

State and Local

Student body leader explains Student Government concerns

By Jenny Hynes
Reporter

"This year Student Government's main objective is to be more open and serve students as a whole," said Texas A&M Student Body President Mason Hogan speaking at Fountain Forum, a program sponsored by the sophomore honor society Lambda Sigma. "We don't claim to have all the answers but we have an open door to any suggestions."

Three vice presidents in Student Government also spoke at Wednesday's Fountain Forum, the first of the semester.

A fifth-year senior from Clyde, Hogan outlined the organization and functions of Student Government.

"Student Government is comprised of three branches — the legislative, executive and judicial branches," he said. "There are over 300 people in Student Government."

Hogan, a 22-year-old animal science major, said the Student Senate's 87 members, who represent housing areas and academic colleges in the legislative branch, are elected each spring. Student Government executive branch members — three vice presidents and several committee chairmen — are selected through an interview process. The judicial branch of Student Government comprises a judicial board chairman and eight board members.

"The main problem we've run into this fall is that there are not

enough positions in Student Government for all the students that want to get involved," he said. "Aggies naturally want to get involved and have an interest in what's going on around their campus and we sometimes just don't have anything for them to do."

"We are not up here to be a bunch of stiff collars, out to help our

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résumés. I believe everyone we've selected for Student Government this year actually has a genuine interest in their fellow students and this campus."

Brian Banner, Student Government executive vice president for administration, discussed his role in leading about 40 university committees, including the Who's Who Selection Committee, Traffic Appeals Panel and Intramural Advisory Board.

Banner, a junior in speech communications from Hurst, discussed a Student Government survey to determine faculty members' reactions to the faculty lounge planned for Rudder Tower.

He said Student Government also is working with the Class of '83 to raise money to "make the eternal

flame eternal again." The Class of '83 donated the eternal flame but failed to provide enough money for its upkeep.

Student Government Vice President for Programs, Renee Dix, explained some of the programs sponsored by Student Government. These include Parents' Weekend, Aggie Muster, the Freshman Pro-

grams Committee, Traditions Council, Aggie Blood Drive and Big Event. Dix also works on COSGA, Conference of Student Government Association, a national program for Student Government members.

"It's like a big student council convention," explained Dix, a marketing and management senior from Abilene. "We have delegates from all over the United States, Canada and England."

Dix said Student Government is promoting a new program designed to allow more students to become involved in campus activities.

"One way we're trying to get more people to participate is through our High School Public Relations and Recruitment Committee," she said. "Any student can go back to their

hometown and give a presentation to promote Texas A&M to their high school. It's a big service to their community and to Texas A&M."

Jody Manley, vice president for development, explained Student Government's new Executive Council. The council, which consists of the student leaders and faculty adviser Dr. Carolyn Adair, helps the branches of Student Government work together.

Manley, a senior journalism major from Dallas, said the council is working to start a telephone events line, "kind of like a party-line," which would allow students to find out about campus events. She said the council also is working to put flags on the empty flagpoles near Kleberg Animal and Food Sciences Center, examine the use of the new computer access fee and put a student representative on the Board of Regents. Council members also are working to start an 'adopt-a-highway' program within Student Government.

"Student Government is an opportunity for growth in leadership and communication skills," she said.

Fountain Forum, which began three years ago as a weekly "Sully's Symposium," has in the past featured yell-leader candidates, football players, faculty leaders, Battalion staff members and other speakers of interest. Lambda Sigma will hold the programs on a biweekly basis near Rudder Fountain.

Texas leaders back supercollider plans, stress voter support

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of Texas political heavyweights, including House Speaker Jim Wright and Gov. Bill Clements, stressed Wednesday that Texans must pass a \$500 million bond issue in support of the supercollider if the state is to remain in competition for the giant atom smasher.

More than 20 other states are mounting major efforts aimed at capturing the \$4.4 billion project, which the Texas officials said would bring \$1 billion a year for the next 20 years to the economy of the victorious state.

