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The Battalion

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Alders defines student government

By PATRICIA FLINT
Staff Writer

"Students think that student government is a self-perpetuating, cliquish entity entirely unto itself," Student Body President David Alders said during Wednesday's Sully's Symposium. But, he said, "student government, to a greater degree than any organization on this campus, is subject to your control."

Sully's Symposium, sponsored by sophomore honor society Lambda Sigma, provides an open forum where student leaders meet the student body face-to-face for a brief talk by the leader, followed by a question-and-answer period.

Alders said that in a debate last spring with his opponent Grant Schwartzwelder, he agreed to do a weekly column in *The Battalion*, but that with the death of Battalion editor Bill Robinson and subsequent complications, he has had difficulty communicating with acting editor Stephanie Ross.

Despite student displeasure about the Coke Building stopping their check-cashing service, Alders said that the primary function of the office is to pass out scholarship money and financial aid. Alders said that the office believes that they don't have adequate man-power, space or security to handle cashing student checks and payroll checks in addition to doing their other work.

Alders' appointment of Sean Royall as a student representative to the faculty senate was questioned, since, while on the rules and regulations committee, Royall voted in favor of mandatory final exams for seniors, a major student concern.

"In every dealing you have with the administration you have to be credible, otherwise you are discounted out-of-hand," Alders said. "It's just not credible for us to go to the administration and say that we don't want to take this test."

