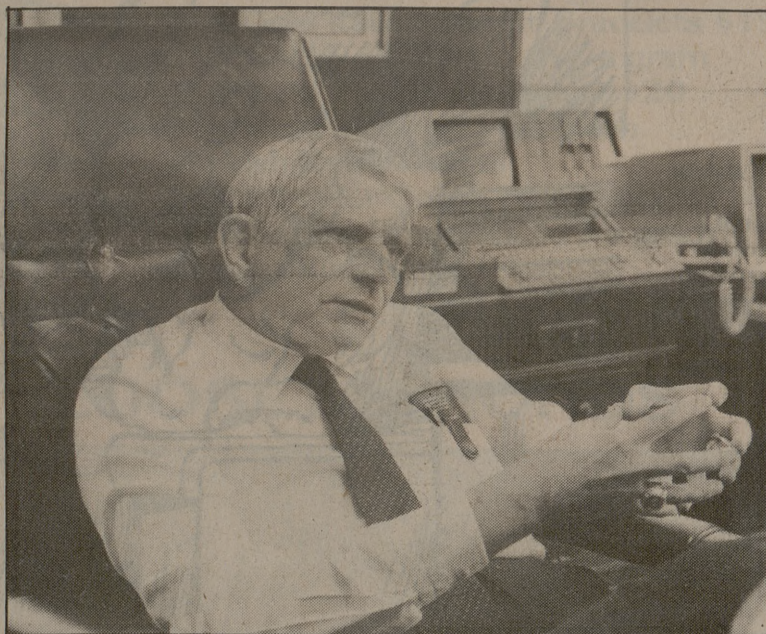
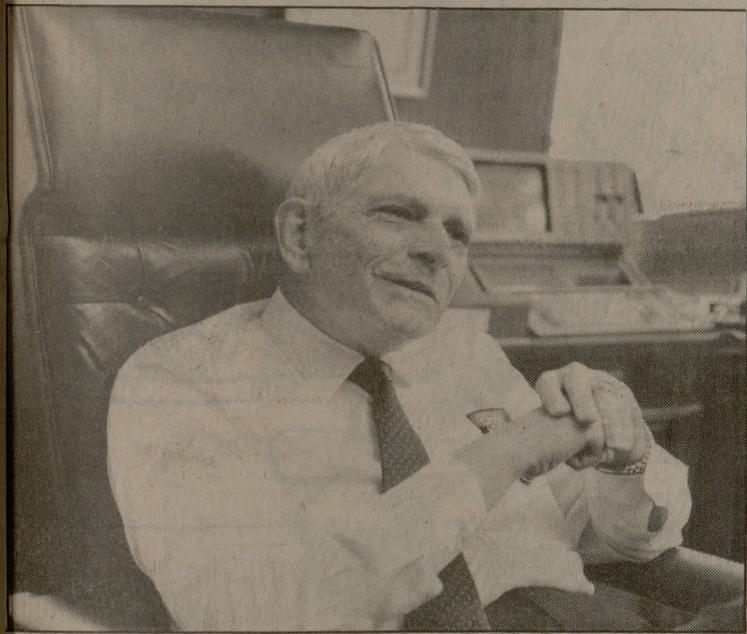
Department of Public Safety spokesman Mike Cox said it could prove difficult to en-

force the "open container" law, but state troopers will try.

Other laws on Texans' new can't-do list — which seems to be longer than the can-do list — include prohibitions on late-term abortions, smoking at public schools and keeping a vicious dog.

The vicious dog law includes a canine capital punishment provision.

Vandiver: A&M making headway in status quest



Dr. Frank E. Vandiver, president of A&M, explains the changing role of the University in its quest for world status.

Photos by Tracy Staton

By Carolyn Garcia
Assistant City Editor

In its quest to become a "world university," President Frank Vandiver says Texas A&M is making headway.

And Vandiver says he sees the role of the University changing with the times.

But those changes, definite and positive as they are, are taking time.

"It's going very well," Vandiver says. "It's not going as well as I would like. I would like to have it all have happened last year. But, it's an

idea whose time I think is slowly coming."

Through universities working together on concentrated efforts, Vandiver says vast changes and improvements can be made.

"The original idea was that I suspect there will be a group of universities around the world within the next 25 years," he says. "I hope not that long, but I think it will happen."

"They will have the human and fiscal resources to sort of band together in a loose network to address these major problems the world will

face — wars, famine, pestilence, and death."

And despite the efforts of the few, Vandiver says, the many will have to attack the world's problems.

"We don't seem to beat those problems back," he says. "But we have to keep fighting. And they are becoming increasingly difficult to fight."

Universities have the opportunity and the wherewithal to make gains and changes where government's hands, for the most part, are tied, he says.

"I think the more we learn, the more we realize the problems are larger than we thought they were," he says. "Governments either can't or won't do it in the long run. The governments are going to be too concerned with other things. And political restraints on borders are too difficult to hop over."

Vandiver says a university-based approach to solving problems may be the answer.

"We're going to have to face these things by university approaches — research and technical answers to se-

rious problems," he says. "And these universities are going to have to, in some cases, operate above governments, and they're not all going to be popular in that. But I think that's the wave of the future."

