

A&M, UT will stay in SWC if current problems given attention

By RICHARD TIJERINA
Of The Battalion Staff

Now that Texas A&M and Texas have decided to stay in the Southwest Conference, Commissioner Fred Jacoby must find a way to keep them there.

Presidents William H. Mobley of A&M and William Cunningham of UT released a joint statement Friday announcing the schools' intentions of staying in the conference they helped form 76 years ago.

However, although the announcement put to rest months of rumors that the two schools might bolt the SWC for greener pastures, it left room for possible future expansion or alliance with other non-SWC schools.

"The SWC family must be realistic about the fact that problems exist and that enhancing the vitality of the conference will require changes," the statement said. "It is our strong view that the problems require immediate attention and action."

The changes that Mobley and Cunningham said the conference needs to make include:

- An increased fan support, such as larger attendance at athletic events, throughout the conference.
- Structural changes in scheduling which would give greater flexibility in men's and women's basketball.
- The addition of non-conference games in football.
- An improved level of competition in the SWC for women's athletics.
- A firm commitment at the conference level to develop a first-class program in men's and women's basketball.

Possible conference expansion or alliance with non-SWC schools which would increase television coverage of SWC football games.

"Without these and other changes, the SWC cannot be a viable organization for excellence both in academic pursuits and in athletic competition," the statement said.

Jacoby said Friday the SWC is considering expansion, but would not name specific schools.

"We're addressing those (problems) already and some of the improvements we're working on," Ja-



Battalion file photo by M. Mulvey

Presidents of both Texas A&M and the University of Texas said Friday the universities will remain in the Southwest Conference if certain existing problems are resolved. The University of Arkansas left the SWC for the Southeast Conference Aug. 1.

coby said.

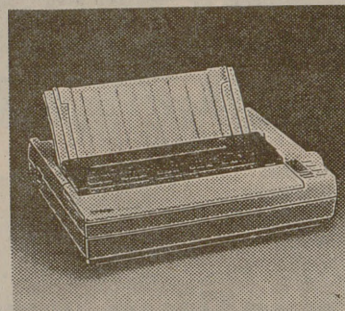
A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said he was pleased with the decision to stay in the SWC, but that something must be done to replace Ar-

kansas on the school's schedule. Arkansas, the only non-Texas school in the nine-team league, an-

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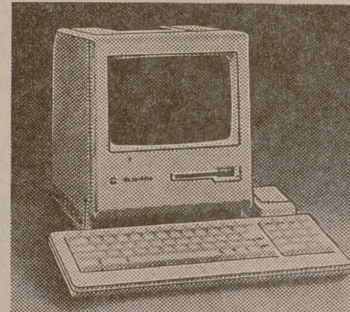
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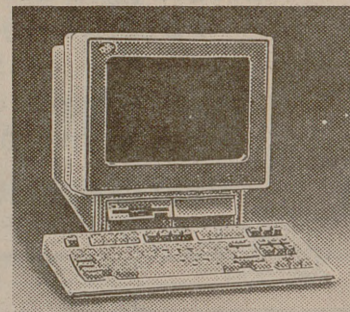
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