Royall said that he presented a

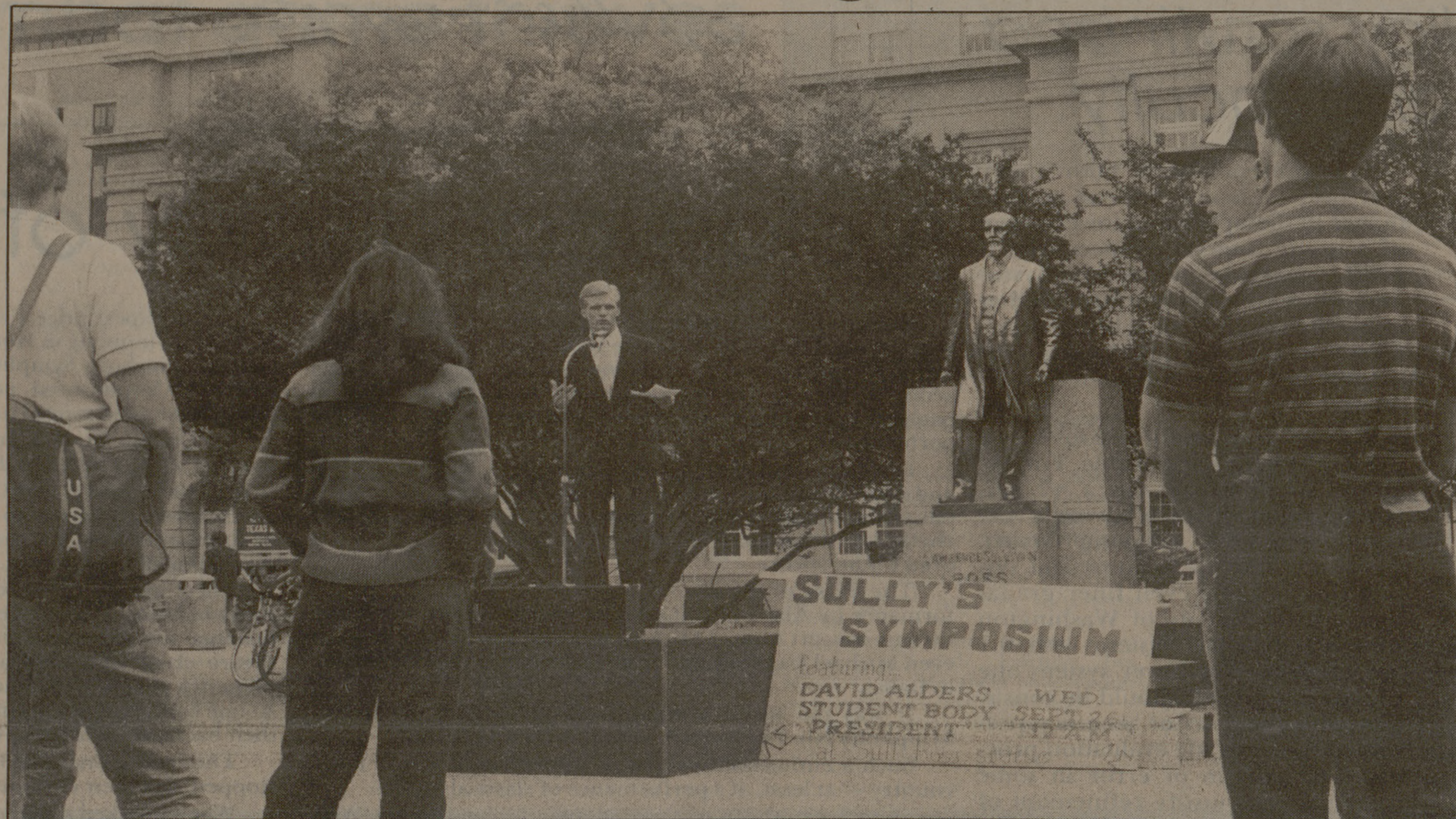


Photo by FRANK IRWIN

Student Body President David Alders discusses various issues at the Sully's Symposium Wednesday afternoon. Sully's Symposium is sponsored by Lambda Sigma, a sophomore honor society, and provides an open forum where student leaders meet the student body in person.

report from Jordan to the faculty senate arguing the students' point of view — maintaining the status quo. But if they decided to make the change, Jordan had three recommendations in the report: no student present at A&M as of that spring would have to take senior finals; at commencement, the handing out of diplomas would not be changed to giving out empty tubes; and that seniors would be allowed to take their exams before finals week to afford them that extra time before graduation.

After reading the report, Royall was instructed from Jordan to go with the faculty's reaction so as not to lose everything. "The faculty senate was resolute on implementing student finals," Royall said, therefore all the students voted yes.

Alders said that student government has three basic functions. The most important function is to serve as a platform representing all the students for the advancement of student opin-

ion to the administration, with whom the student government meets frequently, he said.

The next is the programming they do: coordinating Aggie Muster, Parents' Weekend, the Big Event and the Aggie Blood Drive. "These are the activities in my mind that typify what Aggie spirit is all about," Alders said.

Leadership training, third, is the most important function of student government that is not overt, he said. With its executive branch, judicial branch (judicial

board) and legislative branch (student senate), Alders said the student government mirrors the federal government in structure, but hopefully not in performance.

Alders said that anyone wanting to make changes at A&M should apply for one of the 24 open seats in the student senate.

Sully's Symposium is held every Wednesday in front of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue next to the Academic Building, beginning at 12 p.m.

Pecos is picked for new prison

United Press International

PECOS — Construction is scheduled to begin Nov. 1 on a new \$4.4 million, 450-inmate federal prison to be located about two miles southwest of the city limits, Reeves County officials said Wednesday.

County Judge W.O. "Bill" Pigman said the prison, a minimum security facility, will be operated with federal funds, generating its own revenue.

"The community is backing the new facility because it will create from 55 to 90 new jobs," Pigman said. "There will also be additional jobs created during the construction phase." Pecos has an 8 percent unemployment rate.

County commissioners this week authorized the advertising of bids for the new prison, Pigman said.

Unlike conventional financing from bond issues, the potential bidders are being asked to present a full financing plan for the new jail, Pigman said.

"This will make it an unusual project," the judge said. "The prison will be handled as a lease-purchase with the federal government. There will be no revenue bonds and the people of Reeves County will not be out a penny."

Pigman said the new prison will probably handle a large number of illegal aliens. He said the facility will serve the western federal district, from San Antonio to El Paso.

Bids will be advertised on Oct. 16 and a contract awarded on Oct. 22, he said.

Pigman said Reeves County is negotiating construction of the prison as part of a contract with the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

"We are already keeping federal prisoners in the Reeves County Jail," he said.

Officials had anticipated water problems with the new prison, but Larry Fleming, City Water Superintendent, said the city of Pecos has enough water to provide the prison with the required 20,000 gallons a day. Fleming said low water pressure problems are being corrected.

GSS supporters criticize decision to appeal court ruling

By KARI FLUEGEL
Staff Writer

A decision by Texas A&M regents to appeal a court order requiring recognition of Gay Student Services was branded "ridiculous" by two supporters of the group.

"It's completely hatred and bigotry on their (the regents) part," said Tom Coleman, president of the Texas Human Rights Foundation, a group which has helped GSS pay for legal costs.

