

President wants A&M traditions integrated

# Lambda Chi Alpha frat aims to reduce adverse attitudes of Greek organizations

By TROY HALL  
Of The Battalion Staff

Lessening the amount of animosity toward the Greek system at Texas A&M is an important goal of the recently colonized Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity, Richard Szecsy, president of the organization, said.

Integrating A&M traditions into the fraternity system by participating in bonfire, midnight yell and football games are some of the chapter's fall goals, Szecsy said.

Lambda Chi Alpha received its national colonization at the end of February, but the group was not recognized by the Interfraternity Council until mid-April.

"We had to go before them (IFC) and present our case as far as what we had done on the University, and what we were capable of doing for the University and for IFC," Szecsy, a senior civil engineering major,

said. The 35-member fraternity must complete mandated goals to become a charter member of the Lambda Chi Alpha national fraternity.

"Associate members mean there is no such thing as a second-class citizen. Associate members have full voting rights, full participation and are able to hold any office."

— Richard Szecsy,  
President

Szecsy said some of the stipulations include initiating 40 members, having grade point ratios higher than the averages of all men on campus and participation in other extra-curricular activities by at least 80 percent of the membership.

Maintaining good grades is Szecsy's personal goal for the fraternity.

"If grades go down while you're in a fraternity, there is something

wrong," he said.

He stressed the importance of fraternity members' academic and social activity on campus.

Members of Lambda Chi Alpha do not go through a pledgeship period.

Twelve of the 35 are initiated members from other colleges and universities in Texas, but the remaining 23 are known as associate members until they are initiated.

"Associate members mean there is no such thing as a second-class citizen," he said. "Associate members have full voting rights, full participation and are able to hold any office."

These members receive all rights of the fraternity, but they just haven't been initiated, he said.

Lambda Chi Alpha's president and another member who was elected by the chapter are representatives on the IFC.

The first Lambda Chi Alpha chapter was founded in 1909 at Boston College.

Depending on the statistics used, Lambda Chi Alpha presently is ranked second or third in the nation for number of chapters, he said.

## What's Up

Thursday

STAGE CENTER COMMUNITY THEATRE: will have the next play date at 8 p.m. Call the Stage Center at 846-0287 for more information.

Friday

A&M HILLEL: will have dinner at 7 p.m. and shabbat services at 8 p.m. at the Hillel Jewish Center.

GOLDEN MEMORIES DANCE: will have music of the 1930s, '40s and '50s at 8 p.m. at A&M Consolidated High School.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

# House votes to build super collider

Federal share of project limited to \$5 billion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted Wednesday to build the \$7.4 billion superconducting super collider after first affirming a \$5 billion limit on the federal government's share of the giant physics project.

The bill, approved 309-109 and sent to the Senate, allows the Department of Energy to build the particle accelerator. It would be the world's largest scientific instrument, on 17,000 acres at Waxahachie, south of Dallas.

Actual spending on the project would have to be approved later as part of Congress' annual appropriations process.

"That's just absolutely super news," said Waxahachie Mayor James Self.

"I had really thought that it would, but you never really know until it's done. I have just always felt that when the real crunch time came that the scientific benefits would outweigh any of the negative aspects of the project."

Under the legislation approved Wednesday, costs above \$5 billion would be left to Texas, which has pledged \$1 billion, and other sources, including foreign investors. The \$5 billion federal limit was amended several times to assure the cap's firmness.

One of the amendments struck a provision to refund Texas' investment if DOE canceled the project before October 1995.

Also added to the bill were provisions that require the DOE to certify the project can be completed without exceeding the cap, and change the effective date of the cap to include federal money already spent on the super collider.

But Rep. Jim Chapman, D-Texas, said, "The main thing is the House by 3-to-1 said 'We want

the SSC.'"

One opponent of the measure, Rep. Dennis Eckart, D-Ohio, said he was glad "tough safeguards" were added to the bill. Eckart said the strong vote Wednesday did not assure Congress would fully fund the project.

