

State and Local

Survey: A&M students don't like finals, lounge

By Drew Leder
Staff Writer

Texas A&M students disapprove of the finals schedule they will face during the next two weeks and disapprove of replacing a student dining facility in Rudder Tower with a faculty lounge, according to a survey conducted by A&M's Legislative Study Group.

The LSG, an organization that researches campus issues and lobbies for student concerns that come before the state Legislature, conducted a survey this semester to determine students' opinions on student and campus affairs.

The survey, prepared by the LSG and the Texas Public Policy Research Lab at A&M, questioned students on a variety of issues that the LSG is considering researching or lobbying for during the 1989 legislative session.

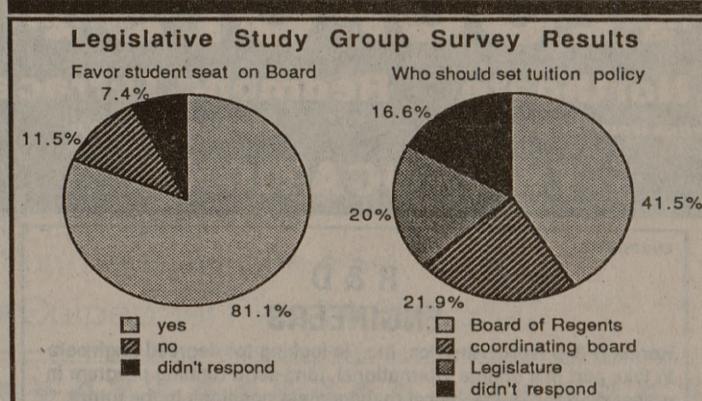
Survey-takers were asked if they favored a student position on the Board of Regents, a proposition the LSG and the Student Senate have backed strongly. Of the 433 respondents to the survey, 81.1 percent said they would favor a student position on the Board, while 11.5 percent said they would not.

Respondents who favored a student on the Board said they wanted a Student Senate appointment to a seat that has a vote on issues directly related to students.

Of those favoring a student seat on the Board, 46.3 percent said they approved of a Student Senate appointment, 25.6 percent favored a direct election by students, 16.1 percent favored an administrative appointment and 2.3 percent said they wanted an appointment by the governor.

Responding to what the role of the student should be, 50.5 percent said voting on student issues would be appropriate, 32.7 percent called for a full-voting seat and 14.5 percent favored an advisory position.

Mark Browning, LSG director, said he was pleased to see that the respondents supported a student seat on the Board because it is a position the LSG has been trying to obtain



Graphic by Susan C. Akin

and most likely will campaign for during the next legislative session.

Survey-takers also were asked to respond on who should have the responsibility of setting tuition policy at A&M. The largest percentage of respondents — 41.5 percent — said the responsibility should belong to the Board of Regents, while 21.9 percent said it should be the job of the coordinating board and 20 percent said the Legislature should set tuition.

Browning said the number of students favoring the Board to set tuition policy came as a surprise. The LSG lobbied against a proposal in the previous state legislative session to move tuition-setting authority from the Legislature to the Board.

LSG leaders believe tuition policy should be decided by representatives who are elected by the people, not those appointed by the governor — including the members of the Board, Browning said.

Carolyn Foster, LSG administrative director, said she didn't think students who responded to the survey are aware of the ramifications of giving tuition-setting authority to the Board. Tuition rates are generally lower and students have more input in tuition policy in states in which tuition-setting authority rests

