

student body president

... and what's in store for him

by **Ronnie Crocker**
Battalion Reporter

Being student body president at Texas A&M means putting a lot of time, effort and money into the job and receiving no salary for doing so, current president Pat Pearson said.

Pearson, a senior political science major from San Antonio, has been meeting that responsibility since last April. He will remain in his current position until his term ends April 20.

He said that his job is more than just a ceremonial one. His duties include being in charge of the executive branch of the Student Senate and appointing chairmen of the judicial board and members of University committees.

Pearson has to attend all Senate meetings and some committee meetings. He has the power to execute into being all legislation they pass.

One of his recent duties was to formulate the budget for the Big Event.

The job does have its ceremonial aspects, of course. As the official representative of the

Texas A&M student body, Pearson is expected to attend meetings of such groups as the Texas A&M Board of Regents and to give speeches at Aggie Muster, Fish Camp and other University functions.

"A big part of being president is how you view your job," Pearson said. He adds that he tries to take a positive approach to it and expand its role.

Pearson also gets involved in the research stage of Student Government. He said this is "more of the political scientist in me than the role of the president."

Those duties make a great demand on Pearson's time and he said his studies have suffered accordingly. He was told when he accepted the job that if his grade-point ratio didn't drop by 0.3 points, he wasn't devoting enough time to the job. His GPR dropped just that much last semester.

"It's more than a 9-to-5 job," he said. He added that although it doesn't allow much time for studying, it is well worth it.

Worth it or not, the job has

changed Pearson's values. He said that when he became president his goal was to attend law school and enter politics. He said he no longer wants this and is considering working for his father, who is a movie producer.

The Texas A&M student body president doesn't receive a salary, but Pearson said the job is payment enough.

The more tangible benefits of

the job include front-row tickets to all concerts here, an office, and a \$125 gift from the Association of Former Students.

Student body presidents at other Texas universities are paid for their efforts.

Charlie Hill, the Texas Tech president, receives \$275 a month for his services. All executive officers there receive the same amount.

The University of Texas student body president has responsibilities similar to the Texas A&M student body president. For this he receives \$669 a month. The UT senate voted March 2 to give their next president a \$2,000 a semester scholarship.

At the University of Houston, Carl Chain receives a \$400 a month for being student body president.

Joe Jordan

senior
physics
Fannett

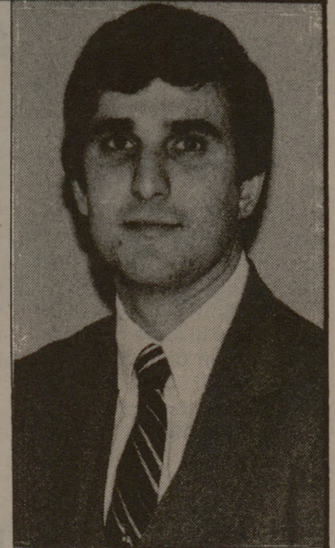
I have leadership experience as COSGA Chairman (1982), student representative on TAMU Athletic Council (1982-83), coordinator of senior bootline (1981-83), executive secretary of the SWC Sportsmanship Committee (1983), coordinator of St. Mary's Catholic Church Eucharistic Ministers, College of Science senator-at-large (1983), Fish Camp counselor (1981-83) and Fish Aide (1980).

After working in Student Government for several years, I realize the importance of the role of student body president in initiating student action and representing student opinion to the administration. My experience has given me the opportunity to develop close working relationships with both students and administrators at all levels. I feel that my background and experience will be very beneficial as we deal with the many important issues that we will

face next year. I have a sincere desire to continue serving the students at Texas A&M and look forward to the challenges of this office.

In addition to representing the views of the student body to the University administration and dealing effectively with all issues affecting students, these are a few of the specific goals I would like to address:

- 1) Work closely with RHA and the Corps to find ways to increase dorm unity and involvement in University activities without endangering cherished traditions.
- 2) Increase the amount of on-campus recreation facilities, such as basketball and volleyball courts in dorm areas.
- 3) Establish longer library hours.
- 4) Establish an organized on-campus escort service and increase crime awareness to confront the growing crime problem.
- 5) Establish and maintain better communication and cooperation between Student Government and other stu-



dent organizations to ensure quality programs and services for students.

