

STATE AND LOCAL

# Alumni center has high priority with '85 officers

By LYNN RAE POVEC  
Staff Writer

Getting the new alumni center built is the most important thing Davis L. Ford and Ernest T. Pitzer Jr. have to do as this year's president and president-elect of the Association of Former Students.

"It's something we haven't had for 105 years," Ford says, and it's something former students will have for the next 105.

The association's office in the Memorial Student Center is overcrowded. Construction on the new building, at Jersey and Houston streets, was to begin early this year, but cost estimates ran too high.

The association put construction on hold while plans were revised, but Ford says April 21, Muster, is the tentative date for the ground-breaking ceremony. He expects the decision to be finalized by April 1.

"If there's any delay, it won't be anything but money," says Ford, chairman of the building committee for the project.

Ford, 47, is a division vice president for the consulting firm Engineering-Science Inc. in Austin. He graduated a distinguished student in 1959 with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. Ford went on to get master's and doctorate degrees in environmental engineering from the University of Texas.

Pitzer, Class of '50, graduated in June 1951 with bachelor of science degrees in petroleum and geological engineering. He spent about a year in the Army Corps of Engineers, and now he's president of DeGolyer and MacNaughton, a petroleum engineering consulting firm in Dallas.

Pitzer, born in Abilene 56 years ago, gives up most of his time to his work. He spends his leisure time golfing or visiting one of his farms.

About his role as president-elect, Pitzer says, "As I view it at the present, it's more of an observation (role) and a backup to the president."

Ford's first duty was presiding over a board of directors meeting a couple of weeks ago. He is full of en-

thusiasm for the job and for the 120,000-member former students' association.

"It's an amazing organization in terms of activity, participation and loyalty of A&M graduates," Ford says.

"There's all positives and no negatives about staying active in the organization."

Pitzer says, "The association's primary function is to maintain information on all former students and to support various (academic) functions of the University."

Last year former students gave A&M more than \$2.7 million, he says.

The years an Aggie spends at the University are just a small part of his A&M life, and Ford believes the association perpetuates former students' A&M life.

"A high percentage of Aggies spend the rest of their lives paying (the University) back, not necessarily just money, but time," he says.

Ford says the organization receives about \$3 million a year.

Half of the money goes for student scholarships, professors, the administration, and various programs; the other half goes toward running the association.

Owning a travel agency, serving on a bank's board of directors and working as an adjunct professor of environmental engineering at the University of Texas are some of Ford's outside interests.

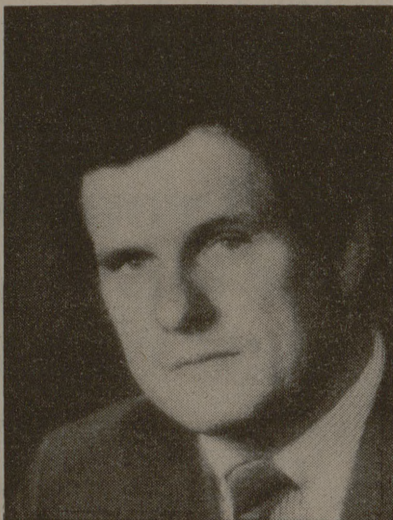
Having been a company commander in the Corps of Cadets and a member of the Ross Volunteers, Ford had to learn to organize his time.

"It stayed with me," he said.

"That's just the best way to get things done."

When he's not getting things done, Ford enjoys golf, hunting and tennis.

"I'm a B-hustler," he says of his tennis ability. "I'm a B player, but I hustle, so you have to work to beat me."



Davis L. Ford



Ernest T. Pitzer Jr.

## NASA, industry and A&M

# Joint research planned

By TRENT LEOPOLD  
Staff Writer

Plans to conduct space research here in conjunction with National Aeronautics and Space Administration and private industry are underway following authorization by the Texas A&M Board of Regents last Friday. The agreement to conduct the joint research has opened new opportunities for University involvement, says Oran Nicks, director of the new space research.

"The reason for this increased research involvement is that commercial applications of space are greatly expanded by the opportunity for man's long-time presence there," Nicks says.