"This provides Texas with the chance to become the world leader in high energy physics into the 21st century," Wright, a Democrat from Fort Worth, said.

Behind Wright, in the Rayburn Room at the U.S. Capitol, stood Sens. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, and Phil Gramm, R-Texas; Clements; Reps. Jack Brooks, D-Beaumont; Beau Boulter, R-Amarillo; Martin Frost, D-Dallas; and Joe Barton, R-Ennis.

Clements said, "We feel it's a real turning point, a fork in the road for Texas. We are in a no-holds-barred fight with states like Illinois and California."

Stressing that the competition will be fierce, Clements said the

word has to get out to the voters that the state must pass the \$500 million in general obligation bonds or fall behind the other competitors.

The general obligation bonds, along with \$500 million in revenue bonds already authorized by the Texas Legislature, make up the heart of an incentive package offered by the state to induce the Energy Department to locate the giant atom smasher at one of its two official sites — Amarillo or Dallas.

Bentsen said voters would have to seek out the resolution, numbered 19, out of a list of 26 proposals to be voted on the Nov. 3 ballot.

"We've had some tough times in Texas, and here's a chance to move out into new frontiers," he said. "California and Illinois will be going all out to win it."

Gramm, usually for cutting government spending, joined his Democratic colleagues in support of the bonds, saying it will ensure the state's economic vitality into the next century.

"I don't usually ask people to spend... but this proposal is an investment," Gramm said. "It's seed money. It's a chance to lay a new cornerstone in the economy of Texas."

Ex-fugitive says he set up prison-bidding company for 'good reason'

HOUSTON (AP) — A man who was recently captured in Idaho said he set up his own company to bid on prison contracts when he was a Texas prison system official, but added he did it for a good reason.

"We had to get inmates out of tents in September 1983," J.R. Pitts told the *Houston Chronicle* from a tiny visitors room at the Bonner County Jail in Sandpoint, Idaho. "All I did was expedite the job." A few hours after an Idaho judge re-

turned to lower his bond, Pitts said Tuesday he believed he could beat the Texas theft charge that landed him in jail.

Pitts was captured after three years as a fugitive. He said he set up a company to bid on Texas Department of Corrections projects to speed up work on court-ordered prison improvements.

Pitts, 40, is facing extradition proceedings involving a 1985 Madison County theft indictment that alleges he made off with

\$17,500 in prison funds through bid-rigging and kickbacks from contractors.

He denied pocketing the funds. "The paperwork doesn't represent what really happened," Pitts said. "I didn't take any money."

As a construction superintendent, Pitts was under pressure to complete several inmate cell blocks before the deadline imposed by U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice, he said.

Under state law, three companies must bid on equipment and service expenditures. On some occasions, only one or two companies were available to bid.

In order to meet the three-bid requirement, Pitts formed J&R Enterprises, a Palestine-based company that would join in the bidding — usually submitting a bid a few dollars higher.

Unfortunately, he said, the other companies sometimes dropped out of the bidding, leaving Pitts' company as the only bidder.

He said he then performed the required work.

"Maybe I went at it wrong," he said. "Maybe I should apologize to the state of Texas and the people."

Pitts also said he was unaware of the theft charge against him despite repeated trips to Texas.

He said he first became aware of the charge when he was arrested on Sept. 19 — just hours before his wedding — on the Texas warrant.



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1988 Aggieland

Student organizations

Recognized student organizations that wish to appear in the 1988 Aggieland must complete and turn in an organization contract in 230 Reed McDonald by Friday, Oct. 2. There will be a \$10 penalty for those organizations that missed the Sept. 25 deadline. Contracts should be in your boxes in the Student Finance Office. If you have not received a contract, you may pick one up in 230 Reed McDonald.

Class pictures

Freshmen and sophomores can have class pictures taken on the following days:

Last name G-L	Sept. 28-Oct. 2
Last name M-R	Oct. 5-9
Last name S-Z	Oct. 12-16

Photos can be taken from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, at

AR Photography II
707 Texas Ave., Suite 120B
(across from the polo field)
693-8183