The collider is a 54-mile underground ring in which streams of protons guided by electromagnets would be hurled at almost the speed of light until they smash together and break into even smaller particles.

Scientists say the super collider would recreate the physical state in the moment after the Big Bang, which some believe was the beginning of the universe.

Robert Roe, D-N.J., chairman of the Science, Space and Technology Committee said the 5-year authorization gives the collider "the stability and continuity that it needs to flourish."

"Given the size, complexity and importance of the SSC, its funding should not be left to the vagaries of the annual appropriations processes," Roe said.

But much of the afternoon's debate on the bill centered on making sure the federal share would not rise if the total cost of the project did.

"When the House votes for this legislation today, it is going on record that the SSC will not cost the taxpayer one dime more than \$5 billion," said Rep. Robert Walker, R-Pa., the ranking minority member of the Science, Space and Technology Committee.

Texas also agreed to buy the land for the collider. Ten-thousand acres are to be bought for a campus of offices and machinery, and the remaining 7,000 will be bought as subsurface rights, with landowners retaining some use.

The collider, scheduled to be complete in 1998, is expected to provide 4,500 jobs during construction and 2,500 permanently.

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Waxahachie mayor

While the House was debating super collider authorization, the Senate Budget Committee approved a \$1.2 trillion budget for 1991 with \$3.6 billion in cuts of domestic and foreign aid programs.

Committee chairman James Sasser, D-Tenn., said he favored cutting eight to 10 programs, including the super collider. The committee's recommendations are non-binding and the final decision on spending cuts will be made by other committees.

# Lawmakers discuss reform proposals, Clements releases no-new-taxes plan

AUSTIN (AP) — Lawmakers returned for a third try at overhauling the school finance system Wednesday with a profusion of reform proposals — including one from Gov. Bill Clements — and talk of again trying a tax increase vetoed this week by the governor.

There's little consensus but new motivation in this special session for obeying the Texas Supreme Court's order to make more money available to property-poor school districts: If the Legislature doesn't have a plan by June 1, a court master will devise one.

"We've got to do our job ... If we don't, the master is going to do it for us," said Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan. A state judge said he would appoint the court master this month.

In the House, Rep. James Hury said he will likely introduce a tax bill

this week that would include the same half-cent sales tax increase that Clements vetoed this week.

But Hury, chairman of the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, said he would prefer that lawmakers first pass an equitable education measure without new revenue.

He said he thinks that would force so much state money to be taken from property-rich and given to property-poor school districts that even the governor would then support new state taxes. The school finance system relies on a combination of state aid, local property taxes and some federal money.

Hury, D-Galveston, said he also would be willing to talk about other money-raising options.

"He didn't like a half-penny. Maybe if we include some fees, maybe if we cut a little bit more,

maybe if we reduce it to a quarter (cent) ... If there is something that's more palatable to them, we'd love to hear it," Hury said.

Clements released a no-new-taxes reform plan that is being sponsored by Rep. Terral Smith, R-Austin, and Sen. John Leedom, R-Dallas.

The Republican governor said his plan is modeled after the one approved by the Democratic-controlled Legislature, but its price tag is lower than lawmakers' \$555 million.

Clements' plan would cost about \$250 million next school year. He outlined \$267 million of options to pay for it, including cuts from other state budget areas and an increase in the fee for obtaining driving records.

If lawmakers want a more expensive plan, he said, he could support

raising another \$123 million by temporarily reducing the state's contribution to the Teacher Retirement System. He said there is enough money in the system that retired teacher benefits could be increased at the same time.

The Legislature in the last session was able to approve only \$114 million in cuts from other budget areas, although Clements had presented a similar list then. Some lawmakers questioned whether the cuts proposed by the governor could be made.

The reform plan approved last session by lawmakers — which died when Clements vetoed the tax increase to fund it Tuesday — was filed again in the Senate and, with some changes, in the House.

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