

# Committee lobbies for A&M interests

## Students research and identify pertinent education issues

By John Marr  
Reporter

Although the Legislative Study Group sounds like a group of students that meets on Thursday nights on the fourth floor of the library, it is an established committee of Texas A&M Student Government that lobbies in Austin for A&M and its students.

"We (LSG) are student lobbyists," LSG director Alan Moore says. "This means we lobby idealistically and not financially. Our funds are used to gather and disseminate research to legislators and media personnel."

The 20-member, non-partisan group is funded by Student Government and outside donations. The outside donations are used for travel expenses, Moore says.

Generally, two to four members travel to Austin each week to represent students on issues relevant to A&M.

The two main objectives of the LSG are to identify and research higher education issues that affect A&M students and to present these issues to legislators and media representatives in Austin, he says.

As a procedural check, the Student Senate legitimizes all positions the LSG takes on issues to ensure it is representing A&M students.

"Networking is the name of the

game in determining relevant issues," Moore says.

Networking involves talking to numerous sources and reading many journals and reports to find needed information.

Moore says that once the information is found, the LSG develops it one step further. The group compiles all the information and research it has collected into a reliable report on which legislators can base higher-education decisions.

Currently, the LSG is compiling a study on each state's tuition and fee policy.

LSG member Mark Browning, a junior accounting major, says the study will help establish the group's credibility to legislators in Austin by showing that the group has initiative.

"We do not want to be classified as a stereotyped, whining student group," Moore says.

To further its credibility, the LSG is working on two statewide newsletters targeted at legislators, the press corps and A&M administrators. One will be a monthly four-page letter with articles written by LSG members, and the other will be a two-page position brief that "draws the battle lines," Moore says.

A battle line already has been drawn on cuts in higher education. Cutting higher education defeats the

purpose of educating students who have ability and not just money, Moore says.

"When the federal level starts closing the door on education and the state level starts closing the door on education, you have to be very thin to get through that door," he says.

Moore is talking about the door to the Permanent University Fund. The LSG is prepared to defend the PUF against any attempt to give the Legislature authority over its allocation.

The LSG is concerned that PUF money could be substituted for general research funds A&M receives from other sources. The use of the PUF as a substitute is a disguised cut in higher education, he says.

"Higher education is the engine that drives the state," Moore says. "If you cut off the fuel to the engine, it doesn't take a mechanical engineer to tell you the engine will stop."

Browning says the consensus is that any raid on the PUF is unlikely because the University of Texas and Texas A&M delegations have too much power. However, the LSG will compose a formal report to present to the delegation, he says.

Moore says the LSG also is forming positions on several house bills in the Legislature, such as House Bill 24, presented by Sen. Gonzalo Bar-

rientos, D-Austin, titled "Hazing Rituals."

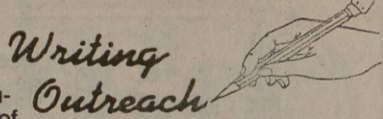
The bill, if passed, would establish the fact that consent is not a defense in a hazing incident. Also, it would establish that a university is not responsible for a hazing incident if it publicly states its opposition to hazing.

The LSG also is looking at House Bill 284 concerning grade point averages. The bill would change the method for calculating a student's grade-point ratio when a repeated class is involved. The bill proposes that a grade of C, D or F received by a student in a class be excluded from the student's GPR if the student repeated the class for an equal or better grade. This would not apply if the student repeats the class more than once.

But the LSG is not confined to higher-education issues. Research also is being conducted on matters closer to home.

Moore says that A&M students' concern about changes in the tax law which made scholarships taxable led LSG to research the changes. The LSG reports that only scholarships awarded after Aug. 16, 1986, are taxable and that only money used for non-educational expenses is taxable. Expenses such as room and board must be itemized much like mileage is itemized for employers.

### FREE MINI-COURSES



The Department of English invites students, staff and faculty to attend any of the following sessions on improving writing skills. Each session lasts about 1 1/2 hours, and no registration is required.

- Thursday, Feb. 26 Cohesence
  - Monday, March 2 Effective Persuasion
  - Tuesday, March 3 Editing
  - Wednesday, March 4 Appealing to an Audience
  - Thursday, March 5 Writing Good Paragraphs
  - Wednesday, March 25 Comma Usage
  - Thursday, March 26 Punctuation Rules
- Call 845-3452 for more information.

FREE Delivery

THE NEW

PARTNERS



FREE Delivery

NO MINIMUM ORDER

Food Delivery 764-9449

NO MINIMUM ORDER

## LUNCH SPECIAL

(campus only)

No. 1 salad  
1/4 lb burger  
or 1 lb potato  
16 oz. soft drink  
dessert  
**\$3.90**

No. 2 salad  
1/2 lb burger  
or sub-sandwich  
16 oz. soft drink  
dessert  
**\$4.45**

## 'Smoking cold' irons used for painless brands

PARIS, Texas (AP) — All branding irons smoke, but Jimmy Harden's irons are smoking cold.

The animals probably appreciate that. "It's totally painless," Harden says as he presses a smoking iron to his blue-jeaned leg.

The process, developed at Texas A&M, is called freeze branding, and it's done with liquid nitrogen that chills the branding irons to 320 degrees below zero. The cold kills the hair follicles and when the dead follicles fall off, the new hair

grows back white, making the brand appear as if it grew there.

"It's a fairly new process," says Harden, the Northeast Texas livestock inspector supervisor for the Texas Animal Health Division. "They were fooling around with it at Texas A&M in 1980-1981, and it has really caught on the past few years."

Harden has been freeze branding for about five years and said he thinks the expense prevents people from getting involved.

"The brass irons cost from \$30 to \$80 each,

and I've bought over 100 irons," he says. "I've helped set up two other people in the state."

With freeze branding there's no scar and no chance of infection, Harden says.

Harden has branded some cattle, goats and dogs, but most people want their horses freeze branded.

"A description of the color and markings of one horse could fit a dozen others," he says, "but a brand gives you positive identification, and there's no way to blot out a freeze brand. It's permanent identification."

# A WORD FROM "PYTHON" PISCOPO EX-WRESTLER ABOUT MILLER LITE



"DUH"\*

\* TRANSLATION: A SUPERBLY BREWED, FINE TASTING PILSNER BEER.

THERE'S ONLY ONE LITE BEER

