

The Battalion

"Serving Texas A&M Since 1893"

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Official asks for Mobley's resignation

By GARY P. CARROLL,
City Editor of THE BATTALION



Thompson

State Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, called for the resignation of Texas A&M University President William Mobley in a letter sent to The Battalion yesterday.

"I am writing today with the sincere hope the I can convince you to step down as A&M president," Thompson's letter stated.

Thompson said in her letter that Mobley's position should be filled by someone with a clear vision for the 21st century as well as a sensitivity for Texas' dynamic

educational system.

"I will not hesitate to stand up for what I feel is right," Thompson said.

A&M has increased its efforts of recruiting minorities, and according to a University Relations report, its efforts have paid off.

A&M leads the Southwest Conference in minority retention, and the University has seen an 89 percent increase in minority enrollment since Mobley took

office.

By the spring of 1992, 63.6 percent of all African-American students who enrolled in A&M in 1986 graduated; 56.1 percent of Hispanic students graduated; and 66.3 percent of Anglo students graduated.

Despite these figures, as well as an increase in minority scholarships at A&M, Thompson feels that Mobley has not dealt with issues of cultural diversity appropriately, and that he has failed to encourage attitudes of racial tolerance.

Thompson's call for Mobley's resignation was a result of what she called a lack of a direct response by Mobley to A&M's

Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

The fraternity threw a 'jungle' party at which pledges, dressed in black face paint and grass skirts, were allegedly chased by active members — a theme deemed racially insensitive by University officials.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon received disciplinary and retributive sanctions, as well as a \$1,000 fine to be applied toward a multicultural awareness program. Still, Thompson feels Mobley never responded properly to the charges of racist activity at the party.

"There was an opportunity for the president to act, and I think he failed to act appropriately," Thompson said. "He

could have stood up, and said he was not going to tolerate this type of conduct on campus — but he didn't."

Thompson said Mobley's failure to condemn the fraternity's behavior was tantamount to condoning it.

"... By the position he took when he said, 'Well (Rep. Ron Wilson) can come and make a response,' it lets me know that (Mobley) fosters that kind of attitude — that's the impression it leaves in my mind," Thompson said.

She said she is pleased with the excellence and quality of research at A&M, but

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President reacts to accusations

Mobley: she doesn't know us very well

By GARY P. CARROLL,
City Editor of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University President Dr. William Mobley responded yesterday to a letter written by



Mobley

State Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, calling for his resignation.

On the grounds in an open break that he has not taken an active role in multicultural awareness at A&M.

"My guess is that she was reacting... in a very strong way to get my attention," Mobley said. "It's probably an example of if she knew us better, or we worked harder to make sure she knew us, she would be able to put it into context."

Although Mobley has not yet spoken with Thompson, he feels that she is reacting to the situation regarding Rep. Ron Wilson and his feelings concerning an issue of racial insensitivity involving an A&M fraternity.

In October, the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity was accused of throwing a party with a racist 'jungle' theme. Allegedly, active members dressed in hunting fatigues chased, or "hunted," pledges who had painted themselves black.

The fraternity was punished by having its social and rush privileges canceled and requiring fra-

ternity leaders to attend a retreat on multicultural awareness.

The fraternity was also fined \$1,000, which goes toward a program on multicultural sensitivity that the fraternity must produce and deliver to the Greek system at A&M.

Thompson's letter stated that the sanctions were "wholly inappropriate, unresponsive and insensitive," and that A&M was "out-of-tune with modern America with an environment hostile to minorities."

Mobley said the letter was probably written out of anger in an attempt by Thompson to underscore the severity of the problem.

"We haven't done a good enough job to set the context for (Thompson), and if she really understood what was going on here she'd still be angry," Mobley said.

Mobley insisted that A&M is not a racist university and was not hostile toward minorities, but agreed that the University must continue to educate students on multicultural issues.

Thompson's letter stated, "There is a critical need for mandated multicultural studies at Texas' flagship universities."

