

NSL

Study reveals ancient climate of Texas

(Continued from page 1)

- 1) Issues affecting students as students
- 2) Issues affecting students as youth
- 3) Issues affecting students as citizens.

Under the first heading this past year, NSL has dealt with national student financing. Such government programs as student guaranteed loans, basic opportunity grants, and college work-study money.

"Presently, I'm working as a liaison with other student governments, their financial aid offices and high school counselors to cause them to become aware of these programs," Moore said. "In the meantime, the NSL staff and a number of interns are lobbying in Congress for more education funds."

In the second area of interest, NSL chose to close in on minimum wage, air fare and the energy crisis. "There was a bill in Congress, which is awaiting Nixon's signature, which had a rider talking about lower rates for student employees than for other minimum wage workers," said Moore.

"Thanks to the work of NSL and other lobbying groups the rider failed. The NSL is also working for lower rates on rail services for youth and the aged," she said.

In the third area, NSL is working on the environment and women's rights.

Locally, the NSL will be providing an Annex with reference type materials for loan to students. "Such things as congressional records, the congressional quarterly, booklets on current issues and NSL suggested publications will be available," Moore said.

SG position not required for committees

Service on university committees is not limited to student senators, said Steve Eberhard, Student Government president.

Applications for all committees are available in the Student Government office on the second floor of the MSC. Filing opened Tuesday at 8 a. m. and will end at 5 p. m. next Tuesday.

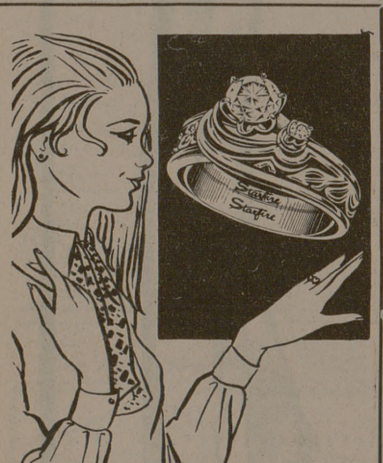
These university committees include the Student Publications Board and the university rules and regulations committee. These positions are filled by appointment of the president of the university after viewing the recommendations of the Student Government president.

The appointment recommendation by the president must be submitted to the Senate for approval. It takes a two-third vote to approve the recommendations.

"Any student can apply and I would like for a lot of students to show their interest," said Eberhard.

There are no grade requirements for appointment. They are appointed by the Student Government President on the basis of the applications filed.

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When the first Texans arrived more than 10,000 years ago, they were greeted by cool, damp forests, perhaps much like present day Wisconsin and Michigan, according to a Texas A&M University palynologist.

Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant, Jr., assistant professor of anthropology, is doing research on fossilized plant pollen from the peat bogs of Central and East Texas in addition to lake deposits in West

Texas for his studies of early Texas vegetation patterns. He is trying to determine what the vegetation and climate was like 15,000 years ago or more.

"Large treeless bogs provide ideal sampling locales because their pollen deposits generally reflect the composition of the neighboring upland vegetation and pollen preservation is excellent," said Bryant.

"Analyses of peat bog deposits

in Gonzales, Lee and Milam counties reveal that there were fairly extensive forested areas in Central Texas between 16,000 and 10,000 years ago," noted Bryant. "These studies show that Central Texas was covered by large forested areas composed of trees such as alder, birch, dogwood, hazelnut, maple, oak with some spruce and pines. During this span, some 8,000 to 14,000 years Before Christ many of these Cen-

tral Texas forests began to disappear and many of the species of trees disappeared forever from Central Texas."

Before Bryant's study, many people felt that the Central Texas area was once a piney woods like present day East Texas and the lost pines region around Bastrop is all that remains today of this earlier wide spread forest.

"My research shows that Central Texas was not covered by

pine forest during any part of the last 16,000 years," he went on. "All of my research suggests that the lost pine area close to Bastrop was probably no larger 16,000 years ago than it is today."

"Trying to predict the Central Texas climate 16,000 years ago is not easy. Reconstructing the vegetation is one thing but trying to estimate the climate is more difficult," added Bryant. "One thing is for sure, it had to

be somewhat cooler and wetter than it is today. Now these are found in our northern states such as Wisconsin and Michigan. Bryant's studies of early Texas as vegetation patterns is only the beginning phase. He has already examined a number of lake deposits in West Texas and found that portions of that region were covered by pine forest around 30,000 years ago. These areas today are covered by oak, hickory and mesquite and Yucca.

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