Vandiver says that reaching the goal of making A&M a world university is in sight, but it will require a keen sense of expertise.

"We're going into the information age," he says. "We're also going into an age where congregated expertise will be increasingly necessary. And that's the way to get it."

"More and more I'm finding as we sign agreements with various universities around the world, and I talk to the people involved, they all agree and they get excited. They all think it's a great idea."

"I got a letter not long ago from one of the people in the ministry of education at Belgium, who is one of the vice premiers, who had heard about it and was all excited and said, 'Can Belgium be involved?'"

"I wrote back and said, 'Hop aboard.'"

Leader of University says A&M keeps football program clean

By Carolyn Garcia
Assistant City Editor

During the wave of investigation by the NCAA of Southwest Conference schools, Texas A&M managed to avoid the tide because its laundry is clean, says A&M President Frank Vandiver.

Southern Methodist University was stripped of its football program

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for two years for major football violations. The University of Texas received a two-year probation without sanctions, although scholarships have been cut from 25 to 20 next year. Texas Christian University got a three-year probation through May 1989 and Texas Tech University was handed a one-year probation through February 1988 with the loss of three scholarships.

A&M escaped virtually unscathed and the findings of its own investigation have been turned over to the NCAA.

"I think A&M is far cleaner than most," Vandiver says. "The NCAA is still looking at us, but they keep deferring the investigation. We've heard that it has been deferred again. And I don't know what that means, whether they're too busy with other schools or whether they

haven't found enough to hang us, or exactly why."

Vandiver says that since the NCAA keeps putting off its probe into A&M's athletic program, "it's obviously not on the front burner."

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— Dr. Frank E. Vandiver, A&M president

A&M's own internal investigation overturned a lot of rocks and opened a lot of closets, but there was little or nothing under them or in them, he says.

"Our own investigation revealed to me that if we're guilty of anything, it's almost like biting our fingernails compared to what may be out in other schools," Vandiver says. "I don't care to compare us to anybody. I don't think we should be guilty of anything."

Vandiver gives athletic director and football coach Jackie Sherill

credit for turning A&M's football program around and for the apparently favorable treatment by the NCAA.

"I think the program has so vastly improved and has become so much

better under Jackie that that's one of the things that has impressed the NCAA," he says. "They've seen how the program has become really great things under him."

Vandiver says some of the policies and programs Sherill established and enforced have made a big difference in the way A&M is viewed from afar and has been a driving factor in A&M's recent athletic success.

"He's one of those who pioneered a drug testing program, for instance," Vandiver says. "Some of the

things he put in are sort of part of the national model.

"And all the things he instituted when he first came here have made a difference."

"When he came here, he came to tell me that he was appalled at our graduation rate of minority athletes, that he thought it was unacceptable, and that at Pittsburg he had achieved an 85 percent graduation rate and he expected nothing less here. And he's gotten that and I think that's wonderful. That sort of thing impresses the NCAA."

As A&M's athletic director, Vandiver says, Sherill has worked for not only double-A quality, but to build a long-term successful team.

"He told me, 'Look, I could give — any coach could come in and give you a winning team in a couple of years, and break every rule the NCAA has, which means in about two years we'd be on probation and wouldn't be contending at all. But why would anyone want that?'" he says. "I told him I wouldn't want that for anything or any price."

Vandiver says Sherill promised him a "program that is absolutely straight and solid, so once we get on top we can stay there."

And Vandiver says, "The proof of the pudding is in the eating."

A&M president calls threat to med school 'shot in dark' tactic

By Carolyn Garcia
Assistant City Editor

Last session's threats by the Texas Legislature to padlock the doors of Texas A&M's medical school, along with other A&M interests, proved to be just that.

A&M President Frank Vandiver says the Legislature was grasping straws.

"I think they were facing an emergency of serious proportions," Vandiver says. "I don't know whether these were scare tactics, or whether they were just trying to sober the people up to what might happen if they didn't pass a tax bill."

Vandiver says the medical school was singled out to try and draw attention and reaction to the Legislature's fiscal problems.

"Closing the medical school, I think, was just a shot in the dark to show what they might do," he says.

Vandiver says one of the problems with the Legislature is that it tends to judge quality by quantity.

"Now, one of the problems with it (the medical school) I suppose from the eyes of a fiscal person in Austin, is that it is very

small," Vandiver says. "And, is it fiscally possible to sustain a very small medical school, because it's very costly?"

"My answer to that is that certainly it is if you care about the quality of medical products. We are turning out some of the best doctors in the state. And you realize that if you are going to turn out the best, it costs something."

Although A&M is concerned with the quality of the education individual medical students receive and tries to keep a tight reign on that quality, Vandiver says, if the Legislature were to insist that the University open the doors a little wider, A&M would comply.

"Now, if the legislature were to tell us that we need to have more students because it can't stand the strain, we would salute smartly and march," Vandiver says. "But I would complain and gripe all the way because I don't think you should water down the quality we have."

"I don't think they are getting too little for their money. I think they are getting a great deal. I think we are doing great. The medical school is outstanding."