GSS President Marco Roberts said, "It's not logical. It doesn't make

any sense. I think it will be damaging to the University in the long-run."

After discussing the matter in executive session at the regents' meeting Sunday and Monday, the regents gave the green light to file an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the early August federal court ruling stating that A&M must recognize Gay Student Services as an on-campus student organization.

The Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Aug. 3 that A&M will have to recognize the group as an on-campus organization.

The ruling, made by a three-judge panel, reversed the 1982 decision of U.S. District Judge Ross N. Sterling, who had ruled that the University had not violated a protected constitutional right by denying recognition to the group.

GSS was denied recognition by A&M in 1976 on the grounds that homosexual conduct was illegal in Texas and that it would be inappropriate for A&M to recognize an organization likely to "incite, promote and result" in homosexual activity.

That argument became invalid

when a federal judge in Dallas struck down the section of the Texas Penal Code forbidding sexual acts between adults of the same sex.

After Sterling's ruling, A&M based its argument on the premise that GSS was a social organization and that the University does not recognize social groups.

Ted Hajovsky, system general counsel, said Tuesday that he has written a letter to Attorney General Jim Mattox requesting that he file an appeal. Hajovsky said he also stated in the letter that the System under-

stands the attorney general's office has a heavy case load and that the System would be happy to pursue the case itself.

Hajovsky said that he has not "gotten strong feedback" from the attorney general's office about pursuing the case.

A&M has until November to file an appeal. If an appeal isn't filed by that time, the case will be handed to Sterling to enter an order and to enforce the Court of Appeals decision.

In the August ruling, the Court of Appeals stated: "At (the) heart of the

First Amendment is the freedom to choose, even if such choice does not accord with the state's view."

The ruling also said: "TAMU's refusal to recognize Gay Student Services as an on-campus student organization impermissibly denied appellants their First Amendment rights."

Hajovsky said there are some clear exceptions to First Amendment rights and that the regents felt

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Patterson weeps upon hearing trial verdict

Jury: bank officer not guilty of crimes

United Press International

OKLAHOMA CITY — Former Penn Square Bank officer William G. Patterson collapsed and wept uncontrollably Wednesday as he heard himself acquitted of 23 counts in a 25-count indictment that charged him with criminal misconduct.

"I'm happy," Patterson told a reporter in a choked, emotion-filled voice as he temporarily regained his composure about 30 minutes after the verdict was read by the bailiff in the 13th day of the trial.

Patterson had to have help standing from defense attorney Burk Bailey when U.S. District Judge Lee R. West recessed the jury to consider the remaining two charges in the indictment.

West told the jurors to return af-

ter he asked them if they felt a verdict could be reached on the remaining two counts, which involve allegations of wire fraud.

The jury, which deliberated just over eight hours after receiving the case Tuesday afternoon, acquitted Patterson of 17 counts of misapplication of bank funds, two counts of altering bank records and four counts of wire fraud.

The indictment charged Patterson broke the law with his allegedly reckless lending habits during his tenure as head of Penn Square's energy lending department before the bank's July 5, 1982, collapse.

"Obviously, we're pleased," Bailey said as he led his 34-year-old client from the courthouse, adding it would be "inappropriate" to make

further comments until the jury had rendered its verdict on the last two counts.

Patterson and his wife, Eve, came into the courtroom holding hands shortly before 5 p.m. Wednesday when it was announced the eight-woman, four-man panel had reached a partial verdict.

When West instructed the bailiff to read the verdict, Patterson stared down at the table and, as he heard himself acquitted of each charge, began crying.

By the time the bailiff read the last four acquittal verdicts, Patterson had collapsed and was weeping openly.

His wife, tears of relief streaming down her face, watched from the front row of the spectators' section of the courtroom, tightly clasping

her brother's hand during the proceedings.

After West had recessed the jury and told them to resume deliberations, she bolted to the table where her husband sat, hugged Bailey, then turned, put her arms around Patterson's shaking shoulders and wept with him.

Federal prosecutors alleged Patterson generated millions of dollars worth of fraudulent or poorly collateralized loans that were either funded by Penn Square or purchased by participating banks.

If he had been convicted on all counts, Patterson could have been sentenced to more than 70 years in prison and could have been fined a total of \$105,000.

In Today's Battalion

Local

• Student Counseling Service gets new home. See story page 4.

• English department offers mini-courses on improving writing skills. See story page 6.

State

• Texas prison reformer arrested on felony assault and other charges. See story page 6.