

Alumni need new residence

by Kathy Breard
Battalion Reporter

The Association of Former Students has outgrown its home in the Memorial Student Center and is hoping to have its own building on campus by 1985.

The site being considered by the former students and the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents is at the corner of Jersey and Houston streets.

Before a new building may be started on campus, the state must approve legislation to allow the Association of Former Students, which is technically not a part of the University, to lease the property from Texas A&M.

A similar agreement set a precedent for leasing land belonging to state universities. This precedent was the leasing of land at the University of Texas to Safeway.

Since the association is so closely affiliated with Texas A&M, donating over \$1 million a year to the University, an association official anticipates little difficulty in the legislation's passage.

If we are to continue to serve our alumni, we're going to have to go to a new building within the next five years," said Jim Jeter, assistant executive director of the Former Students Association.

When the Forsyth Alumni Center in the Memorial Student Center, the current home of the association, was modernized in the early 1970s, it was built to serve approximately 2,000 graduates a year. Today Texas A&M graduates more than 5,000 students a year.

Funding for the new building will be separate from the money raised from former students every year.

Construction of both the new building and an adjoining parking lot with 50 to 100 spaces is likely to cost a minimum of \$3 million, Jeter said. Jeter is confident the funds for the building can be raised by the association.

The building would possibly have two or three floors totalling 25,000 square feet. The first floor would be a lobby large enough to accommodate student group receptions, Jeter said. The current lobby area in the MSC is frequently overcrowded with visiting alumni during football game weekends.

Jeter, who helped design and build the aerobics track, is hopeful that a new building will not interfere with the track.

Other alternatives had included construction on land near parking annex 60, south of Rudder Tower, or expansion of the present facility. But, these alternatives were finally abandoned.

The parking lot location, which is at the corner of Joe Routh Boulevard and Houston Street, meant high expense and various electrical problems. Also, the area is located in the most congested part of campus, Jeter said.

The expansion of the MSC would also be an expensive, complicated process, he said. It would be difficult to obtain the square footage the association needs.

In order to treat the over 105,000 alumni as individuals, the association strives to keep the ratio of staff members to former students at a reasonable level, Jeter said. The current office is cramped for the 28-member staff. A new facility would be expanded to accommodate over 40 staff members.

The two other alumni groups, the Development Foundation and the Aggie Club, would not be included in the proposed building.

The Development Foundation, which also raises money for Texas A&M, recently relocated on the 6th floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

The Aggie Club may move to another site, the proposed Athletic Administration and Office Building, which may also include a letterman's lounge and athletic offices for coaches.

Bids reopened on oil, gas tract

by Maureen Carmody
Battalion Reporter

Bryan City Manager Ernest Clark told the City Council Wednesday that it would have to re-open bidding on a 21-acre oil and gas tract in Henderson Park.

Baker Exploration Co. made the highest bid on the tract — over \$77,000 — but neglected to make payments, Clark said. Baker Exploration Co. out-bid its competitors by \$20,000, which is probably one reason it neglected its payments, he said.

"Evidently they thought they made a bad bid," Clark said.

The council will reopen bidding, Clark said after the meeting. If the top bid is under Baker Exploration's bid, the council will try to recover the lost revenue. Clark said he would recommend that council take the company to court and have it make up the lost revenue.

The council also solved Bryan's problem with junk cars people have left unattended around the city.

Clark said the city sent out a total of 554 letters to owners of the junk cars asking them to remove their vehicles. He said 245

citizens removed their vehicles themselves and 46 were removed by the city. The city also filed charges against three citizens for not complying with the rules, all of whom were found guilty. The rest of the vehicles were either covered with tarps, retagged or placed on private property — all of which are legal alternatives to removing the vehicles.

In other business, the council confirmed several new appointments. The Parks and Recreation Board has been increased from seven to nine members. When Red Burdett stepped down from the board, Linda Martin, Fred Robison and John Howard were appointed to fill in the vacant positions.

Frank Metzger's appointment to the Electrical Advisory Board was confirmed. Meyge Henry was appointed and Roy Simmons was reappointed to the Southeast Higher Education Authority. John Powell was confirmed in his appointment to city engineer and Timothy Adams in his appointment as operation manager of community and support services.

One-woman show by poet, composer

by Shellee Bratton
Battalion Reporter

Writer, composer and theater director Elizabeth Swados will give a performance Nov. 4 at Rudder Forum.

"A Night with Elizabeth Swados" will include poetry, writings and songs from her Broadway play, "Runway." Guitarist Judith Fleishers will accompany her.

The performance will be sponsored by the theatre arts department in conjunction with the Hillel Foundation, a Jewish student organization providing cultural, social and religious services for Texas A&M students.

Elizabeth Swados has composed, written and directed several productions, including

"The Greek Trilogy," "Dispatches" and "Alice in Concert." She has written three children's books and a novel called "Leah and Lazar." She is the recipient of numerous honors including an honorary doctorate from Hobart College, 3 Obie Awards and 5 Tony nominations.

"It's going to be a one-woman show," Carol Parzen, director of the Hillel Foundation, said. "It will give the audience a chance to have close contact with her poetry, writings and thoughts about life. It will be quite extraordinary."

The performance will be free and begins at 8 p.m. A reception will be held for Swados after the performance.

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