There is an even greater need to institute actual programs of minority admissions, hiring and recruitment."

Since Mobley took his position as president of A&M, the University has seen a steady increase in

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DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas

Members of Boy Scout Troop Pack 976 Den 5 (above), along with Santa Claus and helper (right), wave to parade spectators at the 1992 Christmas parade held Sunday afternoon. There were about 110 entries in the parade, which was held along Texas Avenue.



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Seven band cadets await punishment

By GINA HOWARD,
Reporter of THE BATTALION

A closed hearing to decide the fate of the seven former Aggie Band members who protested during the Texas A&M-University of Texas football game was held at the Military Sciences Building Saturday.

The seven cadets, six seniors and one freshman, were dismissed from the band after they left the field during halftime of the Nov. 26 A&M-University of Texas football game in order to avoid playing on the same field as the UT band.

The seven cadets and on-scene band character witnesses testified at the hearing. Lt. Col. Mike Duke, administrative hearing officer, will consider the testimony when determining the cadets punishment.

Duke alone will decide if further punishment is necessary, which could include expelling the cadets from the Corps.

"If it (punishment) is serious enough, (Duke) will present his decision through me to Gen. Darling (corps commandant)," said Col. James McCleskey, chief of operations and training for the Corps of Cadets.

McCleskey said further punishment may depend on the degree to which the cadets violated orders and rules.

The seven cadets were dismissed from the Aggie Band by Col. Ray Toler, director of marching and concert bands, after they walked off the field during the half-time performance. They were not allowed to sit with the band during the second half of the

game.

Jeff Gibbs, a senior cadet who participated in the protest, said he did not want to be a member of the only Aggie Band to share the field with another band.

"I didn't want to be disgraced on my last performance in the Aggie Band," Gibbs said last week following his dismissal. "I felt like we were set up."

The band should have never been put in the position of sharing the field with the University of Texas, said Jerry Gonzales last week.

The protest might not have been the right thing to do, but the seven cadets were not the only ones at fault, Josh Brooks, a senior cadet, said last week after the incident.

McCleskey said he was unable to predict what the outcome of the hearing might be.

"I wouldn't presume to prejudge at this time," he said. "The privacy of these cadets has to be considered."

Christi Evans, one of the protesting cadets, said she is unsure what will be decided, but that the process seemed fair.

"There were character witnesses, and we were allowed legal advice on how to answer questions," she said.

Other cadets involved in the protest declined to comment due to the pending investigation. Darling said he declined to comment at length on the hearing because he has not really been involved.

"I really don't know much about this," he said. "I've stayed out of their way to let them carry out the process."

Earthquake faults

Geologists find 2 new ones in Los Angeles

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — Two previously unknown earthquake faults have been discovered in downtown Los Angeles, passing beneath skyscrapers, along the Hollywood Freeway and near Dodger Stadium, geologists said Sunday.

If the faults are active, they could produce quakes measuring 5.5 to 6.5 on the Richter scale.

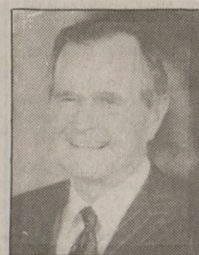
That would "be very damaging because they are so close to major

population centers," said geologist Jim Dolan of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

Of more concern is the possibility that the newly discovered Echo Park and MacArthur Park faults may be connected to and rupture at the same time as the deeper Elysian Park fault, which was discovered five years ago, Dolan said.

Scientists believe the Elysian Park fault could produce a quake measuring at least 7 right under downtown Los Angeles.

In advance: Bush to visit A&M next week



Bush

According to a report this morning from White House Press Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater, President George Bush will be visiting Texas A&M on Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 11 a.m.

Bush is scheduled to speak on major foreign policy issues. A White House advance team will be in College Station this week to prepare for the president's visit.

Bush's last trip to College Station was in 1989 when he gave a commencement address for A&M December graduates.