

# Adviser praises prime minister, remains strong

By Laura White  
Staff Writer

"Margaret Thatcher is the greatest thing since sliced bread," Sir Fergus Montgomery said last night in his presentation "Margaret Thatcher, the Woman and the Politician."

Montgomery, senior adviser to Thatcher and a member of Parliament, gave an informal but informative lecture on the British Prime Minister to a group of approximately 80 people in Rudder Tower.

"Margaret Thatcher will go down in history as the strongest British prime minister since Winston Churchill," Montgomery said. "I honestly think when she leaves Britain, it will be in much better shape than it was when she inherited it in 1979," he said.

Although Thatcher wasn't elected prime minister until 1979, she has been actively involved in politics since 1959 when she was first elected member of Parliament.

In 1970 Thatcher was the only female in the cabinet.

Montgomery, chosen as Parliamentary party secretary to Thatcher in 1970, remembers the response Thatcher received by Parliament when she announced her intent to run for opposition leader in 1975.

"Many people laughed," he said. "They thought it was funny that a woman had the audacity to think she could lead the conservative party."

Thatcher received over 50 percent of the votes and was elected as opposition leader, much to the dismay of many members of parliament, Montgomery said.

"Personally, I never thought the stuffy conservative party would be the first to elect a woman as leader," he said.

In May 1979, Thatcher was elected prime minister with an election theme that stressed tax reform and conquest of inflation (which had soared to 27 percent in the United Kingdom).

"For the first time in years, we had

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**Sir Fergus Montgomery**

a prime minister that refused to be deflected from her intentions because of political unpopularity," Montgomery said. "She didn't back down from her beliefs even when she wasn't receiving any support."

Montgomery said Thatcher gave the British people a sense of national pride again in 1982, after the way she handled Argentina's invasion on the Falkland Islands.

"I don't think any man on the cabinet has the courage that Margaret had in that situation," Montgomery said.

"Margaret treats people as human beings," he said.

"She builds a fund of goodwill that stands her in good stead when times are bad, even though she doesn't always appear favorable in the media."

Thatcher earns the respect and admiration of everyone she works with, Montgomery said.

"I think she's smart in every sense, and I'd never underestimate her," he said. "Last Thursday she turned 63 and I think she looks better than ever... she hasn't aged because she's doing something she loves."

When Thatcher won the general election for a third time in July 1987, she became the longest serving prime minister in this century.

# Anniversary of College Station causes townspeople to celebrate

By Juliette Rizzo  
Staff Writer

Today marks the 50th anniversary of the incorporation of College Station, a city that has come a long way from country roads and saloons to growing businesses and a thriving university community.

"We've been celebrating for the last year," Gracie Calbert, supervisor of the College Station Community Center, said.

Gary Halter, mayor from 1980-86 and chairman of the Historic Preservation Committee, said the commemoration of the city's anniversary began in September 1987 with a contest. Local artists were invited to submit pen and ink sketches of historic homes campus homes, which were judged and made into a calendar, he said.

In 1987, a book was published in honor of the city. "College Station, Texas: 1938-1988," was written by Deborah Lynn Balliew and compiled by Dr. Henry Dethloff, a Texas A&M history professor. The book recounts the establishment and history of College Station.

College Station City Council voted to provide Balliew with a grant to fund the book, which is based on her graduate thesis on the history of College Station.

On April 17, 1871, the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas officially was established. Balliew wrote that the city of Bryan wanted to support the college, but students realized they could not rely on a town so far away. The school encouraged the development of a new community and thus, College Station was established about 60 years before it was officially chartered in October 1938.

"I've seen a lot of changes in the city," Patricia Boughton, a lifelong resident of College Station, said. Born in 1932 in what is now College Station, she said, "I've lived here all my life, even before College Station was declared a city, and my father lived here long before that."

"I've seen it grow from a small country town, bedroom community with little business into a very well-planned city."

Balliew wrote that to enable the community to support the college, the Texas A&M Board of Directors set aside land on the north side of campus in 1912 so businesses could be established.

Boughton recalls, "Back when I was growing up, there was little around here.



There was nothing south of Park Place and very little business at Northgate. On south side, there was a grocery store and a drug store and there was a cleaners in Eastgate. That was the extent of business and there were few residential areas."

On October 19, 1938, the citizens of College Station voted 217 to 39 to incorporate the city, which derived its name from the railroad station where the voting took place. Balliew wrote that the incorporation would "insure the retention of College Station, Texas for all time to come."

A&M professors primarily were responsible for organizing and chartering the city, Boughton said.

"They didn't even have 10 cents to start the city," Boughton said. "With a huge second-hand truck and 100 borrowed dollars, the city began."

Once the city was chartered, the city fathers created a planning and zoning committee, and a city council was officially established in 1939.

In 1970, the council was dissolved because of opposition from City of Bryan officials who asserted that state employees could not serve on elected boards and commissions.

In 1971, College Station Mayor D.A. Anderson proposed an amendment to the state constitution that ran on the November 1972 ballot. The amendment passed, and A&M professors and other state em-

ployees were allowed to serve on the council, but they were not paid.

It was only after 1970 that the city's real growth occurred. In 1970, the population was only 17,000 — including the university. Now, with the growth of the university and local businesses, the Texas Highway Department estimates the city's population to be about 52,000.

Boughton said, "When I was young, the population of the city was only 3,000. College Station has come a long way since then."

"It took a lot of work to bring business and industry into the community, but now it has diversified quite a bit. The city has one of the lowest tax rates in the state."

"The opening of Post Oak Mall in 1982 was really a big feather in our cap,"

she said. "It is one of the city's major sources of sales tax revenue."

A collection of College Station history in story form backed by historic pictures and documents is being compiled in a video to tell the story of the city.

Calbert said that the video and the 50th anniversary ball held in March are the two main events of the anniversary celebration. "The ball was a great success," she said. The ball, a sold-out gala event with a 1930s theme, brought in proceeds to support the historic video.

The premiere of the video anthology of "Golden Memories," with a script written by project chairman Dr. Sharon Colson, will conclude the year-long anniversary celebration next month, Calbert said.

## In Advance

### Army officer speaks on Grenada invasion

U.S. Army Capt. Charles Jacoby will speak on "Operation Urgent Fury," the invasion of Grenada, at 8 p.m. Wednesday in 701 Rudder Tower.

The lecture will discuss the prob-

lems of coordinating the attack between the Army and the other armed services. Jacoby was an infantry commander with the 82nd Airborne Division during the operation and is now an instructor at West Point.

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