

Wednesday, October 4, 1989

A&M must control rapid growth, plan expansions for next decade

By Bob Krenek

The Battalion Staff

The biggest problem Texas A&M will face in the upcoming decade will be controlling the rapid growth of the University and its services, President William Mobley said Thursday.

"How large is too large?" Mobley asked the Student Senate. "How do we decide who gets the opportunity to attend Texas A&M? SAT scores and grade point averages are not always the best indicators. The issue is how large we need to get about the business of managing it."

Mobley said A&M needs about 100,000 additional square feet of space to expand because several ex-

pansion projects are being planned for the 1990's.

Library improvements will be a top priority, Mobley said. Approximately \$25 million will be spent to improve the Sterling C. Evans Library, which ranks poorly among the nation's college libraries, he said.

Planning groups are considering three avenues of improvement for the library, Mobley said. One is the expansion of current Sterling C. Evans Library facilities, another is the construction of satellite libraries and a third proposal is a satellite warehouse with an information retrieval system that would be much more advanced than current facilities.

Mobley said he is concerned about any additions to the library system quickly becoming obsolete.

"We don't want to spend a lot of money on something that will be outdated very soon," Mobley said.

The second priority, Mobley said, will be improving the campus computer system. He said the system has been improved considerably in recent years and that the improvements will continue as the University attempts to keep abreast of technological advances.

Mobley said the overall environment of the campus needs attention. A master plan is being formulated, he said, that will identify potential construction areas as well as designated green-space areas that will be preserved.

The first expansion project, Mobley said, will be the Veterinary School, which, at approximately \$35 million, will be the largest and most expensive in the history of A&M.

Demographics will need to be considered in the future, Mobley said.

"The so-called white majority will be a minority by the year 2000, and there will be a real need for students who can lead the University and not just lead people like themselves," Mobley said. "We need to guard against the vestiges of racism that are still here and we also need to ensure that all individuals are respected as individuals."

Mobley said he feels there is a better than 50-percent chance that the George Bush Presidential Library will be located at A&M.

"The Bush Library presents a great opportunity to Texas A&M," Mobley said. "It would bring at least half a million people to visit each year and would certainly lead to the development of academic programs that would complement the university."

A&M weatherman gives University added prestige

By Andrea Warrenburg

Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M has had its own weatherman for the past 27 years.

John Griffiths has taught meteorology at A&M since 1962 and has been the official climatologist for the state of Texas for the past 16 years.

"People often ask me what I do and I tell them I'm a meteorologist," Griffiths said. "And they think I study rocks that fall out of the sky."

A climatologist researches past records of atmospheric conditions of different areas and applies the data to other disciplines, such as agriculture and transportation. As state climatologist, Griffiths reports his findings and identifies unusual periods of weather for various state agencies and organizations to try to help solve atmospheric problems.

"So much of what we do depends on the weather," Griffiths said. "All our activities and decisions are related to what the atmosphere is doing."

Griffiths was born in England and holds degrees in theology, mathematics, physics and meteorology from London University. He came

to A&M in 1960 on a Rockefeller Fellowship and was invited to join the faculty.

Before accepting the offer in 1962, Griffiths was head of meteorological research for the British Colonial Scientific Civil Service in Kenya, Africa.

Although Griffiths said he sees himself as a weatherman, climatologists do not predict the weather.

"People often see 'climatologist' in the phonebook and call me wanting insight into a hurricane or some other storm," Griffiths said. "I work with research and past conditions and must refer them elsewhere."

Griffiths said being state climatologist gives A&M more visibility in the meteorological community because he acts as a liaison between A&M and the National Weather Service.

Presently, Griffiths is working with NASA, using satellites to see how various crops are growing in different parts of the world. A new project underway is for astronauts to study the atmosphere from space, enabling climatologists to gain a different insight.

A&M vocational counselor receives TRC's Employee of the Year award

By Julie Myers

The Battalion Staff

The Texas Rehabilitation Commission selected a counselor employed with its Texas A&M branch as its 1989 Outstanding Employee of the Year for his enthusiasm and innovative approaches in helping disabled A&M students find and keep jobs.

Senior Vocational Counselor John Greening has dedicated 20 years of service to the TRC.

"This really means a lot since I was nominated and selected by my peers," Greening said. "My bosses, secretary and clients helped."

Since his arrival at A&M in 1982, Greening has implemented one of

the first computerized college programs for the disabled, in addition to his job placement and career planning counseling.

Greening counsels his disabled clients as he would those without disabilities — to choose a job they can do, a job they like, and a field where the impairment is not an obstacle to employment. If there is something in society they are uniquely suited for, Greening said, he'll find it.

"They're students just like everybody else," Greening said. "Some are confined to wheelchairs for example, or have other, hidden disabilities."

Although some handicaps naturally hinder students' ability to perform in some professions, Greening said more and more employers are willing to hire the handicapped.

"Handicapped individuals have excellent work histories and attitudes," Greening said. "They know they have a strike against them so they work that much harder. Employers have good work experiences with the handicapped and want more."

Although Greening is an ordained Methodist minister, he rarely tells his clients about his former job because people sometimes freeze up, he said.

"Instead of telling me what they really think or feel, people tend to tell me what a preacher would want to hear."

Greening does, however, see his present job as similar to a ministry.

"I've had much more personal success and happiness as a counselor (than as a minister)," he said.

Lubbock A&M Club will barbecue after football game to raise funds

By Steven Patrick

Of The Battalion Staff

The Lubbock A&M Club will host a barbecue to help raise scholarship funds for prospective A&M students immediately after the Texas A&M-Texas Tech University football game in Lubbock Saturday.

The Lubbock A&M Club's scholarship barbecue will be near Jones Stadium in the Lubbock Coliseum. Tickets to the post-game barbecue are \$8 for non-students and \$5 for students with a valid A&M identification card.

Carl Luckinbach, Lubbock A&M

Club president, said the club's biennial scholarship barbecue is its largest fundraiser and has helped provide over 240 scholarships to Texas A&M students since the 1950s.

The club annually awards from five to eight \$400-\$500 scholarships, largely to A&M freshmen who attended high school in the Lubbock area, Luckinbach said.

"The scholarships are open to all areas of study," Luckinbach said. "The recipients must be strong students and have a strong desire to attend Texas A&M."

In addition to the money raised from the barbecue, the scholarships

are funded by a portion of the club's membership dues, as well as individual contributions.

Proceeds from the barbecue also will pay for feeding the members of the Texas Aggie Band.

Years ago the band did not attend the football game in Lubbock because of the costs involved. The barbecue was originated as an incentive for the band to go, Luckinbach said.

Luckinbach encourages all Texas A&M students and supporters to attend the post-game barbecue. Tickets may be purchased either at the door or in advance by calling (806) 799-8547.

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