"Man along with his instruments in the laboratory environment will be in space," he says.

"Engineering and agriculture, for example, become important when we think of life and life-support systems for the space station."

Nicks says one of the goals of the research is to help NASA and industry by studying the long-range use and commercialization of space.

"Our role will be toward thinking beyond daily needs of the space program to future challenges," he says.

Officials are finalizing negotiations with the Johnson Space Center in Houston on the first five research projects scheduled to be performed here through the Space Research Center — the name given to the research effort — Nicks says.

The projects, expected to cost about \$300,000, are as follows:

- A study of space station electrical power systems to determine their reliability.
- A design for power management and a power distribution system for the planned space station.
- Crystal growth and characteristics of crystals in space for applications to solid state electronic materials.
- A microgravity two-phase flow design.
- Computer vision and robot research in space.

All of the above projects, except the microgravity two-phase flow design, will be done by professors in the electrical engineering department. Researchers in the nuclear engineering department will be responsible for the flow design.

Dr. Herbert Richardson, dean and vice-chancellor of engineering, says, "This new cooperative venture with NASA and industry presents an exciting opportunity for the Texas Engineering Extension Service, Texas A&M and the state of Texas to contribute to the U.S. preeminence and continued leadership in the commercial and scientific uses of space," he said.

Nicks says the Space Research Center is studying the possibility of teaming up with industries to create commercial activities for space under a new NASA project aimed at increasing the amount of free enterprise involvement in space.

The center will be initially operated by the Texas Engineering Experiment Station — the engineering research agency for Texas and a part of the Texas A&M University System.

## UIL committee voting on changes to present extracurricular limits

Associated Press

AUSTIN — A divided University Interscholastic League committee voted Thursday to ask the State Board of Education to loosen its grip on the number of hours a student can participate in extracurricular activities.

The board is scheduled to take a final vote Feb. 9 on a rule that limits school-day practice, competition and travel to eight hours per activity during the school week. The rule also sets a 20-hour limit on students in more than one activity.

Some West Texas school officials say the rule is overly harsh on their students because of lengthy travel time between schools. Under the rule, no more than two hours is charged against a school for the first game in a school week.

The UIL legislative study committee proposed a modified rule that does not count travel time against the eight-hour limit. The committee's version also takes out the 20-hour limit on students in more than one activity.

Committee members were divided over a proposal to allow only one contest during the school week — defined as Monday morning through the end of school on Friday. In a 6-5 vote, the panel approved the

*"Haven't we trimmed and hacked and cut enough to the point we can make a good case (to the state board) that we can control the abuse?" University Interscholastic League committee member Bill Cormack.*

one-game limit despite objections from big-city administrators.

"It's going to tear up the Houston Independent School District," said Wayne Schaper, principal of Memorial High School in the Spring Branch ISD in Houston.

He said limited facilities in major urban districts force teams to play two week-night games.

The state board rule — now in effect on an emergency basis — does not limit the number of games or performances in a school week.

In an effort to show greater support for some change in the Board of Education rule, UIL committee Chairman Glenn Pearson of Bridge City allowed a "re-vote" that wound up 9-1, with Eddie Joseph of the

Texas High School Coaches Association dissenting.

"We're going to cause more problems than we are going to solve," Joseph said.

Pearsall ISD Superintendent Kenneth Loveless said, "We can do this and it won't hurt us. But I also spent 16 years in the Houston district. It cannot be done there ever."

Committee members rejected a provision that would have allowed more than eight hours practice for drama, music and speech groups in the weeks preceding a major competition.

The committee wrestled with several proposed changes to the board rule, a product of school reform bill of last year.

"Haven't we trimmed and hacked and cut enough to the point we can make a good case (to the state board) that we can control the abuse?" said committee member Bill Cormack of Austin, executive secretary of the Texas Music Educators Association.

Bonnie Northcutt, assistant to the UIL director, cautioned the committee, "I'm not sure they're looking for status quo. That's our problem."

Pearson said removing the travel time provision "would satisfy most people" involved in extracurricular activities.

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Except for last Saturday. That's when I was hit by a opponent's paint pellet. A woman shot it. Sorry Bogey.



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