

State and Local

Candidates offer different perspectives

Nine vying for student body president

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

Historically, it's never been considered a boring race, and as filing for Student Government positions closed Thursday, this year's doesn't promise to be any different.

There are 150 candidates overall, with nine candidates for student body president.

Campaigning is not allowed at this point in the race, so this article is simply information about the nine candidates. They are listed in alphabetical order.

Miles Bradshaw is an agricultural economics junior from Nacogdoches. He currently serves as Speaker of the Student Senate and considers his experience to be his strongest attribute in the race.

"Student body presidents are transient," Bradshaw says. "In the past after their victory, they become complacent through the summer, they become oriented in the fall, begin working on issues in the winter, are overworked and burned-out in spring and disappear in the summer."

Because he already knows what is expected of the president, he says, he won't need the orientation period, and he has an agenda of items he considers imperative.

Jose Castro is a senior aerospace engineering major from Wharton. He is currently chairman of the Student Services Committee of the Student Senate.

Castro says he's running because he feels Student Government has potential to be doing a lot more than it is.

"The executive branch is not doing what it should, and is screwing up some of the legislation it passes by not following it up," Castro says. "They need to follow up on the bills they pass."

Castro says he would push for a committee that would make sure bills that are passed are put into action.

Chris Davis is a San Antonio junior majoring in business. He currently is serving on the judicial board, and he considers the protection of the Permanent University Fund to be his first objective.

"The PUF is the main way we attract quality professors, and it prevents a brain drain because quality professors keep quality students," Davis says.

He says he'd also lobby to change the senior-finals policy to make the finals optional.

Richard deCastongre, a senior computer science major from Conroe, takes a more light-hearted approach to the race, saying he's run-

ning for president because it sounds like fun.

"I want to find out if Student Government is really useful, because if it isn't we ought to get rid of it," deCastongre says, "and if it is we ought to use it properly."

Perry Eichor, a junior marketing major from San Antonio, says he thinks he has a chance because his experience and interests are so diverse.

"I'm not making outlandish

"A&M seems to be growing so quickly but Student Government's not keeping up with it."

— Mason Hogan, candidate

promises and predicting what I'll change," Eichor says.

"The important issues I see are: the senior finals issue, relations between Student Government and the Faculty Senate, student service fees — its allocation and spending, and relations between the different student organizations, including the Greeks, the corps, the MSC and Student Senate," he says.

Jaime Galvan, a junior accounting major from College Station, says he would work to increase the visibility of Student Government and to decrease the politicking going on around the Student Government offices.

"We've been losing a lot of good people in the Senate and executive branch because of the politics going on around there," Galvan says.

"And I disagree with the Senate reform plan to cut the size of the Senate in half, it would only hurt Student Government in the long run," he says.

Mason Hogan is a senior from Clyde with a double major of animal science and agricultural economics. He is currently a student senator and the student senate speaker pro tempore.

He also thinks his experience would aid him as student body president.

"I've seen what Student Government is and I have a realistic picture of what it could be," Hogan says. "A&M seems to be growing so quickly but Student Government's not keeping up with it. Our image is up, but our productivity isn't."

Jody Kay Manley is a junior journalism major from Dallas.

She is a former student senator and now is serving as public relations chairman for Student Government.

She says that to her being student body president is an end and not a means.

"This year's Student Government has tried to convey what student government has to offer," she says. "Next year's should convey how Student Government affects students."

Spence McClung is a Denton junior majoring in finance and accounting.

He is currently a senator and chairman of the Finance Committee.

He says he believes that after three years in student government, he has acquired the leadership abilities and experience necessary to be student body president.

"The student body president must act as a liaison between the students and the faculty and administration," McClung says. "Because of this the president must be a person with the ability to represent student opinion and effectively communicate it to the policymakers."

There are 12 candidates for the two junior yell leader positions: Darryn Pope, Kevin McDonald, Jon Lee, Scott Williams, Steve Keathley, Jared Hurta, David Armstrong, Scott Hart, Aaron Day, Mike Kamei, David Goldberg and Tom Dwyer.

There are six candidates for the three senior yell leader positions: David Mendoza, Kevin Buchanan, Matt Sellers, John Bean, Doug Beall and Craig Meek.

Senate approves bill on drinking while driving

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate approved a bill Monday that would make it a minor crime to drink while driving, and sponsor Bill Sarpalius said he is convinced the measure will save lives.

Although no one opposed Sarpalius' bill, which was sent to the House on voice vote, several questioned certain provisions.

Sarpalius, D-Amarillo, said tougher DWI laws enacted by the Legislature in recent years already have been credited with saving over 1,000 lives.

But he added, "The state of Texas will

never get serious about drunk driving until we make it against the law to drink and drive, and that's what this bill does.

"It's very simple. It only applies to the driver. An officer must observe an individual consuming alcohol while that motor vehicle is moving."

The bill would make it a crime, punishable by a fine of up to \$200, for a person to consume alcohol while driving.

"You're really interested in getting at the drivers, not at passengers," Sen. Craig Washington, D-Houston said.

Sarpalius said passengers in the front or back seat could drink while the vehicle was moving.

"There's a time and a place to consume alcohol — behind the steering wheel driving down the road is not the time and place to do it," Sarpalius said. "I'm convinced that this bill will save lives in this state."

Sen. Bob Glasgow, D-Stephenville, said he was voting for the bill but he told Sarpalius he was punishing 95 percent of the people to get at 5 percent who have alcohol-related offenses.

"There's less than 5 percent of the people you're trying to solve a problem with," Glasgow said. "At the same time, what we're doing is making it illegal for 95 percent of the people of Texas to do something which is legal and they don't abuse. You're taking that right away from the good honest folks that don't abuse it."

Sarpalius said a similar bill had passed the Senate twice before but died in the House.

"We feel like we'll have the speaker's support . . . and that any changes in that bill will put it in jeopardy," Sarpalius said.

Silver Taps ceremony to honor 3

The solemn sound of buglers playing "Taps" and the sharp ring of gunfire will be heard on campus tonight as three Texas A&M students who died during the past month are honored in a Silver Taps ceremony at 10:30 in front of the Academic Building.

The deceased students being honored are:

- Lloyd J. Herperger, 26, a graduate student in architecture from Stockholm, Saskatchewan, Canada, who died Feb. 12.

- Julie Ruth Heidman, 19, a freshman general studies major from Irving who died Feb. 20.

- John W. Stallings, 19, a freshman electrical engineering major from Dallas who died Feb. 20.

Dating back almost a century, the stately tradition of Silver Taps is practiced on the first Tuesday of each month from September through April, whenever necessary.

The names of the deceased students are posted at the base of the flagpole in front of the Academic Building, and the flag is flown at half-staff the day of the ceremony.

Lights will be extinguished and the campus hushed as Aggies pay final tribute to fellow Aggies.

The Ross Volunteer Firing Squad begins the ceremony, marching in slow cadence toward the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross.

Shortly after, three volleys are fired in a 21-gun salute, and six buglers play a special arrangement of "Taps" three times — to the north, south and west.

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