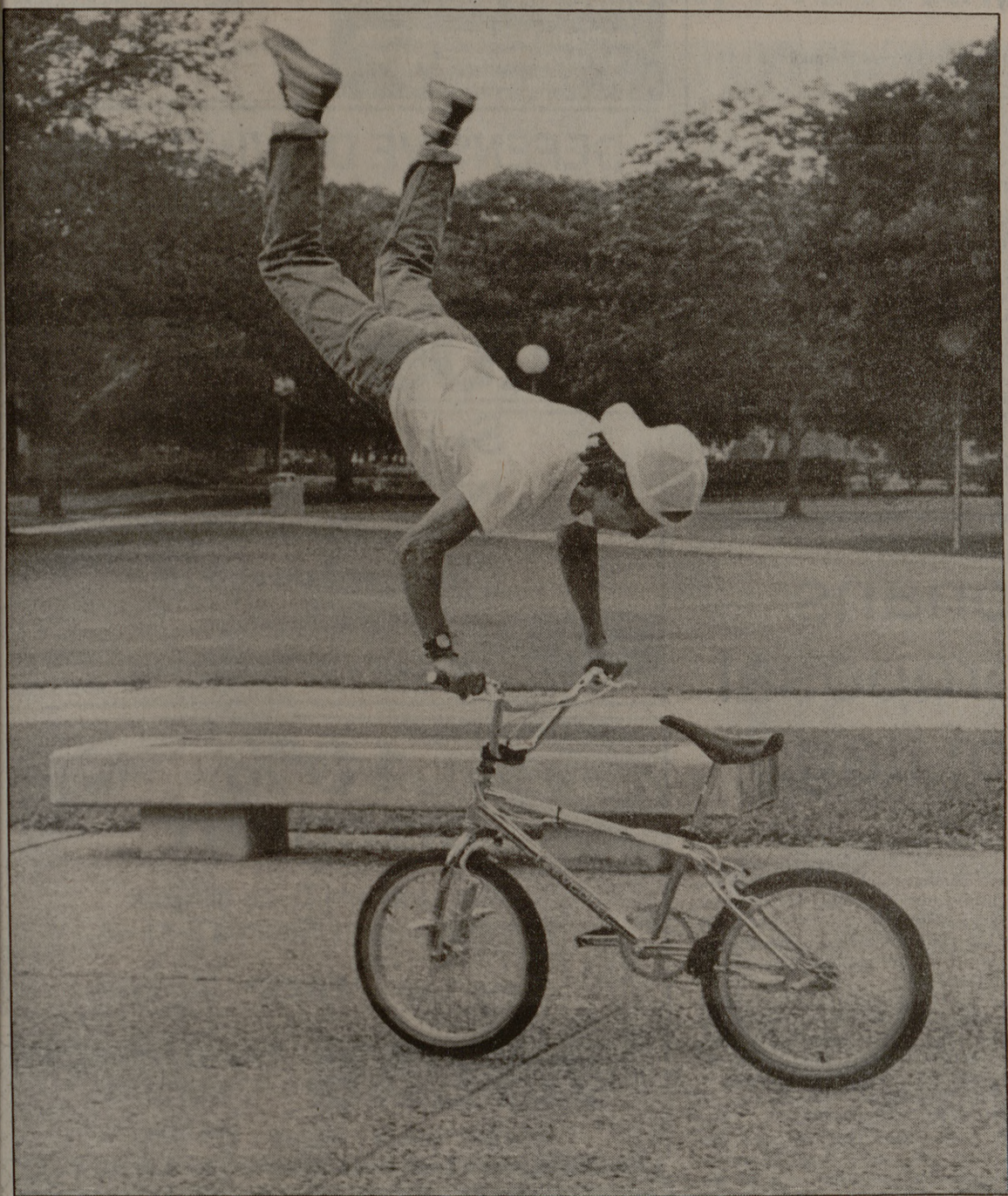
with the legislature than in states where a board decides tuition policy, she said.

Most respondents — 64.3 percent — said increased tuition and fees would be the most likely method used by the state to finance higher education in the future. A tax increase was the method deemed most likely by 12.7 percent, while 5.8 percent said financing would come from spending on research and 2.3 percent said private philanthropy would account for most of the financing.

The survey also questioned students about their feelings on issues relating to minorities at A&M, another issue the LSG has researched this year.

Race criteria should not be considerations for scholarships, according to 79.7 percent, although 12.9 percent disagreed.

Of those responding to the survey, 13.4 percent said they were minority students, and of those minority respondents, 81 percent said they would recommend A&M to other minority students. Nineteen percent said they would not recommend A&M to other minority students.



Easy rider

Philip Kelso, a freshman mechanical engineering major from Corpus Christi, practices bicycle tricks by the Academic Building Saturday afternoon.

Kelso tries to maintain his balance on his specially designed, chrome-moly bike. He has been doing bike stunts for about five years.

Photo by Kathy Haveman

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY CHAPTER

Annual Initiation Banquet

Memorial Student Center

May 3, 1988

6:30 P.M.

The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi recognizes and encourages superior scholarship in all academic disciplines. Each year at a banquet, the junior student designated by his or her college as the "Outstanding Junior" is honored. In addition, "the Outstanding Junior of the University" is selected and honored at the banquet. This year two additional awards have been given by the National Society.

PROGRAM

Dinner	Shirley E. Bovey
Introductions	David W. Forrest
Presentation of New Members	Chapter Officers
Initiation	Thomas J. Kozik
Presentation of Special Awards	Shirley E. Bovey
Introduction of Speaker	Sallie V. Sheppard
Address	Associate Provost for Honors Programs & Undergraduate Studies Texas A&M University

MOTTO

Philosophia kratoito photon
"Let the love of learning rule mankind"

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