6) Establish an open-door policy for the office of student body president. I would like to bring to the office of student body president a sense of openness, honesty and genuine concern for the individual that would encourage greater awareness and participation in the student body.

Fred Billings

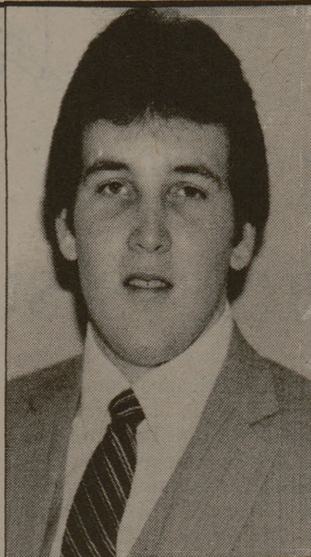
junior
agricultural economics
Houston

Why should Fred Billings be your next student body president? Fred enjoys working hard to serve students and the challenge of getting others to do the same.

In recent years, Student Government has shifted from representing the real student interest and has replaced it with its own preconceived idea of what students want. This is primarily the result of a communications breakdown among students, Student Government and the administration. It is not the responsibility of the students or the administration but that of Student Government, specifically the student body president, as the official spokesman for both.

Is Fred qualified to bridge the gap? Over the past three years, Fred has been privileged to hold many leadership positions, of which the following are a few: student senator (two years), three chairmanships for the Conference on Student Government Associations, the administration's Traffic Flow Studies Committee and administrative director of the Legislative Study Group, which acts as the formal voice of the A&M student body to the Texas Legislature.

These experiences have provided day-to-day working relationships with administrators through the Legislative Study Group, other schools from across the country



through COSGA and all levels of students as a student representative. This, coupled with a dedicated desire to serve you, the student body, provides a unique blend of qualifications making the student body president the ultimate challenge for serving students.

Finally, what will Fred do as your student body president? Fred's first commitment is one of communication. Most of you never have been asked by a student senator what you think about a problem. That WILL change. The traffic and parking problem solutions already recommended by Fred will be followed through on. And Fred is committed to working with the Job Placement Center to improve the marketing of A&M graduates, something that affects us all.

Fred is dedicated to professionally serving you!!! What would you like to see Fred work on?

Rick Rodriguez

junior
building construction
San Antonio

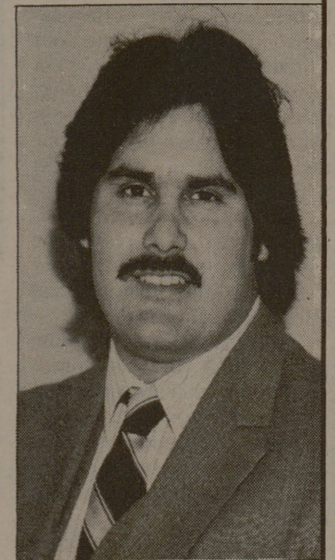
My leadership experience is vast and varied. I was a member of the Student Council while attending San Antonio Central Catholic. In 1980, I was elected president of the Junior Achievement Company in San Antonio. While in Junior Achievement, I received the public relations award for outstanding participant. In this aspect, I feel my leadership ability was an asset to both my team and school. While participating in football, I was named captain.

I believe I am a qualified candidate. But I feel that my fellow candidates also are qualified. I feel that the yardstick that separates myself from my fellow students is one of extreme determination and dedication. I honestly feel that I am the right man for the

position of student body president. Right now, Texas A&M is in transition, bursting at the seams with potential. I am eagerly awaiting the chance to do my part in helping my University achieve its potential. I have come up with what I feel are innovative and realistic ideas that I would like to see implemented. I feel I have the capability and determination to accomplish goals that will benefit Texas A&M.

I would like to see Student Government acquire more authority to reinforce its decisions and keep its promises. I would like to see the students' voice being heard at the Board of Regents' meetings. I feel it is an oversight not to have the students' opinions and ideas being presented at these meetings. I feel this would be extremely effective for both the students and regents.

I also would like to establish effective committees to research problems that affect



students, such as parking, crime and other student-related problems. I want to see Texas A&M maintain its traditions and keep A&M, as a university, second to none.