

# Local committee emphasizes contact between campus, B-CS

## Group allows business, University leaders to discuss needs

By Elisa Hutchins  
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M-Bryan-College Station Council, a group formed in 1985 to promote communication between the two cities and Texas A&M, allows local businesses to express needs to University leaders and to be kept informed about campus developments.

"Our only goal is to keep the lines of communication open between the University and the business community," said Pam Dillard, assistant to A&M System Chancellor Perry L. Adkisson.

The council's 20-member executive committee includes A&M President Frank E. Vandiver and Adkisson, as well as Switzer Deason, owner of Check Worthy Inc. in Bryan, who is one of the council's founders and a former council president.

The committee is co-chaired by M.L. Cashion, part owner of Anco Insurance in Bryan, and M.L. Bookman Peters, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of First National Bank in Bryan. It costs \$100 to join the council, Dillard said.

Deason said the council didn't want to replace other community groups, such as the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce.

"Because there are other organizations that perform significant functions between the community and the University, we made it a point not to overstep our boundaries," he said. "But nothing was being done as far as leadership of the University meeting with community business leaders on a regular basis."

"The only time we met was if

there was a problem between the two, and this was not a healthy relationship."

The chamber of commerce deals with broad areas that affect the economy, such as attracting businesses to the area, said Jack Speer, executive vice president of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce.

Speer, also a member of the council, said the distinction between the groups is clear.

"The council is designed only as

cil, you're not in any better of a position," Deason said.

The council had the first of its two scheduled meetings for the year Sept. 23, when members discussed the continued growth of A&M and the impact it had on the economy of Bryan-College Station, Dillard said.

One of the issues discussed at the meeting was the enrollment limitations proposed by the A&M Board of Regents.

Dillard said recent actions by the

time A&M had a chance to be on television, the game time would be changed," Deason said. "And we accept that, but at least we had a dialogue expressing our opinions."

Aside from the topics discussed at meetings, the council gets a closer look at University activities through the use of its membership fee.

Dillard said the membership fee to join the council entitles members to get information on research programs going on at A&M, to take private campus tours and to meet A&M faculty and administrators.

Thomas Taylor, a controller in the fiscal department, said the money is deposited in a Texas A&M Development Fund, a private account.

William H. Mobley, deputy chancellor, said Adkisson and Vandiver are the only two who can withdraw money from the council's fund because the members agreed to let the University control what becomes of the money.

The fees go into the development fund, because other accounts, such as the Available University Fund, have restrictions on how the money can be spent.

As of September, the council collected more than \$7,900 in membership fees, Mobley said.

More than \$4,400 of the fees were used for luncheons in Austin, the Dallas-Fort Worth area, Houston and College Station, where members of the council's executive committee met with former students and area community leaders to discuss higher education issues, he said.

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— Switzer Deason, owner of Check Worthy Inc.

a means to communicate between the public and the campus," he said. "They deal with smaller areas of concern like the ocean drilling research being conducted in the Texas A&M Research Park. The council also has the ability to collect more money."

Deason said his and other businesses' livelihoods depend on the University. But businessmen join the council to express concerns and opinions in an open forum, he said, and not just to get favors from the University for a particular business.

"The number of people involved is too large to have self-serving interests, so once you're on the coun-

A&M Board of Regents to cap A&M enrollment at 41,000 by 1993 also is a concern to the business community because it could lose money. But, she said, the business community realized the campus could not accommodate such a large number of students.

Another issue, discussed at an earlier meeting, was the constant time-changing of football games. Deason said hotels prefer night games, restaurants prefer afternoon games and liquor stores prefer mid-afternoon games.

"What came out of the discussion was not to let the community decide game time, but a dialogue in which University leaders said that any

# Attorney shields identities of nuclear whistleblowers

WASHINGTON (AP) — An attorney representing 56 anonymous whistleblowers charging misdeeds at the South Texas Nuclear Project says she will go to jail rather than divulge the names of her clients to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Allegations include safety and criminal misconduct and range from poor workmanship to organized fraud on the part of the government and contractors.

Billie P. Garde, an attorney for the Government Accountability Project, has been subpoenaed by the NRC to turn over all names and allegations brought to her by the whistleblowers regarding the unfinished nuclear plant near Bay City.

"The NRC individuals who look at these allegations must not be the

same people who originally ignored the problems and went down and rubberstamped South Texas in the first place," Garde said, pointing specifically to NRC Executive Director Victor Stello and the officials overseeing the southwestern United States for NRC.

Garde faces a federal court hearing Oct. 22 in which the Justice Department will seek a decision compelling her to disclose the information, which she says she will not do.

NRC officials say they are simply trying to carry out an investigation.

"Until we see the allegations, which she has refused to give us, we can't determine how they should be handled," NRC spokesman Bob Newlin said.

"We have not gotten the allegations and we can't deal with it until we know what they are," Newlin said.

Appearing with Garde at a news conference on Capitol Hill were Rep. Patricia Schroeder, D-Colo., and Joan Claybrook of Public Citizen, a public interest group representing GAP and Garde in the NRC lawsuit over the supena.

"I think the average American taxpayer wants the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to be as stringent about safety as they want their surgeon to be about cleanliness," said Schroeder, chairman of the House Civil Service Subcommittee. She promised to push for greater protection for whistleblowers in Congress.

# Pickens reaches agreement with group

AMARILLO (AP) — An investigative group led by oilman T. Boone Pickens Jr. announced Thursday it had reached a credit agreement with a bank group for share purchases in a hostile attempt to acquire Newmont Mining Corp.

Ivanhoe Partners Holdings Inc. said in a statement that it executed a "definitive credit agreement with a group of banks providing for a \$1,250 million margin credit facility."

New York-based Newmont has filed a federal suit seeking to thwart the tender offer by Ivanhoe Partners, on the grounds the offer violated federal securities law.

# Curator asks Mexico to surrender Alamo flag

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A curator at the Alamo is taking aim at the government of Mexico in hopes it will surrender the flag that flew over the mission when it fell to Mexican troops in 1836.

During a speech to the San Antonio Rotary Club, Steve Beck urged Texans to write to the Mexican government in an attempt to have the flag returned.

The flag is known as the New Orleans Greys, the banner carried by a contingent of volunteer soldiers from Louisiana who journeyed to the

Alamo to fight for Texas independence from Mexico in March 1836.

"It's considered much like the Holy Grail," Beck said Wednesday. "As fellow Texans, I'm asking any and all of you to write a letter to the new president of Mexico asking that this icon be returned to San Antonio. It is deteriorating and needs to be restored."

Beck said the flag is not on display and that he has been told it is stashed in a paper bag. He said that most paper bags are made with an acidic substance that can destroy the flag's fabric.

The letter-writing campaign to Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the Institutional Revolutionary Party's presidential candidate, is not the first effort made to get the flag.

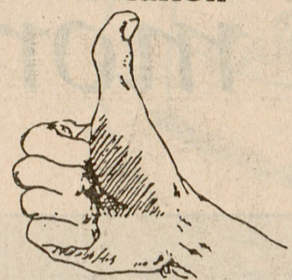
The U.S. Senate in 1985 asked the Mexican government either to return the banner or loan it to the Lone Star State to fly over the Alamo during last year's Sesquicentennial celebration.

The Mexican government said the flag could not be moved because it was too frayed.

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